

'Absolutely distasteful, disgraceful'



INCREASE SHARE IN GROUND-LEVEL AGRICULTURE CREDIT DISBURSEMENT



IIFA win: Mrunal Thakur 'Over the Moon' with EXCITEMENT



QUOTE OF THE DAY
 The pioneer
 I am being mentally harassed by BRS troll for respecting the weaver community. Such has been the trauma that I have not had anything to eat after I saw those posts. I want KTR to tell me what he would do if his sister, who recently came out of prison, is trolled the way I am being trolled?
 - Konda Surekha, Minister



DON'T MISS...

CM Revanth Reddy releases DSC ...

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy said that teaching profession is not only a job but closely attached to an emotion. The CM said that the unemployment problem played a key role during the Telangana movement and the objective of the struggle for separate State is for job recruitment. The Chief Minister made it clear that the job recruitment is a continuous process in his government. He released the DSC-2024 results at the State Secretariat on Monday. The CM said that the KCR government conducted a single ...

-PAGE: 3

Indian philosophy is the only ...

Former Vice-President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu, has stated that Indian philosophy offers solutions to many of the global challenges faced today. Speaking as the chief guest at a seminar organised to commemorate the birth centenary of renowned Indian philosopher Acharya Kotha Satchidananda Murthy, Naidu stressed the importance of Indian thought in addressing modern issues. The event, held on Monday at the Professor Satchidananda Murthy Centre for Studies ...

-PAGE: 4

Total employment in mfg industries...

The number of persons employed in manufacturing industries rose 7.5 per cent in 2022-23 to 1.85 crore from 1.72 crore in the previous year, says Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). The estimated number of persons engaged in this sector in 2022-23 exceeded the pre-pandemic level (2018-19) by more than 22.14 lakh, a MoSPI statement said adding that at the same time, average emolument also registered an increase over the...

-PAGE: 8

India push for victory with...

Trying to force a result in the limited time available, India played a sensational T20-style cricket to take a 52-run first-innings lead against Bangladesh in the second Test, infusing life into the rain-hit contest here on Monday. The sun shone bright in the Kanpur sky after two gloomy days and the on-field action finally began after losing eight sessions. India had six sessions to force a win, and the hosts did everything they could on the fourth day of the match. The pitch hardly offered assistance to India bowlers but...

-SPORTS

HYDRAWS HC's ire

- Raps its chief for demolitions sans due procedure
- Says no demolitions on weekends and Sundays
- Orders that HYDRAA must follow the law

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 The Telangana High Court came down heavily on the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) and expressed dissatisfaction over its demolitions carried out without following the due procedure prescribed by law. Justice K. Lakshman of the Telangana High Court on Monday heard a writ petition challenging the demolitions carried out by HYDRAA on September 22 at Ameenpur. The High Court had asked

'We are not part of Musi River Project'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 The Commissioner of the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA), AV Ranganath, said that the agency has nothing to do with surveys on either side of the Musi River for the Musi River Development Project (MRDP). As the process for marking for MRDP has started in the city, there is a huge buzz going around among the people. The HYDRAA Commissioner said that they are not part of the Musi River project to clarify regarding disinformation targeting HYDRAA. HYDRAA released a press release on Sunday saying that it is not undertaking any demolitions in the Musi River area. No markings have been made on houses in the Musi catchment area by HYDRAA authorities. The Musi clean-up project is being executed by the Musi Riverfront Development Corporation, he said.

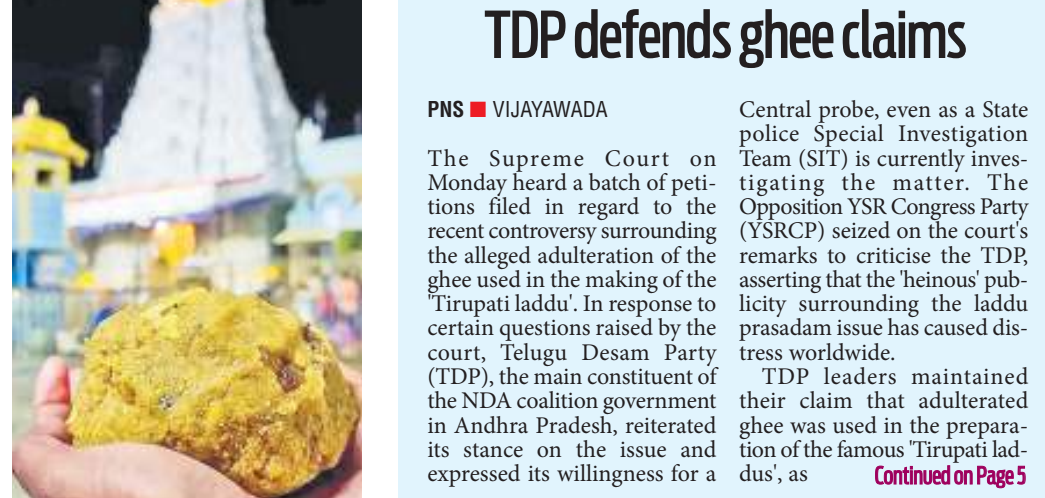


Continued on Page 5

'Keep Gods out of politics'

- Orders SC on Tirupati laddu row
- Questions AP CM's statement

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
 Observing that Gods should be kept away from politics, the Supreme Court on Monday questioned Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's public statement that animal fat was allegedly used in making Tirupati laddus under the previous Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy-led regime. The apex court said the laboratory test report was "not clear at all" and it prima facie indicated that 'rejected ghee' was



Continued on Page 5

Musi project is Reserve bank for Congress: KTR

Alleges that the party is planning to send Rs 25,000 cr from the Musi outlay of Rs 1.5 L cr to Delhi

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 BRS Working President KT Rama Rao (KTR) met the victims of the Musi River Project in Hyderguda and Kishanbagh and extended his support. He assured them of protection from the Congress government's proposed Musi Project. He said that of the Rs 1.5 lakh crore Musi Project, the plan is to send Rs 25,000 crore to the Delhi bosses of the Congress. We will stand in the way of their bulldozers. So don't lose heart, KTR said.



Addressing the gathering, KTR said, "From 1920 to 2020, we never faced any major issues with the Musi River. It was only in 2020, due to a

heavy downpour, that problems arose in the area. Even then, KCR ensured that the public did not face any hardships." KTR described the Congress government as encroachers and said, "The same Congress that gave permission and registered the properties is now demolishing the very homes it approved. This government's actions are so disorganized that the right-hand doesn't know what the left hand is doing. Revanth is an unfit, incapable Chief Minister, causing immense disruption." **Continued on Page 5**

'Have you forgotten your promises' BJLP leader Alleti questions CM Revanth Reddy

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 Monday, Maheshwar asked the CM, "Have you forgotten that you said that you will support farmers every year by spending around Rs 81,000 crore? Pretend to forget? Is it Revanth Ghajini? Have you forgotten the past?" Maheshwar said that Revanth promised to waive the farm loans of 70 lakh farmers. The CM said that Rs 40,000 crore would be required for that. In the Cabinet, it was decided to set apart Rs 31,000 crore for farm loan waiver. Finally, Rs 26,000 crore were given in the budget and

CM goes to Delhi to visit Kharge, may hold talks with Venugopal

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 Chief Minister Revanth Reddy went to New Delhi on Monday night on a special flight from Begumpet Airport. The Chief Minister would visit AICC President Mallikarjuna Kharge who fell ill during the Kathua public meeting in J&K on September 29. There is a chance of Revanth meeting Congress leaders to discuss the politics in Telangana and the steps taken by the government. **Continued on Page 5**

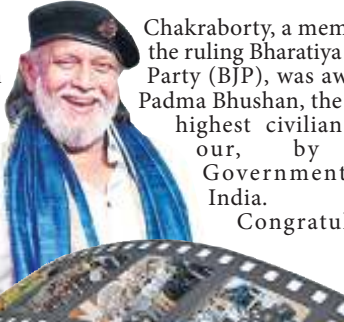
TG govt begins pilot project on family digital cards

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 Chief Minister Revanth Reddy ordered officials to launch the official process for issuing 'Digital Family Cards' at the field level on a pilot basis in 119 Assembly constituencies. The CM suggested selecting one urban and one rural area in each constituency for this project. If a constituency is entirely urban, two wards/divisions should be chosen; if it is entirely rural, two villages should be selected, resulting in a total of 238 areas for field-level inspection. The CM suggested increasing the number of field visit teams in wards and divisions in view of the high density of population in the area. The CM conducted a high-level review on issuing family digital cards at the secretariat today (Monday). The officials briefed details of the pilot project which is being taken up soon to the Chief Minister. The officials explained to the CM that the selection of villages, wards/divisions for field-level inspection in 119 constituencies has been completed. When the CM enquired about the requirement of time to complete the pilot project, the officials informed that the field visit will be carried out for five days from October 3 to October 7. The Chief Minister made it clear **Continued on Page 5**

Field-level inspection from Oct 3 to 7 Taking family photos optional

Dadasaheb Phalke Award for veteran actor Mithun

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/KOLKATA
 Veteran actor Mithun Chakraborty, star of films such as "Mrigayaa", "Disco Dancer", and "Prem Pratigya", was on Monday named recipient of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, the government's highest recognition in the field of cinema. The announcement was made by Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnav on X. This comes months after



Chakraborty, a member of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), was awarded Padma Bhushan, the third-highest civilian honour, by the Government of India. Congratulating Chakraborty, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the actor is a "cultural icon" admired across generations. **Continued on Page 5**

TG's recruitment drive fulfils hopes of the unemployed

NAVEENA GHANATE
 naveena.ghanate@gmail.com ■ HYDERABAD
 For instance, while the former government conducted a single DSC to fill 7,857 teacher posts in 10 years, the new government held 2024 Mega DSC with 11,062 posts. The results were announced on September 30, following exams in July, and appointment letters are expected to be handed out by Dasara, as announced by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. Additionally, in the medical and health sector, the Medical and Health Recruitment Board issued three major notifications within 15 days to fill 3,967 posts, including 1,284 lab technician positions, 2,050 nursing officer positions, and 633 pharmacist positions. **Continued on Page 5**

- TG Govt begins pilot project on family digital cards
- 11,062 teacher posts in Mega DSC 2024
- 3967 posts in the Medical and Health Board
- 8,304 appointments under the Telangana Residential Educational Institutions Society
- 17,341 jobs under TGSPSC through various notifications
- 16,929 constable posts by the Police Recruitment Board
- 7,094 staff nurse positions in the Medical and Health Recruitment Board

Minister Konda Surekha cries citing trolls by BRS activists

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 Konda Surekha, the Minister of Forests, Environment and Endowments in the Congress government cried like a child while addressing the media on Monday at the Gandhi Bhavan due to abusive trolling by BRS activists. Surekha said that she went to Medak district as the in-charge Minister. The BJP's Medak MP, M. Raghunandan Rao, explained the problems of handloom workers and offered a handloom garland respectfully on her neck. She said that she examined the handloom garland when Raghunandan offered it and found that it is a respectable yarn for weavers. **Continued on Page 5**



CM using HYDRAA to extort money from builders: Eatala

Eatala asks Revanth to quit as HC has criticised HYDRAA actions

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The BJP's Malkajgiri MP, Eatala Rajender, said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is using HYDRAA to extort money from builders by threatening them with it and is sending the collected funds to the Congress high command in New Delhi.

He said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy should quit the CM's post as the High Court has found fault with HYDRAA's actions.

Addressing the BJP Rythu Deeksha on Monday, Eatala said that the CM is doing all these for two things. One is to collect money from builders and send it to the high command and the other is for kickbacks in the name of the Musi River cleansing project, he said.

Demanding that the CM should waive farm loans in full, give Rythu Bharosa funds and implement the six guarantees, Eatala said, "Today is a good day," as the High Court responded on HYDRAA. "The High Court did not criticise officials but the CM, Revanth Reddy. The CM should step down," he said.

Eatala said the BJP will stand by the Musi and



HYDRAA victims and demanded that the government should announce a roadmap on the Congress government's assurances. He also demanded that the

CM should upload details of the farm loan waiver scheme in the public domain.

Pointing out that Revanth's name is synonymous with cheating, Eatala said that Revanth had deceived even Rahul Gandhi.

He asked the CM whether he had discussed HYDRAA in the Cabinet and whether he had informed Congress MLAs. Revanth reminds one of the late Sanjay Gandhi who had demolished the houses of the poor in New Delhi in 1976 during the Emergency, he said.

'KCR was supposed to become the 'father of TG' but ..'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The BJP's Nizamabad MP, Dharmapuri Arvind, said that former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Reddy was supposed to become the 'father of Telangana'. However, instead of that KCR remained the 'father of his two children' due to his corrupt rule.

The BRS became a scapegoat for KCR's corruption. The Congress came to power 10 months ago but it is following



the policies of the KCR admin, he said. He said that KCR was like a tiger during the Telangana movement but now he has become a cat. KCR submerged

Telangana in the river, he said and added that the Congress too is following KCR's path.

The Congress government brought about a situation in the state like KCR making farmers cultivate only paddy, he said. Addressing the Rythu Deeksha at the Indira Park on Monday, Arvind said the people were under monarchic rule during the last nine years. However, the people toppled the BRS. The BRS rule was monarchic but Congress rule is anarchic, he said.

KTR, Harish responsible for illegal buildings in Hyd: Cong

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC Social Media Chairman Satish Manne (@SatishManneINC) posted on social media that the Congress holds former Irrigation Minister T. Harish Rao and former Municipal Administration Minister KT Rama Rao responsible for the illegal buildings that came up on lake beds and in the FTL areas of tanks and other water bodies.

Satish Manne posted on his X account, "The Congress has charged Former Irrigation Minister T. Harish Rao and former Municipal Administration Minister KT Rama Rao with responsibility for the illegal structures that came up on lake beds and in the FTL areas of tanks and other water bodies. In the last 10 years, these two leaders did not bother to check illegal construction activity. It was Harish Rao's responsibility to protect lakes and tanks."

Women mean nothing for BRS, says Seethakka

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Taking serious exception to BRS activists trolling Endowment Minister Konda Surekha, Panchayatiraj Minister Seethakka said that for the BRS women mean nothing. That's why they keep trolling, she said.

The BRS is a party of miscreants who want women to do record dances in TGSRTC buses, she said.

"Even the photos of me and my brother Minister Ponnampallam speaking in the Assembly were morphed and misrepresented. If an MP puts a handloom garland around the neck of Minister Konda Surekha they distort it and launch an offensive campaign. The BRS harasses women ministers and women leaders on social media. The BRS should clarify whether women should be in politics or not. Are you people who harass the CM's family and their children human beings," Seethakka said.

Terming BRS leaders as the



worst leaders, Seethakka asked them to change their attitude.

"The BRS targets women leaders with its 'dora' attitude. They are throwing mud at women who are active in politics. They launch campaigns of lies against women leaders who have overcome many hardships and emerged in politics. This is proof of your feudal mentality. Daughters are being trolled in the most humiliating way and they are being pushed back thousands of years. They are spreading evil against women leaders through social media to bring

back 'doral' kingdom," she said.

Seethakka warned that if this kind of offensive campaign is launched against women politicians women will not be able to enter politics. BRS leaders should come to their senses, she said.

"The BRS is pushing back women by spreading lies against Mayor Vijaya Lakshmi yesterday and today against Konda Surekha. The BRS should apologise immediately and shut down its social media handles," she said. Transport Minister Ponnampallam

Harish asks Rahul to stop TG Congress's bulldozer tactics

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former Minister and Siddipet MLA, Harish Rao, has strongly criticized the Telangana Congress government for its use of what he described as "bulldozer tactics," likening its actions to those of the BJP in other states. In an open letter addressed to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Harish expressed his concern over the ongoing Musi Riverfront and HYDRRA projects and accused the state government of trampling on civil rights.

In his letter, Harish claimed that the Telangana Congress, under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, has been using the bulldozer as a symbol of "unbridled power" and is targeting poor, middle-class families.

He said that the homes of families living in the affected

areas for decades, with all legal documentation, are being demolished without proper surveys or adherence to procedural guidelines. He compared the Congress government's actions to those of BJP-led governments in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and other

states, stating that bulldozers, originally meant for infrastructure development, are now being misused to instil fear.

Harish pointed out that despite a recent Supreme Court verdict, the state government continues to follow these tactics.

Referencing today's High

Court observations on the Musi Riverfront and HYDRRA issues, Harish emphasized that these projects have exposed the anti-constitutional actions of the Telangana Congress, adding that the bulldozer policy has become synonymous with the government's cruelty.

Harish enacting dramas to protect his Ananda Convention: Anil

Congress Rajya Sabha Member M. Anil Kumar Yadav has been enacting dramas to protect his Ananda Convention which was constructed illegally with hundreds of crores of rupees.

Anil Kumar posted regarding this on X saying that

Harish Rao has been using commoners to protect his illegal assets worth hundreds of crores.

Terming 'Aggipette Harish Rao', Anil Kumar Yadav warned Harish saying 'Kabaddhar' Harish Rao. It is good for Harish if he remem-

bers the demolition of illegal buildings built inside tanks, lakes and drains, Anil said.

He said that Telangana has been extending support to the CM, who is trying to protect tanks, drains and the Musi River Bed for posterity.



Padmashalis pained by BRS activists' indecent trolling: Mahesh

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC chief B. Mahesh Kumar Goud said that the hearts of Padmashalis are experiencing pain due to the abusive trolling by BRS activists against Endowment Minister Konda Surekha.

Speaking to the media on the Konda Surekha issue, Mahesh asked BRS leaders to explain whether they could insult a Padmashali's daughter who became a Minister. Can the BRS survive if BCs, SCs and STs reject it, he asked.

"I would have apologised to Konda Surekha if I was in BRS Working President KT Rama Rao's position. No problem if a person is criticised politically but no one should insult BC women. We spoke about Kavitha's role in the liquor case in which she was arrested. KTR and Harish Rao should respond to the trolling of BRS activists about Congress women leaders," Mahesh said.

He said that one can understand after the Konda Surekha issue how much respect the BRS give the women. "What respect will BRS leaders give to women who do not give minister posts to women during their regime?" he asked.

PM Modi to launch sanitation, cleanliness projects worth over Rs 9,600 Cr on Oct 2

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will mark the completion of 10 years of the Swachh Bharat Mission launch by participating in the Swachh Bharat Diwas programme on October 2, during which he will launch and lay foundation stones for several projects related to sanitation and cleanliness worth more than Rs 9,600 crore.

The Swachh Bharat Diwas programme will showcase India's decade-long sanitation

achievements and those in the recently-concluded "Swachhata Hi Seva" campaign. "Marking the completion of 10 years of the launch of one of the most significant mass movements for cleanliness -- the Swachh Bharat Mission -- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will participate in Swachh Bharat Diwas 2024 programme on the occasion of 155th Gandhi Jayanti on 2nd October at around 10 AM in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi," a statement issued by the Prime

Minister's Office (PMO) said. The projects to be launched include those worth more than Rs 6,800 crore aimed at enhancing urban water and sewage systems under AMRUT and AMRUT 2.0, 10 projects worth over Rs 1,550 crore focused on improving water quality and waste management in Ganga basin areas under the National Mission for Clean Ganga and 15 compressed biogas (CBG) plant projects worth more than Rs 1,332 crore under the GOBARdhan scheme.

Kharif witnesses record power demand like in Rabi

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In the context of unprecedented electricity demand being recorded across the state during the current kharif season, the Southern Telangana Power Distribution Corporation Chairman and MD, Musharaf Faruqui, IAS, directed district operation officials to be alert at all times.

Addressing Superintending Engineers and Chief Engineers through video conference on Monday, Faruqui said this season's heavy paddy cultivation led to a power demand comparable to the rabi season. In southern Telangana distrib-

ution area, the maximum demand last kharif was 9,862 MW, whereas this year it touched 9,910 MW.

Faruqui estimated that the maximum demand may cross 10,000 MW by the end of the season. Consumption is also expected to exceed 200 million units.

State-wide, the highest recorded demand during last year's kharif season was 15,370 MW, but this year it peaked at 15,570 MW on September 20.

As the season progresses, demand is expected to rise significantly, Faruqui asked officials to monitor feeder and power transformer loads regularly to

avoid overload and ensure that farmers do not face any power supply problems.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1) The state's highest power consumption during the kharif season was 292.51 MU (20.09.2023), while this year it reached 303.82 MU (19.09.2024).

2) Last year's highest demand was 15,370 MW (20.09.2023), compared to this year's 15,570 MW (20.09.2024).

3) The average electricity consumption in the state during September 2023 was 228.42 million units, and this year it rose to 234.75 million units.

PM Modi speaks to Netanyahu

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday spoke with his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu about the recent developments in

West Asia and asserted that terrorism has no place in our world. It is crucial to prevent regional escalation and ensure the safe release of all hostages, Modi said.

"Spoke to Prime Minister

@netanyahu about recent developments in West Asia. Terrorism has no place in our world. It is crucial to prevent regional escalation and ensure the safe release of all hostages," Modi said on X.

47-yr-old secures first rank in DSC

DEEPIKA PASHAM
deepikapasham2015@gmail.com
■ HYDERABAD

In the District Selection Committee (DSC) 2024 results released by the Chief Minister in Hyderabad on Monday, a 47-year-old Kodam Chandrashekhar, father of 2 daughters, who dreamt of becoming a school assistant (DSC post) in English for 25 years, secured the first rank. Speaking to The Pioneer, Chandrashekhar said, "I want to remove the English phobia and show rural students that anything is possible with determination and effort. I have come close but lost with a few marks in previous attempts."

Hailing from Rajanna Sircilla district, he said, "I myself have tried all methods to learn English. It took me more time because I am a Telugu medium student and I practiced speaking first as communication is considered library language. The phobia in rural students is that outsider will make fun of me if I speak in English, but I tell them if you don't make a mistake nobody will correct you. So, as a guest lecturer in my teaching career, I have made students speak up in English first. I made my preparations by following Wren and Martin Grammar book, he added.

Fresh trouble for Siddaramaiah

ED books CM in MUDA-linked money laundering case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

In more trouble for Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, the Enforcement Directorate on Monday booked him, his wife and some others in a money laundering case linked to the MUDA land allotment case, taking cognisance of a recent state Lokayukta FIR, official sources said.

The ED has pressed sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to book Siddaramaiah in its enforcement case information report (ECIR), the equivalent

of a police FIR, they said.

According to the procedure, the ED is empowered to summon the accused for questioning and even attach their assets during the investigation.

The Congress slammed the BJP-led central government over the ED action, alleging the probe agency has become Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "instrument of harassment and vendetta" against his political opponents. Siddaramaiah, 76, had last week asserted he was being targeted in the MUDA issue as the opposition was "scared" of him.

ELECTORAL BONDS SCHEME COMPLAINT

K'taka HC stays probe against FM Nirmala

PNS ■ BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court on Monday stayed investigation against Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and others over alleged irregularities concerning the now scrapped electoral bond scheme.

Justice M Nagaprasanna passed the interim order on a petition filed by BJP leader Nalin Kumar Kateel challenging the FIR in which he has been named as an accused.

The matter will be next heard on October 22.

A case was registered on Saturday against Sitharaman and others on the directions of



a special court here, following a complaint relating to the scheme.

According to police, the FIR was registered under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita sections 384 (punishment for extortion), 120B (criminal conspiracy) and 34 (acts done by several

persons in furtherance of common intention) against Sitharaman, Enforcement Directorate officials, and office-bearers of the BJP at state and national level.

BJP Karnataka chief B Y Vijayendra has also been named in the FIR.

'CONG WILL BRING ABOUT CHANGE' Rahul flays BJP's 'pro-industrialist' policies

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of working for industrialists, as he targeted the BJP-led government at the Centre over issues like farmers' welfare, Agnipath scheme and unemployment.

Addressing a rally in Naraingarh in Ambala district ahead of the October 5 Assembly polls in Haryana, he said the fight was between the ideologies of the Congress and the BJP. He asserted that the Congress would form a government in Haryana and bring about change.



"On the one hand there is justice (Congress) and on the other (BJP) there is injustice (BJP)", he said.

He claimed that money keeps flowing into the account of industrialist Gautam Adami

"like a tsunami" while the common man struggles.

Rahul Gandhi was joined by his sister and party leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and senior leader K C Venugopal at the rally.

CITY EVENTS

TiE Women Regional Finals 2024

Venue
The Club Botanika, Jayabheri Enclave, Gachibowli, Hyderabad
October 1, 5 pm to 6.30 pm

HelpAge India

Generations Together: Towards a Society for All Ages: Unlocking Opportunities in Hyderabad.

Venue
Marri Krishna Hall, Opposite St. Ann's High School, Tarnaka, Hyderabad
October 1, 10:45 am

Dolare Dola

Mega Fest.. Navaratri Dandiya Mahotsav

Venue
Sandhya Convention, Gachibowli, Hyd.
October 1, 1.30 pm

SERP - SARAS Fair-2024

Venue
People's Plaza, Hyderabad
Till October 7

Dubai Proptry Show

Property experts coming to your city

Venue
ITC Kohener , HYTEC City, Plot No. 5, Survey No. 83/1, Madhapur, Opposite Inorbit Mall
October 5 and 6.

Toxic

By Abhishek Upmanyu

Venue
Shilpakala Vedika
November 2

Prateek Kuhad

Silhouettes tour.

Venue
Hyderabad international convention centre
November 8

Secretariat, GHMC office fall under buffer zone: Judson

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Suspended Congress leader Bakka Judson on Monday pasted RB-X posters at the Secretariat and GHMC buildings. He said that these constructions are also fall under the buffer zone.

He told the government, "If you want rejuvenation of the lakes, you should start from these constructions. There are so many farm-houses and leaders' houses in the lakes' lands."

The government itself constructed Necklace Road, various bus depots and other constructions on the banks of Musi river in the city.

"What I am saying is, you (government) should follow a procedure. But you are not following any process and going to poor people's houses. I am also supporting the HYDRAA and pasting the notices on those buildings," he added.

"The lake's protection looks like Kaleshwaram 2.0. Kaleshwaram is a scam in lakhs. This protection is going to be another scam in the State," he said.

City Pioneer



HYDERABAD TUESDAY | OCTOBER 1, 2024

03



TGSRTC to ply 6,000 special buses for Dussehra

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) is arranging a total of 6,000 special buses from October 1 to 15 for Dasara festival in the State.

The TGSRTC on Monday said that advance reservation facility has been provided in these special buses. TGSRTC MD VC Sajjanar said as the Dussehra festival is on October 12, there is likely to be more traffic on October 9, 10, 11. So, the corporation decided to facilitate

more special buses on those days. The officials should talk to the NHAI officials and take steps to allocate special lanes for RTC buses at the toll plaza.

Sajjanar ordered the officials to set up a public address system along with tents, seats, drinking water and other infrastructures for the convenience of travelers, especially in congested areas such as LB Nagar, Uppal, Aramghar, KPHB, Santosh Nagar and other areas.

Compared to last year's Dussehra, this year the passenger traffic would increase as there are auspicious days at the time of Dussehra and along with implementation of Mahalaxmi scheme.

CM Revanth Reddy releases DSC results

APPOINTMENT ORDERS WILL BE GIVEN ON OCT 9

■ DSC details : DSC Notification: February 29, 2024 Total Posts: 11,062 School Assistant (SA): 2,629 Language Pandits (LP): 727 Physical Education Teachers (PET): 182 Secondary Grade Teachers (SGT): 6,508 School Assistant (Special Educators): 220 Secondary Grade Teachers (Special Educators): 796 Total applications for DSC Exam: 2,79,838 Appeared for the written test: 2,46,584 (88.11 percent) For General Ranking List..https://schooledu.telangana.gov.in/



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy said that teaching profession is not only a job but closely attached to an emotion. The CM said that the unemployment problem played a key role during the Telangana movement and the objective of the struggle for separate State is for job recruitment.

The Chief Minister made it clear that the job recruitment is a continuous process in his government. He released the DSC-2024 results at the State Secretariat on Monday. The CM said that the KCR government conducted a single DSC exam and filled only 7,857 posts during the 10-year rule. The people's government conducted DSC to fill 11,062 posts within 10 months of coming to power.

The certificate verification will be carried out in a 1:3 ratio for each post. The appointment letters will be given to the selected candidates at LB stadium on October 9 and fill their homes with festive atmosphere even before the beginning of the Dussehra festivities, the CM

declared. He said that the unemployed youth requested to conduct the TET after the DSC notification was issued. Considering their plea, the government conducted TET and helped 1,09,168 job aspirants to get eligibility for DSC exam.

The Computer Based Test (CBT) has been conducted in 26 sessions from July 18 to August 5 for the DSC written exam. CM Revanth Reddy said that the government decided to establish integrated residential schools, aiming to provide quality education to poor students in 100 Assembly constituencies in the State.

He criticised that the previous governments established SC, ST, BC and minority institutions separately which created a sense of inferiority among the children. The integrated residential school will be set up in a sprawling 20 to 25 acres in each constituency at the cost of Rs 100 crore.

The Congress government proved its commitment to giving priority to education by issuing DSC notification within two months of coming to power in the State, the Chief Minister said.

200-acre AI City to serve as hub for AI research: IT Min

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister for Industries and IT Duddilla Sridhar Babu said that Telangana is positioning itself as a leader in AI with the development of a 200-acre AI City near Hyderabad, which will serve as a hub for AI research and innovation. Partnerships with global tech giants like Microsoft and NVIDIA are set to train thousands of students, workers and government officials in AI, cybersecurity and digital skills.

At the AMCHAM India, Hyderabad Chapter signature event at Tech Space Telangana, he said that the State reaffirmed its ambition to be a global technology hub. In 2024, Telangana's IT sector saw substantial growth, driven by its focus on emerging technologies, a robust startup ecosystem and cybersecurity



IT Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu speaking at AMCHAM India, Hyderabad chapter signature event on Monday

initiatives targeted sectors like supply chain and healthcare.

He said that cybersecurity has also become a top priority, with new startups addressing emerging threats, alongside government measures to enhance data protection and raise cybersecurity awareness. In parallel, the integration of technology into sectors like agriculture and healthcare advanced, improving productivity and public health services.

He said that key achievements for Telangana's IT sector in 2024 include strong export growth, surpassing the national average and significant job creation, contributing to the State's economic growth. Domestic and international investments also surged, bolstered by government initiatives like T-Hub, which supports startups and entrepreneurs.

advancements. The State saw a rise in artificial intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT) and blockchain initiatives. AI, in particular, flourished with the support of T-Hub, the State's innovation centre, while IoT found applications across agriculture, smart cities and manufacturing. Blockchain

Hyd Metro extension from Tarnaka to ECIL sought

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Metro connectivity from Tarnaka to ECIL gets no discussion started though Hyderabad Metro Rail has been announcing various corridors in the recent past.

Many passengers with no last mile connectivity look for other transport from Mettuguda and Tarnaka. The last stop to go towards ECIL is to get down the Metro at Mettuguda or Tarnaka and take TSRTC buses or sharing autos.

The users kept posting on X after the recent corridors of Metro Rail Phase-2 having six corridors covering 116.2 km including Old City have been announced.

One of them said, "Secunderabad is not part of the development plan of Telangana government which is clear under Metro Phase 2 as there is absolutely no mention of any area in Secunderabad for building Metro."

"We request CM A Revanth Reddy to please pay attention to Secunderabad under Metro Phase-2, construct a new Metro route from ECIL to Jubilee Metro via Tirumalagiri which will benefit hundreds of

residential colonies from ECIL to Jubilee area."

Robin Zaccheus, social activist, who has been vocalising for various development works, also said on X that Malkajgiri residents are treated like they are expelled from their own country and city.

First, it was the BRS, now the Congress is failing the constituency from any development. Where are your pledges to stand by Malkajgiri, he questioned.

One of the daily commuters K Rajesh, speaking with The Pioneer, explained that a Metro Rail connecting Mettuguda or Tarnaka can pass from Malkajgiri, Anadhbhag, Safilguda, Neredmet, Sainikpuri, AS Rao Nagar, till ECIL. Many of the residents commute to Banjara Hills and Jubilee Hills. There are hundreds of government employees in Sainikpuri and AS Rao Nagar who will travel till Lakdi ka Pul, but all these people either use Rapido or TGSRTC buses to travel to the nearest Metro.

As the buses are always occupied, there are many people travelling by hiring autos until the Metro because from there it becomes easy for them to travel.

Metro extends super-saver offers and student trips

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

L&T Metro Rail Hyderabad has announced two initiatives to boost passenger convenience and affordability.

The popular customer offers have been extended until March 31, 2025. Super Saver Offer-59; Unlimited travel for Rs 59 on listed holidays; Student Pass Offer: 30 trips for the price of 20; Super Saver Off-Peak Offer: 10% discount on Contactless Smart Cards during off-peak hours.

Starting October 6, nominal parking fees will be introduced at Nagole and Miyapur Metro stations, offering separate parking for two-wheelers and four-wheelers; bio-toilets, 24/7 security and CCTV coverage, for APP/QR-based payment system; clean drinking water; designated parking for women, senior citizens, and differently abled individuals.

L&TMRHL MD & CEO KVB Reddy stated, "These initiatives demonstrate our commitment to enhancing the passenger experience and making Hyderabad Metro the preferred commuting choice."



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Two get lifer for murder

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Two accused have been sentenced to life imprisonment in a murder case registered within Bommalaramaram police station limits.

The accused have been identified as Gudikanthula Srinivas (39), resident of Karimnagar and Gudikanthula Sridhar (35), a resident of Chandrapur district in Maharashtra. They were involved in the murder case of a person for money under Bommalaramaram police station limits.

Sahithi Infratec MD gets 14-days judicial remand

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Sahithi Infratec managing director Bhoodati Lakshminarayana has got 14-days judicial remand on Monday and the officials of Enforcement Directorate (ED) have sent him to Chanchalguda Jail.

According to the ED post on X, ED, Hyderabad has arrested Lakshminarayana on September 29 under the provisions of the PMLA, 2002. He was produced before the Special Court (PMLA), Nampally, Hyderabad on

September 30 and the court has granted him judicial custody till October 14.

The ED has received complaints from many people that Sahithi Infratec has collected crores from them in the name of pre-launches for nine projects. The ED has filed the case against Sahithi Infra under the money laundering case. It was found that the money collected from the buyers was used for their own needs.

Earlier, the MD was taken for a medical test and later he has been taken to the ED office and verified the details.

INDIRA MAHILA SHAKTI SCHEME

Rural women get training in event management

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP), Department of Panchayat Raj and Rural Development, Government of Telangana; trained the 1st batch of rural women in event and canteen management, as part of Indira Mahila Shakti scheme. These women were drawn from various districts of Telangana and underwent a 10-day residential training programme conducted on the campus at Gachibowli.

Training in event management was conducted by Telangana Chamber of Events Industry (TCEI), an industry body of the events business of the State with over 450 members.

The training was imparted by experienced members of TCEI who are successfully running their businesses in the events field for about two decades. The women candidates were

trained in different crafts such as decorations, sound & light, various types of tent house material, catering services, self-grooming, presentation skills and overall event management services.

Classroom training was supported with field visits to enable the candidates gain first-hand experience of organising the events.

Training in canteen management was conducted by senior chefs of NITHM led by Ganesh, the acting principal of the institute.

The women candidates were trained in different types of snacks, salads, gravies, sandwiches, tiffins, powders, Telangana sweets & savouries, cakes, cookies and Hyderabad biryani. They were also taught on soft skills, food presentation & plating, hygienic preparation, menu planning, food service, licenses, Kitchen and canteen maintenance.

Woman, daughter die after jumping from 18th floor

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A 30-year old woman, along with her three-year-old daughter, died after jumping from the 18th floor of a building in Hyderabad late on Sunday night.

The incident occurred at Myhome Avatar apartments in Narsingi and the deceased has been identified as Manasa, a native of Bhimavaram in West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh. Manasa, along with her daughter jumped from the 18th floor of the apartment building and both died on the spot.

Manasa's husband is a software employee and the family was living in the apartment. According to the family members, Mansa had been suffering from back pain, which may have led to the incident.

A case was registered at Narsingi police station and investigation is under progress.

Antimicrobial resistance plan for TG

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy will release an action plan on antimicrobial resistance on October 3.

Damodar Rajanarsimha, Minister for Health, Medical and Family Welfare will be the guest of honour. Six states in India have this plan in place and once the plan is unveiled by the Chief Minister, Telangana is going to be the 7th State to have AMR plan in place.

A conference would be held in the city from October 3rd to 5th.

Dr Ranga Reddy Burri, president, Infection Control Academy and Chair, G-SPARC and R Govind Hari, chairman of



the Prayaan Sustainable Health Outcomes Foundation (PRASHO) said that the objective of the conference is to

provide a platform for Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and Patient Safety stakeholders from Global South (resource-limited countries in Asia, Africa, Middle East, South America) to collaborate for better policies, research, tailored solutions and practices on IPC, AMS and WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) and pandemic preparedness.

The organisers highlighted that antimicrobial resistance (AMR) impacts people of all ages and transcends borders, affecting every country.

However, the burden is disproportionately heavier on developing nations and vulnerable populations.



Telangana Lecturers Forum focuses on educational status

PNS ■ NALGONDA

A third conference organized by the Telangana Lecturers Forum (TLF) was held on Monday to address the status of education in Telangana. The chief guest, M.V. Gona Reddy, an educationist, CEO of the Komatireddy Prateek Foundation, and Chairman of the Telangana Development Forum, emphasized the need for reforms in the education system in line with Goal 4 of the Sustainable Development Goals - 2030, which advocates for "inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all."

Gona Reddy stated that there is a need to regulate the commercialization of education caused by corporate educational institutions, particularly CHINA (Chaitanya and Narayana). He urged teachers and teacher unions to take initiatives for meaningful

reforms in the education system. TLF Chairman Katti Venkata Swamy, TRSMA adviser Kandala Papi Reddy, and Professor Anjireddy criticized the education policies of the KCR government, stating that the neglect of government educational institutions and budget schools and colleges has led to an increase in dropout rates.

Ultimately, the conference unanimously resolved to request the Chief Minister to fill all vacancies, increase budgetary allocations, and develop infrastructure in the public-funded education system.

They also demanded the government assist teachers and lecturers working in private budget schools and colleges.

The TLF honoured Gona Reddy for his tireless efforts in strengthening the public-funded education system and supporting students and teachers.



SCCL OPEN CAST PROJECT-5

Coal excavation hit because of strike for jobs to locals

PNS ■ PEDDAPALLI

Works related to removal of overburden (OB) in the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) remained suspended for the past 13 days as the protesters seeking jobs to the locals, in lieu of those employed from other states, in the open cast project-5 in the Ramagundam Region of the SCCL.

lakh tons of overburden per day was affected because of the protests. Meanwhile, the protests have been getting intensified with each passing day. The PC Patel and Company's work of removing overburden in the project remained paralysed for the past 13 days. It has been adversely affecting the coal production in the project. The Patel and Co has employed 800 workers

belonging to Maharashtra, Gujarat, MP and Bihar to remove the overburden. Objecting to this, the locals have been demanding jobs in the project as per the GO. Ramagundam MLA Raj Thakur Makhani Singh has been demanding jobs to the 80% of the locals in the OB contract works. It appears as though the SCCL management is reluctant to give jobs to the locals.

In view of the suspension of the works related to removal of overburden and hurdles being caused to coal production in the project, the SCCL management is required to take steps, giving up its spectator role, to ensure that the problem would not become complex. It should hold negotiations with the stakeholders to hammer out a solution to the problem.

Gang of two-wheeler thieves busted; 23 bikes worth Rs 9 L recovered

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

In a significant breakthrough, Yacharam Police arrested a gang involved in stealing two-wheelers and selling them to local farmers to fund their extravagant lifestyles. The gang was apprehended during a vehicle inspection, and 23 stolen bikes valued at Rs 9 lakh were recovered.

Maheshwaram DCP Sunitha Reddy shared the details of the operation in a press conference led by ACP KVP Raju and Green Pharma City CI A Narasimha Rao at Yacharam police station. Gang leader Dubba Harshavardhan from Venkatrapur village in Talakondapally mandal was caught on September 29 during a routine vehicle check. He was taken into custody at Green Pharma City, where, under police interrogation, the full extent of the operation was revealed.

Harshavardhan, along with his accomplices Edla Raju and Mohammed Amer from Nandivanaparthi village, and Beta Jangaiah and Jala Nagaraju from Medipalli village, formed a gang that specialised in stealing two-wheelers. Using his experience in vehicle theft, Harshavardhan targeted parking lots in Afzal Ganj, Mahbubnagar, Ibrahimpatnam, Adibhatla, Yacharam and Manchal, as well as bus stands and restaurants in these areas.

In recognition of the successful operation, DCP Sunitha Reddy commended the efforts of SS Tejam Reddy, constables J Sreenu, H Sundarayya, Hathiram and Narendar, who formed special teams to catch the gang. The officers were awarded for their dedication. CIs, including Shankar Kumar, Satyanarayana, and Babya Naik, also participated in the operation.

BJP membership drive going on at brisk pace

PNS ■ PEDDAPALLI

The BJP has stepped on the gas to double the party membership in Ramagundam, Mandhani and Peddapalli Assembly constituencies. The membership drive picked up momentum under the aegis of the BJP party in-charges. With an intension to double the membership, the in-charges have been touring their respective mandals extensively to enroll new members to the party.

In Ramagundam constituency, BJP in-charge and former ZPTC Kandula Sandhya Rani is conducting the mem-

bership drive extensively in Palakurti, Antargam, Ramagundam, Godavarikhani, NTPC, Basant Nagar, 8th Colony and in all 50 division of Ramagundam municipal corporation.

Participating in the membership drive in Lakshminagar area of Godavarikhani on Monday evening, Sandhya Rani said that the Modi-led BJP government at the Center is committed fully for the welfare of farmers, women and youth. The people are living confidently under the Modi's rule, she said adding that youth are getting attracted to Modi's ideology. They are keen to join the BJP.

Tight security for Dasara, Komrum Bheem death anniversary: SP

PNS ■ ASIFABAD

Superintendent of Police DV Srinivasa Rao has called upon district police officers to make stringent security arrangements for Dasara Navaratri and Komrum Bheem death anniversary events to rule out any untoward incident taking place.

Addressing them at the monthly crime meeting held at the district police headquarters on Monday, he asked them officers to remain alert and fully prepared to swing into action in a jiffy along with the staff when law and order problem surfaces.

The police officers have been asked to maintain the cordial relations with the people of the district and should be frequently visiting the villages to improve the rapport with villagers and the youth, he said.



Unique number should be allotted to auto rickshaws and it should be clearly visible from all sides. Clicking the number should produce full information about the auto and its driver.

It would help the police to get the autorickshaw details immediately also to the people in case of any problem.

The police personnel should be trained every week on the march past, use of lathi and how to respond in emergencies, he said seeking information about current status of

pending cases. The meeting discussed at length on ganja cases, rowdy sheets, suspect sheets, bindovers, SC and ST atrocity cases, POCSO cases, crimes against women, non-bailable warrants, enquiry reports available with the officials, theft cases and so on. The SP asked the officers to clear the pending cases as early as possible. He suggested timely servicing of the police vehicles and advised the police personnel to use them carefully.

Further, he asked them to give no room for irregularities like smuggling of ganja, smuggling of cattle, gambling, matka and sale of gutka and other prohibited goods.

DSP Ramanujam, inspectors, sub-inspectors, reserve inspectors, SIB, IT Core, communications, DCRB, reserve personnel and others took part in the meeting.

Stress on safe drinking water and sanitation



PNS ■ NALGONDA

District Collector C. Narayan Reddy stated that the responsibility for providing safe drinking water and sanitation, as well as the management of government institutions, lies with officials at both district and village levels. As part of the Praja Vani programme, he received public complaints on Monday in the meeting hall of the Collectorate.

He urged the Special Officers to regularly conduct sanitation programmes in the villages and mentioned that an audit of sanitation along with plant management will be conducted next week. He instructed the Special Officers to ensure that 100% of the work is completed in the villages, stating that they would support those who perform well. He emphasized the need for plants to be present on both sides of roads, in village nature parks,

and government institutions, and called for the removal of invasive species while promoting the growth of saplings planted during Vanamahotsav.

He also stressed the importance of ASHA workers functioning effectively in villages, not only monitoring and providing medicines during fever outbreaks but also focusing on childbirth. He reiterated the importance of maintaining safe drinking water supply, sanitation, and proper management of government institutions, cautioning against any carelessness in these matters.

Regarding the receipt of public complaints, he instructed that legitimate grievances should be resolved promptly and emphasised that Special Officers must visit their designated areas at least once a week. He called for continuous monitoring and resolution of district and mandal-level complaints by the Special Officers.

624 kg of ganja destroyed

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

On directions from city police commissioner Sunil Dutt, 624 kg of dry ganja was destroyed in Manchukonda Police Firing Range on Monday under the supervision of Additional DCP Naresh Kumar.

The Additional DCP said that the ganja was seized in seven cases registered under Khammam One-Town police station, Two-Town police station and Three-Town police station, Nelakondapalli, Tirumalayapalem, Vemsuru and Kalluru police stations in cases of smuggling and peddling of ganja.

The Ganja stored with various police stations in the district was destroyed as per the state and central governments' gazette notifications, he said. CIs Uday Kumar, Ramesh, Janardhan and Osman Sharif and Kalluru SI and other police officials took part in the exercise.

We will resist HYDRAA: Bandi

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

Union Minister of State for Home Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Monday said that the BRS indulged in Rs 1 lakh-crore corruption in the name of Kaleshwaram Project, while the Congress is going to what he said loot Rs 1.5 lakh crore on the pretext of cleansing Musi River.

Addressing media, the people have been despising

HYDRAA. In the past, the BRS indulged in collection of money threatening to pull down buildings in the Ayyappa Society.

However, the Congress has been resorting to collection of money in the name of HYDRAA, he alleged.

The Minister threatened to resist the HYDRAA activity if it pulls down the houses of the poor. The BJP is going to emerge as

a weapon in the hands of the people, he said.

He offered to stake his life and also that of his colleagues in the party for the sake of the poor and insisted that the HYDRAA JCBs should target the homes of the poor only after finishing off the BJP leaders, he said.

He made it clear that the BJP would protest singly against the attacks of the HYDRAA.

Bitcoins trade: Teachers in Nirmal district face prospect of arrest

PNS ■ NIRMAL

The Bitcoins have played havoc with the education system. The adverse impact of the Bitcoins was soon in the lips of everyone in the district. The people were seen discussing how many teachers have been arrested in the illegal trading of the Bitcoins and how many more are likely to get arrested. The social media is agog with the people breathing fire on the education system.

In fact, five teachers, including highly educated, were arrested, in two incidents, and lodged behind the bars through illegal trading of the Bitcoins. It put a question mark on the future of students.

Out of greed to earn money quickly, the teachers have asked for trouble. Another 50 teachers are tense not knowing when they are going to be arrested and some others have gone underground. Some of the teachers have been report-



edly negotiating settlement with political bigwigs.

Therefore, the academic activity in the current year almost derailed, posing problems to the students. The teachers neglected their duty towards students, several academicians said. Many blame teachers for getting addicted to luxuries, destroying future of the students.

With many facing the prospect

of the arrest, the government schools steeped in darkness, putting the parents in a quandary, especially the parents of SSC students.

Parents who cannot send their wards to private schools because of financial problems are worried about their wards. The government teachers draw fat salaries, but five of them have been lodged behind the bars, triggering worry

among the parents. In fact, the parents are angry with the defective education department.

Some teachers have got ranks like seven star, six star, five star and one star in the illegal business. Recently, teachers who won stars in the illegal trade were arrested, but not the superstars.

They have been apparently negotiating a deal with a political bigwig in the district to avoid getting arrested.

According to reliable information, a deal has been struck to pay Rs 50 lakh to Rs 1 crore by each teacher involved in the illegal trade to a political bigwig.

Because of this phenomenon, the arrest of teachers is being slow-peddled, remark several academicians, teachers' union leaders.

They appeal to the Collector to show initiative and refer the case to the CB-CID to take action against teachers involved in the illegal business.

Toxic chemicals a threat to Musi river, says MLA

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Munugode MLA Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy expressed serious concern regarding the situation surrounding the Musi river. He said, "We have already lost a lot due to the toxic chemicals in the river. The crops and vegetables grown here cannot be sold. People are forced to buy drinking water. If purification doesn't happen, there will be no humans left!"

He emphasised the need for government support for the Musi cleansing initiative. "The BRS, which has consumed a thousand



crores under the guise of cleansing, is now preaching ethics," he criticised. He warned that obstructing the Musi purification project led by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy would mean signing a death sentence for Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy and Nalgonda districts. He urged KCR, KTR and Harish Rao to visit the Musi villages and witness the situation firsthand. "What has happened to Musi? Once, it was the lifeline for Ranga Reddy, Hyderabad and Nalgonda districts. Now it has turned into a pit of filth," he remarked.

The Musi river, which originates in

Vikarabad and merges with the Krishna river at Wadapally in Nalgonda district, was once known for its life-giving waters. However, it has now become undrinkable, and even the crops grown with this water cannot be sold.

The primary issue is the discharge of toxic chemicals and drainage water into Musi from industrial areas. "Waste from households within the municipality is now mixing into the Musi," he noted. Daily, around 2000 million liters of sewage and chemical-laden water are released into the Musi.

Call to give wide publicity to helpline number 1098

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Collector Muzammil Khan on Monday released the poster titled "Chinnari" brought out by the district welfare department and asked the authorities to give wide publicity to the children's helpline number 1098.

Awareness is being cre-

ated among the people, including children, on illicit trafficking in children, sexual harassment, child marriages, online harassment, abuse of drugs and its prevention, changes occurring in the bodies of children, good touch and bad touch and other related aspects with the help of the wall poster.

The children's helpline is working perfectly under the welfare department, he said appealing to people to complain on the helpline number 1098 about illicit trafficking in children, sexual harassment, child marriages, abuse of drugs by children, online harassment and other related issues.

ACROSS THE STATES



AFSPA extended in Manipur for six more months

The government on Monday extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) by another six months in Manipur excluding 19 police station areas falling under the Imphal valley and a region that shares its boundary with Assam. In a notification, the state government's Home Department said the extension will come into effect from October 1. "The state government is of the opinion after analysing the prevailing law and order situation in the state that it is not expedient to have a detailed assessment on the ground as security agencies are preoccupied with maintenance of law and order," the notification said. The issue of declaration of Disturbed Area status is very sensitive and may likely attract public criticism and resistance if proper care is not taken, it said. "The governor of Manipur hereby accords approval to declare the entire state of Manipur excluding the areas falling under the jurisdiction of 19 police stations... as Disturbed Area for a period of six months with effect from 1st October" the notification signed by Commissioner (Home) N Ashok Kumar read.

Denial of speedy and timely justice can be disastrous: SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Denial of speedy and timely justice can be "disastrous" to the rule of law in the long term, the Supreme Court said on Monday, stressing courts should nip in the bud any attempt to delay proceedings without any valid justification.

The apex court observed that the administration of justice feeds on the faith of the citizenry and nothing should be done to even remotely shake that faith and confidence.

A bench of Justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan said the victim, the accused and the society at large have a legitimate expectation that justice will be available to the parties within a reasonable time.

"It is beyond cavil that speedy and timely justice is an important facet of rule of law. Denial of speedy and timely justice can be disastrous to rule of law in the long term," the bench said. "Even if the parties involved in a case themselves, with no



valid justification attempt to delay the proceedings, the courts need to be vigilant and nip any such attempt in the bud instantly," the top court said. It set aside an April 2021 order of the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court which had ordered further investiga-

"We are constrained to observe this because of late we notice that pleadings/petitions with outrageous and ex facie unbelievable averments are made with no inhibition whatsoever. This is especially so in some family law proceedings, both civil and criminal," it said.

It said that reading some of the averments made "we are left to wonder whether at all the deponents were conscious of what has been written purportedly on their behalf, before appending their signatures".

The bench said these "misadventures" directly impinge on the rule of law, because they add to the pendency and the consequential delay in the disposal of other cases which are crying for justice.

"It is time that such frivolous and vexatious proceedings are met with due sanctions in the form of exemplary costs to dissuade parties from resorting to such tactics," the bench said.

Union minister dares Cong to restore Article 370 in J&K

PNS ■ JAMMU

Accusing the Congress of speaking in different voices on Article 370, Union minister Jitendra Singh on Monday dared the opposition party to declare that they will restore it in Jammu and Kashmir if they return to power.

Singh, minister of state in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), also hit out at the Congress for raising the issue of restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir in the election campaign, contending that it has already been promised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah at public meetings and in Parliament.

Singh claimed that the Congress leaders spoke in favour of removal of Article 370 in the Jammu region and took an exactly opposite stand in the Kashmir valley.

"I dare the Congress to declare that they will restore Article 370 if elected to power. The Congress may please its alliance partner National Conference in this manner, but will antagonise voters

across the country," the three-term BJP Lok Sabha member from Udhampur told PTI Videos in an interview here.

In 2019, the Centre scrapped the special status granted to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir through Article 370 and 35A. It also bifurcated the state into two Union territories - Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

On the issue of restoration of statehood, Singh said the prime minister, in his public meetings, has made the promise and the Union Home Minister has also given an assurance in Parliament on the issue.

"The opposition is trying to be over smart. They know very well that the Centre will restore statehood and are hence raising the issue every now and then," the Union minister said.

Singh said the people of Jammu and Kashmir were eager to bring the BJP back to power as they have experienced equitable development under Prime Minister Modi's leadership.



US Mission opens 2.5 lakh addl visa slots for Indians

The US Mission in India has opened an additional 250,000 visa appointments for Indian travellers, including tourists, skilled workers and students, officials said on Monday. "The recently released new slots will help Indian applicants take timely interviews, facilitating the travel which is the backbone of the people-to-people ties that underpin the US-India relationship, they said. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joe Biden set an ambitious goal to improve and expedite the visa process and I am proud to say that we have delivered on that promise. Our consular teams at the embassy and four consulates work tirelessly to ensure that we meet the surging demand," said US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti. More than 1.2 million Indians have travelled to the United States in 2024, a 35 per cent increase over the same period in 2023."

'Absolutely distasteful, disgraceful' BJP slams Kharge for remarks about Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Monday slammed Mallikarjun Kharge, terming his remarks about Prime Minister Narendra Modi "absolutely distasteful and disgraceful".

It also said Modi became the prime minister for a third consecutive term with the people's mandate and not because of the Congress president's grace.

Addressing a poll rally in Kathua district of Jammu on Sunday, Kharge had said he will not die until Prime Minister Modi is removed from power and had asserted that the Congress will fight for the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

Reacting to his remarks, Shah said in a post on X, "Yesterday, the Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge Ji has outperformed himself, his leaders and his party in being absolutely distasteful and dis-



graceful in his speech. In a bitter display of spite, he unnecessarily dragged PM Modi into his personal health matters by saying that he would die only after removing PM Modi from power," he said. Shah said Kharge's remarks showed how much "hate and fear" the Congress people have of PM Modi that they are thinking of him "constantly". "As for the health of Kharge Ji, Modi Ji prays, I pray and we all pray that he lives a long, healthy life. May he continue to live for many years and may he live to see the creation of a Viksit Bharat by 2047," he added.

'Focus on serious issues like Manipur, caste census' Congress hits back at Shah

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday hit back at Home Minister Amit Shah over his attack on party chief Mallikarjun Kharge, saying he should focus on serious issues, such as the situation in Manipur and a caste census.

Shah on Monday said Kharge's remarks on Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a poll rally in Jammu and Kashmir were "absolutely distasteful and disgraceful".

In a post in Hindi on X, Kharge said, "Home Minister Amit Shah should focus on serious issues like Manipur, census and caste census."

"Your government's own survey says 92 per cent of the employees cleaning urban sewers and septic tanks come from SC, ST, OBC categories," the Congress chief said.

"The BJP is against a caste census because then it will be

known that through what kind of work SC, ST, OBC, EWS and all other categories are earning their livelihood. What is their economic and social status. What kind of targeted benefits of government schemes should they get," Kharge said. He asserted that the Congress is firmly committed to getting a nationwide caste census conducted. "We will get it done," he added. Kharge tagged the screenshot of a report in "The Hindu", which said in a first-of-its-kind attempt to enumerate people engaged in the hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks in India's cities and towns, government data gathered from more than 3,000 urban local bodies in 29 states and Union territories shows that 91.9 per cent of the 38,000 workers profiled so far belong to Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST) or Other Backward Classes (OBC) communities.



VHP urges govt to repeal Waqf Act

The Himachal Pradesh unit of Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) on Monday urged the Modi government to repeal the Waqf Act, claiming it was enacted just to appease Muslim voters. Himachal VHP state secretary Tushar Dogra alleged the Waqf Act enacted and then amended to appease Muslim voters, and to hand over properties of Hindus and the government to Muslims. He was speaking at a webinar organised by NGO Umang Foundation here. The demand comes even as the issue is being discussed at the government level. The government introduced the Waqf (Amendment) Bill in Lok Sabha last month and it was referred to a joint parliamentary panel. In a statement issued here, Dogra said, "In 1995, only 4 lakh acres of land was in possession of Waqf Boards in the country. But now, they have more than 9 lakh acres of land in their possession due to this draconian law." He said the Waqf Act empowers waqf boards to claim any public and private property without showing any documents and onus to prove the ownership goes to the real owner.

Minister Konda Surekha cries..

Continued from page 1

Surekha warned BRS chief K. Chandrasekhar Rao and Working President KT Rama Rao and asked them to show the trolls to his sister and mother. She made it clear that she would not remain silent if trolling continued. She said that leaders from all parties call her 'Akka' and her husband 'Bava', she said

and added that people would revolt against BRS activists. Surekha said that BRS leaders won with the votes of handloom workers and humiliated the child of Padmashali. Do you create trouble in families, she asked. Former minister T Harish Rao emphasized that respecting women is everyone's responsibility and that disrespectful behavior towards

them will not be tolerated. He stated, "Neither BRS party nor I, personally, will overlook such actions." Expressing concern over the discomfort caused to Konda Surekha, Harish added, "I share regret over the inconvenience caused to you." He condemned inappropriate behavior on social media and urged everyone to act responsibly on these platforms.

TG govt begins pilot project..

Continued from page 1

that field-level officials should seek the permission of families before taking their photos. The authorities have been told that taking photos of families should be optional and to stop the photos if family members object. The Chief Minister asserted that the nodal officers of the old districts should guide district Collectors regarding the field-level inspection and then only the programme will be con-

ducted in a productive manner. Officials briefed the CM that the process of identification of families has already been completed based on the data of Ration Cards, Pension, Self-Help groups, Farmer Insurance, Insurance, Health insurance, etc. The CM Revanth Reddy advised officials to take necessary steps in the name and changes, if any, in the compilation of details of family members. The CM warned of mistakes.

TDP defends..

Continued from page 1

alleged by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu. TDP spokesperson Pattabhi Ram Kommareddy stated, "We stand by everything we have presented to the public. There is no going back; 100 percent, adulterated ghee was used, and we have sufficient evidence to prove it. We have placed all of this in the public domain, and the same will be presented before the court."

When asked about the possibility of a Central agency investigating the matter, he replied, "We don't have any problem. We have constituted a Special Investigation Team, and they are doing their job. If the Supreme Court decides that Central government agencies should also be involved, we welcome that. We have no issues whatsoever." Kommareddy emphasised the need for those responsible to be punished, adding, "As the government of Andhra Pradesh, we welcome any decision by the Supreme Court to involve Central Government agencies in the investigation."

TG's recruitment drive..

Continued from page 1

The recruitment is progressing at a rapid pace, reflecting the government's commitment to filling vacancies. Under the Telangana Residential Educational Institutions Society, 8,304 appointment letters have been issued for TGTs, PGTs, junior lecturers and degree college lecturers.

The TSPSC has issued 26 notifications covering nearly 17,341 jobs. In a notable recent recruitment, 687 AEE posts in the irrigation department were filled, and results for pending Group 4 exams, covering 8,180 posts, were released, with the certificate verification process underway. The new government also addressed issues in Group 1 exams, which had been disrupted by a question paper leak under the previous administration.

A fresh notification for 563 posts was issued, and the prelims were conducted on June 9, with results declared by July 7. Over 3 lakh candidates appeared, and arrangements are underway for the mains, scheduled for October 21 to 27. Furthermore, the Police Recruitment Board is set to resolve the pending appointments for 16,929 constable posts, which were not concluded by the BRS government with appointment letters being issued by the Congress government upon taking office. The Medical and Health Recruitment Board has also moved swiftly, releasing the results for 7,094 staff nurse positions and issuing appointment letters to those selected.

"The aspirations of the unemployed in Telangana are being fulfilled as the state government continues its large-scale recruitment drive," official sources said. "The aspirations of the unemployed in Telangana are being fulfilled as the state government continues its large-scale recruitment drive," official sources said.

Keep Gods out..

Continued from page 1

subjected to test. "It is very clear from the report that this is not the Ghee which has been used. Unless you are sure, how did you go to public with that?" a bench of

Justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan said. "It is not clear at all and it is prima facie indicating that these were rejected Ghee which were subjected to test. If you yourself have ordered investigation, where is the need to go to the press?" the bench told senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, who was appearing for Andhra Pradesh.

CM goes to..

Continued from page 1

There is also a chance that he will hold talks about nominated posts and expansion of the cabinet with AICC General Secretary KC Venugopal. It is learnt the Chief Minister may explain the reason for taking the decision on HYDRAA and the Musi River Development Programme which are drawing heavy flak.

Dadasaheb Phalke Award..

Continued from page 1

"Delighted that Shri Mithun Chakraborty Ji has been conferred the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award, recognizing his unparalleled contributions to Indian cinema. He is a cultural icon, admired across generations for his versatile performances. Congratulations and best wishes to him," PM said in a post on X.

Musi project is Reserve..

Continued from page 1

The buildings marked for demolition are worth around ₹1,000 crore in one stretch alone in Hyderguda."

KTR then drew a comparison with national projects: "For the 2,400-km Namami Gange project, ₹s 40,000 crore was spent. But for just 55 km of the Musi River, the Congress government is quoting ₹s 1.5 lakh crore. Who asked you to rejuvenate Musi at this exorbitant cost? Revanth promised six guarantees within 100 days. Have any of those guarantees been

implemented? They even swore on stamp papers and affidavits, but nothing has materialized."

KTR also recalled the negative history of Congress governance: "During previous Congress admins, Hyderabad used to see frequent curfews. But after KCR became the Chief Minister, Hyderabad flourished without a single curfew. Now, lakhs of people in Hyderabad are worried about losing their homes and the Congress is targeting Hyderabad's BRS supporters. Rahul says 'Bulldozer Raj' won't work in

Uttar Pradesh, but in Telangana, their leaders are enforcing it. The way people are criticising Revanth on social media shows that his credibility is already sinking." KTR took a strong stance against Congress hypocrisy. "Even Revanth Reddy's own house is built on a water body. Does he have the guts to demolish it? Congress ministers and MLAs have homes around Himayat Sagar. If you are honest, start by demolishing those houses first. For the poor and the middle class a house is more than just a building. It's an emotion. By demolishing their homes, you are crushing their hopes."

Continued from page 1

HYDRAWS HC..

Responding to that the Judge asked the Commissioner whether he had enquired with the Tehsildar before conducting demolitions. "Don't you have the responsibility to check on what basis the MRO concluded that a building is illegal," the HC asked. "Is it not your duty to verify records? Can you simply provide men and machinery to the Tehsildar to carry out demolitions? Is that your duty?" asked the court. The Judge advised the Commissioner not to please his political bosses or executive bosses by doing illegal things. "Otherwise, we will have to stay on this particular matter (HYDRAA). We are not happy with HYDRAA and the Ameenpur Tehsildar in this issue," the Judge said.

When the Commissioner said that lakes have been encroached on in the city, the court said, "We are not asking you not to demolish illegal buildings. I am not justifying illegal acts. What I am saying is that you have to follow the procedure prescribed by law," the Judge said.

The court said that demolitions should not be undertaken on Sundays. "Why are you demolishing only on Sundays? There is a full bench judgement of this court. According to that judgement, you cannot demolish buildings on weekends, Sundays and after sunset. That is the law," the court said.

Speaking to the Commissioner, the Judge said that one counsel said that in an interview you (HYDRAA Commissioner) have said that people should be afraid to purchase properties near ponds and lakes.

"So you want to terrorise people or do you want to enforce the law? What is your intention?" asked the High Court. Replying to it, Ranganath said that he had never said that. The court pointed out that traffic coordination and management are also part of the duties of HYDRAA. "What have you done to regulate traffic? What

have you done after HYDRAA was set up?" asked the court.

The Judge pointed out that HYDRAA is concentrating only on demolitions. "Except that you are not doing anything. This is the public opinion. It is not my personal opinion," the Judge said.

When the HYDRAA Commissioner said that many acres of land have been encroached on, the High Court said that this is not the way to protect government properties. "We are not coming in your way. Protect government lands. We are with you but you have to follow due procedure," the Judge said. "Your (HYDRAA) actions are appreciable. But the manner in which you are demolishing buildings on Sundays is not appreciable," the Judge said.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Cauldron boiling

West Asia is once again on the precipice of a larger conflict, as tensions between Israel, Hezbollah and Iran reach a boiling point

The situation in the West Asia is becoming critical and it would not be surprising if the region is embroiled in a full-fledged war. The assassination of Hezbollah's long-standing leader, Hassan Nasrallah, marks a significant escalation in the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Lebanese militant group. This development could pull not only Iran but also the United States into a broader and potentially devastating confrontation. Hezbollah, reeling from the assassination of its leader and the destruction of much of its command structure, finds itself at a critical juncture. With over a dozen of its top commanders eliminated and its communications infrastructure crippled, the group faces significant operational challenges. However, expecting Hezbollah to capitulate is unrealistic. The group, which has thousands of fighters and a sizable arsenal of long-range, precision-guided missiles capable of hitting major Israeli cities, has vowed revenge. With pressure mounting from within its ranks, there is a strong likelihood that Hezbollah

will attempt to launch a major offensive against Israel, potentially overwhelming Israeli air defences. If such an attack takes place and results in significant civilian casualties, Israel's response is expected to be swift and devastating, targeting Lebanon's infrastructure or even expanding the conflict to Iranian territory. Such a scenario could ignite a much wider conflict that drags the entire region into chaos.

For Iran, the loss of Nasrallah is as much of a blow as it is for Hezbollah. Iran, which has yet to respond to the assassination of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh, is now facing heightened pressure from hardliners to retaliate. Iran's influence extends across the



region through a network of militias known as the 'Axis of Resistance,' which includes Hezbollah, the Houthis in Yemen, and various groups in Syria and Iraq. While Tehran will likely use these proxies to increase pressure on Israel, its response is expected to be measured to avoid triggering a full-scale war. Israel's intentions are now clearer than ever. The assassination of Nasrallah signals that Israel has no interest in halting its military campaign, despite international calls for a 21-day ceasefire, including one from its closest ally, the United States. Israel believes it has Hezbollah on the defensive and aims to continue its offensive until the group's missile threat is neutralised. A broader war would have catastrophic consequences, not only for the parties directly involved but for the entire region. Lebanon, already on the brink of economic collapse, could be devastated and any escalation could disrupt global oil supplies, sending shockwaves through the international economy. The coming weeks will be crucial in determining whether this conflict spirals into a wider regional war or if diplomatic efforts can halt the violence before it escalates further. As of now, this volatile region stands on the edge of a conflict with no clear resolution in sight. This is high time for the UN to step in and the West to make efforts for rapprochement else this region is going to burn for sure.

The deceptive facade of China's military

Despite technological advancements, setbacks like the Zhou-class submarine sinking, reveal a widening gap between China's military claims and actuality



BHOPINDER SINGH

Deception is at the heart of Chinese strategy and operations, especially on matters, the military. Ancient Sinological philosophers like Sun Tzu (The Art of War) had propounded extensively on cheating (likening it to a 'magic weapon') as a vital underpinning of deceptive warfare. The Chinese PLA Navy Submarine Academy has formally distilled four examples of deception in war (under the manual, 'Essentials of Sun Tzu and the Art of War and Submarine Operations'). Firstly 'Show yourself to intimidate the enemy', then 'Show the false to confuse the enemy', thirdly 'Create momentum to harass the enemy' and lastly 'Deceive to obstruct the enemy'. Herein, untruth is a natural necessity as per their established treatise. India would be well versed in how the Chinese would talk about the 1962 Indo-China War but remain conspicuously silent on the reversal of fortunes about the 1967 Nathu La and Cho La border clashes. While an estimated 340 Chinese soldiers had died then (88 on the Indian side) - true to their downplaying style, they only accepted a figure of 32 fatalities. The Chinese are similarly circumspect or lying about the essential outcomes of the China-Vietnam War of 1979. This deliberate fudging of facts was to repeat itself in the 2020 India-China skirmishes on the Line of Actual Control (LAC). While India acknowledged the loss of its Bravehearts in the bloody encounters, the Chinese shied away from acknowledging any of their own - this when the US pegged the Chinese fatalities as 20-35, the Russians estimated Chinese loss of about 45, whereas the Australians insisted at least 41 Chinese killed. Almost a year later, the Chinese sheepishly admitted four fatalities killed in the Galwan clashes, as they gave away gallantry awards. True to their practised instincts, the Chinese always overstated their gains and downplayed their losses to deceive the onlookers (especially their citizenry) to retain 'manufactured' optics of infallibility and invincibility, even when the reality was a lot more



unheroic. This sovereign impulse of fake claims, downplaying failures, and overstating their capabilities has been elevated to a fine art, as is the won't of any authoritarian state reeling from regime insecurities.

It routinely manifests in their claims of making advancements in technologies, weaponry and platforms that are ostensibly cutting-edge and even ahead of peers like the United States or Russia. The reality is essentially predicated on reverse-engineering technologies that could be brazenly stolen or surreptitiously acquired - but the claim of 'homegrown' is gleefully posited.

A lot of 'fifth generation' fighters, Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles, Hypersonic technologies to Chinese nuclear submarines remain in public news but are essentially untested or unsubstantiated in live combat. While it has a considerable industrial base and budgetary allocation granted to its Defence Industry, like everything else in the Chinese realm, claims remain more impressive than reality. With this murky backdrop, came the recent news of the sinking of the latest Chinese nuclear submarine. The fact that the Zhou-class of attack submarine sank even before going into service, speaks volumes of the gap between purported tech-

nological advancements as opposed to factual efficacy. Incidentally, the US Deputy Secretary of State, Kurt Campbell, had confirmed that the Russians were helping China develop this submarine technology and that it too wasn't necessarily homegrown, as claimed. While this sinking of the submarine is believed to have happened in May earlier, it was never owned up by the Chinese and it took satellite images to unravel the sinking of the first-in-class nuclear-powered Chinese submarine. It is certainly a major setback for China's priority weapons programs that is key to its expansionist and hegemonic aspirations. As if on the rebound and to stitch a counternarrative, China is believed to have fired an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile into the Pacific Ocean, in a move that seems designed to distract and deflect from the embarrassing news of its sunk submarine and to reiterate its prowess and capability. Coming as the testing does after more than four decades over the Pacific Ocean, it is unmistakably a 'signal' move to suggest that the 'Dragon' still retains sharp claws and fangs. Incidentally, the missile is part of the PLA's Rocket Force that was subjected to a sweeping corruption crackdown, purge, and complete overhaul last

year - something that could be inflicted again on the PLA Navy leadership, which was in charge of the sunk submarine. Already the chorus of sub-standard Chinese weaponry has gained decibels from traditional clients like Pakistan or from emerging ones like Bangladesh, who complained about the quality of spares for its navy. Russia's decline on the global stage as a military supplier has not resulted in an automatic transfer of business to the Chinese manufacturers, as earlier thought and the growing perception of 'Made in China' has a lot to do with the reactions. With the US returning to the Pakistani arms market (Islamabad accounts for over 50 per cent of Chinese exports), and the overall pressures of economic slowdown haunting the Chinese economy - Beijing is in a tight spot to invest, innovate, and deliver weaponry that truly delivers what it claims. It is premature to write off China's 'Military-Industrial complex just yet, but the chinks in its armour are getting routinely exposed. While still a 'value player' for the desperate, authoritarian or 'paradise' countries, its claim to cutting-edge technology is suspect. (The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views are personal)

AS IF ON THE REBOUND AND TO STITCH A COUNTER-NARRATIVE, CHINA IS BELIEVED TO HAVE FIRED AN INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILE INTO THE PACIFIC OCEAN, IN A MOVE THAT SEEMS DESIGNED TO DISTRACT AND DEFLECT FROM THE EMBARRASSING NEWS OF ITS SUNK SUBMARINE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PERILS OF MUSI PROJECT

Madam - Congress government's extravagant plan to spend a staggering Rs 1.5 lakh crore on the Musi river beautification project. This expenditure raises serious questions about the government's priorities and its commitment to the welfare of the people of Telangana. As KTR has rightly pointed out, the government's focus on this project while neglecting the Palamuru-Rangareddy project, which is nearing completion, is a clear indication of their misplaced priorities. The Palamuru-Rangareddy project has the potential to transform the lives of countless farmers in the region, yet it seems to be overshadowed by the Musi project, which appears to be more about political gain than public welfare. It is also alarming to note that the estimated cost of the Musi project has tripled from Rs 50,000 crore to Rs 1.5 lakh crore, suggesting a significant financial scandal.

The government must provide a transparent explanation for this drastic increase in expenditure and ensure that the funds are used efficiently and for the benefit of the people. Furthermore, the government has failed to provide clear details about the expected benefits of the Musi project, such as the number of acres of farmland that will benefit, the amount of water that will be stored, and the anticipated industrial benefits. Without such information, it is difficult to justify the massive investment being made in this project.

Juloori B Saraswathi | Hyderabad

HEZBOLLAH LEADER ASSASSINATED

Madam - The unstoppable Israel has once again inflicted another severe wound on Iran when Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah was assassinated in airstrikes by the Israeli defence forces at Lebanese capital Beirut. His death gave jolts to his shell shocked sympathisers in Iran, like the death of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh. But at the same time a cause for celebration for the north-

India's dominance in Asia



The Australian think tank 'Lowy Institute' ranked India as the third strongest Asian power in the Asia Power Index. US and China occupied the first and second position

followed by India in the third place. Considering the economic growth, future potential and the diplomatic influence of India on an improvement, India successfully managed to rank better with passing years than the countries like Japan, Australia and Russia. The improvement from the side of India is particularly welcoming because India strives to make continuous improvement in its performance in all respects and also ensure holistic growth of Asia for a better future together.

The journey of India turning into the Asian giant is particularly strategic and India's efforts for industrialisation, infrastructural development, public policy and administration, good governance and holistic development are much appreciated in this regard.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

western Sunni population in Syria for his atrocities and war crimes during the Assad regime in the Civil War. The back-to-back war between Hezbollah and Israel has spoilt the hope of a ceasefire and wreaked havoc on civilians through constant shelling in various human settlements for more causality.

It proves the hypocrisy of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who pretends to gather international support for isolated Israel in the UN General Assembly but on the contrary continues to provoke Iran for a wide-scale regional war and long-running conflict results in vicious ramifications. Lacking international support for war crime and muscle approach, how long Israel will continue to push for war with the help of the US in Gaza, Lebanon and beyond, only time will tell

Janga B Sunuwar | Jalpaiguri

NEPOTISM IN POLITICS

Madam - It refers to 'Stalin to succeed Stalin' (September 29). The biggest threat to Indian democracy is the appointment of Udhayanidhi as Deputy

CM, which has proven the pervasiveness of dynastic politics and the prioritising of family interests over public welfare. It is easy for a son, daughter, or close relative of a leader to take over the political baton, while others have to spend a significant amount of time in the rough and tumble of politics. Political observers say that there is no harm if a political leader's son or daughter, or close relative, chooses to enter politics, but there is a thin line that separates dynasty politics and a worthy kin's choice to take a plunge.

But when we look into the pros and cons of dynastic politics, it highlights the deficiency it could bring to the ideals of democracy, questioning its legitimacy. The trend of dynastic politics will lead to the perpetuation of an elite class that transcends generations and will hamper the smooth inflow of capable, meritorious candidates into politics.

KV Chandra mouli | Mysuru

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

PICTALK



An artist prepares an environment friendly puja pandal ahead of Durga Puja festival, in Kolkata

PTI

The challenges of parenting in the age of technology



ASHA IYER KUMAR

While the challenges are real, so too are the solutions - adaptation and patience remain the cornerstones of successful parenting in these digital times

Conversations these days are rife with the refrain of how challenging life has become and how surfing the turbulent seas is not as easy as it used to be previously. It amuses me that we endorse this view readily despite the conveniences the modern world has introduced to us.



The all-round improvement in quality of life has done nothing much in terms of bringing us the sense of gratification that material accumulation is perceived to bring. Instead, we have only become crazier and more complaining. Among the things that we whine about there is one that stands out - the difficulty of being a parent in these times. It is not like how it used to be when we were kids, they assert and are at a loss to keep their children under control, be it about the use of gadgets or their demands for new-age comforts or following well-meaning advice. Children these days have a way of growing up that parents can't seem to get a grip over, and parents are at their wit's end. Has parenting become so tough now, tougher than what

it used to be for our parents or theirs? Before we delve into why it seems more difficult now than ever before, it is important to recognise that parenting has always been tough. Our grandparents may not have had to deal with social media addiction or the anxiety of being on constant alert, but they had their own set of worries - scarcity, lack of information, and fewer opportunities. Yet, they managed, just as we try to manage today. What, then, has changed so significantly that parents now feel a near-constant sense of overwhelm? For one, the digital age has transformed not only how we live but also how we raise children. Social media, YouTube, video games - all these distractions

are not just forms of entertainment; they shape the way children think, act, and even perceive reality. Parents often feel powerless in the face of this digital onslaught, unsure how to manage screen time without seeming authoritarian or disconnected from their children's world. This struggle is exacerbated by the speed at which technology evolves. By the time parents get a handle on one app or platform, their children have already moved on to the next one.

Then, there's the issue of peer pressure, not just on children but on parents too. The 'Instagram-perfect' life adds a layer of stress to parenting that previous generations didn't face. Parents today are not just competing with themselves to be the best versions of their upbringing - they are competing with a curated version of perfection they see online. The pressure to enrol children in extracurricular activities, make sure they're developing emotional intelligence, cultivate leadership skills, and create future 'success stories' can be crushing. Our grandparents' idea of raising children to be 'good'

has been replaced with a need to raise 'achievers,' and this shift in focus can leave parents feeling like they're running a race with no finish line. Despite these challenges, parenting isn't a lost cause. It is, and always will be, a journey of trial and error. The key is finding balance and knowing that perfection is neither attainable nor necessary. A good place to start is by building a stronger connection with your children. Parents also need to accept that they cannot fight all battles alone.

They must seek help. Many of the challenges we face today are new and unfamiliar, but that doesn't mean they are insurmountable. Just as previous generations found solutions to their problems, so too can we, but it will require adaptation, learning, and, most importantly, patience. After all, our children are not just products of their environment - they are reflections of the love, support, and wisdom we give them, no matter how fast the world around them changes.

(The author is a Dubai-based columnist, writing coach. Views are personal)



FIRST COLUMN THE SPIRITUAL MEANING OF ZERO

The symbol of zero holds profound meaning, it symbolises eternity



RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR NIKUNJ JI

Zero is the number people often feel, more so than one, isn't it true? Because more zeroes means more prosperity. However from a spiritual perspective, zero is the point from which all other numbers spring forth. Even visually the number zero is symbolic of a seed, womb or egg from which pure potential emerges. Since the zero also visually resembles a circle, it symbolises eternity, evolution, and infinity. Like an atom is to the physical world and a soul to the spiritual world, the zero is symbolic of both worlds.

Pythagoras viewed the sign of the zero as the container for all things and the birthing place of all other values. The discovery of zero changes the way we calculate, compute and communicate. All these tasks affect almost all fields of human activity today. Zero is counted as an even number along with positive and negative integers. It is important in the number-value system because it defines the value and place of a digit in a number as a thousand, hundred, ten or a million. In a way, it is a symbol that defines nothingness.

While zero is valuable in terms of its contributions to the myriad spheres of human life, it has been used to describe mystical concepts in religious and spiritual philosophies. In Hindi zero is called 'shunya' meaning a void, the supreme state of awareness where everything comes to nothingness. Spiritual seekers perceive this state as 'mukti' or nirvana in which the soul is restored to its original state free from all impressions, influences and impurities of the earthly life. Zero looks like an elliptical circle representing infinity the eternal cycle of cre-



ation. Everything returns to zero or nothingness before being created anew. Hence, most spiritual teachers emphasise attaining the zero state i.e. emptying the mind of all worldly thoughts and detaching from the awareness of the physical body to attain liberation and peace. The egg shaped symbol of the Soul or Supreme Almighty as a point of light surrounded by an oval aura also resembles a zero. In its original state, every soul is like a zero & it has no worldly identity or role but like a seed, it has infinite power and qualities merged within, which manifest when the soul enters the field of karma in this world.

The Supreme Almighty is the eternal seed who always exists in the zero state of awareness, detached from everything yet filled with infinite divine qualities and powers that support the whole creation. It is from this supreme state of nothingness that HE creates a perfect new world whenever the creation becomes degraded and old. Like zero, the soul essentially has an even or positive character. Just as the negative of 2 is - 2 which means lacking in 2, the lack of awareness of positive qualities manifests as negative or odd traits in the soul.

The number zero has very special functions in the calculation. Anything added or subtracted to zero remains unchanged. Any number multiplied by zero gives zero while any number divided by zero gives infinity. Interestingly, when we add zeros after a number, its value grows ten times. These specialities can be ascribed to the Almighty Supreme who remains unchanged in the cycle of eternity.

He does not enjoy the fruits of karma and nothing can be added, subtracted, multiplied or divided from his powers. When we multiply our powers by linking ourselves with him, we too become a zero like him filled with all divine virtues. So let us try our best to remain in the zero state and achieve a higher state of consciousness to live a life that is minus all worries, tension & stress.

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

Revive shallow aquifers for urban water woes in India

Indian cities, plagued by over-extraction of deep groundwater must turn to the ancient underground reservoirs writes S VISHWANATH and ISHLEEN KAUR



In India, groundwater plays a critical role in meeting urban water demands. These aquifers, found at relatively shallow depths, have served as vital sources of water for centuries. At a time when transporting water across long distances was inconceivable, communities turned to shallow aquifers to meet their water needs.

Found at accessible depths, they offered a cost-effective and reliable water supply for the growing populations. The dug wells and step wells, still standing today, are reminders of a time when water scarcity was addressed by harnessing rainwater to recharge shallow aquifers. However, as modern cities grew, the humble dug wells, once a ubiquitous part of the landscape, began to vanish. These wells have now largely been replaced by deep bore wells tapping into groundwater reserves at alarming depths.

India is the world's largest user of groundwater, consuming more than the United States and China combined.

Urban areas, in particular, have increasingly relied on groundwater to supplement their needs, leading to a significant depletion of shallow aquifers, and for too long, groundwater management has been side-lined in urban planning. However recent climate challenges—unpredictable rainfall, flash floods, and urban water crisis—have sparked renewed interest in groundwater management.

Increasingly, rainwater harvesting and urban waterbody rejuvenation projects are turning toward these natural underground reservoirs as a solution. Aquifers are now being studied for their potential to store excess rainwater and mitigate flooding. The launch of AMRUT 2.0 in 2021 marked a paradigm shift in water management, with groundwater finally being prioritized at the 'urban' scale. The mission recognised the need for cities to not only rely on groundwater but to actively manage



URBAN AREAS, IN PARTICULAR, HAVE INCREASINGLY RELIED ON GROUNDWATER TO SUPPLEMENT THEIR NEEDS, LEADING TO A SIGNIFICANT DEPLETION OF SHALLOW AQUIFERS, AND FOR TOO LONG, GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT HAS BEEN SIDE-LINED IN URBAN PLANNING

and protect it. Under the mission, the Shallow Aquifer Management (SAM) pilot project was initiated in 2022 in 10 cities. This initiative aimed to raise awareness among city officials and communities about the importance of shallow aquifers and demonstrate effective recharge structures to tackle critical issues like groundwater depletion, contamination and urban flooding. It sought to create an environment where cities could integrate shallow aquifer management into broader water strategies. By emphasising both simple and scientifically sound recharge methods, it aimed to revive approaches that have been overlooked in the pursuit of modern infrastructure. The project has yielded valuable insights for cities on effective shallow aquifer management.

This initiative has led to the development of 12 unique approaches and designs for recharge structures, tailored to local aquifer conditions. These ranged from the revival of existing wells and step wells in Dhanbad, Hyderabad, and Bangalore to catchment treatment of areas showing high recharge potential in Pune.

Cities such as Gwalior and Rajkot have undertaken detailed mapping of aquifer systems, and groundwater depths, and created an inventory of recharge structures at the city scale, facilitating informed groundwater management decisions. The project has also shown promising results in showcasing the sustainable use of these recharge structures to supplement water needs for local communities.

In Kanteerava Nagar, Bangalore, a dug well retrofitted under the

project is now supplying water to around 500 households with up to one lakh litre of water being pumped every day for non-potable use. Similarly, in Thane's Yeoor Village, tribal communities are benefiting from water sourced from desilted and retrofitted wells. In Dhanbad and Rajkot, where peri-urban areas heavily depend on shallow wells, the initiative has begun to expand beyond its pilot phase.

Rajkot Municipal Corporation has initiated work on constructing more than 100 additional recharge structures city-wide based on the SAM mapping, showing the renewed awareness and commitment to scale up shallow aquifer management. The project has been able to draw the attention of larger voices in the climate resilience and water security space.

Bangalore's Climate Action Plan has now incorporated groundwater management as a vital aspect of making Bangalore climate resilient. Pune has even established a dedicated groundwater cell in the municipal corporation to ensure that shallow aquifer management remains a priority in the city's future water plans. In FY 2024-2025, the Pune Municipal Corporation has allocated a dedicated budget of INR 1 crore for aquifer recharge structures, showing significant action in this direction. Despite the progress made through the SAM project, much work remains.

Cities need to acknowledge that deep aquifers hold vast reserves of water accumulated over centuries and must be typically reserved for emergencies, such as droughts. In contrast, shallow aquifers hold

immense potential as the first line of defence for daily water needs, making them essential for urban areas. However, as cities grow, the natural processes that recharge these aquifers are being disrupted.

In the current situation, where urban development is increasingly characterised by impermeable surfaces, inhibiting rainwater infiltration and preventing natural recharge, cities need to make conscious interventions towards artificial recharge of shallow aquifers including rejuvenation of lakes, wetlands and river floodplains.

India's groundwater crisis is complex, but the solution may lie beneath our feet. By managing shallow aquifers, cities can foster a more resilient and sustainable future. The SAM project provides a blueprint for this approach, but its lessons must be scaled up and implemented nationwide.

As India faces the dual challenges of urban growth and water scarcity, it is time to embrace the wisdom of our ancestors and integrate it with the science of hydrogeology.

By restoring shallow aquifers and making them a part of an integrated urban water management ecosystem, cities can ensure that this invaluable resource remains a dependable source of water for generations to come. In the words of Kabir: The well is one, and the water is the same. Let us remember that the water we draw today must sustain us tomorrow.

(S. Vishwanath is co-founder Biome Environmental Solutions, Bengaluru and Ishleen Kaur is senior environment specialist, National Institute of Urban Affairs, Delhi; views expressed are their own)

Right-wing and challenge for Indian Muslims: The path to reform and reconciliation

Indian Muslims must embrace internal reforms that align with a modern, secular framework, helping to bridge societal divisions

The rise of right-wing politics in India seems to have solidified its presence, and the deepening of Hindu-Muslim fault lines is likely to persist. While liberal and secular parties may win several State elections, an increase in their numbers in Parliament or State legislatures is unlikely to mend the fragile communal ties. The division between communities has now reached a deeper societal level, presenting a grave challenge for Indian Muslims. To minimise this damage and repair the social fabric, it is essential to promote a counter-narrative grounded in secularism. Indian Muslims must focus on internal reforms that promote secularisation within their own societal framework. While some right-



TARIQ ASHRAF

wing claims about Muslim life may be exaggerated or entirely untrue, certain aspects warrant closer introspection by the community itself. Although the issues have intensified since 2014, their roots can be traced back to much earlier times. As Muslims, it is critical to rework the internal narrative and processes within the community to align with secular

values. The painful legacy of India's partition, drawn along communal lines, has left a heavy burden on the Muslim community. In response, Indian Muslims need to go above and beyond to heal the sentiments and emotions of the majority community. Despite constitutional protections and safeguards, the community needs to focus on changing perceptions at both societal and communal levels. One step toward this change is to reform Muslim personal laws and harmonize them with a modern, progressive social order. Instead of framing personal law reforms as a Hindu-Muslim conflict, Muslims should see these reforms as standalone processes that benefit the community. A close examination of

some outdated practices will reveal that reforms have already taken place in many Muslim-majority countries. The All India Muslim Personal Law Board missed a crucial opportunity to declare triple talaq un-Islamic before the government passed legislation against it. Similarly, the Shah Bano case harmed the Muslim community's interests and fueled the resurgence of right-wing mobilisation. The Muslim Personal Law Board has exacerbated the community's challenges by opposing every proposed reform instead of acting as a forward-thinking, responsible institution. Another significant issue facing Indian Muslims is the lack of leadership from within the intelligentsia. With few exceptions, Muslim leadership has



been monopolised by the clergy, leaving the community without enlightened, visionary, and progressive guidance. The void left by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad has remained largely unfilled. Even leaders like Asaduddin Owaisi, despite their education and goodwill, have failed to adopt a liberal and secular approach in addressing legitimate community concerns. An aggrieved community must commu-

nicate in a conciliatory manner, rather than adopting a confrontational stance. The Muslim leadership's approach to the Hijab controversy clearly illustrates this failure. While Muslim women are entitled to wear the Hijab as a matter of choice and religious freedom, elevating the issue to the extent of students quitting their studies was unwise. It is essential for religion to be separated from public life and confined to the private domain. Although this holds true for all communities, Indian Muslims must make this move more emphatically due to historical reasons. The community needs to create a secular platform to address its concerns. The severe political and socio-economic challenges facing Muslims today

cannot be ignored. One positive step in this direction has been the recent initiative by a group of retired civil servants from Delhi who attempted to engage with leaders from the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). However, the initiative failed to gain traction as it was undertaken individually without an organizational framework. To be successful, such efforts must be scaled up to a national-level dialogue with a clear agenda involving eminent citizens from various levels, including state and central governments. It is imperative to address the widespread perception that the Muslim community is resistant to reform, reconciliation, and compromise. Before the Hindu-Muslim fault lines in India reach a danger-

ous level, the country urgently needs a period of cooling off. Many right-wing grievances against Muslims lack substance and truth. In a society governed by constitutional principles and the rule of law, a community cannot be punished for the historical wrongs committed by its ancestors. To address the right-wing narrative effectively, the Muslim community must launch a secular, modern, and progressive narrative based on evidence, rather than countering with equally polarizing rhetoric. It is the only viable option. *(The writer has been associated with the Centre for Policy Research, IIM Lucknow, University of Delhi, and Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi; Views are personal)*

IN BRIEF



DGCA set to issue electronic licences to ATCOs

Aviation safety regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is all set to issue licenses to Air Traffic Controllers (ATCOs) in electronic form as it looks to go paperless in its functioning and embrace the digital future. The introduction of electronic licenses is designed to significantly improve operational efficiency, enabling ATCOs to access and manage their licenses with ease on self-contained mobile electronic visual display devices, such as mobile phones or tablets, the DGCA said in an official statement. The move is not merely a regulatory update but represents a fundamental shift in the operational dynamics of air traffic management, it said. "In a transformative initiative, the DGCA is set to introduce the paperless Personnel License for Air Traffic Controllers (ATCOs). This innovative move signifies a pivotal shift in the management of personnel licenses, ushering in an era of enhanced efficiency and modernisation within the Indian aviation landscape," the statement said.



Cognizant to establish techfin centre at GIFT City

Global tech firm Cognizant on Monday announced its plans to establish a 'techfin centre' at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City), Gandhinagar. The new facility, set to launch in February 2025, will serve as a strategic hub for delivering advanced technology solutions for clients in the banking, financial services, and insurance (BFSI) industries, the company said in a statement. The centre will initially house 500 associates, with plans to scale up to 2,000 employees over the next three years, it said. Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel said Cognizant's new centre in GIFT City reflects the state's ability to attract world-class enterprises and provide a robust environment for innovation and growth. "GIFT City's state-of-the-art infrastructure, business-friendly policies, and strategic location are key drivers in shaping it into a global financial and technology hub."



SBI Card launches credit card with Singapore Airlines

SBI Card in partnership with Singapore Airlines Ltd (SIA) on Monday announced the launch of its co-branded credit card with a host of features. KrisFlyer SBI Card is Singapore Airlines' first co-branded credit card in India. This co-branded credit card has been designed to cater to super-premium cardholders, offering exclusive privileges in the air and on ground with the SIA Group that comprises Singapore Airlines, Scoot Airline, KrisShop.com, Kris+ lifestyle app and Pelago, a joint statement said. The newly launched credit card is available in two variants, KrisFlyer SBI Card and KrisFlyer SBI Card Apex, it said. With this partnership, KrisFlyer SBI Card customers will unlock a range of accelerated rewards and milestone benefits on their travel spends, it said. Packed with exclusive welcome offers of 3,000 KrisFlyer miles on the KrisFlyer SBI Card and 10,000 KrisFlyer miles on the KrisFlyer SBI Card Apex, the cards aim to redefine the travel experiences of their well-heeled customers, by providing them with unparalleled convenience and luxury.

India should not push for GSP benefits from US as gains are marginal: GTRI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India should accept the withdrawal of benefits under the US generalised system of preferences (GSP) scheme and avoid pushing for its reinstatement as the benefits for domestic exporters were marginal, think tank GTRI said on Monday. It also suggested that India should not seek the resumption of the scheme in the upcoming India-US Commercial Dialogue on October 2.

concessions on relatively insignificant issues, it said.

GTRI Founder Ajay Srivastava said the primary aim of the dialogue is to strengthen the bilateral commercial partnership, boost investment opportunities, and enhance supply chain resilience. "Given these larger objectives, focusing on reinstating GSP benefits, whose economic impact on India has been minimal, would detract from more significant areas of cooperation. Another important reason is low values of these benefits," he said.



Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal is visiting Washington for the dialogue.

He will co-chair the meeting with US Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo with participation from industries, startups, and SMEs from both countries.

The scheme, it added, is primarily designed for low-income countries, with even major economies like China excluded.

As a growing economic power, India should focus on broader, more strategic trade discussions rather than seeking

The GSP program, initiated by the US in 1974, was designed to grant duty-free access to specific products from developing countries, providing them with a competitive edge in the American market.

However, the impact of GSP benefits on India's overall trade was limited. In 2019, only about 16 per cent of India's total exports were destined for the US, and less than 2 per cent of these exports benefited from the GSP scheme, he said.

FM TO NORTHEAST RRBS Increase share in ground-level agri credit disbursement

PNS ■ ITANAGAR

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday directed the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) to increase their share in ground-level agriculture credit disbursement with a special focus on horticulture and allied agriculture activities like piggery, poultry, dairy and fisheries, officials said.



in the northeastern states at the civil secretariat here, Sitharaman urged the banks to put greater thrust on the identification of the right beneficiaries while sanctioning loans under various central schemes, they said.

The meeting focused on business performance, upgrading digital technology services, and fostering business growth in

allied agriculture and MSME clusters, they added.

Among those present in the meeting were chairpersons of RRBs and sponsor banks, representatives of RBI, NABARD and SIDBI, and senior officers of all the northeastern states.

Industrial sector growing at fast pace, India can now aim 9 pc growth: NITI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's industrial sector is growing at a fast pace and the country can now aim to achieve 9 per cent plus economic growth, NITI Aayog CEO B V R Subrahmanyam said on Monday.

Subrahmanyam said India's manufacturing sector has been generating sufficient number of jobs.

According to the ASI data, the number of persons employed in manufacturing industries rose 7.5 per cent in 2022-23 to 1.85 crore from 1.72 crore in the previous year.

Addressing a press conference here after release of Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI),

The estimated number of persons engaged in this sector in 2022-23 exceeded the pre-pandemic level (2018-19) by more than 22.14 lakh, a MoSPI

statement said adding that at the same time, average emolument also registered an increase over the previous year.

"The industrial sector in India is growing fast, it is something people have been unnecessarily criticising," he said.

While pointing out that manufacturing growth is broad based and is coming from all sectors, Subrahmanyam said, "India can aim at 9 per cent plus growth."

The Reserve Bank of India has revised upwards the GDP growth projection for the current fiscal to 7.2 per cent from 7 per cent on rising private consumption and revival of demand in rural areas.

He also observed that a lot of people (rating agencies and multilateral agencies) will be revising India's economic growth rate on the upper side. "We have wiped out the effect of Covid," the NITI Aayog CEO said.



India needs more time for transition from coal: Experts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the UK officially shut down its last remaining coal power plant on Monday, policy experts said coal will continue to be a part of India's energy mix for the next few decades, given that it is still a developing country with significant energy needs.

The UK on Monday closed its last coal power plant, becoming the first G7 nation to do so amid calls for a global coal-free energy system by 2040.

The world's first coal power plant opened in London in 1882, and until 2012, coal accounted for 39 per cent of the UK's electricity generation.

Global energy think tank Ember said the closure of the UK's last coal plant means that more than a third of OECD countries are now coal-free, with three-quarters expected to eliminate coal power by 2030, in line with global climate goals aimed at limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The International Energy Agency's (IEA) "Net Zero by 2050" report recommends that developed countries phase out unabated coal by 2030, while developing countries should aim to do so by 2040 to remain on track for global net-zero emissions by 2050. The term "unabated" in this context refers to electricity production that does not use technologies designed to capture and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

SILVER PLUMMETS RS 2,000 Gold remains flat at Rs 78,300/10g

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices remained flat at Rs 78,300 per 10 grams in the national capital on Monday, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

After rising for nine consecutive days, gold had touched its all-time high mark of Rs 78,300 per 10 grams on Friday.

However, silver plummeted by Rs 2,000 to Rs 92,500 per kg, snapping a three-day rising streak in the local markets on Monday. It had finished at Rs 94,500 per kg in the previous close. In futures trade on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold contracts for October delivery went up by Rs 42 or 0.06 per cent to Rs 74,900 per 10 grams.

Silver contracts for December delivery declined Rs 586 or 0.64 per cent to trade at Rs 90,812 per kg on



the exchange.

In the Asian trading hours, Comex gold was trading 0.06 per cent higher at USD 2,669.60 per ounce.

"COMEX gold retreated from its peak as softer inflation numbers bolstered expectations of interest rate cuts but also sparking debate about their magnitude," Kaynat Chainwala, AVP-Commodity Research at Kotak Securities, said. Last

week, gold had surged to a record high of USD 2,708.70 per ounce, driven by a significant drop in consumer confidence that heightened expectations for more aggressive rate cuts by the US Federal Reserve.

Geopolitical tensions, particularly the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hezbollah, further enhanced gold's appeal as a safe-haven asset, Chainwala added.

According to Pranav Mer, VP - Research (Commodity & Currency) at BlinkX and JM Financial, traders are likely to stay cautious amid the possibility of month-end profit-taking and look for crucial data on the manufacturing/services PMI from across regions and US nonfarm payroll data due later on Friday.

Silver, however, was quoted 0.30 per cent lower at USD 31.72 per ounce in the international markets.

Bear attack wipes out Rs 3.57 lakh cr from investors' wealth

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Investors' wealth got eroded by Rs 3.57 lakh crore on Monday as markets took a heavy beating with the BSE Sensex tumbling 1,272 points amid a host of negative triggers -- weak Japanese markets, rising geopolitical risks in the Middle East and selling in heavyweight bank stocks and Reliance Industries.

The BSE benchmark Sensex tumbled 1,272.07 points or 1.49 per cent to settle at 84,299.78. During the day, it plunged 1,314.71 points or 1.53 per cent to 84,257.14.

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms slumped by Rs 3,57,885.53 crore to Rs 4,74,35,137.15 crore (USD 5.66 trillion).

"Profit-taking in Reliance

Industries stock and banking counters coupled with a slump in Japan's Nikkei index spooked Indian markets that saw both Sensex and Nifty crash nearly 1.50 per cent each. "The sharp rally in recent weeks was the outcome of Fed rate cut and hopes that RBI would also follow suit in its policy meeting, and if the central bank keeps the rates steady it may lead to short term weakness. Globally, if the Israel-Hezbollah war escalates further, nervousness could fuel panic selling going ahead," said Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd.

In Asian markets, Seoul and Tokyo settled with deep cuts, while Shanghai and Hong Kong ended sharply higher. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index tanked nearly 5 per cent on Monday. The Shanghai Composite index surged 8 per cent amid fresh stimulus measures announcement. European markets were trading lower. The US markets ended on a mixed note on Friday.

"Global markets turned topsy-turvy under the threat of rising geopolitical risk in the Middle East and plausible increase in Yen interest rate which can reduce cross-country investments in equity. On the contrary, the Chinese market had a resurgence due to a large stimulus package and cheap valuation. "India also weakened under the global pressure and premium valuation, while metals are expected to outperform in the near-term," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said.

Interest rates on small savings schemes remain unchanged

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Monday left the interest rates on various small savings schemes including PPF and NSC unchanged for the third straight quarter beginning October 1, 2024.

"The rates of interest on various small savings schemes for the third quarter of FY 2024-25, starting from October 1, 2024, and ending on December 31, 2024, shall remain unchanged from those notified for the second quarter (July 1, 2024, to September 30, 2024) of FY 2024-25," said a finance ministry notification.

As per the notification, deposits under the Sukanya Samridhi scheme will attract an interest rate of 8.2 per cent, while the rate on a three-year term deposit remains at

7.1 per cent. "The interest rates for popular Public Provident Fund (PPF) and post office savings deposits schemes too have been retained at 7.1 per cent and 4 per cent, respectively.

The interest rate on the Kisan Vikas Patra will be 7.5 per cent, and the investments will mature in 115 months.

The interest rate on the National Savings Certificate (NSC) will remain at 7.7 per cent for the July-September 2024 period.

Like the current quarter, the Monthly Income Scheme will earn 7.4 per cent for investors.

The interest rates have been left unchanged for the last three quarters. The government had last made changes in some schemes for the fourth quarter of the last fiscal.

The government notifies the interest rates on small

India's current account deficit widens marginally to 1.1 pc of GDP

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The country's current account deficit widened marginally to USD 9.7 billion or 1.1 per cent of GDP in April-June 2024, as against USD 8.9 billion or 1 per cent in the year-ago period, Reserve Bank of India said on Monday. The crucial number representing the country's external sector strength has come on the heels of a surplus of USD 4.6 billion or 0.5 per cent of GDP recorded in the preceding January-March quarter.

The Reserve Bank attributed the year-on-year widening in current account deficit to a rise in merchandise trade gap which was recorded at USD 65.1 billion in Q1 FY25 as compared to USD 56.7 billion in the year-ago period. Net services receipts increased to USD 39.7 billion during the quarter under review from USD 35.1 billion a year ago, the RBI said, adding that computer services, business services, travel services and transportation services have seen a rise.

Total employment in mfg industries rises 7.5 pc to 1.85 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The number of persons employed in manufacturing industries rose 7.5 per cent in 2022-23 to 1.85 crore from 1.72 crore in the previous year, says Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

The estimated number of persons engaged in this sector in 2022-23 exceeded the pre-pandemic level (2018-19) by more than 22.14 lakh, a MoSPI statement said adding that at the same time, average emolument also registered an increase over the previous year.

Also, the average emolument per person engaged in this sector had gone up by 6.3 per cent in 2022-23 in comparison to 2021-22.

The number of total persons engaged in manufacturing industries increased to 1,84,94,962 in



The number of persons engaged in this sector in 2022-23 exceeded the pre-pandemic level (2018-19) by more than 22.14 lakh, a MoSPI statement said adding that at the same time, average emolument also registered an increase over the previous year

2022-23 from 1,72,15,350 in 2021-22. The figure was 1,60,89,700 in 2020-21, 1,66,24,291 in 2019-20 and 1,62,80,211 in 2018-19, the ASI data showed.

The results show that the Gross Value Added (GVA) grew by 7.3 per

cent in current prices in 2022-23 over 2021-22.

The increase in input was 24.4 per cent while output grew 21.5 per cent in the sector in 2022-23 over 2021-22.

The year 2022-23 witnessed a

growth in this sector for majority of economic parameters like invested capital, input, output, GVA, employment and wages and it even surpassed the pre-pandemic level in absolute value terms.

The main drivers of this growth in

2022-23 were industries like manufacture of basic metals, coke & refined petroleum products, food products, chemical and chemical products and motor vehicles, it stated.

These industries, taken together, contributed about 58 per cent to the total output of the sector and showed output growth of 24.5 per cent and GVA growth of 2.6 per cent in comparison to 2021-22.

Among the major states, in terms of GVA, Maharashtra ranked first in 2022-23 followed by Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh. The top five states, taken together contributed more than 54 per cent to the total manufacturing GVA of the country in 2022-23.

The top five states employing highest number of persons in this sector were Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka in ASI 2022-23.

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
 'E' PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
 NIT No. 23/EE-28/582/GHMC/2024-25 Date: 30-09-2024
 Name of the Work: Maintenance Works Others-01, Estimate Amount: Rs. 2.95 Lakhs. Bid Submission Start date & Time / Bid Submission of Closing Date & Time: 30-09-2024 at 04.30 PM / 03-10-2024 at 04.30 PM. Name & Address of Officer Call No.: Executive Engineer, 9154795465. For further details can be sent at e-procurement@http://www.tender.telangana.gov.in
 Sd/- Executive Engineer, Division No. 28, GHMC.
 E.O.No: 478-PP/CLAD/102024-25 Dt: 30-09-2024

GREATER WARANGAL MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
 TENDER NOTICE
 Tender Notice No. SE/GMWC/ITN 388-Procurement/2024-25 Dated: 30-09-2024
 I. Fresh Works: (1) Community Hall at Srinivasa Colony - Costing Rs. 100.00 Lakhs, (2) PPE Kits for Govt. & O/s Employees of GMWC - Costing Rs. 72.47 Lakhs, (3) UPHC Center at Wadepally - Costing Rs. 143.00 Lakhs, (4) Rain Water Holding Structure at Hanamkonda Tathalchar Office, Opp. Ambedkar Bhavan - Costing Rs. 200.00 Lakhs.
 II. Recal Work: Comprehensive Operation and Maintenance of 2 Nos. Truck Mounted Challenging Road Sweeping Machines for a period of one year costing Rs. 51.00 Lakhs.
 Start & Last Date of receipt of bids: 05-10-2024 from 5.00 PM onwards & 16-10-2024 upto 4.00 PM. NOTE: Further details can be seen @ "e" procurement market place @ www.tender.telangana.gov.in. Sd/- Commissioner
 E.O.No: 475-PP/CLAD/102024-25 Dt: 30-09-2024 Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation

HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
 4th Floor, Swarnajayanti Commercial Complex, Ahsanpeta, Hyderabad.
 Public Notification U.S. 13 (4) of HMDA Act, 2008
 G.O.No.117/M&UD Dept., dated 09.09.2024
 In exercise of powers conferred by Sub-Section (1) of Section 15 of Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority Act, 2008 (Act No.8 of 2008), the Government hereby makes the following notification to the land use envisaged in the notified Master Plan MDP-2031 notified vide G.O.No.33/M&UD, dt.24.01.2013 as required by sub-section (1) of the said section.
 The site in S.No. 38/P, 56/P, 57/P, 58/P, 59/P, 60/P, 64/P, 88/P & 89/P situated at Ghanpur (W), Medchal (M), Medchal-Manikgiri District, to an extent of 28791.06 Sq.mts which is presently earmarked for Peri-urban use zone in notified Master Plan MDP-2031 approved vide G.O.No.33/M&UD, dt.24.01.2013 is now designated as Manufacturing use zone for setting up unit for Warehouse and/or Tannery category.
 The details of the above are available in Web site: http://gmzeta.telangana.gov.in/ and http://hmda.gov.in/.
 Sd/- Director Planning-I, HMDA.
 E.O.No: 401-PP/CLAD/102024-25 Dt: 30-09-2024

SHIKHA DUGGAL
shikhaduggalwork@gmail.com

With a focus on the harmonious cycles of change and rebirth that the seasons offer, the seventh edition of Echoes of Earth will honour their important role in forming the natural world. This one-of-a-kind festival, which will be held in Bengaluru, will highlight how resilient nature is to these periodic shifts and promote considerate, sustainable lifestyle choices that safeguard the delicate equilibrium of our ecosystem. And then there's Hamza Rahimtula, who is poised to dazzle crowds with his extraordinary talent and a wide range of musical genres! An exclusive conversation with him will reveal how.

"Electronic music through such festivals can share the right ideas that can drive sustainability," the musician starts speaking his heart out. "Festivals are seen by today's youngsters as an opportunity to get together and celebrate life. They socialise with both old and new acquaintances, take in musical influences, share ideas with one another and establish a profound connection with nature. Music events are, in my view, the ideal venues for inspiring people. With people travelling from all across the nation, we can start a chain reaction and propagate trends in these settings." When they return to their individual cities, they can share the concepts they acquired at the festival because the upcoming event is directly exposing people to a wide range of themes, including waste management and the use of recycled materials. Entrancing, in the language of music, as they say.

There are aspects of the festival's philosophy that he personally agrees with. In his instance, the goal is to preserve Rajasthani folk music while current house music serves as a representation of it. "Our sound has evolved through the years and is not only limited to Deep House," the pioneer of house music explains. "Where we play determines what we play. At a festival, it could be energetic peak-time house music, or it could be something a little more subdued and sophisticated for more private settings. The song I'm working on with the Rajasthan Folkstars is also evolving sonically. We've allowed it to open. We've added more and more instruments, such as the

Music festivals power EDM's boom with dash of folk flavour!

Hamza Rahimtula, who views himself as a house music educator, is all set to dazzle the crowd at the seventh edition of Echoes of Earth. In an exclusive interview with *The Pioneer*, he speaks of the music festivals, preserving the Rajasthani folk music, the electronic music scene in India and more



Sarangi and Algoza flute, that are frequently used with Rajasthani folk music, to Jassu's Khartal and Firoj's Bhangam and Morchang."

After just returning from a European tour, Rajasthan Folkstars and Hamza Rahimtula will combine traditional music with electronic dance. During their visit to Festival Les Escapes in France earlier this summer, he discovered that all of the cups used to serve drinks are separated at the end of each day so they can be used again the following day. In addition to sustainability, this is a fantastic example of regional festivals working together to lessen their waste output. Thus, "Whether we are performing in India or abroad, the music we create together essentially stays the same. While there is always some variety, we have remained true to our primary concept of providing soundscapes driven by percussion. We want to add a tribal vibe to the festival's layout while blending in the sounds of nature. This offers the listeners a much more primitive sensation that is potent and unifying while also enabling us to connect with them through the surrounding natural environment."

With its integration of art, music, con-

servation and sustainable activities, Echoes of Earth is a celebration of community and the environment rather than just a music festival. "My method of working with musicians has been to record them in the studio while they are present. Bassekou Kouyate, a legendary West African musician, was recorded in Hyderabad and I completed producing the entire song months later. Vocals, a talking drum and an African guitar known as a Ngoni were all recorded and connected to an amplifier and Wah pedal. The capacity to comprehend songs that have been passed down from generation to generation is what I appreciate most about working with musicians that reflect the music of their region; it helps me connect with their community and region on a much deeper level." As a DJ, he is ultimately in charge of getting people to dance; thus, when he eventually finishes a track, he also feels that it should always be dancefloor-oriented!

At the forefront, Echoes provides a wide variety of educational and artistic experiences while being firmly based on the concepts of sustainability and conservation. The Greener Side, a project, is being introduced by the festival this year with much excitement. Its goals are to increase awareness, motivate meaningful conservation

and cultivate a strong bond with the environment. "At the same time, "electronic music in India is experiencing great growth right now. The focus now is on exporting talent with the appropriate acknowledgment, rather than just importing it. Music festivals are crucial in shaping the future of electronic music, its culture, the artists involved and most crucially, the fans. In a way, it is the duty of festivals to be able to highlight this, as promoters will constantly look at festival lineups to determine who to book. Festivals exhibit good judgment in the artists they book, which helps to grow the market both domestically and abroad."

In addition to providing a wide range of experiences focused on art, environmental education and conservation this year, Echoes of Earth will also help upskill local communities through educational and

skill-building activities. For the reason that, "Winter demands more mystical and dark compositions that are intense in character and raw in energy. Making more upbeat, soulful music is the focus of the summer season. Cantos, a music producer from Sacramento, California, is one person I always look forward to working with.

We've never had to modify one another's viewpoints. The tune never stops moving. Of course, everyone is in their dream scenario in this one." It is, of course, extremely complex with live musicians, particularly if Hamza has to edit recordings to match the schedule. Nonetheless, the outcomes have consistently been satisfying, making the work worthwhile, according to our interviewee. Working with producers, singers and musicians who already understand what he's attempting to do has always been the plan for him. It wouldn't be prudent for him to work with someone whose musical tastes are excessively unconventional.

"We discovered a side of ourselves when performing in Goa earlier this year. We've also written and created a lot of new stuff, which I've been roadtesting at clubs. It would be fascinating to see how that enthusiasm transfers to an outdoor setting. At its core, it nevertheless has a very natural sound, with tribal percussive sounds that evoke a meeting in the forest," he thinks back on happy times. He goes on to tell us that not all folk music is meant to be danced to. Folk music, on the other hand, comes in a multitude of forms and can really get us moving. Since electronic music does not really describe what he creates, he does not consider the term to be suitable. Put another way, Hamza tailors a dance floor experience for people by including dancing components from both techno and folk music. He therefore likes to describe himself as a dance music artist. In conclusion, he thinks that dance music—whether it be electronic, folk, or a combination of the two—has the ability to bind people together because it doesn't require that they comprehend the meaning behind the lyrics. People are moving to the rhythm and the corresponding sounds that enhance the groove!

Hey everyone, Hamza Rahimtula views himself as a house music educator. Sharing this music with the folks on the dance floor is therefore always exciting. He is free to move around and provide people with a dynamic and varied dancefloor experience because there are so many subgenres under one umbrella! His concert at Echoes of Earth will include some of his favourite producers mixed in with a ton of previously unheard material.



Behind spy drama, Berlin's story of deception

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Choosing the title *Berlin* for a Hindi film set in 90s New Delhi is something unusual. In Atul Sabharwal's spy drama set in an atmospheric environment, *Berlin* represents a café, also referred to as a coffee house in the past, located in the country's capital city. Hidden within a cloud of cigarette smoke and mystery, it is situated in an inconspicuous square in the diplomatic area of the city. The scene takes place in the winter of 1993, leading up to Russian President Boris Yeltsin's important trip to India.

In the city of secrets, where loyalty is a luxury and truth is a rarity, *Berlin* unfolds a gripping tale of spy craft and conspiracy. Let's take you through some insights that director Atul Sabharwal has to share with us exclusively and to begin with, he expresses his gratitude with a tremendous response: "When you're making a film, you're sort of in a tunnel vision and you don't know how receptive people would be. Also because movies take time to get made, purely as the stories; so from the point you start, there is a certain zeitgeist. By the time you come out, the zeitgeist could shift. When you don't have stars in your film or the so-called marquee stars, you're relying on that zeitgeist to sort of come in your support."

The movie depicts the government interrogating a deaf-mute man (Ishwak Singh) with the help of a sign language specialist (Aparshakti Khurana). As the narrative progresses, the distinction between innocence and guilt becomes unclear, leading to the sign language expert becoming entangled in a risky maze of lies and political machinations.

Now what really went behind, he says, was persistence. "I thought that a film like this, what really got it made was the belief that the studio showed in us because they invested money in it. As much as I thought that it was a difficult one to get made, what I was really surprised was whenever I would narrate it to actors, whether they were willing to do it or not, at least they all enjoyed listening to it. When we narrated to the studio, the team at Zee Studios, it was their enthusiastic response that there was something in it that gave me confidence. It's definitely catching the ears and eyes."

Berlin had its own research that went behind bringing the concept live. Be it the research around the genre or the look of the actors, the research had multiple layers.

As you watch the entire film, one thing that you would closely note is that every character has its own importance, right from Aparshakti as the sign

expert, Ishwak as the dumb-mute man, Rahul Bose as the investigative officer, or even Kabir Bedi as the bureau chief. "I think that's a compliment if you're saying so," expresses the *Jubilee* fame, who further goes on to add, "Any good story should do that whether it was in *Jubilee*. So even if there was a cobbler coming for one scene, one episode, two shots, or even the smaller parts in *Berlin*, if they're relevant to the story, then they tend to stand out and then they tend to feel needed in the story and hence, they find their own importance. So there is no conscious division of that. The only focus is on telling a good story and if you tell that story well, then hopefully the characters will remain memorable."

Watching Kabir Bedi is always a delight and so was it this time too. But guess what? Getting him onboard was not a cakewalk; yes, you heard that right? "It was a very small role and he kept questioning me about my importance to this. I had to take him through a lot of discussions, readings and explanations. Like, even till the date of shooting, he was kind of hazy. I then explained to him why only he can do it or somebody of his stature because even though he's there for a very little screen time, the stature that is needed that he's running this office could come only from a person who has an aura. I think that's what convinced him to just do it the way I was saying it."

Berlin was no less than a challenge for him as a filmmaker too, just like any other film. Specifically, "It was challenging in the area of sign language because I had to sort of find a way for us to be able to film the actors while they're doing sign so that their



hands are always visible. So you could not take the camera too close to an actor because that would, you know, then their hand movement will not be seen. It was important to make those decisions as to for how long we should stay a little away from this character. Because once the audience gets into the rhythm of their hands, then you can go closer to the characters to see their eyes and other emotions."

But initially, "How do we shoot sign language so that the meaning is conveyed to the audience as to whether this person is signing, this person is translating and this person is observing, reacting and giving feedback from the side of the glass?"

Well, speaking of working with some great talents, he says, "I enjoy working with veteran actors because there are stories to share. There was a time when we'd stand in line to buy a ticket for their film and I may have loved a certain film or a certain performance of theirs. I have a lot of nostalgia to discuss with them as opposed to the contemporary actors who are exploring themselves as much as I am exploring myself. I enjoy it as long as an actor is great like Apar, Ishwak, or Rahul; it doesn't matter whether I am in love with them in the sense of nostalgia because eventually we all have to do work together. And if an actor is great, then my work becomes that much easier."

While Atul is going to bring us some really interesting projects delving into different genres in his upcoming projects, he, however, tends to gravitate toward tragedies.

LAY BARE LOVE, SITARA WITH SONALI KULKARNI

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Apart from the tremendous love that she has received in the Marathi film industry, a talented actress also in the Hindi industry is none other than Sonali Kulkarni. Considered one of the most talented actresses, her latest portrayal of Hema Chechi in *Love, Sitara*, beyond a doubt, the story revolves around the character of Sitara, played by Sobhita Dhulipala, Sonali's character does have its own importance that strengthens and takes the story ahead.

The film is currently streaming on Zee5 and the *Darna Zaroori Hai* actress expresses her gratitude for OTT and says, "I am very thankful to OTT platforms and the audiences. As lives become busier, even making time to watch something with a partner requires effort. OTT offers the convenience of watching a film while com-

muting, stuck in traffic, or relaxing at home. Audiences are wise to choose their genres and promos, which definitely gives a lot of insight as to what to expect—whether it's a film with action or something more emotional."

OTT is definitely a boon; she enthuses and *Love, Sitara* is going to comfort that section of the audience who want to be a part of a family but find themselves lost in city life, alone and struggling to survive. True that! It does.

"It was really nice to realise that every story can be completed—everyone's story has a conclusion if they wish to complete it. The best part is that no matter what decisions people make in their lives, they can reach a culmination. The endpoint is not death; it's finding yourself. No matter what you've been through, you can definitely find yourself."

A dysfunctional family that we see in *Love, Sitara*, we ask her if the movie makes her reflect on her personal equation and any change that the movie enforced on her personal life, to which she shares, "My relationships are funny; I enjoy relating with each person in my family. I'm at a touchwood phase in my life where I love my parents, and they love me. We know each other's eccentricities. My husband and I genuinely like each other, so our bond is growing stronger. With my daughter, who is quite young, I am amused to see her bloom. Currently, the ride has been pretty interesting; I wouldn't call it smooth,

as that would make it tasteless and odourless. It's quite raunchy and spicy because we all add our own spices and colors to our interactions. I've come to terms with things, forgiven my past and look forward to tomorrow while staying composed, contented and happy today. So, cheers and I'm looking forward to *Love Sitara*.



what's brewing?



● Geetika



AROHA Aesthetics celebrated opening of its new location in Gachibowli, Raidurgam. Actress Tejaswi Madivada brought excitement and glamour to the festivities. The clinic was founded with the goal of empowering patients to embrace their genuine selves without being constrained by self-doubt.



● Tejaswi Madivada



● Rajeswari



Telugu Tarangam, a stunning food carnival that delivered an immersive and amazing culinary experience, embodied the essence of "Matale Maniharam" and was hosted by Regency College of Culinary Arts and Hotel Management. This colourful occasion brought life to the expression "Svadistamaina Bhojanam Tone Anandam", honouring the rich and varied culinary traditions of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Hyderabad cuisines.



● Shalini

PARTY



● Ramya



● Uma bala



● Rehaa



● Komal



● Sovmya



● Urmila



● Sindhura



● Rajatha

PHOTOS BY - SV CHARY



The 8th edition of PNB MeLife Junior Badminton Championship (JBC) culminated in a grand finale at the Hyderabad stadium, celebrating the achievements of young badminton talent in the country. The event marked a historic milestone as JBC set a world record for the third consecutive year for 'Most kids participating in a Badminton Championship in multiple cities'. Leading the closing ceremony were Asian Games Gold Medalist and JBC Mentors Chirag Shetty and Satwik Rankireddy, among the other.



Indira Park organised the World Heart Day Walk in honour of World Heart Day, which was organised by the Cardiology Society of India (CSI) - Telangana State Chapter. Over a thousand enthusiasts, including cardiologists and members of the public concerned with health, participated in the walk, which was started by Dr. Aman Salwan, President of TS-CSI and Dr. Krishna Mohan Lalukota, Honorary Secretary of TS-CSI.



The Femina Miss & Mrs Hyderabad 2024 season 5, finale was conducted in the FTCCI Bhavan located in Red hills, in the presence of Femina9 womens club. Gnaneshwari, has been hailed as the winner in the Ms category, while Shivani has been crowned the title winner for Mrs category. The judges have been Hema Varama, Dharani, Anusha, Vijaya Lakshmi and Mushan Magar. The main attendees at this elegant occasion included Mrs. Telangana 2021 Sudha Naidu, Roopa Reddy, a member of the BJP party and makeup artist Gnapiak Reddy.

Hamstech's highly anticipated Sports Mania 2024 concluded on a high note, bringing together the energy of competition and the spirit of creativity. The event featured students from different centres of Hamstech participating in different line-up of sports, including badminton, cricket, football and volleyball, among the rest.



FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



NANCY



GINGER MEGGS



REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



SUDOKU

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

Yesterday's solution

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

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

ACROSS

- 1 Quiet and calm
- 7 A large bird of prey
- 8 A narrow shelf
- 9 Thin soft paper
- 10 Opposite of false
- 12 Look after for someone
- 14 Captured
- 17 Foe
- 18 This travels on rails
- 19 Checked the size of

DOWN

- 1 Sheets in a book
- 2 A road with trees along both sides
- 3 Long slippery fishes
- 4 Beneath
- 5 A month
- 6 Saying again
- 11 Quicker
- 13 A female relation
- 15 Someone who works on 18 across
- 16 See with these

SOLUTION

V	A	L	I	A	B	L	E	
A	N	O	T	E	B	I	T	H
I	R	I	S	H	E			
S	H	E	E	A	M	C	R	A
N	H	E	O					
I	R	I	S	H	A	D	D	E
N	W	F	R	E				
G	R	E	E	T	I	R	E	
A	R	L	T	R				
S	O	L	D	I	E	R	S	





Committee Kurrollu deserves National Award: Nagababu

SURESH KAVIRAYANI
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NAGABABU HAILED COMMITTEE KURROLLU AS A REMARKABLE FILM AND COMMENDED HIS DAUGHTER NIHARIKA'S PRODUCTION EFFORTS, SUGGESTING THE TEAM CONSIDER NATIONAL AWARD SUBMISSIONS ACROSS VARIOUS CATEGORIES!

Mega Brother Nagababu attended as a special guest at the Committee Kurrollu event, marking the film's 50-day milestone in theatres. Nagababu praised director Yadhu Vamsi for his exceptional narration in the film.

"He narrated the story to me in about one and a half hours and he showed the same on the screen very well," recalled Nagababu. The actor revealed that he couldn't finish watching the film, stopping halfway through due to the depiction of communal clashes.

"I didn't watch the film, because since my childhood, I had heard a lot about the communal and caste issues, so I was vexed with them, hence I had stopped watching the film," said Nagababu. He added that he completed the film on Monday morning. "After watching the entire film, I liked it and it took me back to my younger days and how we were



during our college days," he said. He also compared his real-life election moments, where everyone comes and says that definitely you

will win. "Some years back, when I competed as MP from Narsapuram, everyone came and told me that I would definitely win the election. But

I knew the result and I lost in the election stands in third place," said Nagababu, related to a particular scene from the film *Committee Kurrollu*.

The actor said that after watching this film, he hark back to his younger days. "This film deserves a national award, not just a regional award. There are a few categories, like national integration and also economic issues, that deserve a national award," said Nagababu. He asked the makers and his daughter Niharika, who is the producer of the film, to apply for National Awards in different categories.

Nearly eleven artists were introduced with this film and director Yadhu Vamsi also made his debut as director!

Zebra is going to be a milestone film: Satya Dev

Satya Dev and Dhanunjaya will next be seen in the upcoming film *Zebra*. The teaser of the film was released on Monday, which stars Sathya Raj, Priya Bhavani Shankar, Jennifer from Brazil, Armita Iyengar, Sunil and Sathya. Eswar Karthik from Kannada, who is directing the film, learned Telugu within a short span of time, just so he could direct the film in this language.

Zebra is releasing in Telugu and also in all other languages like Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada and Hindi.

"Director Eswar Karthik approached me and narrated to me a story about a jungle, rabbit, lion and things like that. I asked him whether he wanted my voiceover because he is making a jungle book kind of film. He immediately said that this is the prelude and then narrated the story. When the actual shooting starts, everyone is asking me who is a rabbit or who is a lion kind of question. The film has really come out very nice," said Satya Dev.

He added that the director gave me a big book of this film. "He gave me the entire script and he even mentioned where the music comes in between the story. Though I am looking with a beard now, in this film I acted with a clean shave," said Satya Dev. He added that a lot of actors from different industries, like Kannada, Tamil and Telugu acted in it. "Sathya Raj sir, Sunil, Priya Bhavani Shankar, Jennifer from Brazil, Sathya and Dhana come from different industries and this is a complete national film and I am sure it enthralled everyone," said Satya.

Ravi Basrur of *KGF* and *Salaar*



fame music director provided music for this film *Zebra*. "This film is huge in every way; I am really looking forward to this film," said Satya. Talking about Dhana, he said that both their journeys have been the same. "When I worked in a company in Bangalore, I used to come to Hyderabad and do films. My Kannada friend showed me a short film and he pointed out an actor who acted in that film and also directed it. The actor and director of that short film is Dhana and this happened a very long time ago," recalls Satya about how Dhana's journey started like

him. He added that this is going to be a milestone film in his career. "The producers came forward with this film and put in a lot of budget and this is going to be a milestone film for me and Dhana," said Satya Dev.

About the story Satya Dev reveals that everyone likes money. "Whoever likes money is definitely like this film. *Zebra* is all about white, black money and a lot of other aspects. Cars, bullets, planes and everything is there," said Satya. Manchu Manoj attended the teaser release event as a special guest and he wished the team a great success.

INITIALLY, I WORKED AS GHOSTWRITER: KALI DIRECTOR SIVA SASHU

Prince Cecil and Naresh Agastya acted in a film *Kali* directed by Siva Sashu, which is releasing on October 4. The director, Siva Sashu, shared his experience about the film and also tells how he became a director.

"I have liked writing since my childhood and I felt that's my strength. I wanted to be a director from the beginning and was very clear about it. There was a time, when I had started a business, but again I came back to writing and I even worked as a ghostwriter for a few films," said director Siva Sashu.

The director reveals that he had worked with Ashok of *Bhagamathi* fame and also Arun Prasad of *Saptagiri Express* fame. "I wrote this story during the lockdown and later I narrated it to Prince and he liked it," said the director. He added that he wanted to rope in Jagapathi Babu for one of the characters, but the equation with the production house is not set. "Then we narrated the story to Naresh Agastya and he liked it and agreed to do it," he said about the casting.

The director said that while shooting there were no problems. "We are all of equal age. So, I didn't have any problem when I directed this film and I was happy for me," he said. He also added the producer Gautam Varma is also a debutant like him.

Talking about the story, he said that suicide is not the solution. "It's not a direct message in the film, but I touched the subject and I also created a character named *Kali*, for which I got inspiration from mythology and had taken it from our *puranas*," said the director.

For another question where the film has taken longer to complete, the director said it needs a lot of pre-production work and graphics. "VFX has a significant focus on *Kali* and the film needs some high-quality visuals. The residence of *Kali* has been grandly visualised using VFX," said the director. He added that the film



has a supernatural and fantasy backdrop. Prince plays the character Shivaram, a nice person who faces numerous difficulties due to his kindness. The society treats him badly, pushing him to contemplate suicide. At that moment, a stranger, played by Naresh Agastya, arrives at his home. The plot revolves around the events that unfold in Shivaram's life after this encounter. "Apart from the story, the script and dialogues are gripping, making the entire movie interesting," he said. Neha Krishnan is the female lead. Actors Priyadarshi, Mahesh Vitta and Ayyappa Sharma gave voiceovers for this film.

Empowering women, enriching society: Dakshina carries powerful message

Director Osho Tulasiram, known for *Mantra* and *Mangala*, returns with a new film named *Dakshina*. The movie features Sai Dhansika, famous for her role in *Kabali*, as the main character, alongside Rishav Basu from *Mahabharat Murders* in an important role. The film's pre-release event took place in Hyderabad, with actor Sivaji and music composer RP Patnaik attending as chief guests.

During this time, Sivaji remembers his experience collaborating with the director on

Mantra. "Osho Tulasiram created waves with the film *Mantra*, which grossed over 10 crores at that time. It's a blessing to work with such a talented director and he can create cinematic wonders. I'm confident that *Dakshina* will be a huge success and I hope Osho will continue making great films after this," said Sivaji.

Director Tulasiram said that he had wonderful memories during *Mantra* with Sivaji. "Sivaji is not only a great actor but also a wonderful person," he said. He praises the music

director, writer and team for their support and excellent work on this film. About the lead actress, Sai Dhansika, he said she has delivered a perfect performance.

"Every woman in society should be strong and that's the core message of *Dakshina*," said Dhansika, the leading actress of the film. She added that when Tulasiram narrated the story, she was shocked and amazed. "This film is gripping and has all the elements of a great thriller," she said. The film is releasing on October 4.



1000 dancers, one unforgettable song: Thandel's Shivaratri spectacle

Naga Chaitanya's *Thandel* is highly anticipated due to its real-life-based storyline and with Sai Pallavi as the female lead. Produced by Bunny Vas and directed by Chandoo Mondeti. The director found inspiration from actual events that took place in a village in D Matchilesam in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh. Even though these events really happened, the experiences, feelings and scenarios that took place between the couple were extremely engaging and mesmerizing, surpassing the excitement of any made-up story. The makers aimed to capture real life in the movie by including the well-known district in North Andhra, Srikakulam, along with the famous Shiva temple Sri Mukhalingam. The temple is the venue for the spectacular celebration of Maha Shivaratri, observed with great dedication, customs and magnificence. Taking inspiration from this, the creators devised a breathtaking and unprecedented Shivaratri song for the movie. The grandiose production of the song for Shivaratri aimed to evoke awe and appeal to people of all ages with its intricate settings and high production quality.

Devi Sri Prasad composed the music and Sekhar Master handled the choreography. The song starred Naga Chaitanya and Sai Pallavi, as well as a plethora of dancers. This unique and powerful Shivaratri song will soon be one of the most memorable songs in Naga Chaitanya's career. The producers unveiled a few posters from the music video shoot. *Thandel* will be available in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, and Hindi languages.



IIFA WIN: MRUNAL THAKUR 'OVER THE MOON' WITH EXCITEMENT

Mrunal Thakur has nothing but positive things to say about her acting in all of her Telugu movies, starting with *Sita Ramam*. She excelled in her first Telugu movie and carried that success into her next film, *Hi Nanna*, where she starred alongside Nani. She received recognition and prizes for her role in *Hi Nanna* and now she has earned another award—the IIFA award for Best Actress—for her remarkable performance as Yashna in the same film. This is her debut at IIFA and she has been envisioning this moment! She is thrilled to be honouring all languages in the movie theater together. This new award follows closely after her recent win at the prestigious SIIMA Awards, where she was recognised as Best Actress (critics) for her role in the same film. Having received numerous accolades.

"I am deeply grateful for this recognition," Mrunal expressed. "Playing Yashna was a truly fulfilling experience that allowed me to explore the depths of love and emotion. I owe this achievement to my incredible director, talented co-stars, and the entire team whose unwavering support made this possible," said Mrunal after receiving the award. She added that she wanted to continue this journey and share more meaningful stories with the audience.

"This is my first ever IIFA award and it's a special win to be sharing this award alongside such incredible actors like Rani ma'am, who won in Hindi and Aishwarya ma'am, who won in Tamil. This honour is truly made special owing to this," said Mrunal.



Brahmanandam, Sathagiri bring comedy gold to Kannappa

Manchu Vishnu is set to release a mythological film *Kannappa* in December. The actor not only stars in the titular role, but also produces it on a large scale. The movie will be available in various languages in addition to Telugu. The producers are announcing the actors and their appearances every Monday and this week they introduced the characters of comedians Brahmanandam and Sathagiri from the movie.

Renowned comedian Brahmanandam, known as the Comedy King, plays the character 'Pilaka', with the skilled Sathagiri appearing as 'Gilaka'. Together, they act as the knowledgeable mentors, prepared to share their wisdom and expertise with the animals of the woods. Brahmanandam and Sathagiri are peeping from behind a tree in the poster, watching something with curiosity in the forest. The poster implies that Sathagiri will bring a cheerful expression while Brahmanandam will appear astounded, hinting at the entertaining dynamic their characters will add to the film. *Kannappa* is preparing for a December release.



INDIA PUSH FOR VICTORY WITH T20-STYLE BATTING

PTI ■ KANPUR

Trying to force a result in the limited time available, India played a sensational T20-style cricket to take a 52-run first-innings lead against Bangladesh in the second Test, infusing life into the rain-hit contest here on Monday. The sun shone bright in the Kanpur sky after two gloomy days and the on-field action finally began after losing eight sessions. India had six sessions to force a win, and the hosts did everything they could on the fourth day of the match. The pitch hardly offered assistance to India bowlers but the hosts still bundled out Bangladesh for 233 in their first innings, built around Mominul Haque's patient unbeaten 107. India then unleashed their batting might on the visitors, striking at 8.22 runs per over to reset the records for fastest team 50 (18 balls), 100 (74 balls) and 200 runs (24.2 overs) in Test cricket. India declared their second innings at 285 for nine to have another go at the visiting batters. At stumps, Bangladesh were 26 for two with Zakir Hasan and Hasan Mahmud becoming off-spinner

Ravichandran Ashwin's victims. They were trailing India by 26 runs. India are going for the kill as an outright victory will consolidate their top position in the World Test Championship (WTC) table. Considering the tougher assignments ahead, especially the Australia Tour, India need to log as many wins as possible against comparatively easier rivals to get some cushion before the tough overseas rubbers. Young opener Yashvi Jaiswal (72 off 51 balls) set the tone with three boundaries in the opening over bowled by Hasan Mahmud and skipper Rohit Sharma (23 off 11) bludgeoned Khaled Ahmed for two consecutive sixes - one landing on the roof of the stadium. It was clear that India were showing an urgency to surpass the Bangladesh total quickly after more than two days' play was lost to bad weather. The onslaught surprised the rival attack but the home fans were rewarded for visiting the stadium. Adopting a see-the-ball and hit-the-ball approach, India completed the fastest team fifty in three overs. Realising the ineffectiveness of his pacers, Bangladesh skipper



Najmul Hossain Shanto introduced spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz and he responded to the call by casting Rohit. Jaiswal completed his fifty with a single off left-arm spinner Taijul Islam and continued in his aggressive fashion. His innings, which contained 12 fours and two sixes, was cut short by Mahmud. The young opener added 72 runs for the second wicket with Shubman Gill (39). Rishabh Pant did not last long but there was no change in approach for the hosts with Virat Kohli and KL Rahul building on the foundation with their swift 87-run stand for the fifth wicket. In a breathtaking show, Indian batters hit 28 fours and 11 sixes, collecting 158 runs in boundaries. In the process, Kohli became only the fourth player in history to complete 27,000 runs in international cricket across formats. Ravindra Jadeja also cherished a rare double of 300 Test wickets and 3000 Test runs. He is the second quickest to complete the double behind England great Ian Botham. He also became only the seventh Indian to take 300 Test wickets when he dismissed Khaled Mahmud.



Samit Dravid misses India U19 first four-day game against Aus

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Injured Samit Dravid was ruled out of the opening four-day game between India U-19 and Australia U-19 and is also unlikely to be fit in time for the second match of the series. The series opener began here on Monday. Samit is currently at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) recuperating from a knee injury that forced him to sit out of the three-match youth one-dayers against the Aussies recently. He was expected to make his India U-19 debut at Puducherry but did not feature in any of the three matches. India had won the series 3-0. "As of now he's at the NCA, recovering from his knee injury. So, I don't know yet. It looks unlikely," head coach Hrishikesh Kanitkar was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo. In fact, for Samit, son of former India captain and head coach Rahul Dravid, this is the last chance to represent India at the U-19 level. He is set to turn 19 on October 11 this year, which will also

make him ineligible for playing for India in the ICC 2026 Under-19 World Cup. "His MRI scan was done during the one-day matches. We thought of giving him a go at the four-day game, but let's see how he progresses at the NCA. We are waiting for their report. We also have a second match," a source close to the development told PTI. The second four-day match will start from October 7 at Chepauk, hence Samit has another week to recover from the knee injury. Kanitkar said playing four-day red-ball game at the Under-19 stage will help the development of players. "It's a great initiative to play Test games because red-ball [cricket] really tests you. There's enough time for the bowlers to plan and make strategies. So, for both batters and bowlers and even for fielders it's the ideal challenge to see where you stand. "To be able to play against a foreign side is a great thing. I know a lot of people, including myself who played Under-19 cricket against foreign teams and it really helped us a lot," Kanitkar added.

Good to get some overs under the belt at home as we would need to bowl a lot more in Aus: Bumrah

PTI ■ KANPUR

Jasprit Bumrah is gradually increasing his workload at home as the India pace spearhead knows he would be required to bowl a lot more overs during the five Test series in Australia. "Day two and three of the Kanpur Test were wiped out due to a wet outfield at the Green Park stadium here. "Weather is not in your control, it is the way it is. Good to get some time to relax. You've to quickly adjust to the changing conditions here after Chennai, quickly adapt and communicate with others, like

although the number of overs to be bowled will be a lot more in Australia," Bumrah told host broadcaster ahead of the fourth day's play. "There is a very good chance of them doing well (at the Champions Trophy) because they have a balanced team," the 77-year-old said. Hailed as the 'Asian Bradman' for insatiable appetite for runs, Abbas was one of the most elegant batters of his time. He played 78 Tests and 62 ODIs for Pakistan, accumulating 5062 and 2572 runs respectively. Abbar also acknowledged the consistency displayed by India across formats and said the Rohit Sharma-led team will be a strong contender for the upcoming Champions Trophy. "Indian team overall is very good. Their batters are doing well and the bowlers both are good. It is a very balanced team, one that plays soch



about changing lines and lengths," said Bumrah. "The five-Test Border-Gavaskar Trophy begins in Perth on November 22. 'Bumrah relishes playing Test matches and is determined to give his best in the format. "My favourite format is the Tests, I've always said that. I'm trying to give my absolute best in this format," said the champion bowler who has featured in 36 Tests since making his debut in 2018.

PTI ■ SHARJAH

Pakistan great Zaheer Abbas feels the comparisons between Virat Kohli and Babar Azam are baseless as the Indian superstar is a lot more consistent than the under-fire Pakistan batter. Once regarded as part of the 'Fab Five' including Kohli, Steve Smith, Joe Root, and Kane Williamson, Babar is currently enduring an extended slump in form. "Yeh fizool ki baatein hai (the comparisons are pointless). Virat Kohli scores in every match the other player (Babar) doesn't score in any match so then how can you compare. The person who scores, he is the bigger player," Abbas told PTI on the sidelines of the Cricket Predicta Conclave here. Kohli has 80 international hundreds to his name while the much younger Babar has scored 31 centuries across formats. Abbar also acknowledged the consistency displayed by India across formats and said the Rohit Sharma-led team will be a strong contender for the upcoming Champions Trophy. "Indian team overall is very good. Their batters are doing well and the bowlers both are good. It is a very balanced team, one that plays soch

Comparing Kohli and Babar baseless, the Indian star way ahead: Zaheer Abbas

samajh kar (thoughtfully)," said Abbas. "They have a very good captain, who understands cricket very well. So, when everything is going in your favour it is smooth sailing. That's the case with India right now. "There is a very good chance of them doing well (at the Champions Trophy) because they have a balanced team," the 77-year-old said. Hailed as the 'Asian Bradman' for insatiable appetite for runs, Abbas was one of the most elegant batters of his time. He played 78 Tests and 62 ODIs for Pakistan, accumulating 5062 and 2572 runs respectively. Abbar also acknowledged the consistency displayed by India across formats and said the Rohit Sharma-led team will be a strong contender for the upcoming Champions Trophy. "Indian team overall is very good. Their batters are doing well and the bowlers both are good. It is a very balanced team, one that plays soch



to come up with something... "Something like you have to play at least 5 or 6 Test matches a year then you can play ODI or T20s. Every year a minimum number of Test matches need to be allotted," he added. LOSS TO BANGLADESH WAS A HUGE SETBACK: Once a cricketing powerhouse, Pakistan now find themselves in a difficult situation. Their downward spiral began with the Asia Cup last year which was followed by the team's early elimination from the ODI World Cup in 2023 and the T20 World Cup this year. Earlier this month they suffered their first-ever Test series loss to Bangladesh. "Bohot bada dhakka tha (It was a huge setback) that Pakistan lost to Bangladesh. We never thought that not only Pakistan will lose but it will lose so bad. "Pakistan cricket abhi daamadol hai (is not doing great). The performance has dropped. I am hopeful that it will get better. The reasons

behind this are many. "It happens, the West Indies used to be the best in the world, that's not the case now. But I'm hopeful that Pakistan cricket returns to the top, the boys are working hard." Pacer Shaheen Afridi replaced Babar as skipper in T20Is after the 2023 ODI World Cup but the former was reappointed as the captain earlier this year. Abbas urged the PCB to take some action before the issue escalates further. "Yes, there have been rivalries in the Pakistan teams in the past but the board should take note of the rivalry between Babar and Shaheen fast. The faster the better because it will keep on escalating. "Rivalry is good, but it should not become serious, if it does, it harms the team," said Abbas. Abbas, former Pakistan player Mudassar Nazar and former Pakistan coach Dav Whatmore spoke at the conclave to celebrate the centenary episode of Cricket Predicta, the largest cricket live stats based show in Asia.

We've players who will help India dominate cricket for 10 years: Laxman

PTI ■ BENGALURU

He accepted the job with trepidation but batting great VVS Laxman says he is now a content man as head of BCCI's Centre of Excellence, having played his part in creating a 'supply chain' that will help India dominate world cricket across formats for at least the next decade. Laxman took over as the head of the erstwhile National Cricket Academy (NCA) in 2021 from his one-time teammate Rahul Dravid, and built on the excellent platform that was already laid out. NCA has been refurbished into a CoE by the Board and was inaugurated on Sunday. Laxman got a one-year extension into the position after his original tenure ended earlier this year. "I can say with a lot of confidence, barring a couple of skillsets, I think, for the next 10 years, we've got a lot of players who will make our country proud. I'm not only talking about men's, but also women's (cricket) as well. We're blessed to have that kind of talent," Laxman told a select media gathering at the Centre of Excellence.

He said India's dominance in world cricket is a perfect reflection of its steady 'supply chain.' "We won the (T20) World Cup (2024) in the West Indies which was a great result. But if you see all the three formats, we have dominated. Not only the rankings, we have dominated (other aspects too). "There is a supply chain as far as cricket is concerned. That means the amount of players we have at our disposal, it is a real blessing." The 49-year-old said grooming the players without tinkering with their natural game, was essential to maintain that supply chain. "The whole idea is to monitor them, how to groom them, so that they realise their potential. It's not that we dictate them (players) that you have to do this or you have to change (technique). "Ultimately the player should feel comfortable, acknowledging and accepting that option. We don't want the player to suddenly feel the burden of whose advice he has to listen to." The former India batter then explained how monitoring of the "targeted" players was done at the CoE.



"When Rahul was the head coach of the Indian team, he used to take care of the contracted players and we at NCA used to take care of the targeted players, emerging players and the under-19 players," he recalled. For this purpose, Laxman said he and the other support staff created a wonderful synergy with various state associations to ensure continuity and similarity in coaching. "...Because ultimately the state association coaches spend a lot more time with a player than what we do. We also have an athlete management system. A profile is created for all the players who come and attend the ZCA and the NCA camps...right from their reports of skills to the fitness to the musculoskeletal screening report. "Now, we are going to even request the state association to follow that process. So, at least 50 players of each state association — 25 men and 25 women — should be there on the watch list. "We will know how the player has progressed and it will become very easy for anyone who is taking care of that player to know what the player has gone through every

year," he elaborated on the process. Along with skill enhancement, Laxman said keeping the players in a good mental state is also important for their growth. "The players themselves are so professional. They understand what is needed for them to be in the best mindset when they are competing at the highest level. As far as the junior cricketers are concerned, we have got mental conditioners who spend 8 to 10 days with the players," he said. IMPORTANCE OF 'A' TOURS: Laxman described the significance of 'A' tours in preparing a player to tackle all kind of conditions. "Every year we make sure that we have at least two A Series. Sometimes it can be challenging because we want to have an A Series whereas the other boards will be busy with their own domestic cricket. Or they may not be ready to accommodate us. "But at least we try to have two A Series. The A programme allows us to go to different parts of the world and get experience. So that when they graduate to the national team, it is not a surprise to them," added Laxman.