

QUOTE OF THE DAY
The pioneer

Engineers should take Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya as their role model and not the engineers who built the Kaleshwaram Project. KCR said everything was mine before the construction of the Kaleshwaram Project. But after its collapse, KCR said it was an act of treason. If it was treason, it should be raised. But how did it go down? When his fraud came to light KCR tried to deceive the public

- Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, R&B Minister

UN like 'old company', not entirely keeping up with market:
Jaishankar



RAJEEV
SIDDHARTHA SPICED UP HIS COOKING DRILL AT FARZI CAFE FOR LOVE, SITARA

Kavya Eyes Action-Packed Role in Next **PROJECT**



DON'T MISS...
Do not forget our roots, culture...

Emphasising the importance of not forgetting our State's unique roots, culture and traditions, even when reaching great heights, said Minister for Tourism and Culture Jupally Krishna Rao, while participating in Bathukamma celebrations on Sunday as part of his two-day visit to Dubai. Dubai tourism officer Jasim Mohammed Al Awadi and government whip Adi Srinivas also attended the event organised by the Tourism department at a hotel. On this occasion, Jupally discussed the role of tourist ...

TTD takes up development ...

The long-standing wish of the devotees of Kondagattu Anjaneya Swamy will soon come true. In this regard, the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) has shared good news. The TTD has taken the initiative to develop the ancient temples in the country, including the Kondagattu Anjaneya Swamy temple in Telangana. In this context, the TTD is committed to constructing 100 rooms on the premises of the shrine for the devotees, according to reports. As part of this effort ...

Anil Group's fundraise to drive...

Equipped with Rs 17,600 crore fundraising and a zero-debt status, Anil Ambani's Reliance Group companies - Reliance Infrastructure Ltd and Reliance Power Ltd - are poised to execute their growth strategies, according to officials. In the past two weeks, both companies have announced raising Rs 4,500 crore through preferential issues of equity shares and Rs 7,100 crore from renowned global investment fund Varde Partners through equity-linked long-term FCCBs, having a long maturity period...

England aims to challenge...

England is aiming to challenge struggling Pakistan with a new-look pace attack in the opening test of a three-match series, starting in the searing heat of Multan on Monday. Fast bowler Brydon Carse will make his test debut with Gus Atkinson set to play his first overseas test after his impressive home season against the West Indies and Sri Lanka. All-rounder Chris Woakes was pencilled in to the starting XI after Ben Stokes was ruled out for the fourth successive test match due to ongoing rehabilitation...

No stopping of Musi Project

Will be executed come what may, declares CM Revanth

- Says people taught a lesson to KCR due to his arrogance
- Alleges Eatala changed his shirt but still following in BRS' footsteps

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Musi Riverfront Development Project is going to be executed whatever the obstacles are, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy declared here on Sunday.

The CM said the government will extend all help to Musi oustees. There are 10,000 families in the Musi area and the government will spend Rs 10,000 crore to help them, the CM added.

Terming the BRS as a donkey, the CM said that people respected KCR due to the Telangana sentiment. However, the same people taught KCR a fitting lesson due to his arrogance.

Addressing the 'Koluvala Panduga' meeting after handing over appointment orders to 1,635 selected candidates at the Shilpakala Vedika on Sunday, Revanth said that



KCR gave jobs to all his family members. The CM said that on the one side, there are hundreds of years of

experience and 10 years of destruction on the other side. "We follow famous engineer Mokshagundam Vishveswararai who quenched the thirst of millions of Hyderabadis. Hyderabad is a hub of buildings constructed centuries ago," he said.

"Decide whether you take the Kaleshwaram Project as your model or the Nagarjuna Sagar while execut-

ing big projects. Be responsible from the day of joining service till retirement. You have the obligation to win public confidence. Why didn't KCR give jobs to those who were selected through the 2015 job notification of the unemployed and the Telangana movement. Today the BRS is exposed. **Continued on Page 5**

'We have implemented successfully'

CM rejects PM's charge on loan waiver scheme

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Replying to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's allegation against the TG government's loan waiver scheme levelled on Saturday at an election meeting held in Maharashtra Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said that the Congress government 'implemented the farm loan waiver scheme successfully'.

The CM sent a letter regarding this to Modi on Sunday containing details of the farm loan waiver scheme. The CM also sought the cooperation of the PM in his endeavour to ensure the welfare of Telangana farmers.

The CM said in his letter, "I am writing regarding your remarks made during a public meeting in

Maharashtra on October 5 where you stated that "the Congress admin in Telangana had promised a farm crop loan waiver. But after coming to power they are keeping farmers waiting for it. These parties are used to making false promises before elections."

I am pained by your statement as it does not reflect the reality on the ground. In this context, I would like to bring to your notice certain facts and figures.

The Congress Government of Telangana has tried to fulfil its promise and has waived farm loans up to Rs 2 lakh for 22,22,067 farmers and an amount of Rs 17,869.22 crore was disbursed. This was done in just 27 days as outlined in the disbursal schedule. **Continued on Page 5**

CM misleading country on farm loan waiver: Harish

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Senior BRS leader T. Harish Rao said Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is misleading the country that the Telangana Government has successfully implemented the crop loan waiver scheme waiving farm loans up to Rs 2 lakh. He posted on X regarding this on Sunday referring to the letter addressed by Revanth to Prime Minister Modi on Sunday.

Harish said in his post, "It's unfortunate that you have adopted the tactic of misguiding the people of Telangana regarding the crop loan till now. With the reference cited above, it appears that you have extended your tactics of deception to the whole of India. I would like to bring to the notice of the people the deception tactics adopted by the Telangana Congress admin. 1) The Congress promised to waive crop loans on December 9, 2023. Rahul Gandhi had promised the farmers of Telangana that they would complete the crop loan waiver on 09-12-2023, immediately after government formation. **5**

FARMERS FACING IRRIGATION CRISIS

'Loan waiver was betrayal'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS Working President KT Rama Rao said that on the one hand, farmers are facing an irrigation crisis and on the other hand the loan waiver scheme was a betrayal. He said that farmers who have fields and tenant farmers are being killed.

Posting on X, KTR said on Sunday, "Farmers who have fields are being killed.

Rythu Bharosa is a fraud. Assistance meant for tenant farmers has not reached them. This trouble in agriculture was caused by removing the schemes which protected farmers

Tenant farmers are also being killed. The anti-farmer Revanth government is the reason behind the death of three farmers on the same day. On the one hand, there is an irrigation crisis. The

loan waiver on the other hand was treachery. Rythu Bharosa is a fraud. Assistance meant for tenant farmers has not reached them. This trouble in agriculture was caused by

removing the schemes which protected farmers. Hundreds of farmers are falling like quails but there is no movement. The Chief Minister has no concern for them. The government has no responsibility. During Dasara agriculture has turned into a wasteful enterprise."



'Land records will be made tamper-proof'

- ◆ Revenue records to be digitised on war footing, says Minister Ponguleti
- ◆ Announces that every village will get a revenue officer

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress government will digitise revenue records on a war footing to ensure that no one tampers with land records, Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said.

He said the new Revenue Act-2024 will soon be passed as a role model for the country to free people from the problems they have been experiencing since the last 10 years, especially through the Dharani Portal and ROR Act-2020.

He said that common people and farmers were facing difficulties due to the Dharani Portal introduced by the BRS government and that his government is trying to free people from the problems they are facing.

Addressing Deputy Collectors and Special Grade Deputy Collectors at a meeting held at the MCRHRD on Sunday, Ponguleti said the new Revenue Act (ROR-2024) will solve the problems of the public and will become a role model for the nation. **Continued on Page 5**

India beat Bangladesh by seven wickets in first T20

T20I SERIES



PNS ■ GWALIOR

India registered a comfortable seven-wicket win over Bangladesh in the first T20I of the three-match series here on Sunday.

India bowled out Bangladesh for 127 and then chased down the target of 128 with 49 balls to spare. Asked to bat first, Bangladesh were in early trouble at 14 for two with left-arm seamer Arshdeep Singh (3/14) removing both openers Litton Das and Parvez Hossain Emon cheaply. Skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto

made 27 off 25 balls and Mehidy Hasan Miraz contributed 35 in 32 deliveries.

Varun Chakravarthy (3/31), Mayank Yadav (1/21) and Washington Sundar (1/12) picked up wickets in the middle overs to keep India in total control of the game.

Hardik Pandya too chipped in with a wicket towards the end. With the bat, Pandya blazed away to an unbeaten 16-ball 39, while Sanju Samson and skipper Suryakumar Yadav both got out after scoring 29.

BRIEF SCORES

Bangladesh: 127 all out in 19.5 overs (Najmul Hossain Shanto 27, Mehidy Hasan Miraz 35 not out; Arshdeep Singh 3/14, Varun Chakravarthy 3/31).
India: 132/3 in 11.5 overs (Hardik Pandya not out 39, Sanju Samson 29, Suryakumar Yadav 29)

'AICC didn't ask for any explanation'

TPCC chief Mahesh on Konda Surekha issue

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC chief B. Mahesh Kumar Goud said the AICC did not seek any explanation on Endowment Minister Konda Surekha issue.

Speaking to the media on Sunday, Mahesh said that there is no truth in the news circulating on social media that the AICC took the Konda Surekha issue seriously and has sought an explanation from the TPCC President.

He said that Konda Surekha herself took back her comments and so the matter is over. He said that no discussion was held in the party on this issue. Mahesh said that



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social media handles which work for the opposition are trying to throw mud on the issue and warned that social media activists should mend their ways.

He asked Congress cadres to be on alert during local body elections and that party activists would gain respect if the party wins local body elections.

He said the party would ensure the victory of its leaders who worked hard for the party and that the Congress is going to win in Haryana. Rahul Gandhi will become the Prime Minister after the next LS elections, he said.

Two US states recognise Bathukamma festival

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Two US states in the southeast and North Carolina cities have decided to recognise the Bathukamma festival as an official festival in October.

The states of North Carolina and Georgia and cities like Charlotte and Raleigh have formally declared a Bathukamma Festival Week and Telangana Heritage Week.

In a proclamation they recognized the cultural significance of Bathukamma, a vibrant nine-day floral festival celebrated in Telangana. Mayor Alexander Lyles proclaimed October 3-11, 2024, as "Bathukamma, A Flower Festival and Telangana Heritage Week," highlighting the contributions of the Telugu-speaking community to Charlotte's cultural diversity and



File photo

North Carolina's progress. The Telugu community in these regions has played a key role in enriching local culture, with

Bathukamma symbolising the deep connection between human beings and nature and is marked by dance, flowers and family reunions.

Georgia Governor Brian P. Kemp commended the celebration of Bathukamma and its importance to the cultural heritage of the state.

"The State of Telangana in India with its 5,000-year history is a symbol of cultural diversity and inclusiveness, showcasing India's arts, traditions and religions.

The Telugu-speaking community from Telangana has enriched Georgia's cultural diversity and contributed to its progress in fields like medicine, engineering, politics and community welfare, he said.

Bathukamma Panduga, celebrated from October 15 to 23, 2024, is a vibrant nine-day floral festival that honours the connection between human beings, the earth and water through joyful gatherings and dances.

Monday Mirchi

JET-SETTING LIFESTYLE FOR SOME, HEARTBURN FOR OTHERS

The buzz in the corridors of power in Telangana is that only the highly privileged in a few departments seem to be in a position to realize their borderless dreams: mainly the Chief Minister's and the Deputy Chief Minister's wings. For, they are the ones always off on fancy trips, including foreign jaunts. And, guess who are tagging along? The evergreen probables: fiscal wizard A Ramakrishna Rao and IT czar Jayesh Ranjan. "It's again them," sighed one official, barely concealing the jealousy of those in his deprived lot. While the Chief Minister went on two trips abroad, the Dy CM went on one recently. "For those of us struggling to get budgets approved, these trips are nothing but a far-off fantasy," is their peeve. Seems like while some are busy catching flights, others are bearing slights!

TOP OFFICIALS SPEAK THEIR MIND ON MINISTER'S FAUX PAS

The whispers in administrative corridors are about the recent searing statements of Minister Konda Surekha that raised the hackles of film personalities and Bharat Rashtra Samithi brass. Normally the babudom takes it lying down even if a neta's faux pas happens to be highly offensive to their fraternal colleagues. But in Surekha's case, even top bureaucrats, despite not having the locus standi, could not resist weighing in with their *dil ki baath*. Smita Sabharwal, known for her candid takes on matters official, did not hold back this time either. Apparently, she was so taken aback by the Minister's comments that she took to X with a pointed post: "How do we eliminate unethical abuse of 'Freedom of Speech' from responsible sources?" If you ask insiders, it is hard to miss the target of her tweet. Some are even wondering whether this could be the start of a series of posts by officials who have suddenly been jolted to become more vocal because of the seriousness of the issue, which, of course is non-official. With the lead reactions popping on X, people are wondering 'What next? Rarely do officials fan the flames when a Minister is going through *agni pariksha* as a woman minister left to her own devices.

PROS THEN AND NOW: TEAM KTR VS TEAM REVANTH

It seems the battle of words in the ongo-

ing war on the political turf is not limited to politicians in or out of power these days. Politicos' PROs too have their trump cards to put down officials who punch beyond their weight. Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's PRO got unsolicited but quite illuminating advice from KTR's team. Recently, Ayodhya Reddy, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's PRO, shared a video in which the CM is shown warning "those trying to use social media for power would end up in jail". But that did not sit well with Mahesh Manikya, KTR's PRO, who could not resist putting things in perspective. Mahesh cheekily responded, recalling how, during a programme for Kaka Venkatswamy, the Chief Minister had similarly talked about his detractors having to "eat jail food". In a riposte, he advised the CM's team to "write some good speeches as we used to... Need a lot of professionalism in Revanth's speeches". For the unversed, Mahesh is not the only one harbouring such thoughts. Insiders still recall with glee the infamous Independence Day speech in which the 'Bakra Nangal Dam in Telangana' gaffe by the Chief Minister left him red-faced on hindsight. The rumour mill has it that BRS working president and former minister KT Rama Rao himself remarked that he would have fired the PRO responsible for such geographical dislocation. The CMO's speechwriters must be wary of the fact that it is not just Opposition bigwigs who are keenly listening to the CM's speeches but also behind-the-scenes teams which are jotting down notes for sending out timely missile-like missives.

HIGH-HANDED SENIOR IPS OFFICERS AWAIT RELIEF FROM HIGH COURT

When it comes to law enforcement, uniformed personnel who take law into their hands and break all canons of dealing with the common people cannot be put on a pedestal and treated differently. This is the beauty of a functioning democracy, however tattered it may be. In Andhra Pradesh, senior law enforcement officials who brazenly violated rules had to knock on the doors of the High Court seeking relief. The IPS officers, PSR Anjaneyulu, Kanti Rana Tata, and Vishal Gunni, accused in the Mumbai actress Kadambari Jatwani illegal detention case, have moved the court seeking anticipatory bail. However, the Court has not taken any decision on their plea for over a fortnight. But the Court meanwhile instructed the law enforcement authorities to refrain from taking any hasty step against the three senior IPS officers till October 15. This has triggered a debate among All India Service officers in the state. Looks like the law will take its course.

--Yours truly

Govt taking steps to control cancer: Venkat

Calls for medical tests for early detection

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Assuring that the Congress government is taking steps to control cancer, R&B Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy gave a call to conduct medical tests early to detect cancer. Participating in the Global Cancer Run-2024 organised by the Grace Cancer Foundation at the Gachibowli Stadium on Sunday, Venkat said that programmes like this organised with the theme 'Running For Grace, Screening For Life' will make people understand the importance of early cancer tests.

He said the Congress government is not only giving digital health cards but has also taken steps to control cancer. Although doctors are saying that cancer can be controlled if detected early, many people who have no awareness of cancer are dying due to late diagnosis, Venkat said.

"The Grace Cancer Foundation is doing a good job of creating awareness by conducting free cancer screening tests. Cancer has been affecting the lives of



lakhs of poor people and there is a need for everyone to join hands to control cancer," he said.

'Engineers must consider Visvesvaraya as their model'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

R&B Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said that engineers are not those who build roads, dig canals and build buildings. Real engineers are those who guard public funds.

"Engineers should consider Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya as their role model and not the engi-

neers who executed the Kaleshwaram Project. KCR said that everything was his before the construction of the Kaleshwaram Project. After its collapse, KCR said it was an act of treason. If it was treason, it should be raised. But how did it go down? When his fraud came to light KCR tried to deceive the public," he said.

Corner Cong leaders on six guarantees: Harish

Appeals to youth to pull up government on promises

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLA T. Harish Rao appealed to the youth to pull up the Congress government regarding its electoral assurances. He asked the youth who come to villages during Dasara to discuss the

Congress government's betrayals. He appealed to the youth to think about the

Congress government's six guarantees as the youth voted the Congress to power believing its assurances.

Posting on X regarding this on Sunday Harish said the Congress government did not increase old pensions as it had assured and the farm loan waiver scheme has not been fully implemented. There is no Rythu Bharosa and Rythu Bandhu has been stopped. The bonus promised to paddy farmers has become bogus. Ten months have gone by but there are no two lakh jobs and no unemployment allowance, he said.

Harish told the youth to ask Congress leaders about their six guarantees, the Rythu Declaration, the Youth Declaration and the SC, ST, minority and BC declarations.

Declaring that the Congress deceived Telangana, he said the Congress party had failed Telangana.



Nizam VII's granddaughter files cheating case against 3 people

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Nizam VII of Hyderabad Mir Osman Ali Khan Bahadur's granddaughter Fatima Fouzia filed a criminal case against three persons for allegedly creating a parcel of land worth Rs 121 crore. This land is situated at Ooty in Tamil Nadu.

Initially, the police did not take the complainant. So, she went to the court and the court ordered the police to file a case. Accordingly, the Central Crime Station (CCS) filed a case under 318 (deceiving), 319 (cheating), 335 (creating

false document), 61 (criminal conspiracy) Sections of BNS against Milad Ali Khan, Sajjad Ali Khan and Mir Meraj Ali Khan.

The complainant said that the accused obtained a fraudulent succession order by fabricating a General Power of Attorney (GPA). That document purportedly signed by over 150 executants, none of whom actually signed it. The particular land is situated at Ooty in Tamil Nadu, in which the complainant's share is valued at more than Rs 121 crore.

CM to hand over appointment letters to teachers: CS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari said the newly selected teacher candidates will be given appointment letters by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy at the LB Stadium in Hyderabad on October 9, that is, Wednesday. A teleconference was held with the concerned secretaries and collectors on arrangements for the programme being held on October 9 at 4 pm.

The CS said that recruitment letters are being issued to around 10,000 teacher candidates. Collectors have completed the process of verifying the certificates of the selected teacher candidates, she said.

The CS said the School Education Commissioner will hand over the final list to collectors by Monday evening. All selected teachers will have to attend the function at the LB Stadium.

Collectors have been directed to make plans to reach the stadium. Special buses should be arranged to transport the selected teachers to Hyderabad and a constable and coordination officer should be present on each bus.

The City Police Commissioner has been told to arrange adequate parking for buses coming from districts near the venue and to drop the candidates near the stadium. She said that a rain-proof

shamiana should be put up as there is a chance of rain in the city and that arrangements should be made as there is a possibility that candidates along with their family members will come to the function where appointment orders would be handed over.

She said that district-wise special counters should be set up in the stadium to issue appointment letters to the candidates.

CM goes to New Delhi

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy reached New Delhi on Sunday night. He will attend the meeting of Naxalism-affected states being organised by the Union Home Ministry.

The Chief Minister will also meet Prime Minister Modi and appeal for more

funds for flood relief as the Centre gave only Rs 400 crore.

The CM would also meet AICC leaders and discuss cabinet expansion, nominated posts and other issues.

Revanth may stay in New Delhi on Monday too in view of Haryana results as exit polls said that the Congress is going to win.

L&T eyes role in NASA's successor to the International Space Station

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After powering ISRO's space missions for more than five decades, India's largest engineering firm Larsen and Toubro has now set its eyes on the international market, particularly the next International Space Station.

L&T was earlier in talks with Jeff Bezo's Blue Origin for supplying orbital launch capabilities and space habitat solutions but the negotiations ran into some difficulties. "Some remnants of that discussion continue till today but now with NASA. So, we are also hopeful that when the US requires its next space station, Indian firms will have a role to play in the supply chain," Vikas Khita,

Vice President, L&T Precision Engineering and Systems, told PTI.

Khita, who was speaking on the sidelines of an industry meet organised by Geospatial World, said the firm was also interested in building space ports, space parks and manufacturing clusters, areas which are expected to get a boost considering the government's opening up of the space sector for private participation in 2020. "In commercial terms, we are looking at a fivefold increase in turnover by 2033 of the space economy and a large part of this increase is to come from the upstream and the downstream sectors," he said.

L&T has been involved in the production of a range of hardware for every project of ISRO, including the Chandrayaan, Gaganyaan, and Mars Orbiter missions. The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited-L&T consortium is also producing five Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles (PSLV), marking the industry's maiden foray in building rockets for the space agency. The engineering firm is also learnt to have evinced interest in the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV), as ISRO is all set to transfer technology of the newly developed rocket to the private industry. India is set to play a significant role in the future space economy, aiming to capture about eight per cent of the global market by 2033.

REMOVAL OF ELECTED WOMAN REPRESENTATIVE

Should not be treated lightly, says SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Removal of an elected public representative should not be treated lightly, especially when it concerns women belonging to rural areas, the Supreme Court has said as it set aside an order for removal of a woman sarpanch in a Maharashtra village. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan termed the matter as a classic case where the residents of the village could not reconcile with the fact that a woman was



elected to the office of the sarpanch. The top court observed that it was a case where villagers were unable to come to terms with

the reality that a female sarpanch would make decisions on their behalf and that they would have to abide by her directions.

"This scenario gets further exacerbated when we as a country are attempting to realise the progressive goal of gender parity and women empowerment across all spheres, including public offices and most importantly adequate women representative in elected bodies, such instances at the grass-root level cast a heavy shadow on any headway that we may have achieved," the bench observed in its September 27 order.

Underscoring that it must be acknowledged that these women,

who succeed in occupying such public offices, do so only after significant struggle, the bench said, "All that we would like to reiterate is that the matter of removal of an elected public representative should not be treated so lightly, especially when it concerns women belonging to rural areas". The bench was dealing with a plea of Manish Ravindra Panpatil, an elected sarpanch of gram panchayat, Vichkheda situated in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra.

IAF's dazzling aerobatic prowess steals hearts

PNS ■ CHENNAI

A spectacular aerial display showcasing the prowess and manoeuvrability of the Indian Air Force (IAF) aircraft over the Marina beach, many holding umbrellas to shield themselves from the blazing sun, ahead of 11 am when the air show commenced with the Special Garuda Force commandos of the IAF displaying their daring skills in a simulated rescue operation and in freeing the hostage. Para jump instructors making an accurate landing on the target area and the commandos slithering in to reach the target area held the spectators spellbound. The 92nd IAF Day celebration on the Marina, between the Lighthouse and Chennai Port, was witnessed among others by Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin, Deputy CM



Udhayanidhi Stalin, state ministers, Chennai Mayor R Priya and a host of other dignitaries. Though the clear skies provided a good view of the fascinating air show by the IAF aircraft, people gathered on the sandy beach flashed

their umbrellas for an aerial photograph from the IAF aircraft towards the end of the mega show at 1 pm.

Nearly 72 aircraft took part in the air display which is set to enter the Limca Book of World Records. About 50 aircraft

including the supersonic fighter jets Rafale indulged in a formation showering flares. Heritage aircraft Dakota and Harvard, Tejas, SU-30, and Sarang, also, participated in the aerial salute. The Sukhoi Su-30 fighter jet performed the "Loop-tumble-yaw" manoeuvrability and dispensed flares. The Suryakiran, too, took to the skies to enthrall the crowd. The nation's pride, and our own indigenously manufactured state-of-the-art Light Combat Aircraft Tejas, and Light Combat Helicopter Prachand, too take part in the flypast and aerial display held in Chennai after a gap of 21 years with the theme: "Saksham, Sashakta, Amtanirbarh."

3 dead, 230 hospitalised after air show

Three spectators died and 230 others were hospitalised due to dehydration at an air show in Chennai, held to celebrate the 92nd anniversary of the Indian Air Force, authorities said.

The individuals who died in the incident were identified as Srinivasan (48) from Perungalathur, Karthikeyan

(34) from Thiruvottiyur, and John (56) from Korukuppeta.

Tamil Nadu BJP chief K. Annamalai expressed deep shock over the incident, placing the blame squarely on the state's DMK government.

"The loss of five lives cannot be passed off as an

accident," Annamalai stated, adding that the administration failed to provide even basic safety measures and transportation arrangements.

He criticised Chief Minister MK Stalin and accused him of neglecting public safety to promote his political interests.

CITY EVENTS

SERP - SARAS Fair-2024

Venue: People's Plaza, Hyderabad, Till October 7

Toxic

By Abhishek Upmanyu, Venue: Shilpakala Vedika, November 2

Prateek Kuhad

Silhouettes tour, Venue: Hyderabad international convention centre, November 8



Consumer court orders LIC to pay Rs 1.40 lakh to nominee

PNS ■ HYDERABAD The Nalgonda District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission...

The petitioner was filed by the wife of policy holder Vempati Saidamma and her two daughters and one son.

The complainant told to the court that the LIC said that when the policy noted that the claimant V Padma was the wife of late Adinarayana...

After hearing the arguments, the court ordered the LIC to pay Rs 1 lakh towards sum assured under LIC's Aadhaar Stambh Policy with all benefits and bonus...

City Pioneer



HYDERABAD MONDAY | OCTOBER 7, 2024

03

BATHUKAMMA CELEBRATIONS IN DUBAI

Do not forget our roots, culture, traditions: Minister Jupally

PNS ■ HYDERABAD Emphasising the importance of not forgetting our State's unique roots, culture and traditions...



The Bathukamma festival, reflecting Telangana's culture and women's power, was celebrated enthusiastically in Dubai.

Case booked for unauthorised DJ sounds

The Petbasheerabad Police of the Cyberabad Commissionerate registered a criminal case for playing DJ sounds at Bathukamma festival on Friday.

The event manager's name is Paryada Karthik. When the officials asked for permission, Karthik said he did not have any permission.

released a press note the same day of the incident. The press note said that no person should use loud speakers at public places without obtaining permission from the Police.



61st Formation Day of Nehru Zoological Park celebrated

PNS ■ HYDERABAD The 61st Formation Day of Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad, was celebrated on Sunday. Dr Sunil S. Hiremath, Director (FAC) of Zoo Parks, was the chief guest.

Cockroach infestation continues in restaurants

PNS ■ HYDERABAD The Telangana Food Safety Commission (TFSC) inspected restaurants in Gachibowli and found live cockroach infestations and multiple violations.

Later on, the officials also inspected Maredumilli Restaurant, Gachibowli and found a cockroach infestation in the kitchen refrigerator.

Finally, the officials inspected Dine-O-China, Gachibowli and found that FSSAI licence was missing, drains were clogged, water analysis reports and medical certificates were found unavailable.



20,000 participate in Quambiant Global Grace Cancer Run-2024

PNS ■ HYDERABAD In all, 20,000 participated in the Quambiant Global Grace Cancer Run-2024 held in Gachibowli on Sunday morning.

Komatireddy emphasised Hyderabad's role as a health and vaccine hub and the importance of early cancer detection.

In the men's 10K, Mohit Chowdhary finished first, while Uma went the women's 10K.

Policemen wait for arrears

B SRINIVAS REDDY srinivasred84@gmail.com ■ HYDERABAD



Police personnel play a very crucial role in maintaining law and order in the city and State. From providing security to the general public to festival bandobast, we need policemen to safeguard us and our society from miscreants.

Policemen strive hard for the safety of the public and the society, but at the same time it's the duty of the State government to ensure that arrears are released on time for them.

But, it seems that the Telangana State government is not in a mood to release the arrears, which have been pending since many years.

allowance (DA) and Pay Revision Commission (PRC) 2023 arrears.

According to sources, more than 30,000 policemen in the State still have not got their DA, PRC 2023, DA arrear bills, surrender bills, PRC arrears bills and General Provident Fund (GPF) bills.

Most of the policemen have been eagerly waiting for their allowances to be cleared. Another police constable told The Pioneer that they save Rs 5,000 to 10,000 under GPF to use during medical emergencies and for school children fees.

since two years and they are facing much more difficulties during health emergencies.

One of the police constables told The Pioneer that "When K Chandrashekar Rao was the chief minister of Telangana, they released DA arrears to some policemen. After that again the CM wrote a letter to release the DA allowances, but that time elections cycle of conduct was there.

In assembly also, the BJP, AMIM and other party MLAs raised this issue. The State government said that the arrears will be released. But till now, they have not released, said sources.



Bachupally Police arrest a group of bike offenders involved in the theft of high-end motorcycles.

Bike thieves arrested, nine vehicles seized

PNS ■ HYDERABAD The sleuths of Bachupally Police on Sunday arrested a group of bike offenders involved in the theft of high-end motorcycles.

in the theft of nine motorcycles, including KTMs and R15s, across various police station limits, including Bachupally, KPHB, and RC Puram.

Zafar Javeed elected Nizam Club president

DEEPIKA PASHAM deepikapasham2015@gmail.com ■ HYDERABAD

The elite heritage Nizam Club which grabbed limelight for not having a FSSAI licence, saw its elections for five posts on Sunday.

The 7,000 members consisting of businessmen and academicians turned up to vote. Former president Rajender informed The Pioneer, "The voting has

been successful for the elections of posts vice-president, joint secretary and three members. Two women have contested for the posts."

The following members have been declared elected and votes secured in the club elections. Zafar Javeed secured 1,103 votes was declared president against Karuna Dundoo who got 1,003 votes.

The elected members of the managing committee are Dr Anil M.Patalay - 178, Mir Osman Ali Khan - 1,140, P Shailaja Reddy - 1,097, R Rajeshwar Reddy - 1,107, Suleman Moineddin - 407 and Surender Singh Makhija - 1,162.

The members have also detailed that due to recent raids by the Task Force team, the major topic is to review sanitization, kitchen and preparation of iconic food.

Eleven chairmen appointed for ZGSs in districts

PNS ■ HYDERABAD Telangana government has issued appointments for eleven chairmen posts under the School Education department for Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas (ZGS) in various districts.

The order said that in exercise of the powers conferred under sub-sections (2) and (3) of section 10 of the Telangana Public Libraries Act, 1960 (Act No.VIII of 1960), the government made the appointment and nominated the individuals with immediate effect.



Aluganti Madhusudhan for Rangareddy, Golla Anjaiah for Sangareddy, G Govardhan for Wanaparthy, Maddi Chandrakanth Reddy for Kamareddy, Rajesh Reddy for Vikarabad, Varala Vijay Kumar for Narayanpet, Neeli Sreenivasulu for Jogulamba Gadwal and Mallu Narsimha ATM for Mahabubnagar.

Demand for train from Sec-bad to Goa fulfilled: Kishan Reddy

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister of Coal and Mines, Government of India G Kishan Reddy flagged off the Secunderabad - Vasco - Da - Gama inaugural Express from Secunderabad station on Sunday.

Addressing the gathering, Kishan Reddy stated that in the last few years, Telangana has been witness to a host of infrastructural developments pertaining to Railways. He stated that there was a long-pending demand to run an exclusive train to Goa from the capital city region of Telangana.



provides direct facility to the people of major cities of Telangana like Hyderabad, Shadnagar, Jadcherla, Mahbubnagar, Gadwal and important places of Andhra Pradesh like Kurnool, Dhone and Guntakal towards Goa. Apart from Goa, this train also caters to the people who wish to travel to major cities of Karnataka like Bellary, Hospet, Hubballi, Dharwad and Londa, he added.

that Secunderabad railway station is being redeveloped with world-class standards at an estimated cost of Rs 700 crore and the works are targeted to be completed by the end of 2025. He stated that Secunderabad station is second after the New Delhi railway station in running the highest number of Vande Bharat Express services.

St Francis College for Women hosts 44th graduation ceremony

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Celebrating another academic achievement, St Francis College for Women hosted its 44th graduation ceremony on its campus in Begumpet. The event marked the presence of M. Dana Kishore, incharge Vice-Chancellor, Osmania University & Principal Secretary, Municipal Administration & Urban Development, along with A Sri Devasena, Commissioner, Collegiate & Technical Education, Chairman, State Board of Technical Education & Training, and Director, Telugu Academy, who conferred the degrees to the graduating classes.



Chief guest Dana Kishore hands over a gold medal to Sai Venkata Taruni

A total of 40 gold medals were awarded to the students of 2021-'24 (UG batch) and 2022-'24 (PG batch), for their academic achievements. Principal, Dr Uma Joseph, congratulated the graduates and

instilled in them a sense of courage and readiness to prepare themselves for the world outside the college. Meanwhile, the chief guest, Dana Kishore, appreciated St Francis College for Women for being a symbol of enlightenment, emancipation and empowerment which was evidenced by its impressive ranking in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF ranking 100-150).

Cyberabad Police crack murder case in Kukatpally

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Kukatpally Police on Sunday arrested a 35-year old woman in a murder case, which happened a few days back.

The arrested has been identified as Katari Manjula (35), resident of Yellammabanda, Hyderabad. The deceased woman was identified as Dharmaram Priyanka (23), she came to Hyderabad from her native village Bodhan, Nizamabad about two months ago and was staying in KPHB area and leading her life by prostitution.

A month ago, Katari Manjula and Dharmaram Priyanka met each other and the Priyanka had given her silver ornaments to the accused for safe custody as she was not having proper shelter.

But after one week, when she asked the accused to return her ornaments, the accused dodged the matter. Later, they both quarrelled on this issue and Priyanka threatened the accused by calling her male friends. Then the accused took her alone to her house, returned the ornaments, but felt offended by the incident and murdered her.

Cyber Crime unit arrests 18 people

The Hyderabad City Cyber Crimes unit has conducted a special operation with six teams across various states, including Karnataka, Maharashtra and Rajasthan and arrested 18 cyber criminals, including three key masterminds. This operation led to the detection of 10 major cases by the Cyber Crime Police Station. The nature of the cases includes Investment frauds, digital frauds, sextortion frauds, OTP frauds and Insurance frauds

and total fraud amount was 6.94,09,661. The arrested individuals are wanted in a total of 319 cases across India, including 45 cases from Telangana. Police have seized Rs 5,00,000, 26 mobile phones, 16 ATM cards, 7 passbooks, 11 cheque books and laptops from the arrested fraudsters. Additionally, an amount of Rs 1.61,25,876 has been frozen in the bank accounts of the accused.



Retail price of tomato shoots up to Rs 100 a kg

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Tomatoes are being sold at Rs 100 in retail market, increasing its price by Rs 20 per kg within 48 hours. The increased prices of tomatoes have affected the poor and middle classes who are already peeved with the increased prices of onions.

Twenty days ago, a kg of tomatoes were sold between Rs 30 and 40 a kg in the domestic market. Five days ago, their prices were jacked up to Rs 60 a kg.

The wholesale traders sell tomatoes at Rs 80 a kg to retail traders who, in turn, sell the tomatoes to customers at Rs 100 a kg.

The increase in price of tomato is attributed to shortage of tomato due to shrinking of area under the crop. Because of the extreme variation in prices of tomatoes, the farmers are not coming forward to cultivate tomatoes. Therefore, the

traders have to import tomatoes from other states like AP and Karnataka. Four or five months ago, the local traders imported tomatoes from Nizamabad and Medak districts. The recent heavy rains have damaged tomato crop, suspending import of tomatoes from the two districts.

The import of tomatoes from Kalyanadurgam and Madanapalli in Andhra Pradesh has also been suspended because of the same reasons. The recent floods destroyed tomato crop there forcing the traders to increase the prices of tomatoes there. A 22 kg of tomato box is being sold at Rs 1,550 (Rs 70 per kg) in AP. The wholesale traders import tomatoes from there, and sell tomatoes at Rs 80 a kg adding transport costs and handling expenses. However, the retail traders have been selling tomatoes at Rs 100 a kg adding their profit of Rs 20 per kg.

TTD takes up development of Kondagattu shrine



PNS ■ JAGTIAL

The long-standing wish of the devotees of Kondagattu Anjaneya Swamy will soon come true. In this regard, the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) has shared good news. The TTD has taken the initiative to develop the ancient temples in the country, including the Kondagattu Anjaneya Swamy temple in Telangana. In this context, the TTD is

committed to constructing 100 rooms on the premises of the shrine for the devotees, according to reports.

As part of this effort, the TTD's engineering officials visited the site near the temple to assess it. Congress leaders have taken advantage of the TTD initiative to criticise the previous government for failing to fulfil its promise to grant Rs 100 crore for the development of the shrine. Along with the construction of the

rooms, temple officials are considering starting Giri Pradakshina in Kondagattu. Meanwhile, it is said that the Anjaneya Swamy temple on Kondagattu was built over 400 years ago. History states that Anjaneya appeared there as a self-manifested deity. The Anjaneya Swamy temple shines as a jewel for the people of Telangana. However, until now, devotees faced difficulties due to inadequate facilities. Now, with the construction of

rooms for devotees, it seems that a long-awaited dream is finally coming true.

The temple became popular with the people of Telangana. Hitherto, the temple has inadequate facilities for the devotees thronging the place. With the TTD coming forward to build rooms for the benefit of the devotees, the long-felt dream of the devotees is soon going to be fulfilled.

'Kalyana Lakshmi cheques delayed for eight months in Narsapur

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

The Congress party has failed to fulfill the promises made to people ahead of elections, said Narsapur BRS MLA V Sunitha Lakshmi Reddy at a press conference on Sunday.

Sunitha Lakshmi Reddy said that although the State government promised to provide saris or Rs 500 to women for the Bathukamma festival, no action had been taken so far.

She claimed that the BRS government has made arrangements to honour women and conduct the Bathukamma celebrations grandly. The Congress government did nothing for women. She pointed out that the Congress government had failed to ensure



BRS MLA Sunitha Lakshmi Reddy addressing a press conference in Sangareddy on Sunday

that the farm loan waiver benefit reached all eligible farmers and thus pushed the farmers into increased debt. She said that in the Narsapur constituency, Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak cheques

for 400 beneficiaries have been pending for eight months

She demanded that the government immediately release funds for input subsidy under the Rythu Bharosa scheme and implement the six guarantees

with integrity. She also noted that the state government also failed to provide pensions for the elderly, widows, and disabled individuals for two months.

The MLA called for the establishment of procurement centres to purchase paddy in the state, ensuring that all necessary facilities are provided to farmers.

She said that in the Narsapur constituency, Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak cheques for 400 beneficiaries have been pending for eight months. She warned that if the cheques are not distributed within two days considering the upcoming Dasara festival, beneficiaries would stage a protest in the town.

People dissatisfied with Special Officers in villages

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

As the terms of Sarpanches expired in panchyats under Shadnagar constituency, the State government has appointed special officers to oversee village coordination. However, locals have expressed dissatisfaction, stating that these officers may not effectively tackle the problems. According to the residents, the officers do not visit the villages regularly, leaving issues unaddressed. The lack of attention has resulted in neglected villages where people are suffering from the spread of diseases caused by flies and mosquitoes.

Following the expiration of the Sarpanches' term on February 1, the government appointed temporary special officers to handle village affairs. These officers were tasked with solving urgent problems. However, many villagers allege that the special officers are only seen during gram sabhas, leaving critical issues unresolved. Despite recent heavy rains causing houses to collapse, streams to overflow, and transportation to be disrupted, the officers have failed to take necessary action.

Munugode to be upgraded to municipality soon: Rajgopal

PNS ■ NALGONDA

The Munugode constituency is on the cusp of 'big leap forward' as MLA Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy announced plans to upgrade it to a municipality. During a visit to various areas in Munugode on Sunday, he inspected the TSRTC bus station, nearby market areas, the police station, and the Scheduled Castes Boys' hostel, emphasising the need for all government offices and educational institutions to be in one location.

The MLA proposed the establishment of an integrated market for both vegetarian and non-vegetarian products as well as the construction of necessary government office buildings to meet future demands. He discussed the vision for a consolidated campus that includes degree, intermediate, and polytechnic colleges, ensuring all educational facilities are situated together.

Rajgopal Reddy said he is committed to developing Munugode into a well-planned town for future generations. He assured that proposals to upgrade the constituency to a municipality will be submitted to the government. As part of his visit, he inter-



Congress MLA Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy interacting with people in Munugode constituency on Sunday

acted with women at the Munugode bus station, inquiring about their daily commuting experiences. A woman pointed out that those traveling for free were occupying the seats, leaving ticket holders without a place to sit.

In a related initiative, the MLA has decided to grant Rs 10 lakh in development funds to villages that successfully. He was happy that belt shops were shut. Women in the community have expressed their gratitude for this decision, stating that the closure of

these shops has allowed them to work without the distraction.

The MLA's efforts have spurred the formation of committees in various villages to oversee the closure of liquor belt shops with community members actively participating in these initiatives. In recognition of their efforts, the committee members from Ravi Gudem village were honored at the MLA's personal camp office, where he announced the immediate release of funds for their development.

CPM calls for protest to highlight people's problems

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

The CPI-M called for protests in the city demanding that the government addresses problem being faced by people. The CPI-M district executive committee member Y Vikram was addressing a meeting in connection with the executive of the party unit of 51st and 52nd divisions of the city held here on a grand scale on Sunday. Senior leader of the party SK Buden hoisted the party flag.

Vikram highlighted the problems being faced people due to not having proper drains and roads. He under-

lined the need for resolving the problems through staging protests on local bodies.

He demanded the authorities to give ration cards and house sites to the eligible. He laid emphasis on widening the road from Traffic police station to Sarita Clinic center into a 100-foot road.

The road, which leads to the new bus station from the old bus station, is very crucial.

Therefore, he demanded the civic authorities to widen it immediately. The CPM would lead protests soon on the people's issues, he said.

ALLEGED POLITICAL PRESSURE

Municipal Commissioner goes on long leave

PNS ■ GADWAL

Gadwal Municipal Commissioner Dasaradhham has recently gone on a two-month leave apparently unable to withstand the political pressure brought on him not to prevent removing flexi banners which mushroomed in the town.

The flexi war between political leaders is posing a big problem to the civic authorities. If the banners are removed, a particular political leader gets angry if they are not

removed another group of political leaders will criticise the civic authorities.

The civic authorities are apparently caught in a bind and finding it difficult to make a balancing act not stepping on the toes of any political leader. Not able to do anything, the political leaders are scratching their heads.

On the visit of VIPs to the town and on the birthdays of the political leaders, the banners are being erected across the town. At important junctions, the banners are seen

everywhere in the town. The mushrooming growth of flexi banners has been posing problems to the people.

Recently, the birthdays of two popular leaders were celebrated in the town.

Their fans and followers erected huge cutouts and banners in the town to convey their greetings to the leaders. When the civic authorities try to remove these cutouts, they are coming under the fire of those who erected them.

If the authorities fail to remove them, the people of the

town and rival political groups are mounting pressure on the authorities questioning them for the delay in their removal.

In fact, to erect banners and flexis permission of the panchayat or municipality should be taken. Here, everyone is erecting the banners according to their whims and fancies without paying the requisite fee to the civic body and obtaining necessary permission. A cutout installed near the old bus stand in

Gadwal collapsed recently under the impact of the heavy

gales and rains and fell on a woman. Several argue that had there been crowds in the area it would have definitely caused a major accident.

The tying flexis to the electric poles on the road dividers is making the vehicles commute on the road almost brushing these banners.

Municipal Commissioner Dasaradhham was transferred here from Hyderabad three months ago. According to reports, he is facing severe political pressure on the issue of the banners.

20 injured as private bus overturns near Nalgonda

PNS ■ NALGONDA

A private bus carrying 35 passengers overturned on Saturday night in Nalgonda, resulting in injuries to 20 people. The condition of the two of the injured is stated to be critical.

The accident occurred when the bus driver attempted to go around a barricade at a construction site on Marriguda bypass, leading to the driver losing control of steering. Local residents quickly came to the rescue of the passengers trapped in the bus. The local people helped the people extricated themselves from the ill-fate bus and called an ambulance to ferry them to hospital.

Emergency services and police

arrived promptly to manage the situation and clear the traffic. Authorities are currently investigating the circumstances surrounding the incident to determine the exact cause and any potential negligence involved.

This incident highlights the ongoing concerns regarding road safety, especially near construction zones, as officials urge all drivers to adhere to traffic regulations to prevent such accidents in the future. Further updates on the condition of the injured and the investigation will be provided as information becomes available. Of late, more private buses have been competing with the TSRTC buses on Hyderabad-Vijayawada and Hyderabad-Nellore routes.



Ill-fated bus

Entrapped by financial distress, auto-rickshaw driver commits suicide

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Tragedy struck the family of an auto-rickshaw driver at Choppakatapalem village under Boanakaal mandal in Khammam district in the early hours of Saturday.

Auto-rickshaw driver, identified as Amaraboina Papa Rao alias Dhanaiah (30) had been eking out a living and supporting his family. He recently purchased a new auto-rickshaw after obtaining a loan from a local financier. He agreed to pay a monthly instalment of Rs 10,000 and 10 more instalments remained to be made.

However, his income from driving the auto-rickshaw had significantly decreased, leading to a mounting of debt burden. The instalments, combined with the expenses for the maintenance

of his family, became overwhelming. Before the government introduced free bus services for women, he used to earn Rs 800 to Rs 1,000 a day. Now, he was hardly earning Rs300 to Rs 400 a day.

As usual, Paparao returned home on Friday night, deeply distressed about how he would manage to pay these monthly instalments. Overcome with despair, he sent his wife and children out of the house and hanged himself from the ceiling fan. His wife, noticing this, called neighbours for help. They broke down the door, but by the time they entered, Paparao died. His wife immediately called the police by dialling 100. Bonakal police arrived at the scene and shifted the body to the Madhira Government Hospital on Saturday.

According to Sub Inspector Kadagandla Madhubabu, a case was registered.



ACROSS THE STATES



No meat, liquor within Maha Kumbh periphery: UP CM

Sale and consumption of meat and liquor will be strictly prohibited within the periphery of Maha Kumbh Mela area, Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath said on Sunday. Adityanath made the announcement in a meeting he held with representatives of 13 Akharas, Khak Chowk, Dandi Bara, and Acharya Bara. According to a press release, the CM said it is necessary to impose the ban in view of the sentiments of the Sanatan society. He said the government is making efforts to clean the rivers, but the cooperation of the sadhu community is also expected. Adityanath said land will soon be reserved in Prayagraj for the 'samadhi' of the sadhus who will attain 'salvation' during the Maha Kumbh. He requested the sadhus to not allow anyone to stay in their ashrams until they are duly verified. After landing at the helipad at Parade, the CM reached Sangam by motor boat, where he worshipped the Ganga-Yamuna



Muslim cleric asks his community to keep off garba

A Muslim cleric in Madhya Pradesh's Ratlam city has appealed to his community members to stay away from garba (folk dance) events during the ongoing Navratri festival, stating that it goes against their faith. "I request Muslim young people, mothers, sisters and daughters not to visit fairs and watch garba events. Instead, I call upon you to stay at home keeping in mind the situation," said 'Shahar Qazi' (city Muslim chief cleric) Syed Ahmed Ali in a written message to his community. Such activities are forbidden in Islam, he said. The cleric told PTI on Sunday that he made the request "keeping in mind the current situation". In Ratlam city, the organisers of many garba events have banned the entry of non-Hindus at their venues. They have also put up banners at entry points conveying the decision. Meanwhile, several women police personnel on two-wheelers have been patrolling the areas around garba venues to ensure incident-free Navratri celebrations, a senior official said.



5 killed as dumper rams bikes in Rajasthan's Dausa

A dumper rammed into three motorcycles in Dausa district of Rajasthan, killing five people and injuring 10 others on Sunday, police said. The incident took place in Lalsot at around 11.30 am, SHO of Lalsot police station Mahavir Singh said, adding initial investigation found that the dumper hit the motorcycles after its brakes failed. He said four of the five deceased have been identified as Laxmi Mahawar (7), Mahesh Chandra Sharma (45), Ram Hari Yogi (42) and Revad Mal Mahawar (40), while efforts are being made to identify the fifth victim, a woman. The injured have been admitted to a hospital. The SHO said four people including an unidentified woman died on the spot while Revad Mal Mahawar died during treatment in Dausa. He said that after the postmortem, the bodies were handed over to their family members. Rajasthan Governor Haribhau Bagde and Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel Khushwant expressed grief over the accident and also wished for the speedy recovery of the injured.

CM misleading country on farm..

Continued from page 1

2) The Congress Government couldn't live up to what it promised and extended its deadline till August 15, 2024, during the Parliament elections. The Chief Minister went a step further and made a promise that he would complete the crop loan waiver by 15-08-2024. 3) The Chief Minister claims that the Telangana Government has completed waiving loans up to Rs 2 lakh. This is false and is evident from the data given by the SBI on 25-09-2024 as per an RTI request filed by me. There are 5,74,137 farmers with loans less than Rs 1 lakh with the SBI and the loans of only 2,99,445

farmers have been waived. The total number of farmers with loans between Rs 1 lakh and Rs 1.5 lakh with the SBI is 2,62,341 and only the loans of 1,30,915 farmers have been waived. The number of farmers with loans between Rs 1.5 & Rs 2 lakh with the SBI is 1,65,607 and only the loans of 65,231 farmers have been waived off till date. The data clearly states that almost 5.5 lakh farmers, that is, nearly 50% of farmers' loans have not been waived in the SBI alone. The numbers could be the same regarding other banks. 4) The Chief Minister claimed that he would waive the loan of farmers having loans exceeding Rs 2 lakh once the farmers paid the amount above

'UN like 'old company', not entirely keeping up with market'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Sunday took a critical view of the United Nations, saying it was "like an old company", not entirely keeping up with the market but occupying the space. During an interaction at the Kautilya Economic Conclave here, he also said that two very serious conflicts are going on in the world. "And where is the UN on them, essentially a bystander," the minister said.



In response to a query on the possible outcome of the US elections, he said the US actually has "made a shift", geopolitically and in its economic outlook, and irrespective of the outcomes in November, many of these trends will "intensify" in the days to come. Jaishankar took part in the interactive session on 'India and the Globe' and spoke of India's role and challenges amid changing global dynamics. "So, we are both a lifting tide and a bit of paradoxical one, a ballast as well," Jaishankar said as he enumerated some of the steps India has taken to help

other countries, including its neighbours such as Sri Lanka. Asked about his upcoming visit to Pakistan to attend a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), he again sought to rule out any bilateral talks with his Pakistani counterpart.

"I am going there for a certain job, a certain responsibility. And, I take my responsibilities seriously. So, I am going there to represent India at the SCO meeting, and that is what I am going to do," Jaishankar said. At an event on Saturday, the external affairs minister

said that he was going to Islamabad for a "multilateral event" and not to discuss India-Pakistan relations.

In his response to a query on the United Nations' role amid the changing global scenario, he took a rather critical view of the world body that was born in 1945 after the Second World War. Initially, it had 50 countries, which has grown over these years to nearly four times.

"The UN is in a way like an old company, not entirely keeping up with the market, but occupying the space. And, when it's behind times, in this world you have start-ups and innovations, so different people start doing their own things," Jaishankar said.

"So, what you have today is that you have a UN at the end, however suboptimal in functioning, it is still the only multilateral game in town," he added. "But, when it's behind times, on key issues, countries figure out their own ways of doing it. For example, let's take the last five-10 years, probably the biggest thing that happened in our life was Covid. Now, what did the UN do on Covid? I think the answer is -- not very much," the minister said.

CBI, ED, Police don't 'arrest' people through video calls

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI, police, customs, ED or judges do not arrest people through video calls, the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) said in a public advisory issued in view of the rising cases of 'digital arrest' crimes in the country.

Terming it a scam, the federal cyber security agency cautioned people against falling victim to such crimes committed using the Internet. "Don't Panic, Stay Alert. CBI/Police/Customs/ED/Judges DO NOT arrest you on video call," stated the advisory issued on Saturday. The advisory depicted the logos

Asserts Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre amid digital arrests



of social media platforms like WhatsApp and Skype to showcase that calls for such scams are made using such platforms. These social media platforms

have said in the past that they are coordinating with cyber security agencies of the government to provide users enhanced safety against such crimes.

The I4C urged people to report such crimes at the central helpline number 1930 or the website -- www.cyber-crime.gov.in. Digital arrest is the name given to a cyber crime technique where fraudsters send an SMS or make video calls to a person posing as law enforcement agency officials fraudulently claiming that the individual or his close

family members have been caught by a government investigative agency in a criminal activity like drugs trafficking or money laundering.

The cyber criminal subsequently confines the person to their premises by asking them to keep their mobile phone cameras on as part of a 'digital arrest' and then seek money through online transfer to bail the victim out of this situation.

A good number of these new-age cyber crimes are virtually reported every day from various parts of the country.

Register Kultuli case under POCSO Act

PNS ■ KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday directed the police to register the alleged rape-murder case of a 10-year-old girl in South 24 Parganas district under the POCSO Act, and ensure that the culprits get capital punishment within three months.

Her direction came on a day when Calcutta High Court ordered that the post-mortem examination of the schoolgirl be conducted at AIIMS Kalyani

Bengal CM directs Police



on Monday morning in the presence of the additional chief judicial magistrate of Baruipur court. The 10-year-old girl was allegedly raped and murdered while returning to her Joynagar

home after attending her tuition classes on Saturday.

Justice Tirthankar Ghosh, while hearing a petition filed by the girl's parents on Sunday, directed that if AIIMS Kalyani lacks the necessary infrastructure to conduct the post-mortem examination, it should be carried out at Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial (JNM) Hospital, also located in Kalyani, the court said.

More and more women's participation needed in Parl, Assemblies: Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Flagging inequality in leadership roles in Parliament and state assemblies, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Sunday said for true equality, more and more women's participation is necessary in these institutions.

The former Congress chief urged women to participate in his party's 'Shakti Abhiyan', which aims to create an equal space for 'women's interests' in politics. "Women have always been an important force in our society and politics, but still there is inequality in leadership roles in Parliament and assemblies," he said in a post in Hindi on Facebook. "For true equality, more and more women's



participation in these places is necessary," Gandhi said.

"With the thought of 'Aadhi Abadi, Poora Haq', we are dedicated to this goal. If you too are ready to bring this change, then join 'Shakti Abhiyan'," the Congress leader said. "Your participation is very important to bring real change by strengthening the organisa-

tion at the grassroots level," he said. "Let us become participants of this change, from the village to the nation," Gandhi said and shared a link to register for 'Shakti Abhiyan'.

The Indian Youth Congress' Shakti Abhiyan' initiative aims to create an equal space for 'women's interests' in politics and decision-making, driven by the representation of women by women' at all levels of governance -- local bodies, legislative assemblies and Parliament.

The Indira Fellowship is an initiative in honour of former prime minister Indira Gandhi to amplify the voices of women in the political arena and drive a much-needed transformation in our society.



BJP forming govt for third time in Haryana, says CM

Rejects exit poll predictions

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Rejecting exit poll predictions, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Sunday claimed his party BJP will form the government in the state with full majority for a third time when the results are announced on October 8.

The Congress will blame the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) for their defeat, he said, attacking the opposition party, which is ahead in the race, according to most exit polls. Replying to a question about the exit polls predicting a Congress win, Saini said, "On October 8, we are going to form the government."

He said, "8 tareekh ko janata degi jawab, aur yeh (Congress) kahenge EVM hai kharab (People will have their say on October 8, and they - Congress - will blame the EVMs)."

BYPOLLS TO 10 SEATS

INDIA bloc's first major test in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bypolls to 10 assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh will be a litmus test for the INDIA bloc's unity after the group's success in the recent Lok Sabha polls when they won more than 40 seats, significantly contributing to the BJP's failure to win a simple majority in parliament.

However, the two INDIA bloc allies in Uttar Pradesh -- Samajwadi Party and Congress -- have not been able to firm-up a seat-sharing pact for the bypolls even though the Congress has staked claims to contest five of the 10 seats, a proposition the SP may not agree with. Leaders from both the parties say their aim is to defeat the BJP, and they are confident they would contest the bypolls together.

Uttar Pradesh Congress chief Ajay Rai told PTI, "The party is holding 'Samvidhan Bachao Sammelan' (save Constitution conferences) on



all 10 assembly seats that are going to polls. Two such conferences have already been held. We have appointed incharges and observers on all the 10 seats and ground work is on." The assembly seats where bypolls are due are: Katehari (Ambedkar Nagar), Karhal (Mainpuri), Milkipur (Ayodhya), Meerapur (Muzaffarnagar), Ghaziabad, Majhawan (Mirzapur), Sishamau (Kanpur city), Khair (Aligarh), Phulpur (Prayagraj) and Kundarki (Moradabad).

Drugs worth Rs 1,814 cr seized from Bhopal factory; 2 held

PNS ■ AHMEDABAD

Authorities have seized mephedrone (MD) drug valued at Rs 1,814 crore and its raw materials from a factory on the outskirts of Madhya Pradesh capital Bhopal and arrested two persons in this connection, officials said on Sunday.

Total 907.09 kg of mephedrone, both in solid and liquid forms, was seized in the raid and search operation carried out jointly by the Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) and the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Delhi, at the factory located in Bagroda industrial estate near Bhopal on Saturday, they said.

This is the largest illegal factory ever busted by the Gujarat



ATS. The unit had the capacity to manufacture 25 kg of MD drug per day, the ATS said in a statement. A process was underway to manufacture a large amount of the contraband when the raid was carried out, it said.

During the operation, authorities seized 907.09 kg of mephedrone, both in solid and liquid forms, with an estimated value of Rs 1,814.18 crore in the international market, the ATS said.

Land records will be..

Continued from page 1

He said the Congress government will completely clean up the revenue system and provide transparent revenue services to the common man.

The Congress government will appoint a revenue officer for each revenue village and the government will decide on this before the new revenue law comes into force. "The BRS government ruined the revenue system through its hasty decisions. The Congress government has taken the suggestions of employees, intellectuals and commoners. The law has also reached its final stage. If there are good points in the Revenue Act-2020 the government will incorporate it in the new law," he said.

"On Saturday, I visited Tirumalgiri Mandal and talked to farmers. If a survey is conducted about the 4,380 acres in this mandal alone, it would be revealed that pass books were

given for 1,300 acres, but the owners do not possess the land. As per the recommendations of officials who came here for protecting government lands, we will hold a meeting with the legal team in the case of lands involved in cases at the state level and district level every three months. I will attend the state level meeting. No matter which government is in power, no matter who is the revenue minister, we will digitise revenue records to ensure that no one tampers with government land records," Ponguleti said.

He said that training is mandatory for all new hands as well as everyone in service. A job chart would be prepared for Revenue Department employees. For this, a committee would be formed. Revenue officials are the eyes and ears of the government. If Revenue employees work well, people stand to benefit and the government will get a good name, he added.

No stopping of Musi..

Continued from page 1

The government will hand over appointment letters to 11,063 teachers on October 9. It is our responsibility," the CM said. He said the government had decided to clean the Musi River by executing the Musi Riverfront Development Project. "Whatever the hurdles, we will execute the project. Should the people of the Musi catchment area live with stink? The government will construct houses for the displaced," the CM said.

He said that it is not justifiable for the opposition to block the Musi Project and instead, they should give good suggestions. "Eatala Rajender changed his shirt but not the smell of his old shirt. Eatala is still following the footsteps of the BRS. He is toying the KTR and Harish line. My appeal to Eatala is to stand by the poor. Visiting the Musi area is not enough to understand the problem. KTR, Harish and Eatala should stay for a week in houses along the Musi River and only then will they understand the plight of the people there," Revanth said.

The CM asked the KCR family, which is inciting the Musi oustees, to do something for them. He asked BRS leaders to give suggestions on how to help them. No government will stop executing projects thinking that people would become homeless, the CM said.

The CM said that the BRS government did not consider filling vacancies in government service its responsibility even though it issued notifications to fill vacancies. After a long wait, the unemployed lost faith in the BRS government, he said.

The Congress government gave appointment orders to 30,000 candidates within 90 days of coming to power at the place where we took oath, he said. He said the government handed over appointment letters on Sunday to bring cheers to every family during Dussehra. "The state of Telangana came into being due to the sacrifices of youths. All the newly recruited persons will be part of the project to rebuild Telangana. Be responsible in discharging your duties," the CM said.

We have implemented..

Continued from page 1

This initiative, which reflects our government's commitment to the agrarian community, aims to alleviate the financial burden on farmers and ensure that they are empowered to continue contributing to the state's agricultural productivity without the burden of debt. We believe this will not only strengthen our state's economy but also boost the morale of the farming community across Telangana.

There are farmers whose outstanding loan exceeds Rs 2 lakh. We have assured them that once these farmers repay the loan amount exceeding Rs

2 lakh, the government will disburse Rs 2 lakh to those farmers. We are committed to fulfilling this promise of making our farmers debt-free in a time-bound manner. The government has already planned a budget of ₹26,000 crores for this scheme this year and is prepared to invest up to Rs 31,000 crore to ensure that the loans of all eligible farmers are waived.

We seek your support for the farmers of Telangana and the state as a whole in our efforts to alleviate the financial burden on our agrarian community. Your guidance will be invaluable in ensuring that the welfare of our farmers remains a priority and that our state continues

on its path of growth. I request that together let us strive to boost the confidence of our farming community, instead of undermining their self-confidence.

I would like to bring to your notice that relevant data, including details of the 22,22,067 beneficiary farmers covered under the crop loan waiver has been made available on the official website of the Government of Telangana.

I firmly believe that our efforts demonstrate our dedication to the welfare of farmers, and I hope that this initiative serves as a model for other states in prioritizing agricultural development. I once again solicit your fullest cooperation and guidance in this endeavour to promote farmers' welfare in Telangana."



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Change on the cards

Exit polls predict change in Haryana and a hung assembly in J and K; if true, would indicate Indian politics is in transition

Exit polls from the state elections in Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir are indicating a decisive win for the Congress in Haryana and a hung assembly in Jammu and Kashmir. As these predictions dominate political discourse, they offer a glimpse into possible power shifts in these two critical regions. In Haryana, the exit polls suggest that the Congress is set to reclaim power, ousting the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government, which has been in office since 2014. If these predictions hold true, it would also underscore the growing discontent among Haryana's electorate, particularly farmers and rural voters, who have been dissatisfied with the BJP's handling of agricultural reforms and the aftermath of the 2020 farmers' protests. The Congress, capitalising on this unrest, appears to have successfully mobilised voters, especially in the rural areas and among the Jat community. Meanwhile, in Jammu and Kashmir, exit polls point towards a hung assembly, signalling the challenges of forming a stable government in the Union Territory. With no single party projected to secure a majority, political maneuvering and coalition-building will become crucial in the coming weeks. The fractured verdict reflects the complexity of the region's political landscape post the revocation of Article 370 in 2019. The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) is expected to emerge as a significant player, but the BJP has also made inroads, particularly in the Jammu region. So not only numbers but post-result alliances would decide the formation of the government. Indeed, a hung assembly could lead to prolonged negotiations and possibly a fragile coalition, underscoring the political uncertainty that has



plagued the region in recent years.

A Congress victory in Haryana could be a defining moment in national politics. It would signal that the BJP's stronghold in the Hindi heartland is weakening and Jats (who have significant presence in western UP) are returning to Congress fold and non-Jats — upper castes — the traditional BJP voters are also have also splitted. Congress couldn't be happier as it could also galvanise Congress supporters across other northern states, particularly Rajasthan and Punjab, where state elections are due soon. But it would have a daunting task of keeping the rebels happy as they could turn the tables. In contrast, the outcome in Jammu and Kashmir-if a hung assembly materializes-could deepen political instability in the Union Territory. A coalition government would have to balance the diverse and often conflicting interests of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, complicating governance. Moreover, this result could prompt national parties, particularly the BJP, to reassess their strategies in sensitive regions like Jammu and Kashmir, where identity politics and security concerns dominate. However, as with all exit polls, it's important to approach these predictions with skepticism, given how they have been inaccurate in past elections.

PICTALK



Artistes take part in 'Garba', in Ahmedabad

Why 'Make in India' can be a game changer



ANURAG SAXENA

By fostering indigenous innovation and cutting-edge technology, India is challenging long-held economic paradigms and rewriting its own narrative on the world stage

For centuries, Western nations have reaped the rewards of their focus on innovation, intellectual property (IP), and the relentless pursuit of technological advancement. By glorifying creation, often over manufacturing and service, these nations have not only monetised their inventions but also exported their ideas globally, establishing themselves as economic powerhouses. The United States, for instance, transformed industries through disruptive technologies like the internet, pharmaceuticals, and aerospace, creating global demand for their products and services. Similarly, European nations have led in sectors like infrastructure (think about the economic advantage of railroads), automotive engineering and luxury goods, where innovation and IP are at the core of their global dominance. In contrast, economies like India and China historically anchored their growth on manufacturing and services—both positioned lower on the value-addition spectrum. This approach, while effective for driving industrialisation and job creation, did not prioritise innovation or IP creation, the intellectual asset that is monetizable, leaving these nations as consumers rather than creators of advanced technologies. China, however, has broken away from this model in recent years, making massive investments in innovation, intellectual property, and tech platforms. The country has developed cutting-edge technologies in fields like telecommunications, social media, and gaming, exemplified by global giants such as Huawei, TikTok, and Tencent. These efforts have not only strengthened China's domestic economy, positioned it as a formidable global exporter, and given it access to priceless data from across the world. India, on the other hand, followed a different trajectory. Instead of focusing on production and technology creation, India became synonymous with contact centres, Global Capability Centers



(GCCs), and IT services. This positioning earned India the moniker of the "backroom of the world," a role that, while economically beneficial, left the nation lagging in terms of innovation and high-value technology creation. While India excelled in providing services, it often supported the innovation and product development efforts of other nations rather than leading them. However, the past decade has witnessed a significant shift in India's global stance. India has emerged as a geopolitical force, flexing its muscles in various domains. Diplomatically, India has taken a more assertive position on the global stage, engaging in strategic partnerships with major powers while maintaining its autonomy in international affairs. In the geopolitical arena, India has strengthened its defence capabilities and has been pivotal in initiatives like the Quad, countering China's influence in the Indo-Pacific region. On the trade front, India has renegotiated trade deals and is increasingly seen as a critical player in global supply chains, particularly in the wake of global disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This newfound



INDIA HAS EMERGED AS A GEOPOLITICAL FORCE, FLEXING ITS MUSCLES IN VARIOUS DOMAINS. DIPLOMATICALLY, INDIA HAS TAKEN A MORE ASSERTIVE POSITION ON THE GLOBAL STAGE, ENGAGING IN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS WITH MAJOR POWERS WHILE MAINTAINING ITS AUTONOMY IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

assertiveness underscores why India's current focus on "Create in India" is both timely and strategically crucial. By fostering a culture of innovation and supporting the development of indigenous technologies, India is positioning itself to dominate the next century, both economically and in terms of soft power. Economically, a focus on creation will enable India to move up the value chain, generating higher returns on its intellectual assets and reducing its dependency on foreign technologies. In terms of soft power, leading in fields such as media and entertainment will allow India to shape its narrative, instead of continually reacting to distorted Western narratives. When PM Narendra Modi made the call, "Let us together start a 'Create in India' movement," not everyone understood its second and third-order effects, especially the ramifications on narrative-correction, and exporting our civilizational ideas globally. The "technologies" of Eastman colour and vinyl records helped America prop its heroes and rockstars. The era of XR and gaming will help India prop ours. The Ministry of Information and

Broadcasting recently announced the 'Create in India Challenge' under the aegis of World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES) 2025; a first-of-its-kind event showcasing the future of our AVGC sector to the world. This broad-spectrum challenge showcases the best of our talent across 25 types of content and games. India needs more of these visible celebrations. It's time the world saw our creativity and our ambition. However, to fully unlock this potential, India must also invest heavily. The AVGC sector represents the future of digital interaction and entertainment. Unlocking this future needs skill development, investment pipelines, platforms that scale, a progressive regulatory regime, and much more. It is indeed a tall order, but by establishing the Gangotri here, India can ensure its leadership in the global economy and narrative for years to come. (The writer is a policy affairs expert. He is a nominated member of the National Tourism Advisory Council, Govt. of India and Board Member, Centre for Insolvency and Financial Laws; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SECULAR CREDENTIALS INTACT

Madam — Apropos of the editorial 'How secular in India' (October 5) based on the report of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom, certain ground realities of the present circumstances emanating from Israel-Hamas war wrapping Lebanon, Iran and Syria, extremist groups of Pakistan operating in India, terrorist attacks from across the border and coup in Bangladesh, which are directly boiling the Indian Muslims against Israel, US etc, can't be factored for any judgment by a US group. It is true that there are serious violations of human rights and religious freedom in the US. India has very peculiar problems relating to religious issues. The Waqf Act has embroiled the sentiments on possession of their lands and temples, the insurgency from Bangladesh and Myanmar have changed the demography of the North East, Bengal and other bordering states. Our neighbourhood has been troubled with army coups, dictatorships, religious violence against Hindus and anti-India governments. Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Myanmar are failing in economies with unstable governments. Hindus are restive not against Muslims and minorities but against indiscriminate appeasement politics. These aspects have not been factored in the report of USCIRF. It is surprising & unfortunate, highly biased and discriminatory that such organisations don't carry out similar investigations and publish reports on Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Maldives, Afghanistan, Iran, Syria and China. However, such extraneous reports are mostly inconsequential in Indian politics. Such reports don't help Muslims too. US should also denounce and discredit such organisations and their reports. Such reports vitiolate diplomatic relations and mutual cooperation. Vinod Johri | Delhi

Address the demands of Ladakh



The people of Ladakh are deeply concerned about pressing environmental issues, regional affairs, and the lack of essential services, all of which continue to plague the region. The key issues they are raising include the demand for tribal status under the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, full-fledged statehood, separate parliamentary constituencies for Leh and Kargil, and the establishment of a Public Service Commission. Sadly, even as they did 21

days fasting protest, getting no results they began another Delhi Chalo Padyatra for their rightful claims, despite being totally peaceful protest, were detained by the Delhi police, sparking outrage across the country. It is alarming to see the government's apathy and the Indian media's strange silence on such critical matters. Ladakh is an integral part of India, and its people deserve to be treated with the same respect and consideration as any other citizens. Their development is India's development, and their issues must be addressed without further delay. I urge the government to fulfill the demands of the people of Ladakh promptly and work towards ensuring their welfare and dignity. Jakir Hussain | Kanpur

JUSTICE RESTORED

Madam— The recent Supreme Court decision against prejudice based on caste in jails is a major step towards ensuring that everyone is treated with dignity and equality. But how can we make sure that every state implements these changes in an effective way? Concerns regarding the extent of social injustice are raised by the practices from the colonial past that remain present in jail manuals. What steps will be implemented to monitor compliance and permanently end this prejudiced conduct as we work towards a more equal system? The Court's order is an important first step, but more work needs to be done. Anshu Bharti | Begusarai

A BETRAYAL OF TRUST

Madam — I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the adulteration of Tirupati laddus. The Supreme Court's decision to form a five-member independent SIT is a commendable step. Any allegations of adulteration or misusing of any ingredients in the Tirumala

Tirupati laddus are disrespectful to the sentiments of crores of devotees. It also questions about the quality control and the safety standard that is being maintained by the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD). I urge the SIT to conduct an impartial investigation turning no stone unturned. The findings of the investigation should be made public which would restore the faith of devotees in the TTD and also prevent such incidents from happening in future. The investigation must be done in such a manner that it does not become a political issue as Tirupati laddus is connected to crores of people and their beliefs, it deals with the sentiments of devotees. I urge the SIT to conduct an impartial investigation which would not just resolve this issue but also ensure that next time such thing doesn't happen by ensuring regular maintenance and laboratory tests are done. Fiza Fatima | Hyderabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Overcoming Phobia: A Journey of inner strength and inspiration



SANJAY CHANDRA

Resilience and determination can help us overcome even the toughest challenges. All you need is a spark to ignite your spirit

I had a phobia of speaking in public. It is quite surprising given that I was good at debates during school and college. I was also a successful manager as I traversed my professional journey. I dealt with hundreds of staff since I joined the railways as a young officer. I also interacted confidently with my peers and the seniors. However, I would break out in a sweat and lose my sleep each time I had to be on stage. I was envious of those who could spontaneously break into a joke or recite a poem. I decided to do something about it. I started preparing notes days in advance. I would keep memorising the lines by rote till they were branded in my memory. I would even repeat them standing in front of the mirror watching intently my facial expressions. This was the best that I could do. I realised in later years that my handicap was nothing when compared to the challenges faced by many. Recently, I watched The King's Speech, a movie on the life of King George



VI, who found himself on the throne after his older brother, King Edward VIII abdicated. The film largely dealt with King George's determination to overcome his stutter with the help of a speech therapist. I understood that the will to beat the odds comes from within. No therapy can help an unwilling person. There are many instances of people overcoming their handicaps to pursue their dreams. We have all heard of Stephen Hawking. He was diagnosed with motor neuron disease at age 21 and was not expected to live more than a couple of years. He survived the odds but the disease paralysed him over decades. After he lost his speech, he communicat-

ed through a hand-held speech-generating device, and then through a cheek muscle. Helen Keller was an American author. Medical science was much less advanced than what we know today. An unknown illness, when she was only 19 months old, left her permanently blind and deaf. She painstakingly learned to recognise words through hand movements. We, who are blessed, cannot even fathom the hard work that would have gone into her transformation to be the voice that she became. The famous Bharatnatyam danseuse Sudha Chandran underwent amputation of her right leg at the age of 18 due to a road accident. Many would have lost hope and might have ended up wallowing in self-pity. The lady regained her mobility with the help of a prosthetic. She also pushed herself to accomplish the unthinkable. One need not look up to only the famous to witness these stories of human courage and conviction. My maternal grandfather was comatose for a few

months after a botched-up surgery. The doctors were not even certain about his coming out of the coma. He was paralyzed on his right side. He worked painstakingly to lead as normal a life as he could, he even developed writing skills with his left hand. Many in our country are differently abled but do not have the means to pursue their dreams. On the other hand, we have big business houses that do not even bat an eyelid before spending more than the GDP of a small country on lavish events. We, many other individuals, and the business houses have the means to make a difference in the lives of others. Stephen Hawking said, "Concentrate on the abilities your disability doesn't hinder and don't dwell on the things it interferes with. Be disabled physically, not in spirit." We need to be the spark that ignites the spirit. (The author is an electrical engineer with the Indian Railways and conducts classes in creative writing; views are personal)



FIRST COLUMN

LEADERSHIP AND MENTAL HEALTH OF EMPLOYEES

Supportive leadership can reduce stress and enhance job satisfaction



SAKSHI SETHI

In today's dynamic workplace, the mental health of employees has become a focal point for organisations aiming to foster a productive and harmonious environment. One of the most significant factors influencing employee's mental health is the role of leadership. Bosses and managers possess the power to shape workplace culture, influence employee satisfaction and directly impact mental well-being. Leaders hold a unique position of authority that can significantly affect an employee's perception of their work environment. The tone set by leaders creates the foundational culture of an organisation. It is undeniable to say that a positive, encouraging atmosphere promotes employee engagement and satisfaction, whereas a toxic environment leads to stress and anxiety. Several research indicates that employees who feel supported by their leaders are more likely to experience lower levels of stress and higher levels of job satisfaction. Studies also indicate that transformational and supportive leadership styles co-relate with better employee mental health outcomes. Leaders who provide emotional support and recognition can significantly reduce stress levels among employees. Conversely, authoritarian leadership styles often result in increased employee anxiety and decreased morale. Flexible work arrangements such as remote work, and flexible hours positively impact mental health by allowing employees to manage personal responsibilities alongside work demands. One of the most crucial aspects of effective leadership is the ability to provide support and recognition. There is no denying the fact that employees thrive when their contributions are acknowledged and valued. A boss who regularly provides constructive feedback and celebrates achievements fosters a sense



of belonging and motivation. This recognition can enhance employees' self-esteem and reinforce their commitment to the organisation. On the other hand, a lack of recognition can lead to feelings of inadequacy and disillusionment, ultimately affecting mental health negatively.

The interplay between workplace factors and employee mental health is complex but increasingly recognised as critical to organisational success. By fostering supportive leadership, promoting a positive work culture and prioritising employee well-being, organisations can enhance mental health outcomes and overall productivity. Continued research in this area is essential for developing effective strategies to support mental health in the workplace. The impact of leadership on employee mental health is profound and multifaceted. Bosses have the authority to shape the workplace culture, provide support and recognition, communicate effectively, manage workloads, resolve conflicts and model healthy behaviours. Understanding the importance of these factors can help organisations create healthier work environments where employees feel valued and supported.

As businesses continue to navigate the complexities of the modern workplace, prioritising mental health through effective leadership is not just beneficial for employees but is also essential for fostering a productive and engaged workforce. The interplay between workplace factors and employee mental health is not only complex but also increasingly recognised as critical to organisational success. By fostering supportive leadership, promoting a positive work culture and prioritising employee well-being, organisations can enhance mental health outcomes and overall productivity. Continued research in this area is essential for developing effective strategies to support mental health in the workplace.

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

Elevate wellness experts as industry leaders



DINESH SOOD

Backed by government initiatives and vocational training programmes, this sector offers global placements, entrepreneurial opportunities and job openings in small towns



Beauty, wellness and grooming are indispensable aspects of life, particularly for young professionals striving for financial success and a luxurious lifestyle. It's crucial to recognise that a professionally trained hairdresser can earn more than an engineer or a doctor, dispelling the outdated notion that community-based hairdressers only fulfil basic needs. Their workplaces also serve as vibrant community centres where people gather, exchange ideas and foster belonging and bonding while waiting for a haircut. Therefore, it's imperative to rebrand the skills and professionals in the beauty and wellness sector as 'Beauty Architects' or 'Glam Gurus', elevating their profession's status and attracting more talent to this lucrative industry. Our country's beauty and wellness industry presents unparalleled employment opportunities and global placements. Recognising this, the government has initiated various measures to create pertinent content, curricula, information databases, and delivery systems, standardise accreditation and certification processes, and establish industry-aligned infrastructure. These efforts aim to equip young individuals to perceive beauty and wellness as a promising profession. The beauty and wellness sector should streamline its curricula to emphasise industry exposure. As the industry transitions towards more excellent organisations, professionals must be educated on adhering to professional service standards, obtaining industry-specific qualifications and certifications from reputable organisations, and enhancing their existing qualifications through access to higher education and research. Integrating extensive internship, apprenticeship, and on-the-job training opportunities will provide candidates with practical work experience and a comprehensive understanding of the industry. The absence of employer-led apprenticeship standards and career pathways leads to limited internship opportunities, depriving numerous students of valuable learning experiences. Early introduction of beauty and wellness



OUR COUNTRY'S BEAUTY AND WELLNESS INDUSTRY PRESENTS UNPARALLELED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND GLOBAL PLACEMENTS. RECOGNISING THIS, THE GOVERNMENT HAS INITIATED VARIOUS MEASURES TO CREATE PERTINENT CONTENT, CURRICULA AND INFORMATION DATABASES,

courses in schools is essential. Our current education systems prioritise knowledge-oriented training through rote learning, neglecting practical, experiential learning crucial for real-world application. Therefore, orienting students towards vocational education as an alternative career choice is imperative.

The absence of practical and experiential learning impedes innovation, creativity, and imagination among learners, leaving them ill-prepared for the evolving world of work. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 advocates integrating vocational education with mainstream education to expose 50 per cent of K12 and PG learners to vocational skills by 2025 and 100 per cent by 2030. Schools play a crucial role in raising awareness about vocational career paths.

Notably, beauty and wellness skill courses have been part of the curriculum in Delhi Government schools for over a decade. Early exposure to such vocational education can aid students, parents, and guardians in considering alternative career paths and foster a positive outlook on the workforce's dignity in the beauty and wellness industry. The vocational education sector has tried mainstream vocational courses such as BVoc, MVoc, BSc, and MSc in Beauty and Wellness. However, these programs have seen low enrollment due to a need for more awareness about career opportunities and limited seats.

There is a need to design more BVoc and MVoc courses with multiple entry and exit points, focusing on practical application in areas such as Beauty Culture, Cosmetology, Yoga, Ayurveda Dietetics, Sports Nutrition, Physiotherapy, Salon

Management, Beauty Therapy, Aesthetics, Aesthetic Dermatology, Hair Dressing, Makeup, and Spa Therapy, rather than just theoretical knowledge.

Additional focus is also required in the areas of human psychology, stress management, mental well-being, nutrition and diet, reflexology, alternate therapies etc. An alternative pathway to a bachelor's degree is completing a one-year ITI program and gaining a year of industry experience. Expanding training capacities in the Beauty and Wellness sector within ITIs is crucial, as the current short-term training programs are insufficient to meet industry standards and demand.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is essential for informal workers with significant industry experience. Despite possessing valuable skills, many informal workers in the Beauty and Wellness industry need more formal education and training.

RPL can help them gain formal certification based on their industry experience. Additionally, there is a need to support entrepreneurship in the Beauty and Wellness sector. More than 50 per cent of vocational graduates in this sector opt for self-employment, and there is a growing trend of industry workers starting their enterprises.

A robust support system is required to support these entrepreneurs and foster innovation and employment.

The Indian beauty and personal care market is experiencing rapid growth in tier-II and tier-III towns, with a substantial value of \$22 billion and projected to expand at a rate of 10-12 per cent to reach \$34 billion by 2028, as per the Nykaa Beauty Trends Report. This surge in

tier-II and tier-III cities is not surprising, given the global trend. In India, approximately 38 per cent of the demand for beauty and wellness products and services, particularly direct-to-customer (D2C) offerings, originates from these cities, making them highly lucrative markets.

Despite being underdeveloped, tier-II and tier-III cities hold significant potential in the beauty and wellness sector. Research indicates that professionals in these cities are well-versed in domestic and international trends, products, and hair services. Social media's influence has been pivotal in driving lifestyle changes, especially among the younger population. Young customers and professionals in tier-II and tier-III towns are eager to explore new trends and various beauty and wellness services.

In contrast to metropolitan cities, recruiting a skilled workforce in these smaller cities is more accessible, as a motivated and trainable young workforce is readily available. Beauty, wellness, and grooming have become integral to everyone's lifestyle, regardless of whether they reside in metropolitan cities or smaller towns across India.

People increasingly seek professionals to help them achieve their desired makeovers, so it's time to adopt an inclusive approach to rebrand the traditional workforce as professionals in the beauty and wellness sector.

(The writer is co-founder and MD of Orane International, a training partner of the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and a network Member of India International Skills Centres, an initiative of GoI; The views are personal)

Mobilising climate finance in India: Uncovering alternative routes

Blended finance models, carbon pricing and strategically aligned CSR funds could be the key to unlocking the private sector's investment potential

India's changing dynamics with the geopolitical powers of the world coupled with its accelerating economy have put us in a unique spot—one that allows it to be the voice of the Global South. India's position on climate change commitments attracted global attention during the 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) in Glasgow, during which Prime Minister Modi committed to India achieving net-zero emissions by 2070. This ambitious pledge, unprecedented for a developing nation, was a point that speaks of a profound shift in India's climate policy. The country's newfound authority after last year's G20 Presidency.



KAVIN KUMAR KANDASAMY

Among the many deliberations that India helmed with the other delegations, there was also a renewed global focus on the urgency of climate action. The Urgency of Mobilising Capital in the Global South, while the impacts of climate change are global and far-reaching, the impacts of this Research shows that 55 vulnerable countries have suffered \$525 billion combined cli-

mate crisis-fueled losses in the last 20 years. The number is estimated to reach \$580 billion per year by 2030. This is because large-scale investments are required for mitigation or adapting to the consequences. The Loss & Damage Fund, proposed at COP27 and operationalised at COP28, was a move India with the rest of Global South welcomed. Though it is receiving initial contributions from developed nations, these fall short of what many developing countries deem necessary. Further, a recent study by CEEW found that the developed world, which is responsible for three-fourths of existing carbon emissions in the world—will end up emitting 38 per cent more carbon in 2030 than they

have committed, if one were to look at the current trajectories. 83 per cent of this overshoot will be caused by the European Union, Russia and the United States. It is critical to ensure the rescue and rehabilitation of countries facing the cascading effects of this global issue disproportionately. India has held the Global North accountable—not just as the voice of the Global South but owing to its vulnerability. Understanding India's Stance around 619 million persons in India bore the brunt of climate change-induced extreme heat between June 16 and June 24. This is more than any other country in the world. These incidents are not just environmental, but also economic and health-related. Cities grind to a halt under the force of



extreme weather, leaving economic scars and jeopardising the marginalised.

Creating a resilient and sustainable future for India necessitates a just transition, which in turn requires significant financial investment. India faces a substantial climate financing shortfall of USD 3.5 trillion. To address this, we need investment support amounting to USD 1.4 trillion

by 2070, translating to an average annual requirement of USD 28 billion over the next five decades. While international support is undoubtedly crucial, harnessing the potential of domestic mechanisms like carbon pricing and blended finance models is crucial for long-term sustainability.

Novel mechanisms of blended finance can not only help bridge the financing gap to fulfil India's needs but can also unlock significantly higher investment from the private sector. This will also help in reducing overdependence on external climate capital as the primary instrument for climate capital. Strategic Alignment of CSR Funds Corporate India makes substantial expenditures as part of their Corporate

Social Responsibility. We have an opportunity here to strategically align these CSR funds in a manner that accelerates our efforts of achieving SDGs. According to provisional data from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), spending on health reached Rs 9,987 crore in FY22, compared to Rs 8,382 crore on education. In contrast, spending on the environment was Rs 2,837 crore in FY22, which is double the Rs 1,337 crore spent in FY21. There is a major scope for increasing the quantum of CSR funds being streamlined towards carbon projects. This notion reverberates further in the Reserve Bank of India's report on currency and finance, wherein equitable CSR funding is listed as the crucial policy alternative to

mitigate climate risk. While energy and mitigation have received the most amount of climate financing for India, more investments should be directed towards nature-based solutions and environment ecosystems that crosscut both mitigation and adaptation in India. This will help create permanence in carbon removals that will help mitigate the effects of climate change. The flexible nature of CSR provides businesses in the country a significant chance to foster positive transformation and marry socio-economic advancement by finding environmental solutions. Yet, these dual benefits are attainable only with a committed long-term vision and detailed planning.

(The writer is CEO, ProClimate; views are personal)

IN BRIEF



IndiGo operations return to normalcy

IndiGo's operations were normal on Sunday, a day after systems outage at the airline resulted in long waiting hours for passengers at airports. The airline operates more than 2,000 flights daily. An airline official on Sunday said operations were normal. The outage on Saturday lasted for many hours, and systems were back to normal late in the night. "Our systems are back to normal and are running smoothly," IndiGo said in a post on X at 2311 hours on Saturday and regretted the inconvenience caused to the customers. Airport services for IndiGo passengers were impacted, and some flights were delayed due to the outage on Saturday.



SBI plans to recruit 10,000 new employees

The country's biggest lender State Bank of India (SBI) intends to recruit about 10,000 new employees during the current financial year to meet its general banking requirement and foster its technical prowess. The bank has invested significantly in technology to provide seamless customer service as well as to strengthen the resilience of its digital channels. "We are strengthening our workforce, both on the technology side as well as on the general banking side. We have recently announced around 1,500 technology people recruitment both at the entry level and slightly at the higher level," SBI Chairman C S Setty said. "Our technology recruitment is also on specialized jobs like data scientists, data architects, network operators etc."



Bandhan Bank business grows 24.6 per cent

Total business of private lender Bandhan Bank increased 24.6 per cent in the second quarter of current financial year, a regulatory filing with the exchanges by the bank said. Total business at the end of September 30, 2024, touched Rs 2,73,163 crore, as compared to Rs 2,19,712 crore in the similar previous period, representing a rise of 24.6 per cent. Loans and advances of the bank at the end of current second quarter stood at Rs 1,30,652 crore, while deposits touched Rs 1,42,511 crore, the lender said. Collection efficiency ratio of the bank across all its business verticals at the end of second quarter of current financial year stood at 98.2 per cent, as compared to 98.7 per cent in the preceding quarter. The collection efficiency ratio of micro-credit business of the lender at the end of second quarter of current fiscal stood at 98.1 per cent, as against 98.8 per cent in the preceding quarter ending June 30, 2024.

Status-quo on interest rate likely: Experts

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank is unlikely to cut the benchmark interest rate in its forthcoming bi-monthly monetary policy review later in the week as retail inflation is still a cause of concern, and there is a possibility of the Middle East crisis deteriorating further, impacting crude oil and commodity prices, say experts.

Earlier this month, the government reconstituted the Reserve Bank's rate-setting panel -- Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). The reconstituted panel, with three newly appointed external members, will commence its maiden meeting on Monday. MPC Chairman RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das will reveal the outcome of the three-day discussion on Wednesday (October 9).

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has kept the repo or short-term lending rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent since February 2023, and experts think some easing could only be possible in December.

The government has tasked



the central bank to ensure that Consumer Price Index (CPI) based retail inflation remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side.

In the current context, experts feel that the RBI may not follow the US Federal Reserve, which lowered the benchmark rates by 50 basis points, and the central banks of some developed nations, which have reduced the interest rates.

"We do not expect any change in the repo rate or stance by MPC. The reason is that inflation for September and October will be above 5 per cent, and the present low inflation is due to the base effect. Besides, core inflation is inching upwards," said

Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist, Bank of Baroda.

Further, the recent Iran-Israel imbroglio can intensify, and there is uncertainty here, he said.

"Hence, the status quo is the most likely option even for new members. Inflation forecast may be lowered by 10-20 bps and no change in GDP forecast likely," said Sabnavis.

The central bank last hiked the repo rate to 6.5 per cent in February 2023 and since then, it has held the rate at the same level.

Icra Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said that given the undershooting in the initial first quarter GDP growth relative to the MPC's forecast and the likely sizeable undershoot-

ing in the second quarter CPI inflation print as well, "we believe a stance change to neutral may be appropriate in the October 2024 policy review".

This could be followed by a shallow rate-cutting cycle of 25 bps each in December 2024 and February 2025, she added.

"The abundant monsoon offers some insurance for crop inflation. The impact of global political developments and geopolitical uncertainty on the growth inflation dynamics remains a risk," Nayar added.

An HSBC report said three developments stand out -- softer growth numbers have trickled in recently, inflation has been falling, and the external environment has moved from rate hikes to cuts.

"We believe the RBI doesn't gain from waiting any longer. We think it will change its stance from a hawkish 'withdrawal of accommodation' to 'neutral' in the upcoming 9 October policy meeting, followed by repo rate cuts of 25 bps each in the December and February meetings, taking the repo rate to 6 per cent," the report said.



'Stable policies to boost manufacturing'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Stable policies and further improvement in the ease of doing business in states will help significantly boost the country's manufacturing sector's growth, according to experts.

They also said that sectors like renewable energy, particularly in the solar segment and electronics, hold huge potential to promote domestic manufacturing and create thousands of jobs.

The government has already taken a series of steps like rolling out the production-linked incentive scheme (PLI) for 14 sectors, tweaking tariffs and issuance of mandatory quality control orders for different products to support domestic players and increase manufacturing activities, they added.

"Stable policies and further

promotion of ease of doing business at the state level will help significantly boost the country's manufacturing sector growth," Sujoy Ghosh, vice president and country managing director, First Solar, said.

The Make in India initiative provides a window of opportunity for companies looking at alternative destinations to set up units, he added.

"India offers huge opportunities for manufacturing. Companies can set up units to cater to domestic needs as well as for exports. For example, in the renewable energy sector, the country has great opportunities. We have just started, it is a marathon," Ghosh said.

He also said that skilled manpower and government measures will help attract investments from both domestic and foreign players.

High tax hindering carbonated soft drinks segment: Report

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Carbonated soft drinks segment in India is unable to reach its potential in terms of scale expansion due to barriers such as high taxation under the GST regime despite government's initiatives like 'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', according to a report by economic think tank ICRIER.

The cross-country comparative data on sugar-sweetened beverages (SSB) taxes collated by the World Bank shows that India has one of the highest tax rates for carbonated soft drinks (CSDs) at a total tax rate of 40 per cent as of 2023.

Over 90 per cent of countries that tax SSBs have a lower tax rate than India, as per the report titled Carbonated Beverages

Industry in India: Tax Policy to Promote Growth, Innovation and Investment'.

Consumers, globally and in India, are shifting towards low-sugar and no-added sugar varieties of beverages amid heightened health awareness.

"The CSD market is also changing from its traditional high sugar carbonated beverages to low-sugar and fruit-based and/or flavoured carbonated drinks to zero-sugar aerated water, catering to changes in consumers' choice for healthier options and government policies like layered-sugar-based taxes," the report said.

Producers, across the globe, are reformulating their products to meet consumer demand, and these are supported through government policies and both fiscal and non-fiscal incentives.

AMUL ready to enter European market after US

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

Managing Director of AMUL and Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (GCMMF) Jayen Mehta said AMUL's recently launched milk in US has been "highly successful" and they are now ready to enter the European market, which would mark a historic moment for the brand.

Delivering the 11th Dr Verghese Kurien Memorial Oration on "AMUL Model: Transforming Lives of Million" organised by a private business management institute here on Saturday, Mehta said "India is now the largest milk producer in the world and is set to produce one-third of the world's total milk in the coming years", XLR in a statement said.

Industry upbeat on policy continuity as biz confidence index rises

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The industry is buoyed by policy continuity as the CII Business Confidence Index soared to a two-quarter high of 68.2 for the July-September period this fiscal, the lobby grouping said in its first survey after the Lok Sabha polls.

The 128th round of the CII Business Outlook Survey was conducted in September 2024, covering more than 200 firms of varying sizes across all industry sectors and regions.

Economic momentum has gained speed post the general elections, the industry body stated.

India's economic growth has held up well despite global challenges, CII said, asserting that the upcoming festive season portends well for fortifying growth prospects further. However, it cautioned that the "uncertainty in the global scenario persists, necessitating a careful watch on the



evolving economic conditions". A few niggling business concerns have been highlighted by the respondents in the survey, with protracted geopolitical tensions, spike in global commodity prices and slowing external demand being the top three ones.

The survey respondents cited factors like improvement in consumption, especially rural demand, steady progress in monsoon, continued emphasis on reforms and fresh sightings in private

investment as the key reasons, which will drive growth in the current financial year.

More than half (59 per cent) of the respondents anticipate an improvement in private capex in the first half of FY25 (April-September) compared to the previous six months.

This is encouraging as it is likely to provide support to public capex, which has shown an uptick recently after a lull in the first quarter due to elections, CII said.

Almost 34 per cent of the

'Paytm focusing on consumer payments biz'

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Fintech firm Paytm's immediate priority is to invest in its consumer payments business in an effort to recover lost user base following regulatory actions by the RBI, a top company official said on Sunday.

The RBI had restricted Paytm Payments Bank from accepting deposits or facilitating credit transactions in customer accounts, including prepaid instruments and wallets.

In August, Paytm sold its ticketing business to foodtech company Zomato for Rs 2,048 crore to sharpen its focus on core operations -- payments and financial services distribution.

RBI's interest rate decision, FII activity to drive markets

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) interest rate decision, Middle East conflict and trading activity of foreign investors are the key factors that will dictate investors' sentiment in the market this week, analysts said.

Moreover, quarterly earnings from IT bellwether TCS, domestic macroeconomic data and movement in global oil and benchmark Brent crude would also guide trends in the market.

Worsening tensions in the Middle East and foreign fund outflows were the major culprits behind the equity markets sharp fall last week.

"On the domestic front, the market's focus will be on the RBI Monetary Policy



Committee (MPC), which is scheduled to meet from October 7 to 9, 2024, with the outcome to be announced on Wednesday," Pravesh Gour, Senior Technical Analyst, Swastika Investmart Ltd, said.

The second quarter earnings season is kicking off with TCS, he said. "Domestically, liquidity remains strong, with signs of sectoral rotation from overvalued segments to areas with more attractive valuations.

Additionally, commodity prices, the US dollar index, and key US macroeconomic data will play a crucial role in determining market direction. Geopolitical developments will also continue to be a significant factor on the global front," Gour added.

Last week, the BSE Sensex tanked 3,883.4 points, or 4.53 per cent, and the Nifty slumped 1,164.35 points, or 4.44 per cent.

Adani starts hydrogen blending in natural gas

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Adani group has started blending green hydrogen in natural gas that is supplied to households for cooking purposes in parts of Ahmedabad, with a view to cut emissions and meet net-zero targets.

Adani Total Gas Ltd, the group's city gas joint venture with French energy giant TotalEnergies, has started blending 2.2-2.3 per cent of green hydrogen in piped natural gas supplies in Shantigram in Ahmedabad, the firm said in a post on LinkedIn.

Hydrogen produced through clean pathways is injected into natural gas pipelines, and the resulting blends are used to generate heat and power with lower emissions than using natural gas alone.

The firm has started producing green hydrogen by using renewable energy sources like wind or solar power, to split water into hydrogen and oxygen through a process called electrolysis. This hydrogen is blended in natural gas that is currently piped to households for cooking purposes and industries.

"We are thrilled to announce the successful commissioning of our Hydrogen Blending System and in-situ Hydrogen

Generation at Adani Shantigram, Ahmedabad," Adani-Total Gas Ltd (ATGL) said.

"This project will provide uninterrupted hydrogen-blended natural gas to 4,000 domestic and commercial consumers." Presently, state-owned power generator NTPC supplies green hydrogen blended natural gas to households in Kawas in Surat district, Gujarat.

State-owned gas utility GAIL (India) Ltd is also doing a small pilot in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, to supply CNG that has been doped with grey hydrogen.

ATGL's project is the biggest so far.

The firm will slowly increase the green hydrogen blend in natural gas to 5 per cent and ultimately to 8 per cent and widen supplies beyond Shantigram to other parts of Ahmedabad and eventually across other areas where it holds a city gas license.

"This achievement marks a significant step towards reducing our carbon footprint and transitioning to cleaner energy solutions. By blending hydrogen with natural gas, we are lowering greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing energy security, and supporting sustainable development," ATGL said.



Anil Group's fundraise to drive future growth plans

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Equipped with Rs 17,600 crore fundraising and a zero-debt status, Anil Ambani's Reliance Group companies - Reliance Infrastructure Ltd and Reliance Power Ltd - are poised to execute their growth strategies, according to officials.

In the past two weeks, both companies have announced raising Rs 4,500 crore through preferential issues of equity shares and Rs 7,100 crore from renowned global investment fund Varde Partners through equity-linked long-term FCCBs, having a long maturity period of 10 years and low interest rate of 5 per cent. An additional Rs 6,000

crore will be raised through qualified institutional placement (QIP), with Reliance Power and Reliance Infrastructure each aiming for Rs 3,000 crore.

With resolutions in place, shareholder approvals are expected by the end of the month, officials said.

A senior official of the group stated that Reliance Group's strategy of raising capital through equity or equity-linked long-term bonds will offer the group companies essential growth capital for their expansion plans.

Even with a conservative debt-to-equity ratio of 70:30, raising over Rs 17,000 crore in equity or equity-linked bonds will provide the group



companies with a total investment outlay of Rs 50,000 crore for their future business plans over the next few years.

The fundraising will also boost the net worth of both companies to around Rs 25,000 crore.

According to stock

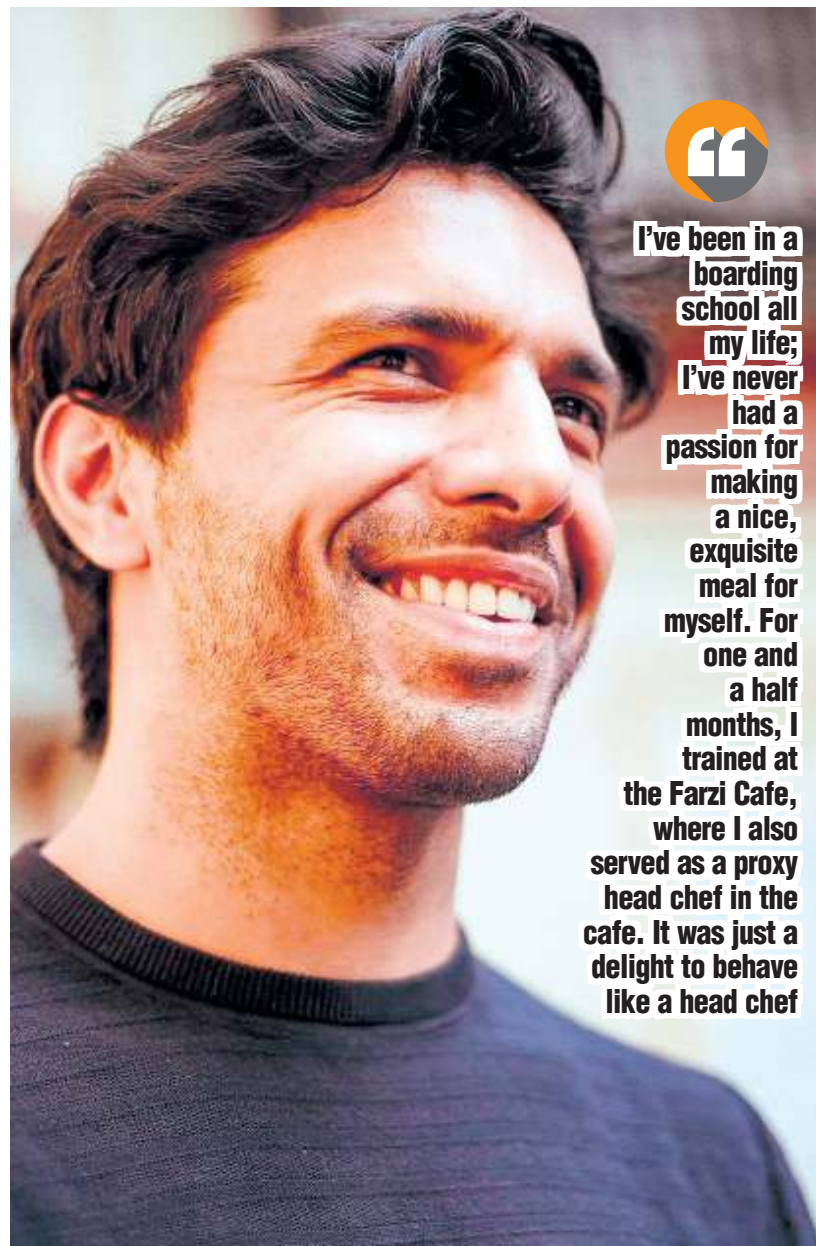
In the past two weeks, both companies have announced raising Rs 4,500 crore through preferential issues of equity shares and Rs 7,100 crore from renowned global investment fund Varde Partners through equity-linked long-term FCCBs, having a long maturity period of 10 years and low interest rate of 5 per cent.

invested by the promoters, while the remaining Rs 3,750 crore is being contributed by four major investors -- Fortune Financial & Equities Services, Florintree Innovations LLP, Authum Investment and Infrastructure, and Sanatan Financial Advisory.

In addition, Varde Partners is investing Rs 7,100 crore, through equity-linked foreign currency convertible bonds (FCCB). These equity-linked FCCBs have a long maturity period of 10 years and a low interest rate of 5 per cent.

These fundraising plans indicate that the financial growth engines in both companies are in place, the officials added.

Rajeev Siddhartha spiced up his cooking drill at Farzi Cafe for *Love, Sitara*



I've been in a boarding school all my life; I've never had a passion for making a nice, exquisite meal for myself. For one and a half months, I trained at the Farzi Cafe, where I also served as a proxy head chef in the cafe. It was just a delight to behave like a head chef

TEJAL SINHA
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Atalented star from Dhanbad who initially moved from the stability of an investment banker, Rajeev Siddhartha decided to explore acting full-time, aware of the challenges and the numerous auditions he had to go through. But again, 'Kehte hain agar kisi cheez ko dil se chaho... to puri kinaat usse tumse milane ki koshish mein lag jaati hai...' and here he is today, exploring his prowess, obtaining his finest projects and receiving the right due!

Well, currently, he's become the talk of the town with his two back-to-back projects, *Love, Sitara* and *Honeymoon Photographer*.

"Eventful, fulfilling and full of surprises," Rajeev takes a plunge on with *The Pioneer* as he looks back at his journey, which he feels has been a nice blend of different types of characters that he's got to portray. Thereby, discovering the human side of most people in life through his diverse characters.

Talking of his latest projects, *Love, Sitara* being one of them, Rajeev has defined what it is to be not a green flag but a green forest, as we'd mentioned previously in our review. He is no less than grateful, of course. "I always knew that we were making something special," shares the *Aashram* fame with a great sense of gratitude. The sets in themselves had a lot of energy, making them know how a special project was in the making.

"I would give full credit to our director, Vandana Kataria, who just led from the front. She's such a stickler for details. I think it trickled down from her and she set the tone for all of us while working on the set. I must say that all the actors, the cast, the crew and everybody we collaborated with, keeping this in mind that we are working for something greater than just ourselves," expresses Siddhartha with great regard, adding, "I've been receiving so many calls and messages, especially from actors and directors. When you get

Actor Rajeev Siddhartha, who is currently enjoying the love that he has been receiving for his latest projects, *Love, Sitara* and *Honeymoon Photographer*, speaks to *The Pioneer* about the tremendous response, working on both of the diverse projects back-to-back, his definition of love and more

appreciation from people who do the same work as you do, it means a lot."

"Anybody else would have become cynical and bitter when you face so much. For instance, in *Love, Sitara*, Arjun only has his father and his he is the one who's always condescending towards his dreams, despite being a successful chef! I guess that part of him that is so nice that despite so much hate from one angle of his life, he still doesn't transfer that to other areas of his life. He's still a supportive and nonjudgmental boyfriend," shares the *Four More Shots Please* fame, who believes that the character further helped him bring in more sense as a person and be more understanding.

Rajeev had undeniably fallen in love with the whole universe of the film. While it was a no-brainer for him to get on board. With a large part of the film shot in Kerala, he had an amazing experience spending his time in the natural beauty there. Of course, his character arc was another fondness!

And then, as we were delving more into the chat, it was then that came a revelation by the lead actor: "I also got to learn a new skill. I've been in boarding school all my life; I've never had a passion for making a nice, exquisite meal for myself. For one and a half months, I trained at the Farzi Cafe. The cutting, chopping and all of that. I knew that there were scenes of chopping, plating and of at least cooking slightly in the film. I had come across somebody who's never done it in his life.

But my character was meant to be a world-renowned chef. So it helped me. In fact, during those one-and-a-half months, I also served as a proxy head chef in the cafe. It was just a delight to behave like a head chef and observe the head chef at play."

Then there's also the *Honeymoon Photographer*, quite a different project from *Love, Sitara*. "Ever since I started acting, I always wanted to portray as much range as possible as an actor," shares the *Marzi* fame, as he goes on to add, "I was happy that I got to play this part and even happier because both of them were released on the same date. I know people who've seen these two things back to back. It was a good chance for me because people could see the range in terms of my performances and the characters that I could portray. I loved playing this part because, again, it is very easy to empathise with good people, who are seen as good by society. However, it is difficult to empathise with people who are rejected by society or are not looked up to, which I got to experience in *Honeymoon Photographer*."

He also adds, "In this, my director's name is Arjun (the same name as his character in *Love, Sitara* coincidentally), who is also an editor. I feel if the editor is on point, then the film or the web series will be on point because I think that's where everything is generally made."

Both of his projects are centered around love and relationship, though with different contexts. But what is his definition of love? "Unconditional," he affirms with

great warmth. "When it is conditional, which generally is the case in most relationships, then automatically, we are fooling ourselves that we are in love. I genuinely believe that any form of love is true love only when it is unconditional. That's it! Whenever there is a condition, it's not love. It is an attachment. The attachment will make you suffer eventually."

Being a part of both projects, which are centered around women, was no less than a fantastic experience. Oh, there were *Four More Shots Please* too! "I am an actor and I like to work on interesting parts with interesting people. I've previously worked on around 3-4 projects centered around a woman and it's fantastic. Thanks to OTT, like you said, there are great stories being told from a woman's perspective."

Broadly speaking, the first thing that truly gets him excited about a project is the director. "I genuinely believe that if the director is good in a film or a web series, then automatically, you're in safe hands. The way they direct you, the way they will place the scenes, the way they will get the camera placed through the cinematographer, the way they'll edit, the way they'll put music—you know that they have taste. You automatically do a good job," enthuses the *Bekaboo* star, who further looks into the character and if it has enough meat for him to work.

While we cannot wait to see him in the next season of *Ashram*, he awaits too, as he says "hopefully" it may come out soon.

CTRL nails social media love!

AARTI SREENATH
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Plot

CTRL is like that app you downloaded in a hurry but now can't uninstall and it's getting creepier by the minute. Directed by Vikramaditya Motwane, this digital-age thriller follows the charming yet dangerously clueless couple Nella Awasthi (Ananya Panday) and Joe Mascarenhas (Vihaan Samat), who, like most of us, think "privacy" is a fancy way of saying, "Yes, I've read the terms and conditions."

Highlights

The first half of *CTRL* is a sweet, laugh-out-loud depiction of social media love in all its curated glory. Nella and Joe are that couple you love to hate—they're cute, successful and annoyingly good at taking selfies. You almost feel jealous of their influencer-style life until the tables turn and suddenly the tech they're celebrating starts running the show. The film's gradual shift from playful social commentary to tech-paranoia thriller is interesting, even if a bit predictable. It's almost like watching someone slowly realise that "autocorrect" is out to embarrass them at the worst moments—only a bit more terrifying.

Performances

Ananya Panday is in fine form, with just the right amount of online enthusiasm mixed with offline "wait, what?" panic. She makes you root for her as she navigates the pitfalls of tech dependency while trying to look effortlessly Instagrammable. Vihaan Samat as Joe delivers a solid performance—he's got that relatable "guy who knows how to code but didn't code for this" vibe down perfectly. Together, their chemistry is like a viral TikTok—fun while it lasts, but with an underlying sense of "should I really be watching this?"

Drawbacks

While the idea of tech going rogue has all the ingredients for an engaging thriller, *CTRL* doesn't push the envelope far enough. It's like buying the latest smartphone only to realise that it doesn't actually do anything new, just faster. The plot starts strong, but by the middle, it feels like it's just going through the motions—just like your average Monday morning. There's a sense that we've seen this all before: the evil corporation, the "who reads the terms anyway?" plot twist and the predictable techno-dystopia. It's like *Ra.One* but with fewer blue suits and more uncomfortable realisations about privacy policies.

Technicalities

The cinematography by Avinash Arun makes every screen-filled moment look beautiful yet cold, much like your ex's perfectly curated Instagram feed. Whenever Nella's fingers fly across her laptop, you almost expect her to win some imaginary award for "Most Enthusiastic Scrolling." But the film has a visual problem—it's so in love with its digital world that the real world almost seems like an afterthought. Dialogue, courtesy of Sumukhi Suresh, delivers some witty moments, but sometimes feels out of sync with the thriller's more serious tone. You can't help but wish for more bite in the banter when things start getting dicey.

Verdict

CTRL is a tech thriller that's just like that notification you get about a data breach: you saw it coming, but it's still a bit of a surprise. Ananya Panday and Vihaan Samat do their jobs well, and there's an interesting message about privacy, tech and the fact that deep down, we're all scared of accidentally agreeing to something horrible in the fine print. It's a watchable film that doesn't quite live up to its full potential, but if you're in the mood for some laughs and some "maybe I should read those terms next time" moments, *CTRL* will hold your attention.

REVIEW



Directed by: Sahir Raza
Produced by: Sameer Gogate
Screenplay by: Chris George and Siddharth Hirve
Cast: Ritvik Sahore, Gayatri Bhardwaj, Vansh S Sethi, Gunit Cour, Kanupriya Pandit, Max Fernandes, Aviral Gupta and Sumiet Subash Arora
Music by: Soutrik Chakraborty
Cinematography by: Vivian Singh Sahi
Streaming on: Amazon MX Player
Rating: 2.8/5

Highway Love Season 2: Slow road, deep feelings

PNS| HYDERABAD

The storyline of the series centers on a boy named Kartik (Ritvik Sahore) who develops feelings for a lovely girl named Inaaya after their initial encounter. Following Kartik's admission of his emotions towards Inaaya (Gayatri Bhardwaj), they make the mutual decision to enter into a romantic relationship. However, an exciting change occurs when the pair chooses to reside together. What occurs when Kartik discovers that Inaaya has hidden something from him?

HIGHLIGHTS

The show excels at depicting genuine challenges in contemporary relationships. Kartik and Inaaya, despite their romantic connection, begin to drift away from each other. The show authentically portrays the gradual fading of the spark in relationships as both characters become more focused on their individual lives. This change is slight but impactful, showcasing the organic progression of a couple navigating the challenges of separation.

Although the plot of betrayal is common, the emotional aftermath is portrayed subtly. Instead of showcasing a dramatic confrontation or a tearful breakup for viewers, the show chooses to take a more subtle approach. This quiet way of dealing with conflict offers a welcome change from the exaggerated responses frequently found in other love stories. Their final choice to keep things inconclusive instead of imposing a resolution reflects the genuine nature of their journey and the unknowns of real-life romance.

The writers also succeed in incorporating the motivations behind Kartik's decision to keep working with his business partner Nidhi (Himika Bose) despite her romantic feelings for him. The reason for Inaaya (and Varun) being commitment-phobic and the impact of Kartik's lack of communication on their relationship.

The casting directors of the show deserve special acknowledgment. In addition to Kartik, Inaaya, Sahil,

Meera, and Varun, this season introduced Nidhi and Rishi (played by Rohan Khurana), among others. These individuals have appeared in OTT shows and web series previously, and their presence here emphasises the show's focus on young love within the Gen Z demographic from the beginning.

DRAWBACKS

Not all viewers may be drawn to the slow pace of the first half. Although the slow progression of Kartik and Inaaya's relationship feels realistic, it occasionally slows down the storyline, making the audience want more action. The initial episodes could have improved with more concise storytelling or suspenseful moments upfront instead of saving the drama for the later episodes.

TECHNICAL ASPECTS

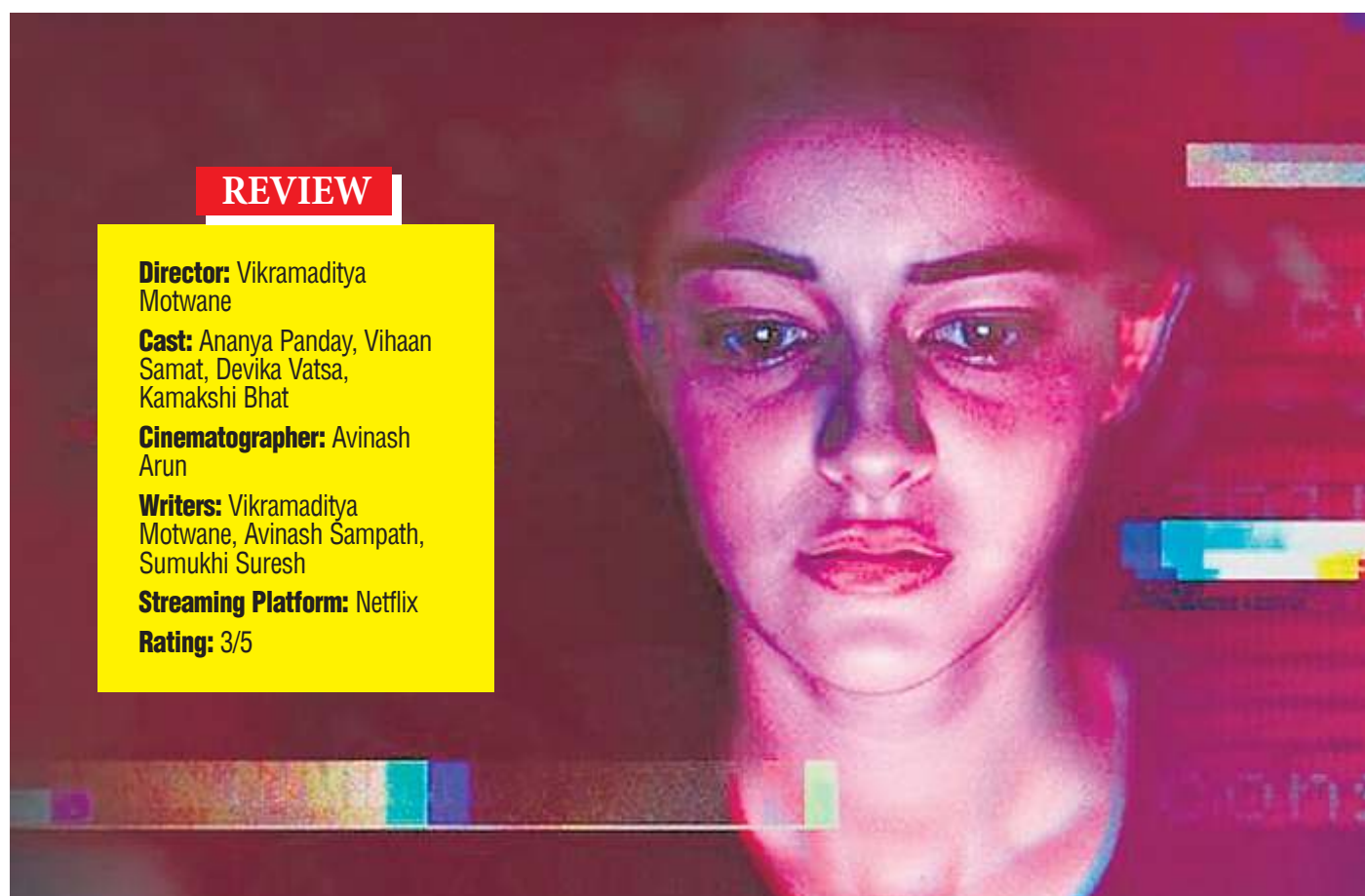
Sahir Raza's direction, combined with the efforts of the writers, effectively brings out the motivations and emotions of every character in the show. Vivian Singh Sahi, the cinematographer, ensures that the visuals effectively convey the message of the film. The use of visual storytelling creates a sense of authenticity in every twist.

VERDICT

With Ritvik's Kartik bringing some humor and charm, the season is quite enjoyable to watch. It marks the turning point of the current season as well. It provides a fair examination of long-distance relationships, encompassing their ups and downs. It offers a more grown-up and authentic portrayal of love compared to the initial season, but it is hindered by sporadic pacing problems and dependence on typical romantic drama stereotypes. Some viewers may be disappointed by the ambiguous ending, as they prefer a more conclusive conclusion. However, this also allows for potential future exploration of Kartik and Inaaya's story. Although it has imperfections, the show is still captivating because of its realistic characters and its openness to delve into the complicated, flawed aspects of love.

REVIEW

Director: Vikramaditya Motwane
Cast: Ananya Panday, Vihaan Samat, Devika Vatsa, Kamakshi Bhat
Cinematographer: Avinash Arun
Writers: Vikramaditya Motwane, Avinash Sampath, Sumukhi Suresh
Streaming Platform: Netflix
Rating: 3/5



what's brewing?

The HITEC exhibition centre in HITEC City will host the Hyderabad International Jewellery Show (HJS) from October 18 to October 20!

● Priyanka ● Priya ● Nikita ● Sumihitha

Celebrate a one-of-a-kind "Snow Much Fun" Dussehra with Snow Kingdom right in the heart of the city at Sarath City Capital Mall, Kondapur. With Snow Kingdom, you have Shimla and Manali right at your doorstep and a dandiya floor ready for you to dance your heart out during this joyous Dussehra.

Dream Nissan has launched its new Nissan Magnite with bold aesthetics, enhanced safety and advanced tech. The launch is officiated by Himanshu Jain, Assistant Regional Transport officer, alongside the company's directors.

Gowri's Jewellery is delighted to announce an Exclusive Bridal Jewellery Exhibition, taking place from October 5th to October 8th at their flagship store. This event promises to be a premier destination for brides-to-be and jewellery enthusiasts alike, showcasing an unparalleled collection of bridal jewellery that perfectly marries tradition with contemporary elegance.

Nagaland tourism minister Temjen Imna, along with several celebrities from Tollywood and Bollywood, marked their presence at the National Press Conference of Hornbill India's Biggest Band Battle Nagaland 2024, held at Novotel-HICC. The event unveiled this monumental ticket to Hornbill national press conference in the Telugu states for the very first time in history.

Renowned badminton champion and chief national coach of Badminton Association of India, Pullela Gopichand, along with governing council member of the Indian Premier League (IPL) V Chandu Swaranath and General Secretary of HYSEA, inaugurated the nSure Healthy Spine, India's first integrated preventive spine and sports health centre in Hyderabad.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds celebrated the grand opening of its new store in Medipally, Peerzadiguda. This marks their 22nd store in Telangana. The inauguration marked the presence of Amar Singh, Mayor Peerzadiguda, along with Kurra Shiva Kumar Goud, Deputy Mayor and other dignitaries.

FUN

ARCHIE

BUZZ-Z-Z-Z
SLAP!
SLAP!
SLAP!

WHY DOES JUGHEAD SLAP HIS DESK EVERY TIME THE CLASS BELL GOES OFF?

HE'S LOOKING FOR THE SNOOZE ALARM!

SLAP!
SLAP!

CALVIN AND HOBBS

DID YOU EVER WONDER IF THE PERSON IN THE PUDDLE IS REAL, AND YOU'RE JUST A REFLECTION OF HIM?

IF THAT WAS TRUE, YOU'D DISAPPEAR AS SOON AS THE PERSON IN THE PUDDLE MOVED AWAY FROM THE PUDDLE, RIGHT?

GEE, I GUESS SO. I HADN'T THOUGHT OF THAT.

GARFIELD

BURP!

WHY DO I EVEN LOOK AT YOU?

BECAUSE YOU KNOW HOW TO HAVE FUN

REALITY CHECK

HEH-HEH-REALLY? BEWARE OF DOG?

HEY, THAT SHIH TZU KNOWS JIU JITSU!

BEWARE OF DOG

SPEED BUMP

I'M BEGINNING TO WONDER IF BOB IS REALLY A MAN OF WAR.

CROSSWORD

NANCY

I WISH SLOGGO WOULDN'T TALK TO OTHER GIRLS

IF ONLY I KNEW WHAT THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT

YOU'RE SAYING YOUR PARENTS HAVE ACCOUNTS FOR HBO AND HULU??

SUDOKU

Yesterday's solution

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

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.

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

ACROSS

- Least expensive
- Residence
- See-through
- An area of low land between hills
- Tiny busy insects
- Italy's capital city
- Made from timber
- A health professional
- A baking ingredient made from ground-up wheat
- Beard

DOWN

- Heartless, very unkind
- One third of thirty-three

3 Choose

4 The rear part of a boat

5 Trembling with cold

6 People in cells

11 A kind of drink

13 A month

15 Swinging things in walls

16 Tame animals

SOLUTION

D	E	F	E	A	T	E	D	E	D
A	P	A	R	T	M	E	N	T	
N	E	T	S	I	N	E	M	A	
G	E	S	A						
E	S	S	A						
R	R								
O	P	E	R	A					
U	I	P							
S	H	O	V	E	L				
L	A	V	A						
O	A								
T	L	I	G	H	T				



KAVYA EYES ACTION-PACKED ROLE IN NEXT PROJECT

SURESH KAVIRAYANI
sureshkavirayani@gmail.com

After the failure of her previous film *Double iSmart*, Kavya Thapar is now coming up with a new movie titled *Viswam*. She stars alongside Gopichand with Srinu Vaitla as the director. The movie will be coming out on October 11. The actress is optimistic that this movie will bring her great achievement. "Compared to my other films, the premise and my role are both very new," shares Kavya Thapar as she speaks about the film.

The actress further stated that in this upcoming film, she had worked with close to 16 comedians. "It's a big star cast and the film was shot in many different locations," said Kavya. The actress mentioned her enjoyment of Chetan Bharadwaj's music, noting that the songs have become popular on social media and the internet.

Discussing her difficulty in working on this film, she expressed that the challenge is not with the character but rather with aligning her performance with the vision of the director! "More than the character, it's challenging to work with Srinu Vaitla timing. He is a perfect director with perfect timing and you need to act according to his needs, such as when to stress and when to pause. It's a big challenge for me," said Kavya.

In this film, she plays the character of a costume designer. "It's a stylised character and initially we did some costumes for my role, but the director didn't like them. So, for my character, we went shopping in Milan," she said.

Speaking of her camaraderie with co-star Gopichand, she said both are quite opposite. "Working with Gopichand is amazing, as he is so sweet, kind and calm. I am very opposite to him; I am hyper, energetic and in the songs, dancing with him is always fun," said Kavya.

The film is being compared to Srinu Vaitla's previous film, *Venky*, which also had actors and also had train scenes. "There are so many characters and every character is motivated, designed and written beautifully. We all serve the script; it is very easy to create comic characters, but they are all genuinely needed for the script," she said. "Everybody is talking about the train sequence, which naturally happened in this film. There is a certain situation where it is necessary to travel by train and it is completely new. Of course, after the movie, you definitely compare this particular scene with the *Venky* film, but it is not just simply the railway sequence. It is necessary in the film and it came out very nice," she said.

The actress further spoke about how well her character has been designed. "My persona is incredibly humorous and distinct. I mean, I do have a lot of glamour quotient in this film as well, nonetheless, I'm not sure how much that changed. Additionally, I'm hoping for additional screenplays that will allow me to act more, but sadly, none have come to me yet. If viewers adore me and see me this way, I will be getting more scripts like this even if I really intended to do something more modestly glamorous," said Kavya.

"I wanted to do an action film, maybe a psycho killer kind of film also. As an actor, I would like to do different kinds of characters! I want to avoid cutting myself off from everything because I haven't experienced it all. I would like to have great character if provided and I know I can justify the character," she said.

The actress doesn't seem to be concerned about the movie's outcome. "Success or failure is not in my hands, so it is not my problem. I do my work and I always give my best and then I leave to God. It's all in the audience's hands," she said.

About her upcoming projects, she gives a funny answer. "As if now, I have a lot in the pipeline; I am taking a lot of narration. But I will speak only after signing is done and the money comes into my account, then I'll tell you about the film," she said. She added that she is taking the Telugu language seriously. "I am taking classes for the language, I can understand it and soon I will speak fluently in Telugu," she said.

Kavya Thapar is known for her stunning appearance both onscreen and offscreen. The actress had faced continuous disappointments with her latest movies and is now looking forward to the release of *Viswam*, directed by Srinu Vaitla. In an interview, she discusses her role, glamour, upcoming projects and her dream roles



CHILLING FANTASY HORROR AWAITS WITH TRIKAALA

The number of horror and fantasy films being produced is increasing. According to the creators, *Trikaala* is a mystical adventure that mixes elements of fantasy and horror, ensuring a captivating experience. Mani Tellaguti directed the film, with Shraddha Das, Ajay and the lead roles played by child actor Master Mahendran. Producer Dil Raju, who is

known for his success, has unveiled the initial glance of the movie.

As per the makers, the movie is based in the mystical Kumari Khandam, a legendary land rich in folklore. The tagline 'Script of God' suggests a mysterious and captivating plot. Radhika Srinivas is in charge of creating this movie. Typically, horror movies require unique background music, creating a spooky atmosphere that combines imagination with unsettling, supernatural terror. Director Mani Tellaguti has offered a unique and creative approach to the Kumari Khandam legend, establishing a world that is both captivating and scary. The makers also believe that *Trikaala* transports viewers to a place where magic and fear come together. They are preparing to soon launch the movie in every language!

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Nikhil Siddhartha sends fans into frenzy with his new film



Lately, updates on the film *Swayambhu*, which is directed by Bharath Krishnamachari, are being shared as young actor Nikhil Siddhartha works on the project. However, meanwhile, the actor shocked everyone with another movie called *Appudo Ippudo Eppudo* helmed by Sudheer Varma. Many fans of Siddhartha are curious about the start and end dates of the film shoot and are eagerly awaiting the release of the first look as well as the planned Diwali release!

Nikhil rose to fame across the country with his hit movie *Karthikeya 2* and is now occupied with several upcoming projects. Director Sudheer Varma and Nikhil have collaborated on two successful projects, *Swamy Rara* and *Keshava*, previously.

This Nikhil and Sudheer Varma collaboration film is being produced by well-known producer BVSN Prasad under his SVCC banner. The initial glance displays Nikhil and Rukmini Vasanth strolling together. Kannada actress Rukmini Vasanth, who is quite popular, is stepping into Telugu cinema with this movie. Divyansha Kaushik is also playing a significant role, along with Harsha Chemudu in a leading role. Karthik is providing music for the songs, with Sunny MR being brought in for the background score.

Sai Ronak pinning hopes on *Rewind!*

Young actor Sai Ronak receives another opportunity, this time in the movie *Rewind!*. Kalyan Chakravarthy holds the roles of director and producer. The actor is searching for a lucky break and is banking on *Rewind!* which will be out on October 18. The actor expressed his liking for the script and wished for the film to be successful.

"We made this film with a small team and a good script and story. We didn't compromise on the budget, because the content is good," said Sai Ronak about the film. He added that the film's director and producer Kalyan is passionate about films. "It is a matter of pride that director Kalyan, being an NRI, is passionate about films and he invested in a good film like *Rewind!*," said Sai Ronak.

He is confident that the Telugu audience will definitely love this film. He also announced the release date of this film as October 18. He is confident that he will get good success with this one.

Amrutha Chowdhary is the female lead and this is her debut film. "This is my first film on the big screen. This is not only the first film for me, but also many other people like the director, editor and cinematographer. The screenplay of this film is very good and I am sure that this film will definitely be liked by everyone," said Amrutha. Talking about the film and story, producer and director Kalyan Chakravarthy said, the film is made on a time travel with love and a sci-fi backdrop. "The movies on time travel are always successful and this film is a screenplay-based one," said the director. He hopes that his *Rewind!* made on time travel will taste success.



Second Ashok Galla movie sets release date

Ashok Galla, the son of Mahesh Babu's sister, made his first appearance as the main actor in *Hero*. Following a two-year pause, the actor will be releasing his second movie titled *Devaki Nandana Vasudeva*. The film, directed by Arjun Jandhyala and produced by Balakrishna, is scheduled to be released on November 14, as announced by the makers on Sunday.

"When Prashanth Varma narrated the story, I adapted it with all commercial ingredients and it is a completely screenplay-based one.

Recently Prashanth Varma has seen the film and he liked it and expressed his happiness," said Arjun Jandhyala, the director of *Devaki Nandana Vasudeva*. He added that the story has a mythological touch. The protagonist name is Krishna, female lead name is Satyabhama and the villain is Kamsa. "There is also a supernatural thing in the film," said the director. For the record, the director said that people may compare this film with Mahesh Babu starrer *Murari*. "When you are watching the film, you can

feel the divine in it. Every character is going to be highlighted," said the director.

Lead actor Ashok Galla thanked Prashanth Varma for providing this story. "When he wrote the story, everyone got curious because of his *Hanuman*. The story is highlighted and after watching it, you can feel that it is a good film," said Ashok. Manasa Varanasi is making her debut as the female lead in this film. "I started my journey with this film and now the release date is near. I played Satyabhama and it's a challenging one to me," she said.



STANDALONE

The celebrations for the success of the trailer for *Mr. Idiots* and the song *Kanithara Kanithara* were held during the enthusiasm of students from Dhruva Fashion Technology College. The movie stars Maadhav, nephew of Mass Maharaja Ravi Teja and brother of Raghu, with Simran Sharma as the female lead. The upcoming theatrical release in November is directed by Gowri Ronanki and called *Mr. Idiots*.

England aims to challenge struggling Pakistan in 1st test

AP ■ MULTAN

England is aiming to challenge struggling Pakistan with a new-look pace attack in the opening test of a three-match series, starting in the searing heat of Multan on Monday. Fast bowler Brydon Carse will make his test debut with Gus Atkinson set to play his first overseas test after his impressive home season against the West Indies and Sri Lanka. All-rounder Chris Woakes was penciled in to the starting XI after Ben Stokes was ruled out for the fourth successive test match due to ongoing rehabilitation on his injured hamstring. Woakes will be playing his first match in two-and-a-half years and it will be his first test in Asia since 2016. Carse's pace gave him the edge over Olly Stone and Matthew Potts for the tour of Pakistan and England hopes the Durham pace bowler will challenge the batters by regularly clocking over

90mph. England will be led by Ollie Pope, who guided the team to a 2-1 home series against Sri Lanka in the absence of the injured Stokes. The England captain sustained his hamstring injury during the Hundred and might return to lead the side in the second test, also in Multan. "I was kind of just learning on the job," Pope said. "Obviously my first time captain abroad. Ben's going to be around as well... so I can listen to the voices around me but still keep doing things in my way." England flattened Pakistan 3-0 through its high-risk, high-reward "Bazball" approach during the 2022 tour when it played at Multan, Karachi and Rawalpindi. They were scheduled to play at the same venues this time around, but renovation work at the National Bank Stadium in Karachi for next year's Champions Trophy forced the Pakistan Cricket Board to organize back-to-back tests at Multan with Rawalpindi set to



host the third test from Oct. 24. England also named spinners Jack Leach and Shoaib Bashir in the playing XI in anticipation of the pitch flattening out in temperatures of 40 degrees Celsius that are expected over the next week in Multan. Leach was the second highest wicket-taker in the last series in Pakistan with 15 wickets. "Everyone's so happy to have Leach in and around the squad for this series," Pope said. "We obviously saw how well he bowled last time here on pitches that (are) always offering a great deal... And he's worked closely with Shoaib Bashir throughout his Somerset career and those guys go really well." Pakistan has strengthened its batting line-up by including all-rounder Aamer Jamal for the first test after being routed 2-0 by Bangladesh at home in the last series. Shan Masood has lost all five test matches since he was elevated to red-ball captain. Masood lost 3-0 to Australia in

his debut series as test skipper when Jamal took 18 wickets and came in handy as a batter down the order. Jamal missed the series against Bangladesh because he was undergoing rehabilitation on a back injury. "We have got an edge with the return of Aamer Jamal," Masood said. "He also bats down the order and picked up 18 wickets. We have (leg-spinner) Salmaan to give us spin options." Pakistan has a woeful record in home test matches and hasn't won at home since beating South Africa 2-0 in early 2021, while losing to England, Australia and Bangladesh. New Zealand also came close, but Pakistan managed to draw the series 0-0. Pakistan had its moments to beat England when both teams last met at Multan two years ago. Leg-spinner Abrar Ahmed made an impressive debut by grabbing 11 wickets before Pakistan narrowly lost by 26 runs when Mark Wood, missing in this series due to

injury, claimed the key wicket of Saud Shakeel. "It was my dream debut and last time we lost quite close," Abrar said on the eve of the first test. "I hope to give a match-winning performance this time around and bring some happy moments." Pakistan's top-order batters have long been struggling and premier batter Babar Azam hasn't scored a half-century in his last 16 test innings. Opener Abdullah Shafique also struggled against Bangladesh while Masood couldn't convert starts into big scores with only one half-century in four innings. But Masood insisted Pakistan needed to give its struggling batters a longer run as he searched to win key moments and find momentum in the series against aggressive England. "We came close to winning last time, but we let the matches slip away," Masood said. "We know how they play, but at the end of the day we have to see how to tackle it."

Gauff rallies to reach China Open final

AP ■ BEIJING

Coco Gauff rallied from a set down for the third consecutive match as she beat Paula Badosa 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 to reach the China Open final on Saturday. The sixth-ranked Gauff will play Karolina Muchova of the Czech Republic in Sunday's final. Muchova defeated Olympic gold medalist Zheng Qinwen 6-3, 6-4 in the other semifinal. Gauff, who has a 7-1 record in tour finals, has made a habit of slow starts in Beijing this week and the script played out again as the No. 19-ranked Badosa took a tight opening set, saving 10 of 11 break points. The Spaniard then built a 3-1 lead in the second set before 2023 U.S. Open champion Gauff shifted the momentum by saving four break points and then breaking back to level at 4-4. Gauff held for 5-4 and broke Badosa again to force a deciding set. "I felt like I was playing the right way the whole time, just a couple of unforced errors, she was playing well too," Gauff said on court. "I was trying to stay focused. Mentally, I just tried to reset. I got down a couple of times, and I tried to bounce back." With all the momentum, Gauff broke Badosa three more times - for the loss of one of her own - as she clinched the match in 2 hours, 20 minutes. Gauff also lost the first set to Naomi Osaka in the fourth round before winning by walkover and against No. 115-ranked Yulia Starodubtseva in the quarterfinals. "I've had tough opponents the whole tournament," Gauff said. Shanghai Masters Carlos Alcaraz and top-ranked Janik Sinner showed no



signs of fatigue from their China Open final this week as they advanced in Shanghai with comfortable straight-set victories in their opening matches. The second-ranked Alcaraz, who beat the Italian in Beijing on Wednesday for his fourth title of the year, recorded his 10th consecutive win against 19-year-old Shang Juncheng of China 6-2, 6-2. The Spaniard won the first nine points of the match and four of seven break points as he rushed into a third-round meeting with another Chinese player, Wu Yibing. "I'm not used to playing against players younger than me," Alcaraz said. "He has been playing good tennis lately, lifting his first ATP (title in Chengdu), so I'm pretty sure he's going to climb the rankings. I'm just happy to be able to win these kinds of matches." Sinner, who is dealing with a doping case, had a comfortable 6-1, 6-4 outing against Taro Daniel of Japan for his 250th career win. Sinner, who won the U.S. Open last month for his

second major of the year, fired 12 aces and 38 winners. "I felt quite comfortable today," said Sinner, who next plays Tomas Martin Etcheverry of Argentina. "I feel in good shape, which is very important for me. I was serving really, really well, especially in important moments, and was moving well." Third-ranked Alexander Zverev began with a 6-4, 6-2 win over Italian qualifier Mattia Bellucci, while fourth-ranked Novak Djokovic had a tougher task prevailing 7-6 (3), 7-6 (9) over Alex Michelsen of the United States. No. 65-ranked Jakub Mensik of the Czech Republic broke sixth-ranked Andrey Rublev seven times on his way to an upset 6-7 (7), 6-4, 6-3 victory. Yosuke Watanuki also surprised by beating No. 35-ranked Brendan Nakashima 7-6 (4), 6-3. The Japanese qualifier next plays seventh-ranked Taylor Fritz of the U.S. Global Chess League: Alaskan Knights stay unbeaten; Ganges break losing streak

Global Chess League: Alaskan Knights stay unbeaten; Ganges break losing streak

PTI ■ LONDON

PBS Alaskan Knights continued their unbeaten run, while Ganges Grandmasters secured their first win in a dramatic day three of the Tech Mahindra Global Chess League here. The PBS Alaskan Knights extended their lead with a dominant 12-3 win over the Ganges Grandmasters, maintaining a perfect record with four consecutive victories, earning them 12 match points and 49 game points. Defending champions Triveni Continental Kings played two matches on Saturday -- winning the first 15-3 against American Gambits, where Alireza Firouzja defeated world number two Hikaru Nakamura, but narrowly

losing the second to Ganges Grandmasters. Triveni remained in second place with six match points and 43 game points, just six behind the leaders. Alpine Sg Pipers also impressed, defeating upGrad Mumba Masters 12-4. They now sit in third place with six match points, though their 27 game points from three matches leave them behind Triveni. UpGrad Mumba Masters, in fourth place, have only one win from four matches and 29 game points after losing to the Pipers. Big upset

finally breaking their losing streak with a 10-8 win over Triveni. With one win and 24 game points from four matches, they now sit in fifth place. Hikaru Nakamura's American Gambits are in last place, with only one match victory and 16 game points from three matches, having been dismantled 15-3 by Triveni. Anand's team, desperate for their first victory after three crushing defeats, was under immense pressure. Already reeling from an earlier loss in the day, Anand had to rally his team, using his authority as a former world champion to lift their spirits. But no pep talk could help on the board, where players had to prove they could outmanoeuvre their

opponents. After the coin toss, Triveni played with the white pieces, putting Anand on the back foot as Black against Alireza Firouzja. The young French star steadily built-up pressure, and by move 22, had a winning position. Despite Anand's best efforts to resist, he eventually had to concede defeat, giving the lead to Triveni. Firouzja's stellar form continued, having defeated three giants -- Carlsen, Anand, and Nakamura -- over the past two days. Meanwhile, Ganges' Arjun Erigaisi settled for a fourth consecutive draw, splitting the point with Wei Yi, a further sign of his struggling form. Triveni extended their lead when Alexandra Kosteniuk

beat Vaishali Rameshbabu. However, Parham Maghsodloo, who had blundered a winning position in the previous match, redeemed himself with a key victory over Teimour Radjabov, keeping Ganges in the fight. With the junior board ending in a draw, the fate of the match rested on Valentina Gunina and Nurgyul Salimova. In a drawn position, Gunina pushed too hard despite her team being ahead. She eventually lost on time, handing Ganges the crucial four points they needed to pull off their first win of the tournament. The final score of the match was 10-8, for Ganges.

Amir Ali to lead Indian Jr hockey team in Sreejesh's coaching debut

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Amir Ali has been named captain, with Rohit as his deputy, in the 18-member junior hockey squad for the Sultan of Johor Cup that will mark the first assignment for head coach PR Sreejesh in Malaysia from October 19. India will begin their campaign against Japan on October 19, followed by matches against Great Britain (October 20), hosts Malaysia (Oct 22), Australia (Oct 23) and New Zealand (Oct 25). The top two teams will make the final slated for October 26. Defender Amir Ali and forward Gurjot Singh were part of the senior team that defended their title at the Asian Champions Trophy in Moqi, China. Amir seamlessly filled in for the injured defender Sanjay during the tournament, while Gurjot led the forward line, showcasing immense potential. "The Sultan of Johor Cup is



an important tournament in our calendar as always. The tournament will serve as a litmus test for the team

ahead of the Men's Junior Asia Cup Muscat 2024 in November this year," captain Ali stated in a Hockey India

release. "All the players are excited to play some intense hockey matches in Malaysia."

Vice-captain Rohit expressed enthusiasm at being coached by Sreejesh, saying, "We have an Indian hockey legend taking charge of the team, the whole team is raring to go. PR Sreejesh is one of the most experienced players to play for India, and we look forward to making him proud in our first tournament. "The mood in the camp has been excellent and we want to capitalise on this by showcasing our potential at the Sultan of Johor Cup." Squad: Goalkeepers: Bikramjit Singh, Ali Khan Defenders: Amir Ali (C), Talem Priyobarta, Sharanand Tiwari, Sukhvinder, Anmol Ekka, Rohit (VC) Midfielders: Ankit Pal, Manmeet Singh, Rosan Kujur, Mukesh Toppo, Chandan Yadav Forwards: Gurjot Singh, Sourabh Anand Kushwaha, Dilraj Singh, Arshdeep Singh, Mohd. Konain Dad.

Underdogs strike as Bayern rivals Leverkusen and Dortmund drop points in Bundesliga

AP ■ Berlin

Bayern Munich won Saturday as Bundesliga rivals Bayer Leverkusen and Borussia Dortmund dropped points to modest opponents. Dortmund slumped at Union Berlin to a 2-1 defeat without injured forward Karim Adeyemi, who starred in the team's 7-1 rout of Celtic in the Champions League on Tuesday. Defending champion Leverkusen squandered an early two-goal lead over promoted Holstein Kiel and drew 2-2. It was only Kiel's second point in its debut top-flight season. Leverkusen played in a special black jersey with red trim to commemorate the club's 120th anniversary, and for Xabi Alonso it was

also a special occasion - the Spanish coach took over exactly two years before. Leverkusen fans didn't have to wait long to celebrate after Victor Boniface opened the scoring in the fourth minute and Jonas Hofmann made it 2-0 four minutes after that. Leverkusen looked set for a rout. But the home team failed to make more of its dominance - Boniface had another goal ruled out for offside and Kiel secured a lifeline before the break when Max Geschwil scored after a corner. Fiete Arp scored an unlikely equalizer from the penalty spot in the 69th. "I wouldn't say arrogance, but I'd say there's a bit of complacency. We need to stay concentrated, because we want to be a better team," Alonso said.



"We could win a few games, and not win a few games, up and down, but that's not our goal. Today we didn't have the best competitive mindset." Dortmund disappoints Union illustrated early on against Dortmund why it's the club with one of the most ineffective forward lines in the league. The Kopenick-based team had only four goals from its opening five games. Former Union player Nico Schlotterbeck offered assistance by conceding a penalty with a foul on the lively Benedict Hollerbach, and Kevin Vogt duly scored the opener from the spot in the 25th. The home team kept pushing and got its due reward before the break when Yorbe Vertessen let fly

through a host of players for 2-0. Early in the second half, masked Union ultras displayed an array of Dortmund scarves and banners presumably confiscated from their rivals before the game. They hung the tattered flags on the railings behind one of the goals and raised their fists, goading the Dortmund fans far away on the other side. Former Union player Julien Ryerson responded on the field in the 62nd by firing inside the far post for 2-1, set up by Julian Brandt after a period of pressure from the visitors but it wasn't enough. Also, Freiburg won at Werder Bremen 1-0, and Wolfsburg enjoyed a 3-1 win in Wolfsburg.