

BRS to take farmers' protest to Rahul's Delhi house after Dasara

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

At a farmers' gathering in Thorur in Mahbubabad district, senior BRS leader Harish Rao announced that the party would take Telangana farmers' grievances to New Delhi after Dasara if the Congress-led government of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy fails to fulfil promises.

He said if the crop loan waiver is not implemented the BRS will go to New Delhi and protest at Rahul Gandhi's residence if needed.

Harish accused the government of abandoning critical commitments, including farm loan waiver and pending Rythu Bandhu payments. He demanded immediate action to help farmers and said they would protest in front of Rahul's residence.

Harish highlighted repeated delays and broken promises in loan waivers, noting that Revanth initially assured that his first action as Chief Minister would be to waive



farm loans. However, deadlines changed from December 9, 2023, to August 15, 2024. Yet no relief reached farmers.

"Revanth even swore at sacred sites like Komaravelli Mallanna and Yadadri promising to prioritize farmers, but all we see are empty assurances,"

he said. He criticized the administration for failing to deliver on several welfare schemes, including Rythu Bandhu payments, pensions, and the Mahalakshmi initiative.

He pointed out that in Palakurthi Mandal alone, 4,314 farmers still await loan relief,

underscoring the widespread frustration among Telangana's farming community.

Reflecting on the Warangal Declaration, Harish reminded the government of its pledges, including a crop bonus for all varieties, Rs 15,000 per acre for farmers, and crop insurance for tenant farmers. "None of these promises have materialized. The Congress government is letting down the entire agrarian community of Telangana," he said, adding that Podu land ownership rights remain unresolved as well.

Harish also drew attention to the government's handling of the law and order situation, particularly in Hyderabad, where he alleged that rowdiness is growing under the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Management Authority (HYDRAA). He warned the Congress government against demolishing homes near the Musi River and added that the BRS would support the affected communities.

Cong turned entire north India into hotspot of drug trade: Amit Shah

PNS ■ AHMEDABAD

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday attacked the Congress over the Delhi drug seizure, and accused it of turning entire north India into a hotspot of illegal drug trade when it was in power before 2014.

In one of Delhi's biggest drug busts, police seized over 560 kilograms of cocaine and 40 kilograms of hydroponic marijuana estimated to be worth around Rs 5,620 crore earlier this week.

Addressing a gathering in Mansa town of Gandhinagar district, Shah said the arrested accused, Tushar Goel, is the chairman of the Delhi Youth Congress' RTI cell.

Giving data about the seizures made during the last 10 years, Shah said Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Drugs Free India' campaign soon after assuming office in 2014.

Govt to go ahead with Musi clean-up plan: Kiran

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Declaring that the Congress government is going ahead with its plan to clean up the dirty water going into the Musi River using STPs and to fill it with Godavari water to provide fresh water to farmers, the Congress's Bhongir MP, Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, gave a call to the public to counter the conspiracies of the opposition against cleaning the Musi River.

He appealed to farmers to attend the meeting of farmers of the Musi catchment area being held on Saturday at 4 pm at Shubham Gardens in the Nagole area of Hyderabad.

In a statement issued on Friday, Kiran said the Congress government headed by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has launched a massive programme to clean the Musi River which was neglected by previous governments.

He said that farmers' cooperation is necessary to make the



programme successful and that everyone should join hands and make the programme successful. All farmers must attend the farmers' meeting and make the meeting a success, he said.

"We have been farming and having a closed lifestyle for generations. The Musi River has a long history. The water of this river is being used for agriculture, drinking, dairy farming and for raising fish. The cleaning of the Musi River will benefit the people of Nalgonda district, Hyderabad and Rangareddy districts. The Musi River has become polluted due to human activities and

emits a bad smell," he said.

He said that due to contamination of the Musi River crops are not growing properly.

He said the government will go ahead and clean up the dirty water going into the Musi using STPs and fill it with Godavari water to provide fresh water to farmers.

While the CM is going ahead with cleaning the Musi River and freeing people living in the catchment area from pollution, the opposition is trying to block it, he said. Opposition leaders are trying to stop the project by misleading the people, Kiran said.

BRS condemns police bias, demands justice in Vivek's case

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former MLA Balka Suman, BRS General Secretary Soma Bharat Kumar, Gattu Ramachander Rao, Manne Gowradhan Reddy and BRS legal team members Jakkula Lakshman, Kalyan and Lalitha Reddy condemned the police's bias in favour of the Congress.

Addressing a press conference at the Telangana Bhavan on Friday, Suman expressed displeasure stating, "Some police officials have turned Congress loyalists and are displaying undue bias against the BRS and its activists."

Suman pointed out that in Khammam, attacks were carried out on BRS leaders and even KTR was targeted in



Hyderabad due to police indifference.

"Cases are being filed against BRS social media warriors, while Congress activists are not held accountable for their posts," he said.

Suman said that during the Assembly elections, Rs 8 crore was reportedly transferred illegally from MLA Vivek's Visakhapatnam-based company to a suitcase company named Vigilance Security.

I raised this issue with the Election Commission and the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

Revanth must visit Musi demolition sites without security: BRS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy criticised Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's handling of the Musi Riverfront Project and the recent demolitions. Addressing a press conference at the Telangana Bhavan on Friday, Kaushik said that the CM's language against BRS leaders, particularly regarding the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Management Authority (HYDRAA) and the Musi Riverfront, was unbecoming of his office. "No BRS leader is intimidated by Revanth's threats," he asserted.

The MLA accused the government of a massive scam in the Musi Riverfront Project and said that Rs 1 lakh crore is



unaccounted for in this project.

He contrasted this with the BRS administration's efforts and said, "Under KCR's leadership, a Musi beautification proposal worth Rs 16,000 crore was launched, including Rs 3,800 crore for Sewage Treatment Plants and bridges."

Responding to Revanth Reddy's derogatory remarks about BRS leaders Harish Rao and KT Rama Rao, he challenged the CM, saying, "If Revanth has the courage, let him visit the demolition sites without security. We'll see who's intimidated."

Modi & KCR played religion, region cards: Mahesh

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC President B. Mahesh Kumar Goud said that Prime Minister Modi played politics based on 'religion' and 'castes' and former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao on the basis of 'regions'.

Addressing a gathering at Nizamabad where the local Congress unit facilitated him on Friday, Mahesh said the Congress is the only party wedded to secularism. He said the BRS rulers made Telangana debt-riddled by borrowing loans indiscriminately. KCR is living happily in his farmhouse. However, KTR and Harish Rao are criticising the Congress government by telling white lies.

Mahesh said that he is confident that the Congress will form a government in 2028 by winning 90 to 100 seats. He said that the Congress will win 15 LS seats in Telangana and make Rahul Gandhi the Prime Minister. He said that he would fill party posts with 60 per cent BCs, STs, SCs and minorities and that an exercise is going on for conducting a caste census as per Rahul's social engineering ideas.

Patnam to raze his farmhouse if it is in FTL area or buffer zone



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Government Whip in the Legislative Council, Patnam Mahender Reddy, said that he is ready to demolish his farmhouse if the opposition proves that it is located in the FTL or buffer zone of a water body. He condemned the allegations of BRS leaders KTR, Harish Rao and Sabitha Indra Reddy regarding this.

Speaking to the media at the Secretariat Media Centre on Friday, Mahender said that his farmhouse was constructed as per rules. "If not I will demolish it on my own. I constructed my farmhouse 20 years ago. KTR, Harish Rao and Sabitha Indra Reddy should come and show the evidence that my farmhouse is in the FTL area or the buffer zone of a water body. In that case, we will jointly demolish it," he said.

The Government Chief Whip said that he had constructed his farmhouse after checking the rules and that his farmhouse is within the limits set by GO No: 111. However,



it is not under the state government's limits. It is under the limits set by the Supreme Court.

He said that he had already conducted a survey of his farmhouse and did not receive any notice from officials.

Maheshwar said that he did not know whether KTR's Janwada farmhouse is constructed as per rules or not. He said that the farmhouses of Sabitha Indra Reddy and Srinivas Reddy are located side by side and that he did not know whether they were constructed according to rules or not.

"We all constructed farmhouses as per the guidelines of the Grama Panchayat. The rule will apply to all if the government says that the permission given by Grama Panchayats is not valid," he said.

Maheshwar said that buildings will be demolished if they are illegal. "Whether the farmhouse belongs to me or KTR or Harish Rao or Sabitha Indra Reddy they will be demolished if they are found to be illegal," he said.

Sateesh asks CM to appoint teachers only after SC quota categorisation

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Senior Congress leader Sateesh Madiga appealed to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to issue appointment orders to selected candidates on October 9 at the LB Stadium only after keeping aside 15 per cent of the posts for SCs.

He said that the 15 per cent posts kept aside should be filled only after the categorisation of SC reservations.

Sateesh appealed to the CM to protect the jobs meant for Madigas from fraudsters like protecting lakes and ponds from encroachers.

Even after the Supreme Court's verdict on SC classification, how can there be legal implications, he said? "You are being misled by the authorities," he said.

If indeed there are legal implications, then correct them and sub-categorize SC reservations and fill the posts meant for SCs, he said.

The Madiga Dandora will conduct a 'Sastanga Namaskaram' before the Secretariat on October 5, he said.

India undergoing transformational changes to sustain high growth: PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Describing India as a sweet spot amid global uncertainty, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the country is undergoing transformational changes to sustain its high economic growth trajectory.

Speaking at the 3rd edition of the Kautilya Economic Conclave here, Modi committed to continuing structural reforms to help India become a developed nation by 2047.

Jobs, skills, sustainable growth and continuing rapid expansion are the focus of Modi 3.0, he said.

"Today, amid a global emergency, we are here dis-



cussing about the 'Indian Era', this shows how the world trusts India...India is the world's fastest-growing and the 5th largest economy. In terms of fintech adoption rate, we stand as the top nation," he noted.

India is the largest manufacturer of two-wheelers and tractors, and the second largest manufacturer of

mobile phones, he said.

Stressing that 'Reform, perform and transform' is the guiding mantra of his government, Modi said, "When the lives of people are transformed, they start believing in their country. The same then gets reflected through their mandate. The confidence of 140 crore Indians is our strength. We are committed to bringing more structural reforms for the betterment of India."

'Inclusive spirit' is yet another notable factor of India's growth story, he said, adding that the growth is accompanied by inclusion. As a result, he added that 25 crore people have moved out of poverty over the last 10 years.

BJP eyes hat-trick, Congress a comeback after a decade as Haryana votes today

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The fate of Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Vinesh Phogat of the Congress besides JJP's Dushyant Chautala and 1027 other candidates will be decided on Saturday as elections to the 90-member Haryana assembly will be held with over 2 crore people eligible to vote.

The ruling BJP is eyeing a hat-trick of wins in the state while the Congress is hoping to make a comeback after a decade. Counting of votes will be held on October 8.

Haryana's Chief Electoral Officer Pankaj Agarwal said 2,03,54,350 voters, including 8,821 centurions, are eligible to exercise their franchise and the voting will be held from 7 am to 6 pm.

A total of 1,031 candidates are contesting in all 90 assembly constituencies, including 101 women. Among these candidates, 464 are contesting as independent.

A total of 20,632 polling booths have been set up for voting, Agarwal said on Friday. The key contesting parties in the fray are BJP, Congress, AAP, INLD-BSP and JJP-Azad Samaj Party.

The high-octane campaign came to an end Thursday evening. The BJP's campaign was spearheaded by Prime Minister Narendra Modi who addressed four rallies,

where he attacked the Congress on several issues and said they kept every matter important for the country entangled, including the Ram temple issue.

He also said corruption runs in veins of the Congress and alleged it has "turned into a party of 'dalals' (middlemen) and 'damad' (son-in-law)".

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi also addressed many public meetings where he asserted that a "Congress storm" is on its way in Haryana and his party would form the government which will be one for the poor and farmers, and a 'mohabbat ki dukan' will be opened in every corner of the state.

In the previous assembly polls in 2019, the BJP had won 40 seats, the Congress 31 and JJP 10. The Congress has left the Bhiwani assembly seat for its INDIA bloc partner CPI(M) while the BJP is not contesting the Sarsa seat, from where Haryana Lokhit Party chief Gopal Kanda is seeking re-election.

Most seats are likely to see a direct fight between the BJP and the Congress.

Prominent among those in fray include Chief Minister Saini (Ladwa), Leader of Opposition Hooda (Garhi Sampla-Kiloi), INLD's Abhay Singh Chautala (Ellenabad), JJP's Dushyant Chautala (Uchana Kalan), BJP's Anil Vij (Ambala Cantt), Capt Abhimanyu (Narnaund) and O P Dhankar (Badli), AAP's Anurag Dhandha (Kalayat) and Congress's Phogat (Julana).

Significance of peace has grown amid atmosphere of unrest: President Murmu

PNS ■ JAIPUR

President Droupadi Murmu said on Friday the significance of peace and unity has increased amid unrest in certain parts of the world.

Addressing the inaugural session of a four-day global summit on 'Spirituality for Clean and Healthy Society' at the international headquarters of Brahma Kumaris in Mount Abu, the president said, "Today, an atmosphere of unrest is prevailing in several parts of the world. At a time when human values are declining, the importance of peace and unity is increasing even more."

She added, "Peace is also located deep inside the mind. So everyone must keep their mind, words and deeds clean."



Murmu urged people to come together to overcome the challenge of global warming and pollution and said, "People should understand that they are not the owners of this earth, but are responsible for its

protection. We are trustees, not owners. We have to protect this planet with our own discretion."

Somewhere there is excessive rain while somewhere there is a drought, she said on the impact of climate change.

"The Government of India has requested every person to plant a sapling in the name of mothers. If 140 crore saplings are planted, the number of trees will increase which will slowly improve the climate. To achieve this, everyone must plant a sapling each year," she said.

No question of privatising railways, focus is on affordable service: Vaishnaw

PNS ■ NASHIK

Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Friday said there is no question of privatising the railways and asserted the national transporter's focus is on providing affordable service to all.

The aim is to ensure people can travel up to 1,000 kilometres in comfort in less than Rs 400, the railway minister said here. "In the next five years, the railways will undergo a complete makeover. Trains like Vande Bharat, Namoo Bharat, deployment of Kavach train protection mechanism will lead this change. This is the era of transformation of railways," he said while addressing the Railway Protection Force Raising Day event here.

"There is no question of privatisation of Rs 2.5 lakh crore and 31,000 kilometres of new tracks have been laid in the last 10 years, which is more than the network of France, he said. "We plan to start 3,000 train services in the next six years. During UPA rule, Maharashtra used to get Rs 1,171



crore for railway works. This figure has gone up to Rs 15,940 crore under the Modi government. A sum of Rs 33,000 crore is earmarked for the bullet train segment in the state as well as Rs 12,500 crore for the state leg of the dedicated freight corridor," he said.

A Rs 7,000 crore project is planned to connect Marathwada to port facilities, while nod has been given for the Jalna-Jalgaon and Indore-Mumbai direct connectivity projects, he added.

The focus is on performance, safety, technology and providing affordable service to all," Vaishnaw said.

The railway budget currently stands at Rs 2.5 lakh crore and 31,000 kilometres of new tracks have been laid in the last 10 years, which is more than the network of France, he said. "We plan to start 3,000 train services in the next six years. During UPA rule, Maharashtra used to get Rs 1,171

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CITY EVENTS

Bharatiya Kala Mahotsav

This one a kind event features North-Eastern handicrafts, artworks, dance performances and authentic cuisines from the 8 North-Eastern States. There are a lot of exiting activities and live demonstrations too for you to engage in. Buses will be available for transportation from the Press Club, Somajiguda at 3 pm, 3:30pm and 4 pm.

Venue

Rashtrapati Nilayam, the winter retreat of the President of India. October 5.

Bathukamma Utsavalu

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to be the chief guest.

Venue

Dr BR Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat, October 5 and 8. From 2 pm to 5 pm.

Allen Career Institute

Hyderabad campus launch. Chief National Coach of National Badminton team P Gopichand to be the chief guest.

Venue

Novotel & HICC Complex, Cyberabad. October 5. At 12 noon.

The Telangana Icon Awards - 2024

Telangana Bloggers, dedicated to empowering small and medium businesses. Ajay Mishra, Chairman, IRCS, Telangana.

Venue

T -Hub, Knowledge City. October 5, 4.30 pm

Birth Anniversaries

95th birth anniversary celebrations of G Venkatswamy (Kaka) by chief guest Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy.

Venue

Sagar Park, Tank Bund, Hyderabad. October 5, 9 am.

Dubai Property Show

Property experts coming to your city

Venue

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

nSure Healthy Spine

Inaugural ceremony by P Gopichand, national coach, Badminton Association of India.

Venue

4th floor, Above Asian Spine Hospital, Road No. 92, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad. October 6. At 12.30 pm.

Aura by Jalsa

Grand opening.

Venue

8-2-601, P, 31, Ground Floor, Road No. 10, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad. October 6, 12.30 pm

SERP - SARAS Fair-2024

People's Plaza, Hyderabad. Till October 7

Toxic

By Abhishek Upmanyu

Venue

Shilpakala Vedika. November 2

Prateek Kuhad

Shhouettes tour.

Venue

Hyderabad international convention centre. November 8

City Pioneer



HYDERABAD SATURDAY | OCTOBER 5, 2024

03

TO BE UNDER PPP MODEL, WITH AN INDEPENDENT BOARD

Sports varsity to come up at Gachibowli stadium: CM

The sports university aims to offer 13 courses, covering sports such as cricket, hockey, football, basketball, swimming, tennis, badminton, shooting, boxing, wrestling, table tennis, athletics, gymnastics, and aquatics

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister Anumula Revanth Reddy directed officials to formulate a new sports policy that not only nurtures talented athletes but also brings international recognition to the State.

Keeping the 2036 Olympics in mind, he emphasised setting clear objectives in the new policy. The Chief Minister reviewed the draft policy, prepared by officials, during a meeting held at the Secretariat on Friday. Present at the meeting were state government advisors K Keshava Rao and Jitender Reddy, Telangana Sports Authority Chairman Sivasena Reddy, Special Chief Secretary Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary for Youth Advancement Vani Prasad, among others, including the Chief Minister's Principal Secretary Seshadri and Secretary Shah Nawaz Qasim.

Discussions centered on policies implemented by other countries and states to promote sports. Revanth Reddy underlined the State's commitment to shaping young talents into athletes capa-

ble of competing at national and international levels. He stressed incorporating the best approaches into the sports policy to achieve this goal.

The State government plans to establish a sports university, envisioned as Young India Physical Education and Sports University, following the model of the Young India Skill University. The Chief Minister proposed running it under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, with an independent board and an appointed chairperson to ensure autonomy.

He also proposed launching the sports university within the Gachibowli Sports Stadium campus, which spans approximately 70 acres and already hosts various sports facilities.

The CM suggested upgrading these facilities to meet future needs. Additionally, he ordered the integration of Hyderabad's key sports complexes and stadiums, such as LB Stadium, Hakimpet Sports School, Kotla Vijay Bhaskara Reddy Indoor Stadium, Saroor Nagar Indoor Stadium, and University Cycling Velodrome, into a single sports



Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy holding a review meeting on the new sports policy at the Secretariat on Friday

hub. Emphasising a comprehensive approach, Revanth Reddy guided officials to create a policy that supports aspiring athletes from identification to international competition without educational disruptions. He stressed prioritizing sports that align with local geography and interest.

The CM suggested bringing in coaches from abroad and forming partnerships with foreign universities through MoUs to enhance training standards.

The Chief Minister also advocated a clear framework for rewarding athletes who win medals at national and interna-

tional levels. He directed officials to outline specific incentives, including employment opportunities for those who achieve success in various competitions. After reviewing Power-Point presentations on the draft, he suggested several modifications for improvement.

PRAJAVANI

Kidney transplant patients seek pension

B SRINIVAS REDDY
srinivasreddy84@gmail.com
■ HYDERABAD

Kidney transplant patients across the State came to Prajavani at Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Praja Bhavan on Friday and staged a silent demonstration urging the State government to replicate the monthly pension scheme of Rs 10,000 being implemented in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, to them.

They also urged the State government to provide employment to them. "This is the second time we are coming here requesting to introduce the monthly pension scheme to kidney transplant patients and to provide employment," said a member of Cheyutha Foundation for organ transplants.

Everyday thousands of people undergo kidney transplantation and many people donate their kidney to their siblings and relatives to save them.

Some people are forced to sell their properties to clear the hospital bills and they have to suffer a lot physically and mentally. So, it will be a great help, if the State government



Kidney transplant patients submit applications to vice-chairman of the State Planning Board G Chinna Reddy at the Prajavani programme at Praja Bhavan on Friday

considers their application and introduces the pension scheme, they urged. They have submitted their application to Vice Chairman of the State Planning Board G. Chinna Reddy.

"My brother has given me a kidney and saved my life, but now we need work to do. We should take medicines regularly and for that we have to pay money. Moreover, we have lots of side effects," said Soumya (name changed) of Shamshabad.

The patients have also written a letter to CM A Revanth Reddy to extend the monthly and provide employment.

Thanking the government for establishing dialysis centres in the districts, they said introducing Jeevandhan for organ donation was a major step forward.

A total of 338 applications were received at Prajavani on Friday. 79 applications received at the Housing department, 52 applications received at Revenue department, 35 applications received at Panchayat Raj and Rural Development, 35 applications received at the Electricity board, 29 applications received at SC Welfare department and 108 applications received at other departments.

INDIA VS BANGLADESH TWENTY-20 MATCH

Rachakonda CP reviews security arrangements

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Rachakonda Commissioner of Police Sudheer Babu on Friday conducted a review meeting on the security arrangements with the officials of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), Fire, Electricity department and Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) for the upcoming Twenty-20 match between India and Bangladesh to be played on October 12 at Rajiv Gandhi Stadium in Uppal.

Speaking on the occasion, Sudheer Babu said that cricket fans should not face any inconvenience during the match. He said they will take all the security measures for the smooth conduct of the match. It's a great opportunity to have a cricket match under the Rachakonda Commissionerate. He instructed the officials to have all the arrangements for the cricket fans during the match.

He instructed the officials to look at the parking places for the fans, who come to see the match. He told police officials to clear the traffic on the main roads of the Uppal.

The Commissioner suggested officials to install CCTVs in the vicinity of the stadium. Everyone's movements will be recorded in the CCTV cameras. Distribution of tickets will be done in full transparency and no rumours should be believed, he added.

HCA president Jagan Mohan Rao said that tickets for India vs Bangladesh T20 match will be available from Saturday from 12:30pm on the Paytm Insider website/App.

The starting price of tickets is Rs 750 and the maximum price is Rs 15,000. Tickets booked online should be redeemed at Gymkhana Stadium from October 8th to 12th October, said the HCA president.



Rachakonda Commissioner of police Sudheer Babu, along with other department officials reviews the security arrangements for the India vs Bangladesh Twenty20 match

Office leasing grows 9% Y-o-Y to 7.3 million sq.ft. in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad office leasing grew by 9% year-on-year from January to September 2024, reaching 7.3 million sq.ft., driven by life sciences, BFSI, and technology in Q3, according to a report by CBRE South Asia Pvt. Ltd.

The report, CBRE India Office Figures Q3 2024, states that office leasing in Hyderabad was 7.3 million sq.ft. compared to 6.7 million sq.ft.



last year. The supply stood at 8.5 million sq.ft. during the same period. As per the report, in Q3, office leasing reached 2.7 million sq.ft., with key sectors driving absorption including life sciences (29%), BFSI (20%) and technology (16%). Notable transactions included MetLife leasing 200,000 sq. ft. in Prestige Sky Tech, Hetero leasing 178,200 sq. ft. in Nexity, and RSM US leasing 100,000 sq. ft. in Phoenix Equinox.

TGMC filed 250 cases against quacks

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Medical Council (TGMC) vice-chairman Dr Srinivas said that the TGMC filed 250 cases against un-qualified persons in police stations concerned. The TGMC appointed an officer as per the communication from the NMC to enforce Section 34 and Section 54 to curb quacks and quackery and constituted Anti-Quackery Committees with council members as per Section 20 of TSMPR Act to provide the best health services to people. On Friday, a new TGMC building was inaugurated at the Director of Health campus.

He said, "We are conducting Medical Ethics Awareness drive for both UGs and PGs in medical colleges."

Agarwals playing prominent role in TG: DGP

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Di rector General of Police Jitender, said, "Agarwal Samaj has been playing a prominent role in development of Telangana by following the teachings of Agrasen Maharaj.

Honouring his legacy of service and empowerment, the 5148th historic birth anniversary of Agrasen Maharaj was celebrated with many gala festivities and grandeur by Agarwal Samaj, Telangana. Many cultural programmes were organised by the Samaj on Friday.

DGP Jitender said, "The com-

munity has been doing various social service activities, medical programmes, women empowerment initiatives and blood donation camps. It gives us great enthusiasm that there were so many branches of the community which have been actively participating in all such initiatives. The teachings and values of the community are very impressive."

Manish Agarwal, president of Agarwal Samaj, said, "Various social works are being done by our community and under the corpus fund we are collecting donations. Our notable programmes are Ekal Nari Initiative, Dhan Patra Scheme,



Kanyadaan Scheme, Career Counselling and Job Mela, Mega Tree Plantation Drives and Water

Conservation Projects."

"A few announcements for the future months include Srisailem Guest House, the dream project of Agarwal Community, for which land has been acquired from Andhra Pradesh government, New Shakas in Bhagyanagar and Malkajiri are being established. The HYTEC City branch is in the process of formation," said Manish Agarwal.

Caption Director General of Police Jitender being felicitated by the Agarwal Samaj on the occasion of the 5,148th birth anniversary of Agrasen Maharaj



Rs 826 cr to develop roads around KBR park

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government on Friday sanctioned Rs 826 crore for Hyderabad City Innovative and Transformative Infrastructure (H-CITI) project for improvement of all six junctions around Kasu Brahmananda Reddy (KBR) National Park.

The government released a GO on Friday, wherein the project has been divided into two packages. The government sanctioned Rs 421 crore for the construction of a flyover and an under-

pass at Jubilee Hills Check Post Jn., KBR Park Entrance Jn., and Mugdha Jn. near KBR Park, GHMC (Package- 1) under EPC.

Construction of flyover and underpass at Road No. 45 Junction, Film Nagar junction, Maharaja Agrasen Junction and Cancer Hospital Junction near KBR Park.

The government sanctioned Rs 405 crore for the construction of a flyover at Road No. 45 and 2nd level flyover at Jubilee Hills Check Post in SRDP Phase-II.

Attack on lawyer: HC asks DGP to submit report

CHITHALURI REVANTH
revanth.chithaluri@gmail.com
■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana High Court on Friday ordered the Director General of Police (DGP) of Telangana to file a report on the alleged attack on an advocate.



A Bench comprising Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice J Sreenivas Rao took a suo motu cognisance on the basis of a news item published in a newspaper. It states that a police officer of Borabanda police station allegedly beat advocate Santhosh.

The court pointed out that previously also, incidents of the alleged misbehavior of the police officers on members of the bar were reported. An incident was reported at Madannapet police station, where a police officer allegedly beat advocate Khaleem. Therefore, the court took suo motu cognisance.

The Bench said that if this can happen with an advocate, what about ordinary citizens who go to police stations.

During the arguments, the counsel requested the court to withdraw the suo motu petition. The court refused to do so and said, "We have taken suo motu cognisance and we will hear everyone. If you have any valuable suggestions to make on this issue, we will hear you. Bar is most welcome to give any suggestions. This is a matter of community as a whole. We are concerned on this issue. The object is to be heard; whosoever has to make a valuable contribution we will hear."

The court ordered the counsel for the State to find out what happened in that incident. "CCTV footage must be there. Why did he go there? For whom and for what reason did he go there?" The court said that everyone (advocates) is welcome to give suggestions to what should be done. The court will hear the petition on October 16.

Awareness drive conducted on validity of Rs 10 coins

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In continuation of various initiatives taken by the Reserve Bank of India, it has also initiated a public awareness campaign on acceptance of Rs10 coins in coordination with State Bank of India (SBI) on October 3 & 4, 2024.

It has been observed that in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, there appears to be a reluctance among traders, small businesses and members of the public to accept Rs10 coins. This reluctance seems to stem from suspicion arising out of fake messages about the genuineness of these coins, spread around the State by unscrupulous elements.

On this occasion, Rajesh Kumar, Chief General Manager, State Bank of India, Hyderabad Circle, has taken the lead and distributed the Rs10 coins to the public at Hyderabad main branch, Koti, to create awareness about the acceptance of the Rs 10 coins. All branches of the SBI in Hyderabad Circle have arranged Coin Melas and distributed Rs 10 coins.



Rajesh Kumar, Chief General Manager, State Bank of India, conducting an awareness drive on the validity of Rs 10 coins

Malanna against EWS quota

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) Teenmar Mallanna on Friday said at the Secretariat that he complained to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy over the implementation of reservations for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in the

State. The MLC said that Backward Classes (BC) are adversely affected with the reservation for the EWS. The previous government implemented 10% reservation without fixing the EWS quota. How could they implement 10 per cent reservation to five per cent of the population?, he asked.



Divine origins of 'Ksheerasagar', flourishing local community

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

In the sixth century, the village of Ananthayapalli, which originally had only fifty houses, experienced an unexpected disaster, resulting in human casualties. In response to the plight of the villagers, Lord Anantha Padmanabha Swamy is believed to have manifested during the afternoon, as milk began to flow from the earth when there were no milch animals there. According to local belief, this miraculous event saved the

people from their health issues, leading to the village being named Ksheerasagar. Villagers claim that there is no other place in the two Telugu states with the same name.

Today, Ksheerasagar village, adorned with approximately 1,500 families, is progressing on a development path while flourishing as a divine abode fulfilling the wishes of devotees, as noted by local Vedic scholars.

Situated near Hyderabad, in the Gajwel constituency of Siddipet district,

Ksheerasagar village boasts of the ancient Anantha Padmanabha Swamy temple nestled in the hills. To celebrate the deity's birthday, local devotees conducted special prayers, observed the Padmanabha Swamy vow, and performed elaborate homa rituals.

During this occasion, temple priests and village elders, including KBR Foundation founder Bal Reddy, emphasized that Ananthapadmanabha Swamy is known for fulfilling the wishes of devotees

and that this temple holds a unique significance in Indian history.

They also mentioned that special prayers would be conducted in the temple on the day after Sankranti, known as Kanuma, attracting large gatherings of people from surrounding villages. Devotees from across the country also visit to seek blessings from the deity, underscoring the temple's profound reputation and the immense faith of the people in its divine powers.

Woman suspected of practising black magic burnt alive

PNS ■ MEDAK

A 45-year-old woman, belonging to Scheduled Castes, was allegedly burnt to death by a group of people on suspicion of practising black magic at a village in Medak district, according to police on Friday. The deceased was identified as D Muttava.

The incident happened at Katriyal village under Ramayampet mandal on Thursday night when at least six people attacked the woman at her house and set her ablaze.

After getting information that a woman had been beaten up and set on fire, a police team immediately reached the village and shifted the injured woman to a hospital where she died while undergoing treatment.

The group, who accused the woman of practising black magic on one of their family members, argued with her and later attacked her, police said.

A murder case was registered, and the accused were identified, police said. Further investigation is on.

Meanwhile, District Superintendent of Police Uday Kumar warned that stringent action would be taken against those resorting to violence in the name of curbing 'black magic'. He pointed out that the black magic is based on superstition.

Uday Kumar, on receiving information of a woman being burnt alive, rushed to Katriyal village and deployed police force. He regretted that the people remained steeped in superstition despite the administra-



Muttava

tion conducting several awareness programmes. He sought the cooperation of the people to prevent recurrence of incidents like attacking people on suspicion of practising black magic. He appealed to people to inform the police if they came across any incident involving violence against people on the pretext of black magic.

BRS for giving 33% profit share to SCCL workers

PNS ■ RAMAGUNDAM

Former MLA Koorukanti Chandr stated that the Congress government is undermining the rights of Singareni workers. He demanded that 33 per cent of the net profits of the Singareni company be shared with the workers. At a media conference held at the BRS party office in Godavarikhani, along with Telangana Coal Mine Workers Union President Miryala Rajireddy, Chandr mentioned that the previous BRS government had worked for the welfare of Singareni workers and urged the government to distribute profit share to the workers.

He announced that a protest would stage on October 6 at Gandhi Chowrasta in Godavarikhani under the leadership of former minister Koppula Eshwar, demanding a 33 per cent share in net profits earned through the hard work of Singareni workers. He stated that former BRS MLAs from the coal belt area and leaders of the Telangana Coal Mine Workers Union would participate in the protest, calling for participation from all coal workers' unions to make the protest a success.

Five held for sexually assaulting two girls in Jangaon dist

PNS ■ JANGAON

Five men were arrested for allegedly sexually assaulting and harassing two minor girls in Jangaon district, police said on Friday.

The girls escaped from a rehabilitation centre in Saidabad here last month. The centre had lodged a missing complaint with the

Saidabad police.

The girls reached Jangaon bus stand from where one of them went along with a man known to her, but was allegedly sexually harassed by three persons. Another girl was also similarly assaulted by a 'paan' shop owner and his friend who runs a bakery on the pretext of offering shelter to her at the bakery, police



said. Both girls were later found at the Jangaon bus station by the police, who rescued them and shifted them to the rehabilitation centre in Hyderabad.

Based on statements of the girls, the police arrested five men who were booked under relevant sections of the POCSO Act, a police official said.

Sanitation worker's daughter gets MBBS seat

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Kandada Hindu, daughter of Kandada Sayanna, a sanitation worker in Chevella Gram Panchayat, has secured an MBBS seat at Kaloji Medical University in Warangal. Hindu achieved this feat by scoring 466 marks out of 720 in the NEET examination, earning a free MBBS seat.



Kandana Hindu

Her admission has been confirmed by the Kaloji Medical University, Narsampet. Hindu's achievement stands as an inspiring example of determination and hard work, reflecting her com-

mitment to pursuing a career in medicine despite the challenges faced by her family. Her success has brought pride to her community and serves as a motivating story for many aspiring students

Telangana Police Duty Meet begins in Ramagundam

PNS ■ RAMAGUNDAM

In a landmark initiative, the Ramagundam Police Commissioner, M Srinivas inaugurated the Police Duty Meet on Thursday, marking the first of its kind in Telangana. The meet is taking place within the Kaleshwaram zone, involving police personnel from the districts of Peddapalli, Mancherial, Komaram Bheem Asifabad, Jayashankar Bhupalpally and Mulugu.

The event aimed at recognising the talents of police officers and enhancing their professional skills. It features various competitions designed to promote excellence in policing. Activities include scientific aids to investigation, where participants engage in practical and written tests on forensic science, crime scene management, and criminal law.

Another focus of the meet is anti-sabotage checks, encompassing vehicle searches, ground and room searches, and access control protocols. Additionally, a computer awareness competition aims to improve skills in office automation and programming, reflecting the modern demands of policing. In a significant compo-



Ramagundam Police Commissioner M Srinivas interacting with police personnel at duty meet in Ramagundam on Friday

nent of the event, a sniffer dog competition will showcase the abilities of trained dogs in tracking, explosive detection, and narcotics searches, further emphasising the multifaceted approach to law enforcement.

During the inauguration, Police Commissioner Srinivas emphasised the importance of such initiatives in fostering professional growth among police personnel.

The event is attended by several dignitaries, including Mancheril DCP A Bhaskar, Additional DCP (Admin) C Raju, Godavarikhani ACP Ramesh, CCS ACP Venkataswamy,

Mulugu ASP Ramulu, and other police officers and staff from various districts. Their presence underscores the collaborative spirit of the meet and its significance in strengthening the law enforcement community in Telangana.

As the Police Duty Meet unfolds, it is poised to contribute significantly to the professional development of the state's police force, ensuring they are well-equipped to meet the challenges of modern policing. The ongoing sessions will provide a platform for sharing best practices and enhancing coordination among different police units, ultimately benefiting the communities they serve.

Work for providing road connectivity in tribal area begin

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar has laid foundation stone for the construction of bitumen roads in tribal areas, focusing on Gollakunta Thanda under Velijarla village, Farooq Nagar Mandal, and Gidigadda Thanda. The projects, which include the Velijarla road works costing Rs 75 lakh and the Gidigadda Thanda road development at Rs 1.20 crore, are aimed at enhancing the road connectivity in the tribal community.

Speaking on the occasion, Shankar emphasised that the development of tribal areas is a priority for the Congress party. He stated that the ongoing efforts are part of the party's broader mission to uplift marginalised communities.

Several prominent Congress leaders were present at the event, including Mandal Congress Party President Challa Srikanth Reddy, Block Congress President Balaraju Goud, and senior party lead-



Shadnagar MLA V Shankar interacting with people at Velijarla in Rangareddy district on Friday

ers Y Yadaiah Yadav and Chendi Tirupati Reddy. Tribal leader Srinu Naik, former MPTC member Wadyala Narsimha Reddy, and village Congress President Srinivas Reddy also participated, along with a large group of Congress activists and supporters.

The gathering saw participation from a wide array of tribal leaders, including Nenawat Hari Chander Naik, Dasya Naik, and Shankar Naik, as well as prominent youth leaders such as Animi Akhil Goud

and Vattela Mahesh Yadav. Women leaders, including Lakshmi, Sujata, and Shobha, also attended the event, underscoring the Congress party's commitment to inclusive development.

The MLA said that the newly inaugurated BT roads are expected to significantly improve connectivity in these tribal areas, furthering the Congress party's goal of fostering growth and progress for the tribal population in the Shadnagar region.

Officials told to prevent paddy movement from neighbouring States

PNS ■ NALGONDA

District Collector C Narayana Reddy has ordered a meticulous procurement of 100 per cent of the paddy harvested in Vanakalam (kharif) season, leaving no room for errors. On Friday, he conducted a video conference from the Collectorate with the mandal-level teams to discuss the paddy procurement process.

He instructed police officials to set up stringent surveillance mechanism to prevent paddy from other states arriving at procurement centres in the district. He emphasised the need for strict checks at checkpoints. Special stickers would be issued for

vehicles transporting paddy within the district, and he reiterated that no paddy from other states should be purchased at the local procurement centres.

The Collector highlighted several factors contributing to an expected increase in paddy production this year, such as the release of water from the Nagarjunasagar project, the presence of high capacity rice mills in Nalgonda district, and the addition of 20,000 acres of rice cultivation compared to the previous year. Additionally, the government's announcement of a Rs 500 bonus for fine varieties of paddy is likely to encourage



Nalgonda District Collector C Narayana Reddy holding a review meeting in Nalgonda on Friday

farmers to bring more quantities of paddy to procurement centres.

The mills are also expected to keep fine and coarse paddy milling separated, and utmost care must be taken to avoid any mix-up. Every procurement centre should be

equipped with two moisture-measuring machines, four weighing machines, 40 labourers, 30 tarpaulins, drinking water, and seating arrangements for farmers.

Any negligence in this regard will result in strict action. All paddy procured

should be dispatched to mills on the same day, and measures should be taken to avoid truck shortages. Arrangements for additional trucks should be ready if necessary.

District Superintendent of Police Sharath Chandra Pawar announced that checkpoints have been established at Wadapally and Vijayapuri to regulate paddy from other states, and police personnel will be assigned in shifts to maintain vigilance during the procurement process.

Additional Collector J. Srinivas, Miryalaguda Sub-Collector Narayana Amit, Devarkonda and others were present at the meeting.



Seized marijuana

1,065 kg of marijuana worth Rs 4 burnt in Khammam

PNS ■ BHADRADRI KOTHAGUDEM

The officials on Friday burnt a total of 1065.13 kg of marijuana seized from from peddlers in Bhadradi, Kothagudem, Polancha, Aswaraopet and Manuguru Excise Police station limits. The officials destroy the marijuana, worth Rs 4 crore at APWS company in Khamma.

The smugglers usually travel through Khammam and Bhadradi from Odisha to traffic contraband to Karnataka, Maharashtra,

Tamil Nadu, Goa and Rajasthan. Teams consisted of Excise, STF, TDF and police seized large amounts of marijuana during the vehicle search operations.

Marijuana weighing 1036.43 kg was seized in the Paloncha Excise Police station limits, 2.8 in Aswaraopet limits and 25.9 kg in Manuguru limits.

Assistant Commissioner Ganesh Daggurundi on the advice of Director of Enforcement VB Kamalasa Reddy supervised the destruction of the contraband.

Cybercriminals posing as cops make threatening calls to officials

PNS ■ JANGAON

After the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) officials trapped some officials while allegedly accepting bribe in the district, cybercriminals posing as officials from the ACB have been threatening the officials in a bid to extort money from them.

The alleged cybercriminals had so far made threatening calls to the officer of the Board of Intermediate and an engineer of Mission Bhagiratha. The officials, suspecting some foul play, lodged a complaint with ACB DSP Sambayya.

In response, ACB DSP Sambayya stated that this was a new tactic adopted by cybercriminals to blackmail the officials. He urged everyone to remain vigilant, stating that ACB officers never call anyone demanding money.

ACROSS THE STATES



2,200 opportunities listed on PM Internship portal

More than 2,200 internship opportunities have been listed on the portal for the Prime Minister Internship Scheme, which has been rolled out on a pilot basis, sources said on Friday. Under the pilot project, which is estimated to cost around Rs 800 crore, the internship will start on December 2 and is expected to cover 1.25 lakh candidates in the current financial year ending March 2025. The scheme, announced in the Union Budget 2024, will be implemented through the online portal 'www.pminternship.mca.gov.in' developed by the corporate affairs ministry. Registration for candidates is expected to start from October 12. The sources at the corporate affairs ministry said that over 2,200 internship opportunities were listed on the portal as of 3 pm on Friday. An intern will receive a monthly financial assistance of Rs 5,000 for 12 months and a one-time grant of Rs 6,000. The government aims to provide internships for 1 crore candidates, in the age group of 21-24 years, over a period of 5 years.



Sri Lanka releases 50 Indian fishermen

Sri Lanka on Friday released 50 Indian fishermen arrested by its Navy for allegedly poaching in the island nation's waters, the Indian mission here said. Fishermen from both countries are arrested frequently for inadvertently trespassing into each other's waters. "Returning home! 50 Indian fishermen from Mayiladuthurai, Pudukottai and Nagapattinam have been released today and will be repatriated from Sri Lanka to Tamil Nadu later this week," the High Commission of India in Colombo posted on X along with some photographs of the released fishermen. The development comes amidst External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar visiting Colombo to further strengthen India-Sri Lanka ties. The fishermen issue is a contentious one in the ties between India and Sri Lanka, with Lankan Navy personnel even firing at Indian fishermen in the Palk Strait and seizing their boats in several alleged incidents of illegally entering Sri Lankan territorial waters.

Big push to Hyd..

Continued from page 1

infrastructure and ensuring the state's steady development. He said that they are working tirelessly to set right the devastation caused in Telangana over the past decade and are moving towards inclusive, sustainable development. During the event, Venkat emphasised the need for urbanisation in Telangana in line with the rapidly expanding global urban culture. He said the Congress government is laying strong foundations for future development with plans to transform the state's image by constructing numerous infrastructural facilities. He said the government is determined to change the face of Hyderabad. The admin is providing roads, ROBs (Road Over Bridges), RUBs (Road Under Bridges), and new link roads. He also addressed the challenge of solid waste management in urban areas, stating that STPs (Sewage Treatment Plants) are being established to improve wastewater management. Venkat said that Telangana is the only state in the country providing unlimited floor space in a limited area. In this context, he added that special attention is

being paid to fire safety systems, traffic control, infrastructure and facilities. Chief Minister Anumula Revanth Reddy, along with his cabinet, has launched 19 projects under SPEED (Smart, Proactive, Efficient, Effective Delivery) to accelerate infra development. The key projects launched under the Musi Riverfront Development Project are the construction of new airports, establishing satellite towns, metro expansion, GHMC restructuring, elevated corridors in Secunderabad and other cities, Regional Ring Road (RRR), High Court building construction, Integrated Residential School Complexes and the new Osmania University building. He also said building parking facilities on the High Court premises under the PPP model is being considered. He said that the government has allocated Rs 10,000 crore in the budget for Hyderabad's development and is moving forward with plans to make Hyderabad one of the most livable cities in the world. The Telangana government is committed to improving environmental sustainability and with support from the World Bank, efforts are underway to achieve net-zero emissions.

28 Naxals gunned down..

Continued from page 1

Earlier, Dantewada Superintendent of Police Gaurav Rai had said around 30 Naxalites were killed in the gun battle. In a post on X, CM Sai said, "There is news of 28 Naxalites gunned down in an encounter with security forces in the border area of Narayanpur-Dantewada districts. The great success achieved by the soldiers is commendable. I salute their courage and valour." "Our fight to eliminate Naxalism will end only after

reaching its conclusion. Our double engine government is determined for this. Eliminating Naxalism from the state is our aim," he added. With this latest encounter, 185 Maoists have been gunned down by the security forces in separate gun battles in the Bastar region comprising seven districts, including Dantewada and Narayanpur, so far this year, police said. On April 16, as many as 29 Naxalites, including some higher-ranking cadres, were killed in an encounter with security personnel in Kanker district.

India assures support to Sri Lanka's development

PNS ■ COLOMBO

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday met Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake and discussed "ways to deepen ongoing cooperation and strengthen India-Sri Lanka ties," and assured India's continued support to the island nation's economic rebuilding.

Jaishankar, who is here on a day-long visit, less than a fortnight after President Dissanayake was sworn in, also met Prime Minister Harini Amarasinghe and his counterpart Vijitha Herath.

Jaishankar is the first foreign dignitary to visit Sri Lanka since the National People's Power (NPP) government led by Dissanayake came to power on September 23. "Honoured to call on President @anuradissanayake today in Colombo. Conveyed warm greetings of President Droupadi Murmu and PM @narendramodi," Jaishankar posted on X.

"Appreciate his warm sentiments and guidance for the

EAM meets Lanka's President



India-Sri Lanka relations. Discussed ways to deepen ongoing cooperation and strengthen India-Sri Lanka ties for the benefit of people of two countries and the region," he said further in the post.

Soon after, Dissanayake took to X to post and said discussions focused on boosting cooperation in tourism, energy, and investment and on continued collaboration on fisheries, security, and national unity. "Met

Indian External Affairs Minister @DrSJaishankar today (04), during his official visit to Sri Lanka," he said.

"Discussions focused on boosting cooperation in tourism, energy, and investment. Dr. Jaishankar reaffirmed India's support for Sri Lanka's economic recovery. The importance of continued collaboration on fisheries, security, and national unity was also discussed," the Sri Lankan president added in his post on X. He was earlier received at the airport by Sri Lankan Foreign Secretary Aruni Wijewardena and the Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Santosh Jha.

Jaishankar also met Prime Minister Harini Amarasinghe after which he posted on X along with the photos of the two leaders: "Pleased to meet PM @Dr_HariniA today. Conveyed good wishes for her new responsibility. Discussed Digital Public Infrastructure, training and capacity building. Agreed to work together to advance our partnership."

SELECTION PROCESS OF JUNIOR ENGINEERS

SC sets aside Bihar govt's decision

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday described as "impermissible" the Bihar government's decision to scrap the 2019 selection process for the appointment of over 6,000 junior engineers in the state's water resources department.

A bench comprising Justice Bela M Trivedi and Justice Satish Chandra Sharma said scrapping the entire selection process after its completion "amounts to effectively changing the rules of the game after the game was played,

which is impermissible".

It directed the Bihar Technical Service Commission (BTSC) to proceed with the appointment process according to the fresh select list submitted by them before the Patna High Court.

"The Fresh Select List be prepared in view of order dated April 19, 2022, passed by the High Court and the fresh select list shall also include as far as possible those meritorious candidates who were otherwise eligible but were declared ineligible solely on account of the 2017 amendment to the Rules i.e. on account

of their institute not being recognised by the AICTE, and all similarly placed successful candidates," the bench ordered.

It directed the BTSC to prepare the revised select list of successful candidates within three months and ordered the state government to appoint them within 30 days thereafter.

The judgement came on an appeal against the Patna High Court verdict which had closed the pending cases against the appointment process after taking note of the state's decision that it has cancelled the selection process.

Apex court forms..

Continued from page 1

The court said in the independent SIT, the two officers from the CBI would be nominated by its director while the two officers from the Andhra Pradesh Police would be named by the state government. The FSSAI chairperson would nominate a senior officer of the authority to be a part of the SIT, it said.

The bench also directed that the SIT shall work under the supervision of the CBI director. "We clarify that we would not permit the court to be used as a political battleground," the bench said. "However, in order to assuage the feelings of crores of people/devotees, we find that the investigation should be conducted by an independent SIT consisting of the representatives of the CBI, representatives of the state government and a representative of

Continued from page 1

Addressing the delay in distributing the promised Rythu Bharosa funds for the monsoon season, KTR criticised the administration for its lack of commitment to farmers' welfare. "If there is Rs 1.5 lakh crore available for Musi cleanup, why aren't there funds for farmers' Rythu Bharosa and to pay bonus for ordinary paddy?" he asked. He demanded that the Rs 500 per quintal bonus, promised for all paddy varieties, must be paid immediately. He accused the

the FSSAI," it said.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu had claimed earlier this month that animal fat was used in preparing Tirupati laddus during the previous Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy-led regime in the state, triggering a massive political row. The YSR Congress Party accused Naidu of indulging in "heinous allegations" for political gains while the ruling Telugu Desam Party in the state has circulated a laboratory report to back its claim. The apex court passed the order on a batch of pleas, including those seeking a court-monitored probe into the alleged use of animal fat in making Tirupati laddus.

The bench noted these petitions have sought various reliefs, including a direction to constitute a committee consisting of a retired apex court judge or a retired chief justice of the

high court for a deeper probe into the allegations.

It noted an FIR was registered in the matter alleging that the ghee received in tankers supplied on July 6 and July 12 was found to be adulterated. The bench said it is alleged in the FIR that adulterated ghee was used for preparing prasadam or laddus.

"The allegations in the FIR have the potential of hurting the sentiments of crores of devotees/people residing worldwide," it said. "We, however, clarify that the instant order passed by this court should not be construed as any reflection on the independence or the fairness of the officers of the SIT constituted by the state government," the bench said.

"We are passing order regarding entrustment of this matter to an independent agency consisting of the aforesaid members only to assuage the feelings of crores of people/devotees having faith in the deity," it said while disposing of the petitions.

Loan waiver..

Congress admin of deceiving farmers by failing to disburse last season's bonus payments.

KTR submitted a letter on Thursday to the Chief Minister demanding prompt action on this issue. He noted that farmers had expected an announcement during the CM's review meeting on paddy procurement but were left disappointed when only fine paddy was addressed. "Farmers expected a bonus of Rs 500 per quintal for all

paddy varieties and not a partial fulfillment," he emphasised. KTR also criticised the government's failure to address Rythu Bharosa, reminding the administration of its commitment to provide Rs 7,500 per acre under this scheme. "During the 2023 election campaign, the Congress promised immediate Rythu Bharosa, but even basic investment aid remains unpaid," he remarked. KTR also pointed out the delays in the government's loan waiver scheme, which, despite a 100% waiver claim, remains incomplete.

Will bring new Revenue Act..

Continued from page 1

the government would link the smart card with white ration cards and all its schemes and that the government would distribute the smart cards to the public before Dasara. The government will provide welfare schemes to the public through smart cards based on eligibility norms. He said the government will provide Asara pensions and fine variety rice from January 2025. The government will soon release Rs 13,000 crore to farmers whose loans have not been waived so far, Ponguleti added.

CM going to..

Continued from page 1

The Centre gave Rs 3300 crore to the two Telugu states as immediate help.

However, a few days ago the Centre released Rs 5,858 crore from NDRF funds to 14 states. Telangana got Rs 416.80 crore from it. Keeping this in view, the Chief Minister decided to submit a report once again to the Centre seeking more funds.

OPPOSING ST STATUS TO DHANGARS

Maha Dy Speaker, tribal leaders jump onto Mantralaya net



PNS ■ MUMBAI

Tribal leaders, including Deputy Speaker Narhari Zirwal, protesting against the demand to include the Dhargar community in the Scheduled Tribe list, on Friday jumped from the third floor of Maharashtra state secretariat Mantralaya on the safety net just a floor below.

No injuries were reported in the incident that saw tense moments unfolding at the six-storey Mantralaya complex.

Zirwal, his fellow Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) legislator Kiran Lahamate and BJP tribal MP Hemant Savara were among those who jumped from the third floor onto the safety net installed on the second floor, a precaution taken in response to previous suicide attempts at the site.

The incident occurred around 12.40 pm, a police official said. The protest, which involved two MLAs and an MP from the ruling Mahayuti alliance, highlighted escalating tensions over the government's handling of tribal issues. After the police personnel

removed these leaders from the net, these tribal representatives then gathered in the ground floor passage and began a sit-in claiming that Chief Minister Eknath Shinde was not meeting them to discuss the quota issue.

Dhargar or shepherd community in the state is demanding ST category inclusion for the purpose of reservation. But Zirwal and other tribal leaders are protesting against this demand.

"I am an adivasi first and then an MLA and a deputy speaker," Zirwal told reporters when asked what led him to resort to such a protest.

"CM Shinde should meet the protesters," he added.

BJP MLC Gopichand Padalkar said Zirwal holds a constitutional post and there is no need to take such an extreme step.

Zirwal said the state government should offer protection to students who have been protesting since a fortnight against the halt to recruitment under the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA) in Maharashtra.

Ensure communication gaps..

Continued from page 1

the part of police officials as no date was mentioned in the charge sheets. He submitted that necessary action will be taken against the officials for the lapses. The state government counsel also apologised for the communication gap and said that it wouldn't be repeated again.

The bench asked the DGP to file an affidavit indicating the lapses noticed by the court on October 1. The top court was hearing a plea by Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) leader Vatti Janaiah Yadav, who was earlier part of the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS). He had moved the apex court last year alleging criminal persecution by the then BRS-led state government after he quit the BRS and joined the BSP. The top court last year granted interim protection from arrest to Yadav in

multiple FIRs lodged against him. On October 1, expressing displeasure over the "disconnect" between the prosecution and the government counsel in a criminal matter, the top court asked the DGP to appear before it.

The court got miffed over the counsel for Telangana not knowing the relevant dates when the charge sheets were filed in criminal matters related to Yadav despite a specific query. The counsel had simply submitted that the charge sheets had been filed.

"We are indeed surprised by the response of the government counsel as the respective dates of filing of the charge sheets should either be readily accessible or the instructing officer should have indicated the relevant dates of the charge sheets together when the information was given that charge sheets were filed.

Are women ministers fighting..

Continued from page 1

The film industry never reacted against Revanth Reddy who started these allegations without naming film actors. There was also no criticism when CPI Secretary Dr K. Narayana criticised Nagarjuna terming Big Boss as 'Brothel House' etc. There was no criticism even when casting couch allegations surfaced. However, in the case of Surekha, the criticism is still going on but the Congress party and the government remained mere spectators creating doubts.

Teenmar Mallanna warned

Alkineni Nagarjuna saying that we will see how far they will go. Criticising the defamation case filed by Nagarjuna, Mallanna said that the entire episode looks like they are vengeful towards the lady minister as she is a BC. Mallanna asked the critics to explain why they failed to react in the same manner when Nagarjuna constructed his 'N Convention' illegally.

One party leader, on condition of anonymity, said that it is time for the Congress and the government to control the controversy or else it will demoralise Congress cadres and leaders, particularly BCs and STs.

Continued from page 1

the opposition leaders who had making allegations against him to witness the process.

The letter reads: Dear Mr Revanth Reddy, "I will wholeheartedly support every program and scheme undertaken by the Congress government and strive to implement them with sincerity. Although it is regrettable to have to convey this to a Congress Chief Minister today, it cannot be avoided.

"The Musi River Rejuvenation Project is one of the most cherished projects of the Congress party. I clearly remember that when the Congress government was formed under Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy in 2004, spe-

KVP backs Musi Project, rues..

cial attention was given to the Musi River rejuvenation program. Renowned architect Hafeez Contractor was invited to suggest a way for the Musi rejuvenation. I was also a key participant in those discussions.

"On August 24, 2005, a scheme called 'Save Musi' was launched at an estimated cost of Rs 908 crore through YS. However, due to priorities such as free electricity for agriculture, subsidies for farmers, loan waivers, prevention of farmer suicides, and free medical services under the Rajiv Arogyasree scheme for the poor, along with significant irrigation projects, the

Congress government decided to utilize financial resources carefully and not burden future generations with debt.

"Understanding that significant funds were necessary to provide satisfactory resettlement for every poor/middle-class individual affected by the Musi rejuvenation and to restore the river to its former state; the Congress government could not continue the project. Although YS had a strong desire to implement it effectively in the subsequent term, this could not happen due to his untimely death.

"In January 2020, while serving as a Member of Parliament,

I registered as a voter in the Nereducharla Municipal Corporation as per party directives. During the Municipal Corporation presidential elections, I visited Nereducharla twice with then PCC president Uttam Kumar Reddy. I learned in detail about the polluted Musi waters, the problems faced by the local people, and the need for rejuvenation. I felt deep regret that this rejuvenation could not be initiated during YS's tenure.

"Therefore, I fully welcome and support the Musi rejuvenation/beautification initiative now undertaken by the Congress government under

your leadership. In fact, I suggested that it would be beneficial for the government to carry out the Musi rejuvenation in the first phase and the beautification in the second phase. However, noting your interest, vision, and competence, I have faith that this matter will be considered. As a disciplined Congress worker, I welcome all development works undertaken by our government that do not harm the poor.

"In this project, both BRS and BJP leaders, along with their supportive media, speak of injustice to the poor, but all of this is to protect their self-interests. The welfare and development of Dalits, tribals, backward classes, minorities, and the poor is the fundamental principle of the

Congress party. The attempts by the Opposition to undermine your aspirations are merely crocodile tears, which the people of the country are aware of. I also condemn their efforts to thwart your goals.

"Regarding the farmhouse owned by my family in Aziz Nagar, opposition leaders are repeatedly making allegations for their own selfish interests, attempting to put a gun to your shoulder and shoot me, thus trying to corner you. It deeply distresses me as a disciplined Congress worker that the opposition uses me and the farmhouse in my family's name to make baseless accusations against you and our party.

- KVP Ramachandra Rao



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PAPER WITH PASSION

How secular is India?

As India grapples with internal strife and external criticism, the debate surrounding its commitment to secularism intensifies

India, a nation characterised by its rich tapestry of religious diversity, has long championed the values of secularism and pluralism. However, the landscape of religious freedom in the country has come under scrutiny, particularly with the recent designation by the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) of India as a "Country of Particular Concern." This designation has ignited a contentious debate, leading to a sharp rebuke from the Indian government, which labeled the USCIRF a "biased organisation with a political agenda." In its 2024 report, the USCIRF highlighted alarming trends regarding religious freedom in India. The commission reported instances of violence against individuals based on their religious identity, citing cases of killings, beatings and lynchings carried out by vigilante groups. It also noted the arbitrary arrests of religious leaders and the demolition of homes and places of worship, characterising these actions as severe violations of religious freedom. The report further pointed to changes in India's legal framework that, according to the USCIRF, target and disenfranchise religious minorities. These changes include the controversial Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the implementation of a uniform civil code. Such measures, the USCIRF argues, contribute to a climate of fear and marginalisation for non-Hindu communities. In response to the USCIRF's assertions, the Indian Ministry of External Affairs firmly rejected the report. Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal described the commission's narrative as a "motivated" misrepresentation of facts aimed at maligning India's image on the global stage. The ministry's statement emphasised that the USCIRF's reporting is unscientific and driven by an agenda that fails to reflect the realities of India's democracy. It is true that no external agency or country has right to give us lessons in religious freedom and tolerance as we have practiced it since ancient times. Moreover, they have skeletons in their own cupboard which they would better take care first. The trigger happy policemen in the US don't think twice before shooting a black guy for not pulling over his car. But having said that it is time for us to reflect and introspect. To be fair, religious freedom has eroded in the recent years. There have been lynching incidents and that is not a made up thing. We may say that they are isolated incidents but they are enough to send a message to the community. Moreover, the attacks on churches and other religious places have been reported from across the country all this while the police looked the other way or just took mild action. It is time to ensure one and all that India is safe as it has been for ages for people of all religions and castes. And India as a State does not discriminate people for the religion they practice or food they eat. The concerns raised by the USCIRF may be exaggerated and they may make isolated incidents look mainstream but the government must maintain zero tolerance for such incidents so that no outside agency dare raise a pointing figure at us.



entific and driven by an agenda that fails to reflect the realities of India's democracy. It is true that no external agency or country has right to give us lessons in religious freedom and tolerance as we have practiced it since ancient times. Moreover, they have skeletons in their own cupboard which they would better take care first. The trigger happy policemen in the US don't think twice before shooting a black guy for not pulling over his car. But having said that it is time for us to reflect and introspect. To be fair, religious freedom has eroded in the recent years. There have been lynching incidents and that is not a made up thing. We may say that they are isolated incidents but they are enough to send a message to the community. Moreover, the attacks on churches and other religious places have been reported from across the country all this while the police looked the other way or just took mild action. It is time to ensure one and all that India is safe as it has been for ages for people of all religions and castes. And India as a State does not discriminate people for the religion they practice or food they eat. The concerns raised by the USCIRF may be exaggerated and they may make isolated incidents look mainstream but the government must maintain zero tolerance for such incidents so that no outside agency dare raise a pointing figure at us.

PICTALK



A child looks at dolls depicting scenes from Ramayana during the Dussehra Doll festival, in Bengaluru

Double-edged sword of social media: Impact on relationships

While it offers the promise of community and instant communication, the allure of curated perfection can lead to unrealistic expectations and strain relationships

Social media has become an integral part of modern life, connecting people from all corners of the globe. While it offers numerous benefits, such as facilitating communication and fostering community, it also poses significant challenges to relationships and mental health. One of the most significant ways social media can impact relationships is by creating unrealistic expectations. The carefully curated images and posts that people share online often portray an idealised version of their lives. This can lead to feelings of inadequacy and comparison, as individuals may feel pressure to measure up to the perceived perfection of others. Additionally, the constant stream of information and updates can make it difficult to maintain deep and meaningful connections with loved ones. Social media can also contribute to the breakdown of relationships. The anonymity and lack of accountability that the internet provides



can create a breeding ground for cyberbullying, harassment and online infidelity. These behaviours can erode trust, damage relationships and have a devastating impact on mental health. Furthermore, the constant pressure to be online and connected can lead to feelings of anxiety and stress. The fear of missing out (FOMO) can drive individuals to spend excessive amounts of time scrolling through social media feeds, neglecting their relationships and other important aspects of their lives. This can lead to feelings of isolation, loneliness and low self-esteem. The impact of social media on mental health can be particularly severe for young people, who are often heavy users of these platforms. Studies have shown that excessive social media use can be linked to increased rates of depression, anxiety, and even suicidal thoughts. This is in part due to the exposure to negative content, such as cyberbullying and hate speech, as well as

the constant comparison to others. On the other hand, social media can also have positive effects on relationships and mental health. It can provide a platform for connecting with like-minded individuals, building supportive communities, and sharing experiences. Social media can also be a valuable tool for staying in touch with friends and family who live far away. To mitigate the negative impacts of social media on relationships and mental health, it is important to use it mindfully. Set limits on your social media usage, be mindful of the content you share, take breaks from social media, prioritize real-life connections, and seek support if needed. By using social media in a healthy and balanced way, individuals can reap its benefits while minimising its risks. (The author is an award-winning poet, novelist, writing retreat curator, and founder of TheWriteScene.com, based in Dubai; views are personal)



DEEBA SALIM IRFAN

NATO's eastward march threatens Asian stability

For Asia, aligning with NATO's expansionist policies risks destabilising the region and eroding cultural values of peace and coexistence



NILANTHA LANGAMUWA

NATO's expansion into Asia poses a monumental danger that threatens not only regional stability but also the core values of peace and coexistence that many Asian countries uphold. The recent change in NATO leadership, with Mark Rutte taking the helm, may suggest a potential for new strategies, but the underlying policies and militaristic attitudes of the alliance remain unchanged. The illusion of progress is merely that—an illusion—while NATO's intentions to maintain a prolonged battlefield in Ukraine serve as a reflection of its true objectives. As observed, the US weapons sales surged dramatically in 2023, reaching a record total of \$238 billion as the demand for arms skyrocketed due to the ongoing conflict. Profiting from the sale of weapons on one hand and exploiting the suffering of unarmed civilians across Europe and West Asia is becoming increasingly reprehensible. This reflects a strategic mindset where war is not an unfortunate circumstance but an industry. This is, however, not a new phenomenon. This is how we "civilisations" behave. The history of military alliances has consistently illustrated a paradoxical truth: nations often proclaim peace while simultaneously preparing for war and engaging in it. The recent rise of Japan's Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, who has advocated for an 'Asian NATO', is nothing but a sign of a looming storm ahead. Ishiba's call for deeper ties among Asian nations and the establishment of a NATO-like grouping echoes sentiments that prioritise militarisation over diplomacy. This vision stands in stark contrast to the scepticism expressed by India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who highlighted India's unique historical position and its reluctance to embrace the treaty alliances that such a framework would entail. Ishiba's proposition to station Japanese troops on the US soil and share control of nuclear weapons highlights the extreme lengths to which some leaders are willing to go in the name of security, yet it has not received significant backing from



the US administration, signalling the complexities and limitations of this vision. While NATO presents itself as a bastion of defence, its actions betray a far more sinister agenda.

The alliance has not only prolonged conflicts but has also turned them into battlegrounds for competing ideologies and geopolitical power plays. This relentless devastation not only lays waste to nations but also serves the insatiable appetites of the arms industry, which reaps substantial profits from the chaos of ongoing warfare. Evidence reveals that the US government perceives conflicts as lucrative ventures rather than humanitarian crises. Nations that align themselves with NATO risk becoming collateral damage in a power struggle that has little regard for their sovereignty or cultural identity. The allure of NATO's promises can be enticing, but history teaches us that aligning with powerful military alliances often leads to disastrous outcomes. Karl Marx posited that "history repeats itself, first as tragedy, second as farce." NATO's past interventions, from the Balkans to Afghanistan, and today's Ukraine showcase a pattern of destruction that is all too familiar. The question remains: will Asia fall into this trap once again, sacrificing its autonomy



THE HISTORY OF MILITARY ALLIANCES HAS CONSISTENTLY ILLUSTRATED A PARADOXICAL TRUTH: NATIONS OFTEN PROCLAIM PEACE WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY PREPARING FOR WAR AND ENGAGING IN IT

for the sake of Western agendas? Moreover, the political discourse surrounding NATO often ignores the implications of its militarisation on social stability and development. This is particularly relevant as Asian nations find themselves increasingly pressured to align with NATO's militaristic strategies. The focus on military expenditure detracts from addressing pressing social issues, economic development, and environmental sustainability. The growing arms race in Asia, driven by NATO's expansion, threatens to spark regional conflict with catastrophic consequences, echoing the historical precedent set before World War I. The belief that increased military presence fosters stability is fundamentally flawed, often leading to insecurity and competition as nations rush to arm themselves against perceived threats. This environment heightens the risk of miscalculations and unintended escalations, with incalculable costs in human lives and economic stability. Additionally, engagement in militaristic alliances under NATO's banner risks placing Asian nations in a moral quagmire, contradicting the region's philosophies that prioritise peace, harmony, and cooperation, as espoused by Confucianism, Hinduism, Islamism, and Buddhism. The very qualities that were undermined by colonialism, after

years of suffering and the sacrifices of millions, must be protected and promoted, as aligning with NATO may ultimately undermine these cultural values in favour of a destructive path centred on military solutions. Moreover, the consequences of such an alignment are not limited to immediate military conflicts. Long-term geopolitical ramifications could destabilise the entire region, further entrenching power struggles that lead to conflict. Embracing a militaristic alliance may offer a temporary illusion of security but ultimately leads to self-inflicted wounds—akin to harakiri. The path toward a more peaceful and stable future lies not in militarisation but in diplomacy, cooperation, and mutual respect. Instead of succumbing to the pressures of NATO's warmongering agenda, Asian countries should seek to forge their paths, grounded in their cultural philosophies and values that prioritise harmony and coexistence. The rhetoric of security and defence masks a more insidious agenda—one driven by the military-industrial complex that thrives on conflict and arms sales. For Asian nations, the choice to align with NATO is a perilous one, fraught with the potential for self-destruction.

(The writer is a journalist and author; views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TEN YEARS OF SWACHH BHARAT

Madam — Swachh Bharat Mission, one of the first programmes announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi after he took office in 2014, completes 10 years on October 2. The aim was to equip all households with individual toilets, ensure communities have cluster toilets to eradicate the open defecation system followed in villages, and ensure that schools and anganwadi toilets have waste management systems for both solid waste and liquid waste. To achieve this, the government's assistance was increased from Rs 10000 to Rs 12000 under the SBM scheme. Amazingly, over 10 million toilets have been constructed in rural households in 6 lakh villages till date, benefiting 50 million people, and many of these villages have been designated as open-defecation-free, which is essential for a healthy environment. Before launching SBM, unsafe sanitation caused an estimated 199 million cases of diarrhoea annually, with 3 lakh deaths. Also, a UNICEF report indicates that women in Indian villages feel safer after the installation of toilets in rural households. Also in villages declared ODF, the risk of groundwater contamination due to human waste has been reduced a lot. Though villages benefitted a lot due to the Swachh Bharat Mission, a survey has emphasised the urgent need for action against plastic pollution and air pollution in rural and urban lands. Motivating the communities against air pollution and water pollution for adopting a proper sanitation model for a healthy life is the urgent need of the hour.

P Victor Selvaraj | Tirunelveli

LAWRENCE'S FUNERAL CONTROVERSY

Madam—Apropos of the story 'The battle over CPI (M) leader M M Lawrence's final journey,' October 3, 2024. The Communists globally are political chameleons with unequal rules for the comrades. Most of the Communists,

Indian PhD system needs revamp



The Indian education system, especially the higher and research-oriented education system, has gone through so many structural changes from the past till now. But the research-oriented PhD programme still lacks somewhere to provide ease to the people vis-à-vis their admission to the doctoral program. There exist some of the undoubted systematic flaws in the UGC-NET examination score as a mandatory requisite

for taking admission in a PhD. The research work and PhD are all about deep understanding instead of memory strength of the very field of students' specialisation and interest area, in which root learning from UGC-NET could merely assist.

Already, the PhD course demands a minimum of a five-year time period for its completion, and mandating a UGC NET score as a prerequisite to taking admission in a PhD only extends the time period for aspirants interested in becoming research scholars. UGC needs to make either systematic changes in its examination pattern or needs to enhance critical thinking and innovative thinking tests for the students interested in doing PhDs from the reputed academic institutions of India. Otherwise, India will continue to bear the cost of losing some fantastic minds to non-Indian universities that offer research ease, especially at the time of admission.

Dimple Wadhawan | Kanpur

though they claim to be non-believers in God in public, may be passionate believers in God in private.

The unfortunate Lawrence episode points to the chaos the Communist ideology can create in a Communist family by vertically dividing its members into two warring factions. It also shows that even the deceased Communist may not be allowed to rest in peace by the comrades merely to accommodate their political ideology, what may to the grieving family. Once an individual is bitten by the Communist ideology, there is no escape from it, even if she/he desires to change his ideology after being convinced about the utopian Communist goals. If the die-hard comrades learn a lesson or two from the unfortunate Lawrence episode and the Party's insensitive handling of the entire episode, it would be better for the comrades.

Bichu Muttathara | Pune

STARVATION AMID GROWTH

Madam — India is the fifth-largest economy in the world. At the same time,

the Global Hunger Index-2023 ranked India 111th out of 125 countries, with the level of hunger falling in the serious category. Though the Union government had rejected this index as erroneous, it cannot be rejected altogether, as evidently West Bengal agricultural migrant labourer Samar Khan, 35, died of starvation in Chennai as he reportedly did not have money to buy food. He was admitted to Rajiv Gandhi Government Hospital after he collapsed owing to starvation. He had not eaten for six days.

His colleague, another agricultural labourer, Satya Pundit is still in the hospital. Even having a buffer stock; people dying of starvation is a slur on the country, especially when we are talking of the fifth largest economy in the world. Besides, hollow slogans of the government that nobody will be allowed to die of starvation are belied.

SK Khosla | Chandigarh

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FIRST COLUMN

THE POWER OF INTELLIGENCE, KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM

The human mind should be open to positivity and confidence, to harness intelligence and knowledge



RAVI VALLURI

Two thousand five hundred years ago, a prince from the formidable Sakya dynasty, in the quest for reality and truth, discarded his monarchical apparel to adorn ochre robes and went on to become Gautama the monk. He and his mind incessantly wandered till the attainment of truth and insight. Upon attaining enlightenment after performing arduous tapas, Gautama the monk became Buddha the Enlightened and Compassionate One. The mind of the prince turned Bhikkhu had become hollow and empty from within and without realise the pristine verisimilitude. There is also the story of Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu. Once a young evangelist who cast away the traditions and rituals of the Catholic order, only to serve the poor and infirm (particularly those afflicted by leprosy), she was first to become a sister, then Mother Teresa, after rendering selfless yeoman service to the populace of Kolkata (then Calcutta) and humanity at large. She was the fourth Indian to be canonised on September 4, 2016, and was set in stone as St Teresa of Calcutta by Pope Francis for the phenomenal work and the miracles that have taken place. Buddha and St Teresa were not confined to monasteries and convents respectively to live their lives as ascetics in contemplation, meditation, chastity and poverty. Both were prototypical individuals who transcended boundaries to carve a niche for themselves by providing an alternative ideology.

Meanwhile, way back in the year 1943 a young Swedish national, Ingvar Kampard set up a company called IKEA. IKEA is an acronym for Ingvar Kampard Elmtyard at Agunnaryd. Today it is one of the largest ready-to-assemble furniture companies in the world. These are individuals, who with their mettlesome moves hold the ordinary traveller's gaze in askance. What differentiates them from the rest of the pack? It is not the opaci-



ty of their thought process, but looking for out-of-the-box solutions. While IKEA sets up furniture in our households, and Jio and WhatsApp provide the necessary seamless connectivity in communication, it is intriguing to decipher the letters of the acronym IKW.

I stand for Intelligence, K signifies Knowledge and W represents Wisdom. Intelligence, Knowledge, and Wisdom need to be harnessed by humans in ample measure to metamorphose our minds and lives to become true achievers. In the wired world today, we are girded with far superior technology in comparison to a few decades ago and are surrounded by a plethora of gizmos at our disposal. The product and service should necessarily be flexible, adaptable, and positively meant for the public good. Only in such a scenario will the longevity of the article in question be ensured and assured.

Siddhartha with his superior intelligence grasped that he was encumbered by misery and suffering; he gained knowledge through the various techniques of pranayama and meditation and ultimately wisdom dawned on him in the form of enlightenment. Today a seeker without living in the monastic order, living like any ordinary individual could attain and experience bliss and enlightenment by practising the technique of Vipassana.

Similarly, in the Art of Living, through the regular practice of the Sudarshan Kriya, a seeker can live in the present moment by banishing antipathetic thoughts. St. Teresa of Kolkata too possessed enormous intelligence, knowledge, and wisdom to establish the order of the Missionaries of Charity to serve the distressed sections of humanity. The human mind should be developed into a sacred place, which is malleable to embrace positivity and confidence to harness the skills of intelligence and knowledge so that the Gods bestow us with a bounty of wisdom.

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)

Bangladesh's interim Govt's crackdown on secularists



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

Shahriar Kabir's arrest, amid controversial charges linked to his long-standing fight for secularism reflects Bangladesh fundamentalists working behind the interim government



It is important to examine in some detail Shahriar Kabir's arrest in Dhaka on September 17, 2024, and the subsequent related developments, to understand the forces driving Bangladesh's interim government and direction in which it is taking the country. To start with, one must briefly look at who Kabir is. Author, journalist, film-maker and an internationally respected champion of human rights, secularism and democracy, he has also been at the forefront of the struggle to bring to justice those who had collaborated with the Pakistanis during Bangladesh's liberation war of 1971 and were their accomplices in the perpetration of crimes against humanity including mass murder and rape. He played an important role in the formation of the Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee (Committee for the Uprootment of the Killers and Collaborators of Seventy-One) under the leadership of Jahanara Imam whose husband and one of whose sons were savagely killed by the Pakistanis in 1971. Kabir, who subsequently became the organisation's president, was, at the time of his arrest, president of its advisory committee. Second, one needs to look at the circumstances of his arrest, the charges against him and his accusers and their ties with the interim government. According to a report in The Dhaka Tribune, datelined September 17, 2024 and carried under the heading "Shahriar Kabir arrested in Dhaka," Mufti Harun Izhar Chowdhury, joint secretary of the Hefazat-e-Islam (Hefazat), filed, on August 20, 2024, a complaint with the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) in Dhaka, against Sheikh Hasina and 23 others—one of them being Kabir—accusing them of crimes against humanity and mass murder in connection with a rally by Hefazat on May 5, 2013. Further, according to a report in The Daily Star, datelined September 18, 2024, and carried under the heading "Shahriar Kabir placed on 7-day remand," Kabir, along with Mozammel Babu, was produced before the court with a 10-day remand plea by the police, in a case concerning the death of a domestic help, Liza Akter, during the quota



TO START WITH, ONE MUST BRIEFLY LOOK AT WHO KABIR IS. AUTHOR, JOURNALIST, FILM-MAKER AND AN INTERNATIONALLY RESPECTED CHAMPION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, SECULARISM AND DEMOCRACY

reform protests. The report cited a sub-inspector of police present in the court as saying that Dhaka's Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Md Sanallah, passed the orders remanding him custody for seven days. A report datelined September 17, 2024, and published in *Prothom Alo* English under the heading, "Shahriar Kabir, Nurul Islam arrested," cited sources as saying that Kabir was an accused in several murder cases filed with Jatrabari and other police stations in Dhaka. According to information available with this writer, seven murder cases have so far been levelled against him besides the one the ICT. The levelling of murder charges against a person of Kabir's stature is not only laughable but suggests, as in a number of other cases, planned and coordinated behind-the-scenes effort. As seen, the case before the ICT has been filed by Mufti Harun Izhar Chowdhury, joint secretary of the Hefazat-e-Islam (Hefazat) accusing Sheikh Hasina and 23 others, including Kabir, of crimes against humanity and mass murder in connection with a rally by Hefazat on May 5, 2013. According to a report in The Dhaka Tribune (August 19, 2024) under the heading "Hefazat rally in Shapla Chattar: Odhikar publishes list of killed people," Odhikar, a human rights organisation, published on Monday (August 19) a list of people allegedly killed during the Awami League-led government's crackdown on the Hefazat's rally on May 5-6, 2013, at Shapla Chattar in Dhaka. The list, originally published in 2013, had led to action against the organisation by the Awami League government. Citing persecution by the latter government, Odhikar, according to the

report, urged the interim government to immediately form an independent inquiry commission headed by a Supreme Court judge and conduct an impartial investigation into the extrajudicial killings committed on May 5 and 6 of 2013 and bring the perpetrators to justice. The *Dhaka Tribune* report did not mention whether Odhikar had named the perpetrators. As seen above, Hefazat's complaint was filed on August 20, 2024, the day after Odhikar's post. Three questions arise here. What was the number of people killed? Was the rally peaceful? What was the context in which it was held and what were the Hefazat's demands? Against the Odhikar's figures, a BBC report, datelined May 6, 2024, stated that at least 27 persons had been killed and dozens hurt in the clashes. It also said that at least two of the dead were policemen. Also, the fact that the police, according to the report, "used stun grenades and rubber bullets" to disperse the protestors indicates an effort to keep the casualties to minimum. The rally was extremely violent. The report cites one witness as saying that the demonstrators "were very aggressive, some people were throwing stones and the situation quickly become violent... the police had no option but to respond". The witness further told the BBC, "Rioters vandalised markets and set fire to bookshops where the Holy Koran is sold. Thousands of Koran and religious books burned. They also attacked the ruling party's political office and national mosque." The Hefazat's 13-point programme includes the enactment of an anti-blasphemy law with provision for death penalty, exemplary punishment to all bloggers and others who "insult Islam," cancellation of

Bangladesh's policy for women's development, bans on the erection of sculptures in public places, the mixing of men and women in public, candlelight vigils, and "shameless behaviour and dresses," besides declaring Ahmadiyas as "non-Muslims." Nadia Sarmin, covering its rally for ETV, was mercilessly beaten for daring to be a woman "in a men only" event. Grievously injured, she was rescued by other journalists. It is not surprising if all this reminds one of the Taliban's agenda, a DW report (May 9, 2013) by Graham Lucas under the heading "Bangladesh Chaos," cited Maulana Habibur Rahman, one of the Hefazat leaders, as boasting of his role in the 1980s Afghan war and his support to the former al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden. The interim government has close and warm relations with the Hefazat. It has lifted the ban on the organisation. The advisor for religious affairs, AFM Khalid Hossain, is the latter's Nayeb-e-Amir. Chief Advisor Mohammad Yunus had a long and cordial meeting on August 31, 2024, with Mamunul Haque, the organisations head. The Hefazat is holding rallies and processions all over the country. It is in this context that one has to see Shahriar Kabir's arrest and continued detention, in the teeth of demands for his release by international human rights activists and organisations. The idea is to send a clear message to people in Bangladesh: do not champion secular democracy and humanism and oppose Islamic fundamentalism. If we can send Shahriar Kabir to jail, we can also send you there. (The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer; views expressed are personal)

Legal tussles over EWS quota violations undermine RTE Act in Delhi

The violation of the Economically Weaker Section quota under the Right to Education Act continues to plague India's education system

The consistent violation of the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) quota under the Right to Education (RTE) Act has become a troubling issue across India, particularly in major cities like Delhi. Despite clear legal mandates, several private schools continue to deny admissions to children who rightfully qualify under this provision, creating a barrier to equal educational opportunities for underprivileged communities. Recent legal proceedings in the Delhi High Court have once again brought this issue to the forefront, highlighting the need for stricter enforcement of the law to safeguard the rights of EWS students. A case in point is Master Ayan



B K JHA

Saifi, a 4-year-old son of Shahid who had been allotted a seat through a computerised draw of lots conducted by Delhi's Directorate of Education (DoE) for the academic year 2024-25. But, a leading private Senior Secondary School in Rohini denied the admission and that ensued a legal tussle. Shahid approached to Delhi

High Court with his plight and sought justice. It is misconception that lawyers are reluctant to take up such cases especially for people coming from lower strata of society. Credit goes to a young Delhi lawyer Aman Sharma who took up the case for the kid and secured provisional admission for Ayan Saifi to the school. The Delhi High Court, under the guidance of Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma, acknowledged the violation of the RTE Act and in an interim order granted provisional admission to the child, emphasising the school's legal obligation to comply with the EWS quota. The RTE Act 2009 is a landmark legislation that ensures free and compulso-

ry education for all children aged 6 to 14. One of its key provisions mandates that 25 per cent of seats in private unaided schools be reserved for children from EWS and disadvantaged groups (DG). This quota is intended to promote inclusive education and bridge the gap between socio-economic disparities. However, despite the importance of this provision, its implementation has been met with resistance from many private schools, not only in Delhi but schools across the country. The refusal of admission highlights the ongoing challenge in enforcing this law. It violates a child's fundamental right to education under Article 21-A of the Constitution. "Denying chil-



dren from economically weaker sections the education they are entitled to, despite a confirmed allotment, not only goes against the spirit of the Right to Education Act but also creates unnecessary hurdles for families already facing socio-economic challenges," argues advocate Sharma. A pattern of non-compliance

can easily be seen and unfortunately, it has become pervasive across private educational institutions. Ayan's case is not an isolated incident. Private schools in Delhi have repeatedly been found guilty of disregarding the EWS quota, prompting legal battles that seek to restore the rightful educational opportunities for

underprivileged children. In March 2024, the Delhi High Court revised the income threshold for EWS admissions, reinforced eligibility criteria and offered clearer guidance. However, schools have continued to evade their responsibilities. A similar ruling in 2022 in the case of Rameshwar Jha v. Principal Richmond Global School set a precedent for punitive action against schools that refuse EWS admissions. The Delhi High Court had then warned that schools could face severe consequences under the Delhi School Education Act, 1973, for non-compliance with the RTE Act. Yet, schools still engage in tactics that delay or deny admission to EWS

students, forcing families to take the matter to court. The larger issue at hand is the erosion of trust in educational institutions and the judiciary's role in upholding constitutional rights. Advocate Sharma urges the Directorate of Education (DoE) and the judiciary to take stringent actions against schools that defy the RTE Act, calling for penalties and stricter enforcement measures. It becomes imperative for policymakers, educators, and civil society to collaborate in upholding the principles of the RTE Act and to work towards a more inclusive education system. (Author is a senior journalist; views expressed are personal)

IN BRIEF



Forex kitty jumps \$12.588 bln to hit record high

India's forex reserves jumped by USD 12.588 billion to a new all-time high of USD 704.885 billion for the week ended September 27, the Reserve Bank said on Friday. The overall kitty had swelled by USD 2.838 billion to USD 692.296 billion in the previous reporting week. The USD 12.588 billion would be one of the highest weekly rises ever and this is the first time the reserves have crossed the USD 700 billion mark. For the week ended September 27, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased by USD 10.468 billion to USD 616.154 billion, the data released on Friday showed. Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves. Gold reserves increased by USD 2.184 billion to USD 65.796 billion during the week, the central bank said. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up by USD 8 million to USD 18.547 billion, it said.



Gold hits fresh all-time high of Rs 78,450 per 10 gm

Gold prices rose by Rs 150 to hit a fresh all-time high of Rs 78,450 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday on increased demand from jewellers and retailers driven by the ongoing festive season. The precious metal closed at Rs 78,300 per 10 grams on Thursday. Silver surged Rs 1,035 to Rs 94,200 per kg from Rs 93,165 per kg in the previous session, according to the All India Sarafa Association. Meanwhile, gold of 99.5 per cent purity climbed Rs 200 to reach an all-time high level of Rs 78,100 per 10 grams. Bullion traders attributed the rise in precious metal prices to the emergence of buying by jewellers and retailers driven by the ongoing 'Navratri' festival. In futures trade on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold contracts for December delivery rose Rs 131 or 0.17 per cent to Rs 76,375 per 10 grams, hovering near an all-time high.



Piramal Capital raises USD 150 mln from bond sale

Piramal Capital and Housing Finance on Friday said it has raised USD 150 million through a global bond sale. The bonds will be issued at a yield of 7.078 per cent and will have to be repaid in 3.32 years, according to a company statement. The company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Piramal Enterprises, had raised USD 300 million from a sustainability bond issuance in July this year. In the latest issue, it achieved a 0.87 per cent improvement in pricing as against the 7.950 for the bonds issued in July 2024, the statement said. The issue saw subscriptions of USD 520 million or an oversubscription of 3.5 times, the statement said, adding that a total of 40 investors participated in the final issuance. From a geographical spread perspective, 92 per cent of the funds were raised from Asia, while the rest was from Europe, Middle East and Africa, it said, adding that 95 per cent of the money raised was from asset managers and 5 per cent was from banks.

US-China trade war may help India to attract investments: GTRI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The escalation in the US-China trade war is expected to help India increase its exports and attract investments from American companies, think tank GTRI said on Friday.

He said that last month, the US Senate introduced two bills that could intensify the trade war and have major global economic impacts if passed.

The 'Neither Permanent Nor Normal Trade Relations Act' (PNTR Act) and the 'Axing Non-Market Tariff Evasion Act' (ANTE Act) aim to counter China's trade practices by raising tariffs and imposing new trade barriers.

The PNTR Act seeks to phase out China's favourable trade status, while the ANTE Act targets non-market economies like China and Russia with tougher measures, the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said. "While these bills aim to protect US industries, they also create opportunities for countries like India to grow their manufacturing sectors."

"As US companies look for alternatives to China, India could see increased investment in electronics, textiles, and manufacturing, enhancing its position in global supply chains," GTRI Founder Ajay Srivastava said.

In this background, he said, India should reconsider its proposals to invite Chinese firms and investment aimed at boosting exports.

The higher tariffs on Chinese products present an opportunity for India to strengthen its manufacturing sector, he added.

He also said that both bills create a potential for growth in local industries.

"As US companies reduce their reliance on China, India's expanding manufacturing sector, especially in electronics, textiles, and other industries, could attract more investment," he said.

The GTRI suggested to the government that India should actively work to attract investment from multinational companies seeking alternatives to China.

Goyal: No change in policy on multi-brand retailing

PNS ■ WASHINGTON

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal on Thursday categorically ruled out the entry of multi-brand retailing in India as such a move would destroy pop-and-mom stores like that of the US. Except for this, he said, India is open to all kinds of economic reforms necessary to take the country on an accelerated growth.

"If the need arises, we can re-look at any of these (policies) or the government has the authority through cabinet approval to allow greater percentages (of foreign stakes in various sectors). Or we can go to Parliament and change it also, not a problem, though I do not think any of these requires parliamentary changes," Goyal said in response to a question at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies think-tank here.

"The important area where sometimes, and particularly in countries like the US, I hear voices is about multi-brand retail. And that is a no-no. I want to make it loud and



clear that there will be no change in our policy on multi-brand retail. America has suffered the consequences of big tech and large retail and the interplay of the two leading to almost the annihilation of mom-and-pop stores across the length and breadth of the country," he said.

Goyal said the United States can afford it because its population is much smaller compared to India and there are alternative avenues for people to do jobs in.

"And probably, you are satisfied that the rest of the youngsters are now just left to

We want them to be integrated with technology. We are happy if they get integrated with e-commerce or get a chance to withstand the business practices of the e-commerce companies. But we are not looking at changing the rules for e-commerce. Other than that, there is no sector left where we have any restrictions whatsoever," he said.

The senior leader from the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) said even in defence, 100 per cent foreign ownership is allowed in India.

"Space has been opened up to foreign ownership. It is a very open country. Money can move in and out pretty much easily with no stoppages, but there could be a process required just to make sure there is no money laundering or there is no round-tripping of money going out of India and coming back into the country as a tax arbitrage. A few safeguards are there," he said, adding that today, nobody is telling him that they are not investing in India due to any of the government policies.

Lupin subsidiary acquires 9 brands South African firm

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Drug firm Lupin on Friday said its subsidiary has acquired nine brands from the Medical Nutritional Institute SA (MNI) in South Africa, through a partnership deal with ImpiloVest.

Pharma Dynamics has acquired the nine brands along with their associated trademarks through a partnership deal with ImpiloVest, a South African investment firm, Lupin said in a statement. The acquired brands include AntaGolin, RyChol, NeuroVance, SkinVance, FlamLeve, Rheumalin, SleepVance, ImmunoVance, and OviVance, it added.

These products cater to a range of health issues such as metabolic syndrome, insulin resistance, cognitive function, skin health, inflammation and more.



SpiceJet says cleared salary, GST dues; deposited 10-month PF dues

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Crisis-hit SpiceJet, which has recently raised Rs 3,000 crore, on Friday said it has cleared all pending salary and GST dues as well as deposited ten months' dues of provident fund.

On September 23, the airline announced raising Rs 3,000 crore through Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP) of shares.

An airline spokesperson said that within the first week of raising fresh funds, it has cleared all pending salary and

GST dues and has made significant progress by depositing ten months' dues of PF. The process of clearing other outstanding dues is ongoing, he said in a statement.

Among other efforts, the airline has reached settlement with various aircraft lessors. SpiceJet has been facing multiple headwinds, including financial problems and legal woes. It is also operating with a reduced fleet.

On Friday, shares of SpiceJet fell 4.25 per cent to close at Rs 62.79 apiece on BSE.

SENSEX TUMBLES 5 PC IN FIVE DAYS Investors' wealth erodes by Rs 16 lakh cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Market investors became poorer by Rs 16.26 lakh crore in five days of heavy correction in equities amid worsening tensions in the Middle East and foreign fund outflows.

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms slumped Rs 16,26,691.48 crore to Rs 4,60,89,598.54 crore (USD 5.49 trillion) in five days of the market crash.

Since Friday last, the BSE SENSEX tumbled 4,147.67 points or 4.83 per cent.

"Negative bias continued for 5th straight session amid rising fears of a surge in crude oil prices due to the ongoing west Asia war," said Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd.

Falling for the fifth day running on Friday, the BSE SENSEX tumbled 808.65 points or 0.98 per cent to settle at 81,688.45. The benchmark hit a low of 81,532.68 and a



high of 83,368.32 during the day, reflecting a wild swing of 1,835.64 points.

"The bearish sentiment continued as investors are monitoring the escalating conflict in the Middle East and have adopted a sell-off recovery strategy.

"Crude prices have moved up sharply but may be restricted due to an increase in production from OPEC+. The drag was across sectors led by realty, auto, and FMCG except IT stocks, which gained due to expected benefits from US rate cuts and defensive nature.

"The pessimism on the market is expected to continue in the near term amidst rising crude prices and fund flows to cheaper markets like China," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said.

From the 30 SENSEX firms, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bajaj Finance, Asian Paints, Nestle, Bharti Airtel, UltraTech Cement, Hindustan Unilever, ITC, and HDFC Bank were the major laggards.

Amazon, India Post ink pact to enhance delivery capabilities

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amazon Transportation Services and the Department of Posts (India Post) on Friday announced a strategic partnership to boost nationwide delivery capabilities.

Both the entities have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to this effect.

The collaboration will work towards maximising efficiencies, optimising resource utilisation, and exploring capacity sharing across their respective logistics networks, a company statement said.

"India Post, with its extensive network of about 1,65,000 post offices, is uniquely equipped to democratise e-commerce across the nation. Our partnership with Amazon



represents a significant leap forward in our efforts to bridge the digital divide, enhancing e-commerce across for all citizens," Vandita Kaul, Secretary (Posts), Department of Post, said.

The alliance is in line with the government's vision to modernise and augment India Post's services and reach using cutting-edge technology and processes, the statement said.

The partnership dates back to 2013, when Amazon

became the first e-commerce company to collaborate with India Post to deliver consumer electronics nationwide.

In 2023, the two entities signed an MoU to create an integrated cross border logistics solution that will expand the e-commerce exports opportunity to lakhs of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) across the country.

In the last 2-3 years, India Post's footprint across Amazon logistics network has more than doubled with pickup points growing from 6 locations to 13 locations across the country, the statement said.

This along with overall improvements has resulted in a near 3-fold increase in the volume of Amazon parcels being delivered via India Post in the past 18 months, it said.

BMW, MINI sales rise by 10pc; SUV models drive demand

PNS ■ MUMBAI

German luxury carmaker BMW Group on Friday said its BMW and MINI brands recorded a 10 per cent year-on-year increase in sales at 10,556 units in India during the January-September period of 2024, which are the highest-ever numbers in 17 years for the company in a nine-month period.

The number of cars (BMW and MINI) sold in the first nine months of 2023 was 9,580 units.

Besides, the group also sold 5,638 units of Motorrad brand of motorcycles, the group announced here on Friday.

STATES' POWER TO TAX MINERAL RIGHTS SC rejects pleas for review of its verdict

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has dismissed pleas seeking review of its July 25 verdict that ruled legislative power to tax mineral rights vests with the states.

The eight judges led by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud who perused the review petitions in chamber did not find merit in them. Besides the CJ, the review order was signed by Justices Hrishikesh Roy, Abhay S Oka, JB Pardiwala, Manoj Misra, Ujjal Bhuyan, Satish Chandra Sharma and Augustine George Masih.

"Having perused the review petitions, there is no error apparent on the face of the record. No case for review under Order XLVII Rule 1 of the Supreme Court Rules 2013 has been established. The review petitions

are, therefore, dismissed," the eight judges said in the order passed on September 24 but uploaded recently.

Justice BV Nagarathna, who had dissented from the majority in the July 25 verdict by holding that only the Centre has the power to levy the tax on mineral rights, passed a separate order in the review petitions also. "Having perused the review petitions, a case for review under Order XLVII Rule 1 of the Supreme Court Rules, 2013 is made out," she ordered while issuing notice to the Centre and the states.

The eight judges led by the CJ rejected the prayer for open court hearing of the review petitions while Justice Nagarathna allowed the prayer for open court hearing.

RE sector makes 'notable contribution' to global workforce: Report

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The domestic renewable energy has made a 'notable contribution' to the global renewable energy workforce which has grown to 16.2 million, a report has said.

According to the 2024 Annual Review by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the total number of jobs in India's renewable energy sector reached an estimated 1.02 million mark in 2023.

"The global renewable energy workforce grew to 16.2 million, up from 13.7 million in 2022, with India making a notable contribution to this



rise," the report developed in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO), said.

Hydropower was the largest employer in the renewable sector in India, providing around 4,53,000 jobs, and accounting for 20 per cent of

the global total, second only to China. The solar PV sector in India employed about 3,18,600 people in both on-grid and off-grid systems.

The study examines the global landscape of renewable energy technologies and analyzes employment across different countries, including India.

The Indian wind sector provided employment to approximately 52,200 people in 2023, the report said.

It assesses public and private sector policies influencing job creation, such as those related to renewable energy deployment, industrial growth, skill development, and labour market initiatives.

Although detailed information on education, skill requirements, and workforce attributes in renewable energy remains limited, the series emphasizes the need for decent work to ensure a fair and inclusive energy transition.

Warehousing space demand may dip to 45 mn sq ft: Report

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Demand for premium warehousing spaces may decline slightly to around 45 million square feet this year across top six cities, according to CREDAI and CRE-Matrix report. The leasing transactions of warehousing space stood at 47.15 million square feet in 2023 calendar year across Delhi-NCR, Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), Chennai, Pune, Hyderabad and Bengaluru.

"Leasing of premium warehousing spaces is set to cross 45 million square feet in 2024, with H1 (January-June) 2024 clocking 20.3 million square feet and H2 (July-September) 2024 projected to cross 25 million

square feet," realtors body CREDAI and data analytics firm CRE-Matrix said.

India's Grade A warehousing stock is projected to surpass 300 million square feet by 2025 - which currently stands at 238.5 million square feet, providing a promising outlook for stakeholders.

"The Indian Real Estate market is evolving rapidly, with specialised segments like warehousing complementing the robust growth of the more traditional segments," Boman Irani, President at CREDAI, said. He noted that cities like Pune and MMR have emerged as critical industrial hubs, accounting for nearly 50 per cent of the Grade A warehousing demand.

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
 NIT No: E/5828/15/2024-25/170 Dt: 04-10-2024
 Name of the Work: For (2) Works "Arrangements for Bathukamma Festival 2024 by engaging of tent, chairs, silt clearance, water filling, spreading of dust and engaging labour in Nagole Lake & Mansoorabad Lake in Ward Nos 11 & 12 of Hayath Nagar Circle-3, GHMC. * Estimate Amount: Rs.3.98 Lakhs. Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids: 08-10-2024 @ 11:30 AM. Name & Address Officer Cell No.: Smt.D.Ashalatha, Executive Engineer, Hayath Nagar Circle-3, GHMC, (M) 9963550657. For further details can be seen at e-procurement @ http://www.e-procurement.telangana.gov.in/ Sd/- Executive Engineer Hayath Nagar Circle-3, GHMC.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA FOREST DEPARTMENT
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
 NIT No:1546/2024/A2, dt. 01.10.2024 published on e-procurement platform. The details can be accessed by logging on to @ www.tender.telangana.gov.in. The details are as given below:
 Name of the Work: Construction of watch tower in Ananthnagiri Urban Forest Park, Vikarabad Section of Vikarabad Range, Vikarabad District during 2024-25.
 Bid document download start date: 03.10.2024 @ 10:30 AM. Last date & time for receipt of bids: 17.10.2024 @ 05:00 PM. Technical/commercial bid opening: 18.10.2024 @ 10:30 AM. Address of the Office: District Forest Officer, Forest Complex, Ananthnagiri Road, Vikarabad - 501101. Further details can be obtained on e-procurement @ www.tender.telangana.gov.in. Sd/- District Forest Officer, Vikarabad.

DJ prodigy who started spinning beats at 16

In this exclusive interview, Piyush Bajaj—the pioneer of Hyderabad's DJ scene, discusses his career, genre-bending sets and engaging approach. He also shares the inspiration behind his inventiveness and his love of the city



AARTI SREENATH
 aarti.sreenath9@gmail.com

Piyush Bajaj found his rhythm at the age of as early as 16, diving head-first into DJing with an insatiable passion for music. What began as pure fascination evolved into a sophisticated mastery of electronic beats, transforming his passion into an art form that pulses through every track he spins. His unique ability to weave the rhythm of his music with the very soul of his audience has made him a go-to favourite for exclusive clubs across the country.

He carved his niche by fearlessly venturing into the less explored realms of club and house music, adding his own flair to every genre he touches. His sets are a spectacle; his interactive mixing, on-the-

spot remixes and spontaneous energy at the console create an electrifying connection with the crowd, making him a beloved figure behind the turntables. Born and brought up in Hyderabad, DJ Piyush had some interesting stories for the city. With an impressive career spanning 28 years as a DJ, remixer, producer and entrepreneur, he stands as the most awarded DJ of South India. Hyderabad, for him, is not just a city; it's home. It has shaped who he is and even though he has travelled and performed all over the world, he insists there is no place quite like Hyderabad. "Hyderabad is home," he says, with pride that stems from the warmth and hospitality of the city. "It's official now that Hyderabad is the best city to live in." For him, Hyderabad stands out for its communal

harmony, which he compares to the confluence of rivers— "Ganga, Jamuna, Saraswati"—where everyone lives in peace and unity. He appreciates how newcomers always receive a warm welcome, noting how, unlike many other cities, Hyderabad does not impose barriers of language or culture, making it an easy place to live and connect. Among his fondest memories, one stands out vividly: the year was 2005, when he won the national championship of the Times War of DJs. Coming back from Bombay, he expected his family to pick him up from Begumpet Airport, which was the city's main airport back then. But to his surprise, he was greeted by hundreds of people, along with press

and media, all ready to celebrate his victory. He describes the scene with a sense of nostalgia—the dhols playing, garlands being placed around his neck; it was a welcome fit for a local hero, an unforgettable moment that he cherishes deeply. That victory was a turning point in his career, propelling him onto the national stage with album releases, international tours, and opportunities he had never dreamed of.

He speaks highly of the music scene in Hyderabad, emphasising that it has always been in tune with the latest trends, not just locally but internationally. According to him, Hyderabad is a hub for artists, known for hosting some of the biggest events in the country. He is proud of the discerning audience here, who, in his words, "know what they are listening to and whether they like it or not."

Though he has played countless concerts and music festivals, it's the annual event organised by Youngistaan, a charitable organisation that supports underprivileged children, that remains closest to his heart and that is something he cherishes the most in the city. For him, there's nothing quite like the energy and love of those children. "The vibe and the energy there, you don't get to see it anywhere," he says, adding that seeing those children dance and enjoy the music is a feeling unlike any other.

Being an adventurous foodie, Hyderabad's food culture is a significant part of his life. He doesn't drink or smoke, but food is what excites him and he loves exploring new



places to eat in the city. He has his go-to spots for different cuisines: Nanking for Chinese, Reshmi Dhaba for North Indian, and, of course, Sarvi for Biryani, a staple in every Hyderabad's diet. Despite the booming culinary scene, there is one downside he feels about the city: traffic. He laments the lack of discipline on the roads, especially pointing out how people drive on the wrong side without fear, even in four-wheelers. "Zero traffic sense and zero value for life," he says, wishing for more awareness and responsibility on the streets.

But aside from that, he can't help but admire the transformation the city has undergone over the years. Every time friends or relatives from abroad visit Hyderabad, they are left astonished by the pace of its development. Especially areas like Hi-Tech City have evolved so much that "it doesn't feel like you're in India anymore," he jokes.

When guests visit, he makes sure they experience the true essence of Hyderabad. Whether it's the grandeur of Ramoji Film City, the iconic Charminar, the historical Qutb Shahi Tombs, or the beautiful Birla Mandir, Gandipet Lake and the Tank Bund, he ensures that the charm of

the city leaves a lasting impression on them. He mentions how visitors are always eager to take back a piece of Hyderabad with them, usually Biryani or pearls, which are two of the city's most beloved symbols.

As a music professional, the cultural shift towards the popularity of South Indian cinema has significantly influenced his work. The success of films like *Pushpa* and *RRR* has brought regional tracks into mainstream clubs, turning them into anthems not just in Hyderabad but nationwide. He acknowledges how these movies and their music have transcended boundaries, with tracks like *Naatu Naatu* and *Oo Antava* now dominating dance floors everywhere.

The DJ takes pride in his friendships with talented artists from Hyderabad, such as Sriram Chandra, who made the city proud by winning *Indian Idol*. He cherishes how the people of Hyderabad are always warm and welcoming, a sentiment that he feels every day. "Just the city is so comfortable. It's the warmest, the most hospitable city to live in," he says, summing up what Hyderabad means to him—a city that not only shaped his career but also holds his heart.

Sustainable tourism for greener tomorrow

Understanding sustainable tourism:

Sustainable tourism focuses on minimising the negative impacts of tourism on the environment and local communities while maximising the positive contributions. At its core are principles such as reducing carbon emissions, conserving natural resources, supporting local economies and respecting cultural diversity. These principles guide the development and management of tourism activities to ensure they contribute to sustainable development goals.

Conservation and environmental responsibility:

Central to sustainable tourism is the conservation of natural ecosystems and resources. Efforts in this area include promoting energy efficiency and sustainable practices in accommodations, transportation and tourist activities. According to the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), tourism accounts for about 8% of global greenhouse gas emissions, with transportation, including air travel, being the largest contributor. Implementing measures such as using renewable energy sources, promoting public transportation and encouraging eco-friendly tourist activities can significantly reduce this footprint.

Protected areas and natural reserves are also critical to conservation efforts. Currently, about 15% of the world's land and 7% of the oceans are under some form of protection. Sustainable tourism practices ensure these areas are preserved, maintaining biodiversity and natural beauty.

Community engagement and economic development:

Inclusive tourism development involves local communities in decision-making processes and ensures they benefit from tourism economically and socially. Community-based tourism initiatives empower locals to participate in tourism-related activities, preserving cultural traditions and heritage. Economic benefits are distributed more equitably, enhancing local livelihoods and reducing poverty in destination communities.

Responsible travel practices:

Individual travellers play a crucial role in sustainable tourism by making responsible choices during their journeys. This includes respecting local customs and traditions, conserving resources such as water and energy and supporting businesses that prioritise



Tourism, a vital contributor to global economies, holds the promise of economic growth, cultural exchange and mutual understanding among nations. However, its rapid expansion has also raised concerns about environmental degradation, cultural erosion, and social inequality in destination communities. Sustainable tourism practices have emerged as a response to these challenges, aiming to ensure that tourism development is not only economically beneficial but also environmentally and socially responsible.

sustainability. Responsible travel behavior not only minimises environmental impact but also promotes cultural sensitivity and mutual respect between tourists and host communities.

Travellers are increasingly seeking sustainable options, with a 2019 Booking.com survey revealing that 55% of global travelers are more determined to make sustainable travel choices than they were a year before. This shift in traveler behavior drives demand for eco-friendly accommodations, sustainable tours, and responsible travel practices, encouraging the industry to adopt greener practices.

Innovations and technological advancements:

Technological innovations are transforming sustainable tourism practices, offering solutions to reduce environmental impact and enhance visitor experiences. Eco-friendly accommodations powered by renewable energy sources, digital platforms promoting virtual tourism experiences and smart transportation systems are examples of innovations driving sustainability within the tourism industry. These advancements improve efficiency, reduce carbon emissions and offer sustainable alternatives to traditional tourism practices.

For example, the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in tourism can significantly cut down emissions. The International Energy Agency (IEA) projects that by 2030, there will be over 145 million EVs on the road, contributing to lower emissions in tourist destinations. Additionally, advancements in digital technology, such as virtual reality (VR) tours, provide alternative ways to experience destinations without physical travel, further reducing the environmental impact.

Challenges and future directions:

Despite progress, sustainable tourism faces several challenges that require collaborative efforts from governments, businesses and communities. Over tourism in popular destinations strains local infrastructure and ecosystems, while climate change threatens natural resources and biodiversity. Balancing tourism growth with environmental conservation and social responsibility remains a complex endeavour, requiring innovative solutions and proactive management strategies.

Sustainable tourism represents a paradigm shift towards responsible tourism development that balances economic growth with environmental and social considerations. By adopting sustainable practices, stakeholders across the tourism industry contribute to preserving natural and cultural heritage while promoting inclusive economic growth. As awareness of sustainability issues grows and technology advances, opportunities arise to create a more resilient and equitable tourism sector that benefits both present and future generations.

In conclusion, sustainable tourism practices are essential for addressing the environmental and social impacts of tourism while harnessing its economic potential. By integrating principles of sustainability into tourism planning and management, destinations can enhance their attractiveness to conscientious travelers while safeguarding natural resources and supporting local communities. Embracing innovation and collaboration, the tourism industry can pave the way towards a more sustainable future where tourism serves as a force for positive change globally.

(The author, Prady, is the CEO and Managing Partner of NP Digital India.)

Where quaint streets lead to dark deeds...

PNS| HYDERABAD

PLOT:

Based on real-life events from Maharashtra between 1972 and 1976, *Manvat Murders* unravels the gruesome killings of seven girls and women. Directed by Ashish Avinash Bende, the series follows police officer Ramakant S. Kulkarni, played by Ashutosh Gowariker, as he investigates these horrific crimes. The show draws inspiration from Kulkarni's memoir *Footprints on the Sands of Crime* and highlights the disturbing fusion of superstition, human sacrifice and greed that fueled the murders. As the seasoned detective dives into the investigation, he battles unreliable witnesses, corruption and the powerful landlord Uttamrao (played by Makarand Anaspure), whose influence looms large over the case.

HIGHLIGHTS

The series thrives on the old-school investigative approach of Ramakant, who relies on psychology and deduction rather than force. Ashutosh Gowariker's portrayal of a patient and methodical officer lends depth to the procedural elements. His dynamic with his inexperienced team adds subtle humor to the grim narrative. The show's attention to police casework and the inner workings of small-town law enforcement shines throughout, with characters like Constable Nawathe (played by Purnanand Wankhede) adding to the layered storytelling.

DRAWBACKS

While the series builds suspense through methodical investigation, it falters in fully exploring the social and cultural intricacies of the case. The occult aspects and the chilling nature of the human sacrifices are underplayed, leaving the viewer wanting a deeper dive into the grotesque motivations behind the murders. Additionally, the narrative emphasis on Samindri (played by Sai Tamhankar) over Rukmini (played by Sonali Kulkarni) dilutes some of the emotional and psychological complexity.

PERFORMANCES

The performances in *Manvat Murders* are central to the show's ability to evoke the intensity and suspense of a dark, true-crime story. Leading the cast is Ashutosh Gowariker, who plays Ramakant S. Kulkarni, a seasoned detective with a reputation for meticulous investigation. He skillfully brings to life the slow-burn tension of his character, portraying a man who believes in thorough, methodical detective work rather than dramatic heroics. Sai Tamhankar delivers a layered performance as Samindri, one of the pivotal figures

DIRECTED BY: Ashish Avinash Bende
PRODUCED BY: Sony LIV
CINEMATOGRAPHER: Satyajee Shobha Shiram
CAST: Ashutosh Gowariker, Sai Tamhankar, Sonali Kulkarni, Makarand Anaspure, Kishor Kadam
STREAMING ON: Sony LIV
RATING: 3/5



in the investigation. Her portrayal balances fragility and resilience, giving the character a mysterious aura. Tamhankar's ability to transition between emotions—showing vulnerability in some scenes while exuding strength and defiance in others—makes her arc one of the most engaging in the series. Sonali Kulkarni brings a conflicted, nuanced portrayal to Rukmini, subtly depicting her internal battles and moments of realisation, though her character is somewhat overshadowed by the focus on Tamhankar's Samindri. Supporting roles are executed with notable attention to detail, particularly Kishor Kadam, who brings depth to a character caught in his own moral dilemmas, and Shardul Saraf, whose overzealous officer Shukla adds a touch of dark humour to the show. While some casting choices don't quite land, the ensemble as a whole manages to convey the gravity of the investigation.

TECHNICAL ASPECTS

The cinematography captures the eerie stillness of rural Maharashtra, creating an atmosphere that's both haunting and beautiful. The use of flashbacks to the murders keeps the audience grounded in the horror of the past without overwhelming the senses. However, the pacing suffers in parts, and the transitions between past and present investigations could have been sharper. The sound design adds to the show's chilling atmosphere but sometimes feels repetitive.

The colour psychology and camerawork in *Manvat Murders* play an integral role in creating the eerie and unsettling atmosphere required for a crime thriller set in rural Maharashtra. The series uses muted, earthy tones, reflecting the stark, desolate landscapes of the region. This colour palette, con-

sisting of dusty browns, greys and dark greens, amplifies the foreboding sense of dread that lingers throughout the investigation. The juxtaposition of dull, washed-out colours with sudden bursts of red or other sharp tones during violent flashbacks adds to the unsettling nature of the crimes, symbolising the bloodshed and the brutal rituals behind the murders.

The camerawork, particularly the use of wide-angle shots and slow panning, captures the vast emptiness of the rural setting, enhancing the isolation and vulnerability of the victims. Close-up shots of characters, especially during interrogations, emphasise their psychological strain and nervousness, building tension between the viewer and the characters. Furthermore, handheld camera movements during intense moments add a sense of urgency and discomfort, making the audience feel as though they are part of the investigation. This careful balance of cinematography and colour design contributes significantly to the overall mood of the series, anchoring it in both realism and psychological horror.

Manvat Murders offers a solid whodunit that pays homage to traditional police procedurals while tackling a disturbing real-life case. However, it lacks the narrative depth to fully explore the sinister motives behind the killings. Strong performances by the cast, especially Ashutosh Gowariker, keep the show engaging. It's worth watching for its atmospheric storytelling and compelling investigation, but it misses the mark in fully delivering on the horror it promises.

VERDICT



REVIEW

what's brewing?



The second location of WOW Colors, a unique fashion store for ladies, has opened in Vanastalipuram. The ceremony was attended by Etela Rajender, along with actresses Siripapa and Varsha.



Actress Vaishnavi Chaitanya marked her presence at the store launch of Chandana Brothers Shopping Mall (CBS) at Nallagandla.



The national level "Under 25 Summit" was jointly organised by Guru Nanak Educational Institutions and University near Ibrahimpatnam in Ranga Reddy district. Arvind Krishna, an international basketball player and film actor, along with Kunal Kishore, had attended the event.



Poparazzi, an exclusive pop up by friends for friends was curated by Kashish Bhagia and Sakshi Ladda at 11AM- 8PM in Labels Pop Up Space at Banjara hills. From Apparel, jewellery, accessories, luxury gifting, art, food to many more surprises, they had it all!



Ekagra Chess Academy Super Twins and World Top Punkers Amaya Agarwal and Anay Agarwal now be playing in the European Chess Club. They disclosed the details in a press conference held at the academy in Jubilee Hills on Thursday. European Chess Championship to be held in Serbia on 19th of this month and they have already shown their strength in national and international tournaments.

Hyderabad's most anticipated design festival, Design Democracy 2024 transforming the city's creative landscape kicked off from October 4 to 7 at HITEC, Halls 1 and 3. Inaugurated by Jayesh Ranjan, Special Chief Secretary for Information Technology, Electronics & Communications (ITE&C) and Industries & Commerce Departments of Government of Telangana, Pullela Gopichand, Padma Bhushan & Padma Shri awardee, Chief National Coach - Indian Badminton Team, Pinky Reddy (Philanthropist), Gummi Ram Reddy, Chairman and Managing Director - ARK Group, Secretary - CREDAI National and the founders Pallika Sreewastav, Shailija Patwari and Arjun Rathi, with Brand Director Mansi Negi and curator Supraja Rao from the Museum of Telangana.



The members of the Samajwadi Party, celebrated the formation day of the party in Jubilee Hills. On this occasion, free sarees were distributed to poor ladies at Durgabhavani Nagar, Khairtabad Constituency by Samajwadi party leader Nitya Kalyan Yadav and social activist Madire Narsing Rao, among the rest.



FUN

ARCHIE

CALVIN AND HOBBS

GARFIELD

REALITY CHECK

SPEED BUMP

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5
6		7		8
9	10		11	
12			13	14
15				16
17				18
				19

NANCY

SUDOKU

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

Yesterday's solution

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

GINGER MEGGS

ACROSS

- Beaten in battle
- Following immediately after
- 3 A small sharp nail
- 4 Where Danes live
- 5 A wall across a river
- 8 Helper
- 10 Opposite of departure
- 14 A mirror reflection
- 15 A stopper for a bath
- 17 Very warm

DOWN

- 1 Very unsafe
- 2 Repairs

SOLUTION

K	V	E	S	C
U	N	D	E	R
O	I	D	F	E
O	P	E	N	I
H	A	M	E	R
P	H	O	T	O
A	E	E	C	I
N	O	S	C	H
I	S	E	O	U
N	D	M	N	T

SWAG is not so SWAG after all!

SURESH KAVIRAYANI

REVIEW
Sree Vishnu, a talented actor, is trying out different genres. After his two back-to-back hit films *Samajavaragamana* and *Om Bheem Bhush*, Sree Vishnu came up with this *Swag* film. He plays four characters in this film, directed by Hasith Goli. The director previously worked with Sree Vishnu for a successful film, *Raja Raja Chola*, which is why there was curiosity around this new movie of his. People Media Factory, produced this film. Ritu Varma takes on the role of the female protagonist.

Plot:

The story begins in the 15th century with Queen Rukmini Devi (played by Ritu Varma) ruling, and her husband (played by Sree Vishnu) aspiring to be the king. Somehow, he manages to become king and wants to ensure that his sons continue the Swaganika Vamsham legacy. There is a huge treasure that includes gold, ornaments, silver and many other things belonging to the Swaganika Vamsham. Pundits are searching for the

Swaganika Vamsham heir to hand over the treasure. Bhavabhuti (played by Sree Vishnu), a sub-inspector, Anubhoothi (played by Ritu Varma), Singa (played by Sree Vishnu), a social media influencer, all claim to be related to the Swaganika Vamsam. There is also a surprising character named Vibhoothi—but who is he? The crux of the story is who actually claims the entire treasure in the end.

Analysis:

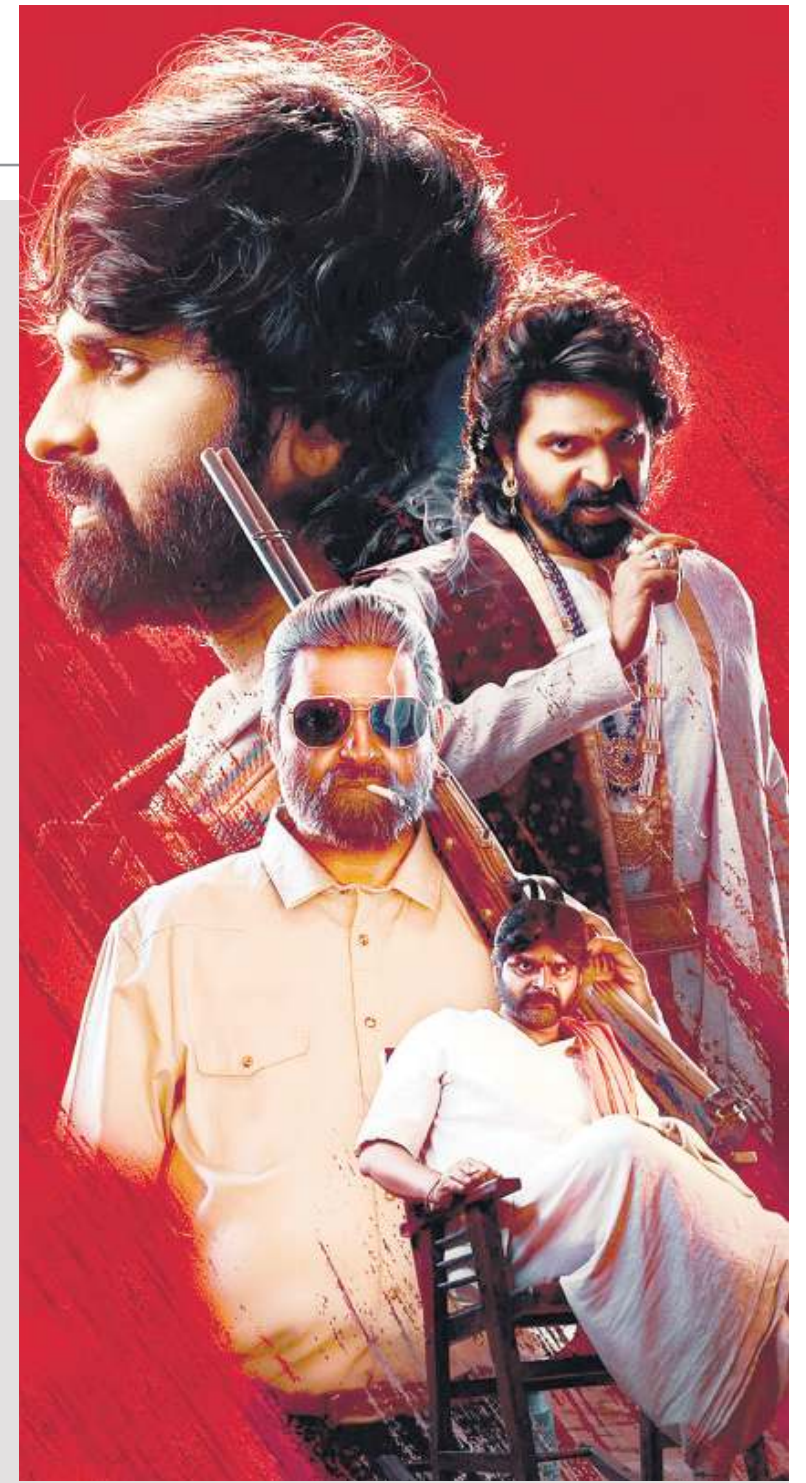
Director Hasith Goli starts the movie by showcasing the 15th-century Swaganika Vamsam and tries to connect it to the modern era. The first few minutes of the film's narration are interesting with good visuals. But after some time, the director loses the story's focus, confusing viewers with too many characters and too much informa-

Performances

When it comes to the performances, Sree Vishnu did a commendable job in portraying different characters, but without a solid story and narration, it doesn't help the film succeed. However, Bhavabhuti's diction is irritating at points, leading viewers to disconnect from the character. Vishnu appears in numerous roles, seemingly only to showcase his versatility, which was unnecessary. Ritu Varma appears both as the queen and in the present-day setting, but her character lacks depth. Meera Jasmine makes a welcome return to the screen, delivering a very good performance and fitting well into her role. Allari Ravi Babu gets a significant role after a long time, while Sunil, Goparaju Ramana, Daksha Nagarkar, Saranya Pradeep and Getup Seenu play routine roles. The music is average, the cinematography is good and the dialogues shine in parts.

had a lot of emotional potential, he couldn't handle the story well, leading to a confusing narration. As a result, when viewers leave the theater, they might struggle to remember the characters. Another flaw is the recurring characters from the 15th century, which added to the confusion. It seems that the director and Sree Vishnu wanted to attempt a Kamal Haasan-like film, with Vishnu appearing in multiple avatars. However, Kamal Haasan's approach is different; his avatars are always interesting and interconnected. Unfortunately, attempting to imitate Kamal Haasan

Cast: Sree Vishnu, Ritu Varma, Meera Jasmine, Daksha Nagarkar, Saranya Pradeep, Allari Ravi Babu, Sunil, Goparaju, Getup Seenu, and others.
Cinematographer: Vedaraman Shankaran
Music: Vivek Sagar
Producers: T G Vishwaprasad
Writer and Director: Hasith Goli
Rating: 1.5/5



tion. When dealing with a complicated story, the director must narrate it clearly for the audience and screenplay plays a significant role in achieving that. Although Director Hasith's concept

Verdict

Finally, *Swag* is a confusing story where the director fails to narrate it properly. Many scenes are dragged out and test the viewer's patience. Sree Vishnu portrays multiple characters, but the interesting part only comes in the second half. With no strong emotions or entertainment value, this film can be skipped.

Davudi added for audience's appeal?



ed in the film, now being shown in theatres. Fans have quickly taken to social media to share their reactions to the updated footage. The song, composed by Anirudh Ravichander and performed by Nakash Aziz and Akasa, features Telugu lyrics by Ramajogayya Sastry. Even before the film's release, the track received considerable praise due to the dynamic dance performance by Jr NTR and Janhvi Kapoor.

The makers of *Devara* have officially announced the addition of the song *Daavudi* to the Jr NTR-led film, along with an extra lead scene. A week after its release, the creators of *Devara* starring Jr NTR decided to include the song *Daavudi*, which was initially left out of the movie's release. The official confirmation came through a post on X (formerly known as Twitter), accompanied by the caption, "To all the fans who have been waiting to get into the KILI KILIYE mood."

Along with the newly added song, an additional scene leading up to the track has also been includ-

Devara Part 1, directed by Koratala Siva, is an action drama that revolves around the main character, a figure notorious for his daring smuggling ventures across the sea, who gets caught in a complicated situation when he realizes the true nature of the goods he's handling. The story follows his battles with enemies and his rise to becoming a feared urban legend. It also explores the contrasting life of his son, played by Jr NTR as well, whose character and path are very different from his father's.

Besides the *RRR* star, the film also features Janhvi Kapoor, Saif Ali Khan, Prakash Raj, Srikanth, Shine Tom Chacko, Narain, Kalaiyarasan and many more in key roles. *Devara* initially released on September 27, 2024 and a sequel is already planned for the future.

Dil Raju, the new FDC chairman?

Dil Raju, a renowned producer in Telugu cinema, is all set to be nominated as the Chairman of the Telangana Film Development Corporation (FDC), according to a highly reliable source. This move is driven by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's desire to appoint a film industry personality to bridge the gap between the government and the Telugu Film Industry (TFI). The relationship between the TFI and the government has been strained lately and the FDC has been inactive for over a year. To revive it, the Chief Minister wants a well-respected

figure from the film industry to lead the corporation. Dil Raju, with his impressive credentials and experience, fits the bill perfectly.

"Few days back, Revanth Reddy asked Dil Raju to take over as the chairman of FDC. However, Dil Raju was reluctant to do so, yet the chief minister persuaded him," said the source. The source had also revealed that his CPRO, Ayodhya Reddy, had also called Dil Raju and told him to take over the position.

As per the details shared by the source, the government is soon going to release a GO regarding his appointment.

"The Revanth Reddy Government planned to institute film awards in honour of Gaddar, the legendary Telangana folk singer and balladeer. To this end, a committee comprising film personalities was formed, but its efforts have stalled due to the absence of a suitable chairman for the Telangana Film Development Corporation (FDC). Chief Minister Revanth Reddy aims to appoint a film industry stalwart like Dil Raju, known for his strong connections with both the government and the industry, to helm the FDC," the source revealed.



Nikhil Siddhartha backs Madhav's Mr Idiots

Ravi Teja's talented nephew Maadhav is ready for his film debut in *Mr Idiots*. In fact, the movie is among the top films in Ravi Teja's career and now his nephew aims to create a similar title. Maadhav is the son of Ravi Teja's younger brother, Raghu. The trailer was recently released and the producers are pleased with the feedback it has received. Presently, a different young actor, Nikhil Siddhartha, is endorsing this independent film by releasing the lyrical song from the film.

The female lead in the movie is Simran Sharma, and it is produced by JJR Ravichand. Gowri Romamki, who previously directed *Pelli SandaD*, is now the director of her second film.

"Our film is gearing up for a theatrical release soon and we are very happy that we get a positive response from everywhere for the trailer, which we released recently," said the producer. The producer thanked Nikhil for releasing the lyrical song *Kantara Kantara* from the film. Nikhil extended his wishes for great success to the entire team as well. The music for the song was composed by Anup Rubens and the lyrics were written by Kasarla Shyam, with Rahul Sipliganj performing as the playback singer.

Thalaiva discharged

thanks well-wishers



Tamil superstar Rajinikanth was discharged from the hospital on Thursday night. According to the reports, the doctors advised him to rest for a week. The actor was admitted to the hospital on September 30 due to stomach pain and underwent a successful surgery by the doctors. Meanwhile, the Prime Minister and Chief Ministers from several states inquired about his well-being and sent him their best wishes for a quick recovery.

After reaching home, the Superstar thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for showing his concern about his health. "My dear honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji ... my heartfelt thanks to you for your care and concern regarding my health and checking on me personally," said Rajinikanth on his social media.

He further went on to express his gratitude to the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Stalin, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Amitabh Bachchan, among many other dignitaries, showing their concern for the actor.

Both Rajinikanth and Amitabh Bachchan will next be seen in the upcoming film *Vettaian*, which will be releasing on October 10 during the Dasara holidays. The film is directed by the *Jai Bheem* fame Gnanavel, which also had its trailer released a few days ago. The story centers around an encounter, where Rajinikanth will be seen playing an encounter specialist in this film.



Thalapathy Vijay's last film launched in a grand manner

Thalapathy 69, which was highly anticipated, was officially launched with a traditional puja ceremony in Chennai. KVN Productions has already revealed the cast and crew for the esteemed film, with a majority of them present at the launch event. All present alongside Thalapathy Vijay are

Bollywood actor Bobby Deol, leading actress Pooja Hegde and Malayalam actress Mamitha Baiju, who rose to fame with *Manjummal Boys*.

Thalapathy 69 is important since it signifies Vijay's last appearance in cinema, creating an emotional and historic project for his supporters. According to the makers, the

movie will start filming shortly. Besides the main actors, the film also features prominent actors such as Gautham Vasudev Menon, National Award-winning actress Priyamani and veteran actor Prakash Raj.

Thalapathy 69, produced by Venkat K Narayana for KVN Productions and directed by

H Vinoth, is expected to be a groundbreaking film, highlighting Vijay's impressive career spanning three decades. Anirudh will compose the music, increasing anticipation among fans even more. Planned to be launched in October 2025, the creators intend to distribute it in Telugu, Hindi and Tamil.

WE CAN SENSE EACH OTHER'S FEELINGS JUST BY OUR FACIAL EXPRESSIONS: SHAFALI ON MANDHANA

PTI ■ DUBAI

Shafali Verma, the significant other of the blockbuster Indian opening pair, says her no-holds-barred approach goes well with Smriti Mandhana's elegance and both can "sense each other's feelings just by our facial expressions" while batting.

One of the factors behind the Indian women's cricket team's dominance in recent times has been the success of its openers, and Shafali admits they know how "important" they are to the team's fortunes.

"I've been opening with Smriti for the past two-three years, and now we can sense each other's feelings just by our facial expressions while batting. We know each other's strengths and weaknesses, and we give each other positive vibes," Shafali told Star Sports when asked about her on-field



relationship with Mandhana. "We understand how important we both are to the team, especially during the

powerplay, so we try to perform well for ourselves, our teammates, and the country." The younger partner added,

"Smriti di is an exceptional timer of the ball, and she knows how to build an innings. These are the two

things I admire most about her batting -- her timing and her ability to construct a big innings."

India will begin their campaign in the ongoing Women's T20 World Cup with a game against New Zealand on Friday, and Shafali said it has been a dream of skipper Harmanpreet Kaur to win the tournament, in which they finished runners-up in the 2020 edition.

"Harmanpreet di is very passionate about the game. Winning the World Cup has always been a dream for her, and I hope we can make that dream come true. She's a great player, a great teammate, and a fantastic captain who inspires and motivates us all the time," Shafali said of the skipper. Shafali made her World Cup debut as a 16-year-old and having missed the trophy by a whisker then, she is hoping to change that this time around.

"It was a big deal for me to debut at 16, and I loved being in Australia. It wasn't just the cricket; I also enjoyed exploring the country.

"The tournament was special, and I performed well for the team. Thinking back to that World Cup always brings a smile to my face. We were so close to winning, but hopefully, we can change that this time around."

Playing the final against home team Australia, in front of a packed crowd at the iconic MCG, is an experience that has helped her in learning to handle pressure better.

"I couldn't hear anything because of the massive crowd. It was a completely new experience for me to play in front of such a big audience. "I was lost in the atmosphere and the noise, but I've learned to focus more now. I wouldn't feel the same pressure if I were in that situation again."



No. 1 Iga Swiatek parts ways with coach Tomasz Wiktorowski

AP ■ WARSAW

Top-ranked Iga Swiatek is separating from her coach Tomasz Wiktorowski. The Polish tennis player announced the split Friday, saying the decision was taken together.

During the three years Swiatek worked with Wiktorowski, the Polish player won four of her five Grand Slam titles and rose to the top of the women's rankings.

"After 3 years of the greatest achievements in my career, together with my coach Tomasz Wiktorowski we decided to part way," Swiatek wrote in a post on Instagram. "I want to start with a big thank you and appreciating our work together."

Swiatek appointed Wiktorowski as coach at the end of the 2021 season. He helped her capture 19 of her 22 career titles and an Olympic bronze medal in Paris in August.

"Coach Wiktorowski joined my team for three seasons, when I strongly needed changes and a fresh approach to my game," Swiatek continued.

"His experience, analytical and strategic attitude and enormous knowledge about tennis helped us to achieve

things I've never dreamed of only a few months after we started working together.

"Our main goal was to become No. 1 player in the world and coach Wiktorowski was the one who said it first."

Swiatek hasn't competed since losing to Jessica Pegula in the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open. She withdrew from this week's China Open in Beijing - where she would have been defending champion - citing personal reasons. The 23-year-old Swiatek also pulled out of the recent Korea Open in Seoul, citing fatigue.

"Due to this important change on my team, I give myself a couple of weeks to start a cooperation with a new coach," Swiatek wrote.

"I'm in the middle of first talks with coaches from abroad (non-Polish) because I'm ready to take the next step of my career. I will let you know when I make a decision."

Wiktorowski was voted the WTA's Coach of the Year by his peers last year. "Coach, THANK YOU, I wish you all the best," Swiatek wrote. "I know that you would like to rest after these 3 years of hard work and traveling a lot and spending some well deserved time with your loved ones and I hope you'll get what you need."

Buoyant Mohammedan Sporting gear up for Mohun Bagan challenge



PTI ■ KOLKATA

Fresh off their maiden ISL victory in an away match against Chennaiyin FC, debutants Mohammedan Sporting will aim to carry the same momentum when they square off with heavyweights Mohun Bagan in a lesser known 'Kolkata Derby' this Saturday.

With bragging rights as well as points on the line, Mohammedan Sporting will be eager to prove themselves against one of Indian football's most dominant forces and resume their rivalry in the ISL. The black and white brigade secured their maiden win in the ISL by defeating Chennaiyin FC 1-0 last week with Lalremnunga Fani scoring the decisive goal.

Despite Chennaiyin's attempts to fight back in the second-half, Mohammedan's defence led by Joseph Adjei and Vanlaluzidika Chhakchhuak remained resolute to take home full three points that has kept them ahead of the city rivals on goal difference. Mohun Bagan, who are the League Shield Winners, on

the other hand are coming on the back of a 0-3 loss to Bengaluru FC as they will be looking to regroup and infuse fresh energy to their attacking duo of Dimitri Petratos and Jason Cummings.

Petratos is on the brink of his 50th ISL appearance for the Mariners, and his experience will be vital in guiding the team through in pressure cooker scenario.

The key for the midfield marshalled by Greg Stewart and Manvir Singh will be to dominate possession, pressing high up the pitch and using their full-backs to provide width.

Lalengmawia Ralte has been flawless defensively, winning all 14 of his attempted tackles this season, which will be crucial in stopping Mohammedan's attacks.

Despite their attacking prowess, Mohun Bagan head coach Jose Molina has expressed concern about his team's defensive frailties. The Mariners have conceded seven goals in their three matches so far, which has put pressure on their ability to secure results.

Molina has identified that many of their defensive issues stem from mistakes in attack, emphasising that improving their offensive play will help tighten the defense.

"We're conceding too many goals, and some of them are due to mistakes at the back, but most are because of errors in attack. To improve defensively, we need to attack better," Molina said.

Mohammedan Sporting, however, may opt for a more cautious approach as they are likely to sit back, absorb pressure, and hit on the counter using the pace of Alexis Gomez and Franca up front.

Retired IPS Sharad Kumar appointed new head of BCCI's Anti-Corruption Unit

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Retired IPS officer Sharad Kumar, who for four years, has been appointed as the new chief of the BCCI's Anti-Corruption Unit, bringing extensive experience to the role.

Hailing from Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh, the appointment of 68-year-old Kumar was done on October 1 in the cricketing body. BCCI's ACU head is appointed for a three-year term.

His name was finalised in the BCCI's Annual General Meeting on September 29, a Board source told PTI. He is a 1979 batch IPS officer from the Haryana cadre and has had a distinguished career especially as the chief of the National Investigation Agency from 2013 to 2017.

He will take over from KK Mishra, also a former Haryana cadre IPS officer, who was appointed last year but did not complete his term due to unspecified



reasons. After serving in the NIA, Kumar was appointed as the Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission from June 2018 to April 2020, where he

also held the interim position of Central Vigilance Commissioner.

In his new role, Kumar will play a crucial part in addressing corruption issues, including match-fixing and betting scandals, thereby reinforcing the BCCI's commitment to maintaining integrity of the game.

During his tenure as NIA Director General, Kumar oversaw several high-profile investigations and operations. Kumar played a pivotal role in enhancing the NIA's capabilities and infrastructure. During his tenure, the NIA investigated several major terror attacks in India, including the Pathankot airbase attack by terrorists of the banned Jaish-e-Mohammed.

Kumar's efforts were instrumental in disrupting terror financing networks. His contribution to law enforcement has been recognised with the President's Police Medal for Meritorious Services in 1996 and the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Services in 2004.



Bopanna-Dodig pair advances to second round of Shanghai Masters

PTI ■ SHANGHAI

India's Rohan Bopanna and his Croatian partner Ivan Dodig cherished their first win after joining forces, moving to the second round of the ATP Shanghai Masters with a straight-set victory over Pablo Carrero Busta and Pedro

Martinez, here Friday. The fifth-seed Indo-Croatian pair won 6-4 6-3 in the opening round match that lasted 63 minutes. Bopanna and Dodig fired five aces to none of their rivals, and converted three of the eight break points they faced.

They also saved four break chances on their service games, dropping serve only once in the match. India's singles challenge has already ended with both Sumit Nagal and Ramkumar Ramanathan making first round exits.

Ramkumar had made it to the main draw through qualifying round while Nagal had earned a direct entry.

EU's top court says some FIFA rules on international transfers are contrary to the bloc's law

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The European Union's top court said Friday that some FIFA rules on player transfers are contrary to European Union legislation relating to competition and freedom of movement, in a ruling that will likely lead to a shakeup of the soccer market's regulations and change the sport's economy. The court's ruling came after former France international Lassana Diarra legally challenged FIFA rules following a dispute with a club dating back to a decade ago. Diarra argued that FIFA's restrictions meant he was unable to find a new club after his contract with Russian club Lokomotiv Moscow was terminated in 2014.

FIFA's rules state that if a player terminates his contract without "just cause," the player and any club wishing to sign him are jointly liable for paying compensation to the previous club. "Those rules hinder the free movement of players and competition between clubs," the court said in a statement. "The rules in question are such as to impede the free movement of professional footballers wishing to develop their activity by going to work for a new club."

The court added that current rules "impose considerable legal risks, unforeseeable and potentially very high financial risks as well as major sporting risks on those players and clubs wishing to employ them which, taken together, are such as to impede international transfers of those players."

Diarra had signed a four-year contract with Lokomotiv Moscow in 2013. The deal was terminated a year later after Diarra was unhappy with alleged pay cuts. Lokomotiv Moscow applied to the FIFA dispute resolution chamber for compensation and the player submitted a counterclaim



seeking compensation for unpaid wages. The Court of Arbitration for Sport found the Russian club terminated the contract with Diarra "with just cause" and the player was ordered to pay 10.5 million euros (\$11.2 million).

Diarra claimed his search for a new club was hampered by FIFA's rules stipulating that any new side would be jointly responsible with him for paying compensation to Lokomotiv.

The former Real Madrid player also argued that a potential deal with Belgian club Charleroi fell through because of the FIFA rules, and sued FIFA and the Belgian federation at a Belgian court for damages and loss of earnings of six million euros (\$7 million). With the lawsuit still going through Belgian courts, the case was referred to the European Court of Justice for a ruling.

Although the court said FIFA transfer regulations can help maintain a form of stability within professional squads and help guarantee the regularity of competitions, it

insisted that in Diarra's case "the rules in question nevertheless seem, subject to verification (by the Belgian court) in a number of respects, to go beyond what is necessary to pursue that objective."

The Diarra case, which is supported by the global players' union FIFPro, went through FIFA judicial bodies before the 2016 election of FIFA president Gianni Infantino, who has made it a priority to modernize transfer market rules.

Concerning competition rules, the court slammed FIFA's rulings for restricting and preventing cross-border competition between European clubs.

"The Court recalls that the possibility of competing by recruiting trained players plays an essential role in the professional football sector and that rules which place a general restriction on that form of competition, by immutably fixing the distribution of workers between the employers and in cloistering the markets, are similar to a no-poach agreement," it said.

Man United has been revamped by Ratcliffe but it's the same old story for Ten Hag

AP ■ MANCHESTER (ENGLAND)

It feels like Groundhog Day for Manchester United and Erik ten Hag.

Another season has hit crisis point after only a few games. Perhaps that's why the United manager was so dismissive of the renewed pressure on him after last week's humbling 3-0 loss to Tottenham.

"Nothing is easy, but this is nothing for me to panic about because I experienced it so often with my teams during seasons that you are facing those problems," he said this week.

He is right. United's record of three losses after six English Premier League games is in keeping with his two previous campaigns at Old Trafford. In 2022, he lost his opening two and three of the first seven.

In 2023 it was even worse, as United lost three of five at the start. Both of those seasons ended



with a trophy, but the feel-good factor provided by the most recent silverware - May's FA Cup triumph against Manchester City - has long evaporated in the face of the likelihood that United's 11-year wait for the league title is

set to go on. There is little sign of progress in the league despite spending around \$750 million on transfers.

On Sunday, United travels to Aston Villa, which has been transformed by manager Unai Emery, who has worked on a

fraction of that budget. The Spaniard has spent around \$270 million to turn Villa from a team that was battling relegation when he took over in October 2022 to one that beat Bayern Munich in the Champions League on

Wednesday. In contrast United needed a stoppage time goal from Harry Maguire to salvage a 3-3 draw with Porto in the Europa League on Thursday, having led 2-0 after 20 minutes.

Defeat against Villa would intensify questions about Ten Hag's position ahead of the October international break, which has traditionally been a time when clubs look to make managerial changes.

Emery's success at Villa is evidence of what can be achieved in a short period of time. Villa was three points above the relegation zone when he was hired. In his first full season, he led the Midlands club to fourth, eight points ahead of United and qualified for the Champions League.

He is yet to deliver silverware, but the trajectory is clearly upward. United is 13th heading into the weekend, having finished last season in eighth and the previous year third.