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STATUS QUO
ON INTEREST RATES LIKELY

Sudheer Babu on his scarring experience on sets of Maa Nanna **SUPERHERO**



Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has

Include Hyd Sewerage ...

urged the Union Minister for Urban Development and Housing, Manohar Lal Khattar, to include Hyderabad's Comprehensive Sewerage Master Plan (CSMP) in AMRUT 2.0 or take it up as a standalone project. During a meeting with the Union Minister in New Delhi on Monday, Revanth said that Hyderabad's sewerage system is outdated and insufficient for the city's needs. He also highlighted the lack of proper sewerage systems in

Bus driver dies of heart attack..

nearby municipalities

A TSRTC bus driver, who suffered a heart attack, saved 45 passengers, by parking the vehicle on the side of the highway, before collapsing at the wheel. The TSRTC bus departed from Huzurabad in the Karimnagar district for Hyderabad. While driving, Thakur Ramesh Singh, told the passengers that he was experiencing chest pain as vehicle approached Gajwel. He then safely pulled the bus over to the side of the road and called 108 for



Jio seeks revised paper on satellite...

ambulance to go to ...

Reliance Jio has urged telecom regulator Trai to come up with a revised paper on spectrum allocation for satellite communication alleging that it ignores the key point of ensuring and terrestrial services. In a letter to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) Chairman, Anil Kumar Lahoti. Reliance Jio has sought revision of the consultation paper on recommending rules for "terms and conditions for the assignment of spectrum for... -PAGE: 8

Our batters don't know how to...

Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto has candidly admitted that his team doesn't know how to consistently post 180 plus totals in a T20 game. Batting has been Bangladesh's weak link for a while, especially their approach in the powerplay. They struggled to 39 for two in six overs on Sunday night before managing a below par 127. India chased that down in just 11.5 overs to go 1-0 up in the series. "We have the ability, but we have room for improvement in our ...

Nobel Prize in medicine goes to US scientists



PNS STOCKHOLM

The Nobel Prize in medicine was awarded Monday to Americans Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun for their discovery of microRNA, a fundamental principle governing how gene activity is regulated.

The Nobel Assembly said that their discovery is "proving to be fundamentally important for how organisms develop and function."

Ambros performed the research that led to his prize at Harvard University. He is currently a professor of natural science at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Ruvkun's research was performed at Massachusetts General Hospital and the Harvard Medical School, where he's a professor of genetics, said Thomas Perlmann, Secretary-General of the Nobel Committee. Perlmann said he spoke to Ruvkun by phone shortly before the announcement.

"It took a long time before he came to the phone and sounded very tired, but he quite rapidly, was quite excited and happy, when he understood what, it was all about," Perlmann said. Last year, the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine went to Hungarian-American Katalin Karikó and American Drew Weissman for discoveries that enabled the creation of mRNA vaccines against COVID-19 that were critical in slowing the pandemic.

The prize carries a cash award of 11 million Swedish kronor (\$1 million) from a bequest left by the prize's creator, Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel. The announcement launched this year's Nobel prizes award season.

HYDRAA launching app to check encroachments



Aid does not match damage

CM Revanth meets Shah, seeks Rs. 11,713.49 crore

- Heavy rains caused major damage affecting 4.15 lakh acres and claiming 37 lives
- Revanth urges reinstatement of 3 districts in LWE affected list
- CM requests Rs 18.31 crore to pay pending SPO salaries, relaxation of norms for recruiting 1,065 new SPOs.
- CM urges resolution of bifurcation issues, 29 more IPS officials

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has requested Union Home Minister Amit Shah to immediately release Rs 11,713.49 crore for restoring and

repairing infrastructure damaged by heavy rains.

During their meeting in New Delhi on Monday,
Revanth highlighted the impact of the rains from August 31 to September 8, which claimed 37 lives and damaged crops, roads, culverts, tanks and canals in around 4.15 lakh acres.

He reminded the Union Minister of his earlier

request for Rs 5,438 crore and stressed that the amount allocated so far is insufficient to meet the state's needs. The Chief Minister also pointed out that despite a Central team visiting Telangana and



The Chief Minister requested Amit Shah to resolve the long-standing bifurcation issues, including the distribution of government buildings, corporations and institutions listed under Schedules 9 and 10 of the Reorganization Act

estimating damages, funds have not been released. The CM said that the districts of Adilabad, Mancherial and Komaram Bheem

Asifabad which were removed from the Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) affected category should be reinstated. He emphasised the need for additional CRPF Joint Task Force (JTF) camps in some areas along the Telangana-Maharashtra and Telangana-Chhattisgarh borders citing security concerns.

The Chief Minister also requested Rs 18.31 crore to pay the pending salaries of Special Police Officers (SPOs) and sought relaxation of recruitment norms for 1,065 new SPOs. He also asked for the strengthening of police stations in border districts and an additional Rs 25.59 crore for anti-extremist training.

Continued on Page 5

TGIIC clears land for 70 companies investing Rs 1,721 cr

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TGIIC) is granting approvals swiftly and establishing industries after thoroughly assessing the credentials of companies trying to set up operations in the state.

In line with Telangana's industrial policies, the government is ort to elio companies.
TGIIC MD Vishnu Vardhan

Reddy said that in September, the State Level Land Allotment Committee, under TGIIC, reviewed several land allocation requests, approved 70 companies and issued allotment orders.

These companies are expected to invest Rs 1,721 crore and generate employment for 7,543 people. Some notable companies are Mayur India Pvt Ltd from Indonesia, which plans to invest Rs 158.80 crore in food processing creating 866 jobs, and Lohan Materials Pvt Ltd Continued on Page 5

CM's Delhi trips to cover up Musi scams: KTR

PNS HYDERABAD

The Working President of BRS, KT Rama Rao, launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, accusing him



only to cover up the finan- through all your trips? Have agement of the flights?" KTR asked sarcasti-He claimed that these trips were not for

bosses in the national capital. KTR questioned the benefit of these trips for the people of Telangana. He pointed out that in the last 10 months, the Chief Minister had visited New Delhi 23 times. "What funds have you brought for the state

state's benefit but to secure his

CM's seat and consult his

KTR mocked Revanth's frequent trips to New Delhi, suggesting that the CM seemed more concerned with pleasing his party's national leadership than addressing the needs of the state's people.

He said that Revanth's repeated visits to the capital were to protect his post, while neglecting the governance of

Continued on Page 5

'Disbursal of Rythu Bharosa funds after completion of loan waiver'

PNS HYDERABAD

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageshwara Rao said the Congress government will give Rythu Bharosa funds to farmers after completing the farm loan waiver scheme.

Participating in the 'Face to Face with Minister' programme on Monday at the Gandhi Bhavan, he out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for stating that the loan waiver scheme had not been implemented fully. He asked whether the PM was not able to see Rs 18,000 crore spent on loan waiver. He asked the PM to explain whether there is any government like Telangana across the nation in implementing assurances.

Tummala said the pain of losing power is the BRS's and the pain of coming to power is the BJP's. He said the BRS and the BJP are continuing their tirade by throwing mud at the Congress government.

He said the protests of farmers would have touched Congress lead-



ness among the people. He said the people and Congress

activists attended the programme in huge numbers and brought their problems to the attention of the Minister and the Minister solved some problems on the spot.

The Minister made a phone call to the Suryapet Collector and

woman named Yadamma from Nereducharla mandal in Suryapet district. Yadamma had raised her land issue with the Minister and he directed the Collector to solve her problem.Tummala received 95 petitions regarding land issues, jobs, pensions, Indiramma houses and other issues.

Krishna Reddy to join TDP; Malla Reddy too may follow him

PNS HYDERABAD

Congress leader Teegala Krishna Reddy said on Monday that he will join the TDP soon and that he will bring back the lost sheen of TDP in Telangana.

He said that Hyderabad had developed due to TDP supremo Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N.

TDP has many supporters in Telangana.

He said that everybody knows what happened in the name of Telangana and that Chandrababu is trying to regain the TDP's lost ground in Telangana.

Declaring that he is happy that Chandrababu became the CM of

Chandrababu Naidu and that the Andhra Pradesh, Krishna Reddy said that many people entered politics after NTR floated the TDP.

Malla Reddy and his son-in-law Marri Rajashekar Reddy refused to talk to the media although they were present along with Krishna Reddy when he spoke to the media.

Malla Reddy said that he had accompanied his son-in-law to invite

Chandrababu Naidu to the marriage of his granddaughter, the daughter of Marri Rajashekar Reddy.

It may be recalled that Teegala Krishna Reddy and his daughter-inlaw Rangareddy district ZP Chairperson Anitha Reddy joined the Congress on February 26 after quitting the BRS.

Continued on Page 5

Defamation case: Actor Nagarjuna likely to come to court today

PNS HYDERABAD

The Nampally court on Monday postponed Actor Nagarjuna's case against Minister Konda Surekha to Tuesday. The court asked Nagarjuna and two key witnesses to



appear in the court to record their statements. The two witnesses in the petition are Yarlagadda Supriya and Venkateshwar Metla. This case is about Konda Surekha's alleged Continued on Page 5

Maheshwar challenges CM to an open debate on farm loan waiver

PNS HYDERABAD

BJLP leader Alleti Maheshwar Reddy challenged Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to an open debate on the farm loan waiver scheme and sent a letter to the CM regarding this on Monday.

In his letter, Maheshwar said that the CM sent a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi hiding facts about the farm loan waiver scheme, and added that this is

nothing but taking people for a ride.
"I think he (CM) wrote a letter to the PM to help the Congress in the Maharashtra Assembly elections. I challenge you to come for an open important facts and the actual debate regarding the lies being propagated by you. I leave the choice of deciding the place and time for the open debate to you,"



Maheshwar said. He said the CM's letter to the PM on the farm loan waiver scheme appears to be an attempt to hide

ground reality.
"I would like to remind you about the farm loan waiver promise you made as the TPCC President ers are

during the campaign for the TG Assembly elections last year. You promised that farm loans up to Rs 2 lakh would be waived if the Congress is elected to power in TG. However, you wasted almost five months on one pretext or the other. However, after realising that farm-Continued on Page 5

PNS CHANDIGARH Political parties and leaders wait

with bated breath as the counting day approaches in Haryana, with the ruling BJP confident of retaining power for a third term, and the Congress, which is out of power for 10 years, more than hopeful of making a comeback when results are announced on Tuesday. Officials said all preparations, including security arrangements, have been completed for the counting process which begins at 8 am on October 8.

A three-tier security arrangements have been made at counting venues," Haryana's Chief Electoral Officer Pankaj Agarwal told PTI on

The elections in Haryana are the first major direct contest between the

J&K, Haryana votes to be counted today

BJP CONFIDENT, CONG HOPEFUL

Who will have the last laugh?



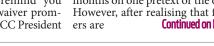
BJP and the Congress following the a narrative in their favour in other Lok Sabha polls, and the result here states where polls due over the next would be used by the winner to build few months

The key parties in the fray are the BJP, the Congress, Aam Aadmi Party, INLD-BSP and JJP-Azad Samaj Party. However, most seats are likely to see a direct fight between the BJP and the Congress.

Jammu and Kashmir also voted alongside Haryana, but most seats there have witnessed multi-corner contests rather than a direct Congress-BJP fight. Elections are due in Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Delhi in a few months.

A total of 1,031 candidates, including 464 Independents and 101 women, are in the fray on Haryana's 90 constituencies which voted in single phase on October 5.

Several exit polls have predicted a Congress victory in Haryana which recorded a voter turnout of 67.90 per cent. Continued on Page 5





TTD: Time for revolutionising pilgrimage with digital tweaks

n the vast array of spiritual sanctuaries, the Lord Venkateswara temple on Tirumala

Tirumala Hills, run by the Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), stands as a beacon of everlasting hope for millions of devotees across the globe. As the custodian of the world-renowned Tirumala Venkateswara Temple, TTD needs to manage tens of millions of devotees each year. However, over the years, the TTD, despite being one of the wealthiest religious institutions globally with immense resources at its disposal, has not been able to make a pilgrimage to Tirumala a blissful experience for all devotees. For the common people a pilgrimage to the Tirumala shrine often proves to be more of an ordeal than a serene journey. For, outdated systems and inefficient processes hinder the

institution's ability to manage

pilgrims effectively.

As the world embraces digital platforms across sectors, the question arises: Why hasn't Tirumala followed suit? Complex industries like aviation have integrated technological innovations to streamline logistical systems, ensuring smooth booking, check-ins, and real-time updates. If something as intricate as air travel can benefit from such advancements, why can't the experience and comfort levels of pilgrims at Tirumala improve? The time has come for Tirumala to embrace the digital age, enhancing the pilgrimage experience for millions seeking spiritual solace.

Imagine a pilgrimage as smooth and seamless as booking a flight-no more endless lines, uncertainty regarding accommodations, or privileged access disrupting the sacred darImagine a pilgrimage as smooth and seamless as booking a flight --no more endless lines. uncertainty regarding accommodations, or privileged access disrupting the sacred darshan. Just as air travelers enjoy hassle-free digital check-ins, pilgrims at Tirumala should be able to embark on their spiritual journey without the stress of logistical hurdles

hassle-free digital check-ins, pilgrims at Tirumala should be able to embark on their spiritual journey without the stress of logistical hurdles. Yet, for most devotees today, this vision remains far from reality.

Despite TTD's vast financial and administrative resources, its systems are riddled with inefficiencies. What should be a peaceful spiritual sojourn is often marred by long queues, confusing procedures, and an overarching lack of transparency. With its abundant resources,

TTD is ideally positioned to undertake a technological overhaul to modernize and simplify the pilgrimage experience for devotees.

One of the most critical areas for improvement is the darshan booking process. Pilgrims should be able to log into a dedicated TTD app, select their preferred darshan slot, and receive a QR code for seamless entry-just like booking a flight. This simple digital solution could eliminate hours of waiting and ease the burden



DR.ARJA SRIKANTH (Former Special Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh)

on temple staff. Real-time notifications for any delays, similar to flight status updates, would provide an additional layer of convenience for devotees. The process could be further streamlined by introducing automated check-ins at the temple gates. Pilgrims could scan their QR codes at self-serfor human intervention. For those unable to access mobile devices, e-seva centers could offer printed QR codes, ensuring inclusivity.

By automating these processes, TTD staff could focus on more critical responsibilities while preserving the sacred atmosphere within the temple.

A digital transformation could

also address the disparity in darshan access. VIPs and influential individuals currently enjoy swift, uninterrupted darshan, while ordinary pilgrims are forced to endure hours of waiting. This inequality has been further exacerbated by multiple darshan classifications, leading to confusion and frustration. A digital booking system based on a first-come, first-served basis would level the playing field, ensuring that every devotee has an equal opportunity to experience darshan.

Accommodations remain

Despite booking months in advance, many pilgrims still struggle to secure lodging. Integrating room bookings into the same app used for darshan reservations would simplify the planning process, offering a unified platform for managing the entire pilgrimage experience. This would make the entire journey more efficient

and stress-free for devotees. Transparency and safety must be the cornerstones of Tirumala's transformation. Clear, standardized pricing for rooms, ceremonies, and services should be made available through the app to reduce overcharging and confusion. Meanwhile, safety concerns, particularly for pilgrims trekking the Alipiri and Srivari Mettu pathways, must be addressed with protective barriers to shield devotees against wild animal attacks, ensuring both physical and spiritual

coming to power and announced a job calendar. He

said that the BRS government

had appointed just 7,857 teach-

ers in the last 10 years. However, the Congress government in just 10 months is going to appoint 11,062 candi-

Satyam said that around

17,341 posts are available at

various stages through 26 noti-

fications issued by the TGPSC.

Some of them have already

Satyam said the government

dates on October 9.

To further promote fairness, TTD could implement a policy limiting repeat visits within a specific period, with visits tracked digitally to prevent individuals, particularly those with influence, from receiving multiple darshans at the expense of first-time visitors. This would ensure that more devotees have the opportunity to participate in darshan, rather than a select few enjoying privileges repeatedly.

The time for Tirumala's digital transformation is now. TTD has the resources, influence, and responsibility to revolutionize the pilgrimage experience for millions. By blending modern technology with its sacred traditions, Tirumala can become a symbol not only of spiritual grace but also of efficiency, equality, and transparency. The future of pilgrimage is upon us, and Tirumala must lead the way.

Narayana asks

Amit to check

Naxals biggest violators of human rights: Shah

Says they will be eliminated by 2026

PNS NEW DELHI

Terming Naxals the biggest human rights violators, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said security forces have been carrying out "offensive operations" instead of defensive against the insurgents and have achieved big successes in recent times.

Addressing chief ministers and top officials of the Naxalaffected states, Shah also said that all Left Wing Extremism (LWE)-affected states are committed to completely eliminating Naxalism by March 2026.

Due to the improved security situation, high voter turnout -- up to 70 per cent was witnessed in the Maoisthit region in the last Lok Sabha polls. There was zero polling in the region earlier, he

Shah said more than 13,000 people from the northeast, Kashmir and LWE-affected areas have renounced violence and joined the mainstream. He asked youths involved in the



Maoist movement to give up arms and join the mainstream, saying all states have prepared beneficial rehabilitation schemes for them.

The crucial meeting, which discussed anti-Naxal operations and development initiatives carried out in the affected areas, came days after the security forces killed 31 ultras in the forests of Chhattisgarh in one of the most successful operations in recent times.

'Security forces are now carrying out offensive operations instead of defensive operations earlier," Shah said.

An "offensive strategy" has been adopted by activating the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to choke the financing of Naxalites, which has resulted in a shortage of financial resources for them,

Multiple long-duration operations were conducted, ensuring that the Naxalites are surrounded, leaving them with no opportunity to escape, To completely eradicate

Naxalism, Shah said, it is essential to give a final push to eliminate this menace once and for all and urged the chief ministers of all affected states to review the progress of development and anti-Naxal operations at least once a month.

Shah also requested the Directors General of Police to conduct such reviews at least

CM wants Adilabad, Mancherial, Kumram Bheem Asifabad in LWE-hit list

PNS HYDERABAD

Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired a meeting on Left Wing Extremism (LWE) at the Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. The meeting was attended by Chief Ministers, senior officials and security personnel from LWE-affected states.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari, DGP Jitender, CM's Principal Secretary Vasheeshadri, Additional DGP (Intelligence) V. Shivadhar Reddy and SIB IG B. Sumathi represented TG at the meeting.

Revanth said that the districts of Adilabad, Mancherial and Kumram Bheem Asifabad, which were removed from the LWE list should be reinstated. He emphasised the need for additional CRPF camps along the Telangana-Maharashtra and Telangana-Chhattisgarh

AIMIM activists attack Congress leader Feroz knan

PNS HYDERABAD

The AIMIM's Nampally MLA, Mazid Hussain's followers attacked senior Congress leader Feroz Khan on Monday.

The AIMIM MLAs' followers blocked Feroz Khan when he went to examine the CC roads in the Asif Nagar area resulting in tension between Congress and AIMIM activists. In the melee, AIMIM activists attacked Feroz Khan. The police dispersed both groups after arriving at the spot.

It may be recalled that Feroz Khan lost the Assembly elections to Mazid Hussain by 1,500 votes.

'Group-I exam papers were sold like peanuts during BRS rule'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Declaring that Group-I exam question papers were sold like groundnuts during BRS rule, the Congress's Choppadandi MLA, Medipally Satyam, said that former Chief Minister, K. Chandrasekhar Rao, who came to power by inciting people in the name of water, funds and jobs, deceived them after coming to power.

Speaking to the media at the CLP Media Centre on Monday, Sathyam said that KCR completely ignored the aims of the Telangana movement like adequate water, funds and jobs.

Describing former MLA Balka Suman as a slave, Sathyam said that Suman was reading the script written by

KCR and KTR sitting in BRS Commission immediately after Bhavan. He warned that Balka Suman would face a befitting response if did not withdraw



his comments against the CM, Revanth Reddy. Satyam asked Suman to explain why he did not ask the same things in the

last 10 years. He said the Congress government cleaned up the

been given appointment orders, he said.

Telangana Public Service dence in the BRS.

will announce the Youth Calendar soon and that BRS leaders are looking at the TDP

rapes, murders PNS HYDERABAD

CPI Secretary K. Narayana asked Union Home Minister Amit Shah to concentrate on checking the increasing rapes and murders in the country.

Reacting to the review meeting held on Naxalism on Monday in New Delhi, he appealed to Naxals to change their style of operations as per the changed conditions in the country. He asked Naxals to fight along with the people. Narayana said that Dera Baba was given bail in view of Punjab, Haryana elections but leaders like Varavara Rao could not get bail and was asked to stay in Mumbai as a bail

Harish prays to Ammavaru to grant CM wisdom

PNS HYDERABAD

BRS MLA Harish Rao participated in the Devi Sharannavaratri Puja celebrations held in Malkajgiri. During the event, Harish Rao prayed and expressed his wish that the goddess would bless

Revanth Reddy with wisdom. He criticised the HYDRAA's beautification efforts under the Musi River Project, stating that it was affecting the poor. He also said that those in power should help the needy and not bring them to tears.

of KCR, highlighting how issues like drinking water, irrigation and electricity problems were solved in Telangana, and how Hyderabad had become a model city.

Harish cited the importance of festivals like Bathukamma and Dasara and added that

Bathukamma is a unique festival in which flowers are worshipped, reflecting the deep respect for nature. He emphasised that the

unity in diversity displayed by the people of Telangana during these festivals reflects their

Centre allotted 1.58 lakh houses to TG and 21.37 lakh houses to AP: Kiran

PNS HYDERABAD

The Centre allotted just 1.58 lakh houses to TG out of the 118.64 lakh houses sanctioned across the country in the last 10 years, Bhongir MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy said while attending a meeting held under the chairmanship of Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy on Monday. Kiran is a member of the Parliament Standing Committee on Housing and Urban Affairs.

The Centre allotted 21.37 lakh houses to Andhra Pradesh, 17.76 lakh houses to Uttar Pradesh, 13.64 lakh houses to Maharashtra and 10.05 lakh houses to Gujarat,

Kiran said. He said that in the last 10 years, the BRS government didn't show any interest in increasing the number of houses allotted to TG or even getting the allotted houses



constructed.



He said the Congress Government under the leadership of Revanth Reddy collectwho needed houses and found that approximately 33.88 lakh houses were required.

The Centre is planning to build one crore houses in the next five years and has been asked to allot six lakh houses to TG this year, he said. Kiran said that regarding Metro and public transport issues, it was found that cities like Hyderabad lacked adequate public trans-port creating traffic problems and that there is a need to support states regarding this.

"We are trying to compete with global markets and cities across the globe but implementation is very slow. We need to work on it fast," he said.

He praised the achievements BRS demands withdrawal of GO No: 477,

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Senior BRS leader Sravan Dasoju has condemned the Telangana government's proposed Rs 1.5 lakh crore Musi River Beautification Project and specifically criticised GO

He demanded the immediate withdrawal of GO No: 477 and urged the government to consult environmentalists, urban planners and affected communities before proceeding further. He called for a Detailed Project Report (DPR) with a comprehen-

The creation of a Livelihood Support Committee through GO No: Livelihood 477, introduced only after

the demolitions, reflects a

callous disregard for the affected families, he said. It suggests that the Government of Telangana, headed by Revanth Reddy engages in undemocratic, ille-

gal actions and later introduces reactive policies. In an open letter to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Sravan criticised the government's approach, stating that without compensation. He accused the govern-

ment of enforcing its plans in a dictatorial manner, pointing to forced demolitions along the Musi River and the lack of adherence to the Right to Fair Compensation Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation, and Resettlement (RFCT-LARR) Act, 2013.

He expressed concern over the administration's discriminatory approach, which treats those living in the riverbed as illegal encroach-

cites violations in Musi River Project ers without addressing their

> He emphasised that GO No: 477 bypasses the legal framework of the RFCT-LARR Act, leading to forced evictions without due

Sravan said the government's decision to create a Livelihood Support Committee only after the demolitions was a move to deflect public outrage over the illegal actions.

TODAY ALMANAC Oct 07 09:47 AM to Oct 08 11:18 AM Shashthi Oct 08 11:18 AM to Oct 09 12:14 PM Nakshatram: Oct 08 02:25 AM **Jyeshta** to Oct 09 04:08 AM to Oct 10 05:15 AM Rahukalam 2:59 PM to 4:27 PM 9:07 AM to 10:35 AM Yamagandan 03:34 AM to 05:15 AM 12:03 PM to 1:31 PM Gulika: 06:42 PM to 08:25 PM Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:40 AM to 12:27 PM HYDERABAD WEATHER Forecast: Scattered Showers **Temp:** 31°° Humidity: 70% Sunrise: 6:08 AM Sunset: 5:59 PM **Updated:** October 7, 2024 5:00 PM

Parl panel likely to take up issue of poor treatment of Indians working abroad

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the incidence of Indians being forced to take up low-level or even dangerous jobs abroad after being promised better quality employment, a parliamentary committee headed by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor is likely to look into the issue covering the condition of people going overseas for work.

Sources said the Standing Committee on External Affairs in its first meeting on Monday discussed its agenda, and this issue came up for discussion.

They said MPs expressed concern over the issue, with a seasoned parliamentarian referring to the recent case of some Indians being forced to work for the Russian military in its war against Ukraine after they arrived there on the promise of employment. The government had informed Parliament in August that at least eight Indians were killed in the conflict and that it had strongly taken up the matter with Russia for their discharge and overall safety.

The agenda items, sources said, are also expected to include the conflict in West Asia involving Israel and militant groups supporting the Palestinian cause, and the Bangladesh situation.

Drones suspected to be from China spotted along IB in Kinnaur: Himachal minister

PNS SHIMLA

Drones have been spotted along the Indo-China border in Himachal Pradesh's Kinnaur district and they are likely being used for surveillance and espionage purposes, state minister Jagat Singh Negi, said on Monday.

Speaking to PTI, Negi said drone activity has been noticed in Shipki La and Rishi Dogri villages in Poo block of the district. "Multiple drones frequently flying near the border area have been spotted in the past week and several people have informed me about such sightings," Negi, the MLA from

Kinnaur assembly constituen-

cy, said.

"Road construction to lay roads up to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) is in progress in both Shipki La and Rishidogri and the possibility of surveillance and espionage by these drones cannot be ruled out," the revenue and horticulture min-

ister said.

He claimed that the drones have also been sighted by the police and the Army personnel. The minister urged the

Union government to take note of the matter and issue necessary directions. The tribal districts of

Kinnaur and Lahaul and Spiti share a 240-km border with China which is traversed by nine high altitude mountain

Bandaru Dattatreya's 'Alai-Balai' on Oct 13 CMs Revanth Reddy, Chandrababu guests of honour

PNS HYDERABAD

Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya's 'Alai-Balai' programme will be held on October 13 at the Exhibition Grounds. Dattatreya's daughter Bandaru Vijayalaxmi is organising this programme.

Telangana Governor Jishnudev Varma is the chief guest and Telugu Chief Ministers Revanth Reddy, N. Chandrababu Naidu, Governor Uttarakhand Lieutenant General Gurmit Singh, Meghalaya Governor CH. Vijayashankar, Telangana Legislative Council Chairman Gutta Sukhender Reddy, Telangana Legislative Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasada Kumar, Union Ministers Nirmala Sitaraman.



Joshi, Kinjarapu Ŕammohan Naidu, Arjunram Meghwal, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, Bhupathi Raju Srinivasa Varma, Annapurna Devi, and Anupriya Patel are expected to attend as guests of honour. Leaders of political parties,

citizens are also expected to attend the celebrations. Speaking on the occasion, Bandaru Dattatreya said the

cultural icons and eminent

intention is to bring leaders from all parties together on one platform. He said that he is happy that it completed 19 years and that

he started the programme to

unite all political parties which were fighting separately for Telangana to take the Telangana movement forward. He said the programme will

reflect Telangana's culture, traditions and food habits.

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Prateek Kuhad

Slhouettes tour.

Venue

Hyderabad international convention centre November 8

TG announces guidelines for Rs 5 lakh ex gratia for deceased Gulf workers' kin

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has announced an ex-gratia of Rs 5 lakh for the families of workers hailing from the State who passed away while working in Gulf countries. This financial assistance will be applicable to deaths occurring on or after December 7, 2023.

Eligible family members include the spouse, children, or parents of the deceased worker. According to the Government Order (G.O. Ms. No. 216) issued by the General Administration (NRI) Department, the scheme applies to workers who died in any of the specified Gulf nations: Bahrain, Kuwait, Iraq, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, or the United Arab Emirates.

The cause of death will not affect eligibility, provided the worker was employed in one of these countries at the time of death.

The family members of the deceased Gulf worker are required to submit the necessary documents, including the death certificate, a cancelled passport, proof of employment in one of the eligible Gulf countries, and valid bank account details, to the concerned District Collector. Upon verification, the District Collector will issue a formal sanction of the ex-gratia, which will then be directly transferred to the bank account of the eligible family members through the Direct Bank Transfer (DBT)

The application must be submitted within six months from the date of death or receipt of the body. The District Collector is required to process the applications at the earliest to avoid delays.

Minister urged to help augment MMTS servces

PNS HYDERABAD

The Communist Party of India- Marxist (CPI-M) urged Union Minister G Kishan Reddy to ensure that the Multi-Modal Transport System (MMTS) is augmented to help people in the city. On Monday CPI-M secretary M Srinivas addressed a letter to the Minister, appealing to the latter to ensure that the trains run on time.

He said that in the four routes of the phase-2 of MMTS, only two trains are

running daily.
The MMTS trains are halting more Secunderabad as the authorities are not giving green signal to these trains.

City Pioneer

the pioneer hyderabad tuesday I october 8, 2024

Include Hyd Sewerage Master Plan in AMRUT 2.0: CM

CM presents DPR of sewerage project costing Rs 17,212.69 crore CM proposes joint venture for City Metro Rail Phase 2

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has urged the Union Minister for Urban Development and Housing, Manohar Lal Khattar, to include Hyderabad's Comprehensive Sewerage Master Plan (CSMP) in AMRUT 2.0 or take it up as a standalone project.

During a meeting with the Union Minister in New Delhi on Monday, Revanth said that Hyderabad's sewerage system is outdated and insufficient for the city's needs.

He also highlighted the lack of proper sewerage systems in near-by municipalities, stressing the need for 100% treatment of liquid waste to maintain global living

Revanth presented a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for sewage treatment to Khattar, which covers both Hyderabad and 27 surrounding municipalities, extending 7,444 sq.km. at a projected cost of Rs 17,212.69 crore.

He requested financial support



Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy meeting with Union Minister for Urban Development and Housing, Manohar Lal Khattar in Delhi on Monday

under AMRUT 2.0 for the project and to be recognised and funded as a special initiative.

The Chief Minister also informed Khattar that Hyderabad's untreated sewage is being discharged into the 55-km stretch of the Musi River flowing through Hyderabad.

Revanth said that a separate DPR has been prepared for a project costing Rs 4,000 crore for constructing trunk sewers, large-sized box drains and sewage treatment plants (STPs) to prevent sewage from entering the Musi River.

all necessary permissions. Revanth also sought Central support for the second phase of the Hyderabad Metro Rail which covers key corridors like Nagole to RGIA (36.8 km), Raidurg to Kokapet Neopolis (11.6 km), MG Bus Station to Chandrayangutta (7.5 km), Miyapur to Patancheru (13.4 km), and LB Nagar to Hayathnagar (7.1 km).

The project extends 76.4 km and is estimated to cost Rs 24,269 crore. Revanth proposed a joint venture between the Central and state governments with a 50:50 cost-sharing ratio and said that the DPR would be submitted shortly. He requested the Centre's cooperation to fast-track the project.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by the MPs of Nalgonda, Bhongir and Peddapalli — Raghuveer Reddy, Chamaala Kiran Kumar Reddy and G. Vamsikrishna - Telangana's Special Representative in New Delhi, AP Jitender Reddy, Chief He urged the Union Minister to Secretary Santha Kumari and approve this project and speed up other officials.

Excise Police seize 24 kg marijuana in the city

The Excise State Task Team, along with Excise Station Dhoolpet teams, conducted raids in two places and seized around 24 kg of marijuana in the city. At Dhoolpet, the police seized 22.9 Kg of marijuana and two mobiles from the possession of two persons who were arrested. The police said that on a reliable information, a raid conducted near Jalihaniman Stadium, detected marijuana and arrested two persons and four other accused are absconding. In another case, the police while conducting route watch on the road leading to Purana phool to Jiagud detected illegal transportation of 1.5 kg dry marijuana.

Police seized contraband and a two-wheeler from the accused. Two persons arrested and four are absconding.





HYDRAA launching app to check encroachments

PNS HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) is going to launch a new software application to curb encroachments on lakes, parks and other government lands in the city. With the help of

that app, the authorities can easily recognise encroachments on government lands. Using this app, people can file complaints encroachments. The app registers the inspections and

actions of officials.

HYDRAA Commissioner and Lake Protection Committee Chairman Ranganath held a meeting on Monday with officials of the Irrigation, Revenue, National Remote Sensing Agency State (NRSA), Remote Sensing Application Centre,

and Survey of India.

The HYDRAA commissioner said that HYDRAA is also focusing on removing debris after demolishing illegal structures in lakes. The officials decided to start work with Sunnam Cheruvu, Appacheruvu, Errakunta and Kukatpally Nallacheruvu in the

first phase. The FTL and maximum water spread area of ponds would be identified through various departments based on data collected in the 45 years. This information would be compared with the data collected by the NRSA, the State Remote Sensing Application Centre and the Irrigation

Department. Ranganath said that officials would go through the 2018 report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) and identify the extent of lakes correctly.



TGSRTC MD Sajjanar at a coordination meeting at Bus Bhavan in Hyderabad on Monday

to run specia buses to clear Dasara rush

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSŘTC) Managing Director and Vice Chairman Sajjanar said that in view of Dasara festival, special buses would be run between October 9 and 12. The special buses are meant to clear the rush.

Sajjanar held a coordination meeting on Dasara bus operations with police and Transport Department officials at Bus Bhavan on Monday. He said that the TGSRTC arranged 6,304 special buses for the Bathukamma festival in the state. This time it has been decided to run 600 more special services as compared to last year in view of the imple-

mentation of Mahalakshmi For the IT corridor employees also special buses provided from Gachibowli to VIjayawada, Bangalore and other routes. TGSRTC arranged a total of 1,602 special buses from IBS, 1193 from LBnagar, 585 from Uppal and 451 from He explained that special

buses are arranged on October 13 and 14 for the return journey of the passengers. For reservation of buses passengers may go to tgsrtcbus.in. For any inquiry call to 040-69440000, 040-23450033 numbers.

At the coordination meeting, Cyberabad Joint CP (Traffic) Joel Davis, Hyderabad Traffic DCPs Rahul Hegde, Ashok Kumar, Rachakonda Traffic DCP Srinivas, and other officers participated.

Airteltelco's spam-fighting network launched

PNS HYDERABAD

Bharti Airtel is combating the "growing menace" of cyber frauds with network intelligence and Al to analyse patterns and accurately identify spammers. This was revealed by Shivan Bhargava, chief executive officer, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Kerala, Bharti

Airtel's AI-powered network has identified two million spammers with its solution and sees 99.5 per cent reduction in spam alerts.

Bharti Airtel's new AI-powered spam detection system has asked its customers to feel relief as it launched a telecom

In 10 days since its launch, this telecom solution has successfully identified and blocked 122 million potential spam calls and 2.3 million spam SMS messages in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

All Airtel mobile customers in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana now have automatic



Shivan Bhargava

access to the free solution with- needed protection for its vast the solution has two filters - one out needing to request service customer base, Airtel has at the network layer and the sec-

Commenting on the launch, Shivan Bhargava, Chief Executive Officer, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Kerala, Bharti Airtel, said, "As more of our daily lives and communications have shifted online, the risk of falling victim to spams and scams has risen exponentially. To proactively address this critical issue and provide much-

AI-powered solution that stands as an example of the company's commitment to safeguarding the security of its customers"

Further the Airtel will also notify courier calls and it has asked its B2B customers to provide phone numbers of its persons so that they can be named under whichever service they are providing to customers.

Developed in-house by Airtel's ten thousand data scientists, the AI-powered solution uses a proprietary algorithm to identify and classify calls and SMSes as Suspected Spam. The network powered by a state-ofthe-art AI algorithm analyses various parameters such as the caller or sender's usage patterns, call/SMS frequency and call duration amongst several others, on a real time basis. By cross-referencing this information against known spam patterns, the system flags suspected spam calls and SMSes accurately.

A dual-layered protection, Every call and SMS passes through this dual-layered AI shield. In two milliseconds the solution processes 1.5 billion messages and 2.5 billion calls. This is equivalent to processing 1 trillion records on a real time basis using the power of AI.

Additionally, the solution also alerts customers to malicious links received via SMS.

5 people held for murder of 54-yr-old man

PNS HYDERABAD

Cyberabad Police arrested five people for kidnapping and murder case of 54-year old man in the limits of Jagadgirigutta Police Station on

Arrested people have been identified as Basireddy Sudhakar Reddy (59), Pasam Prasad (36), Busupati Kiran Kumar (30), Gaddam Venkata Subbaiah (25) and Annika Manikanta (25). Bathina Dwarakanath Reddy (48) was still absconding in this case.



Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation Commissioner Amrapali Kata receiving petitions from people at Prajavani progamme in Hyderabad on Monday

LOT MOBILES annouces Dussera, Diwali offers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Leading Smart Mobile Retail Chain LOT Mobiles celebrating 12th anniversary thanked all customers for choosing it over and over

it's always a pleasure to serve customers, said M Akhil, director of LOT Mobiles. He nnounced never before offers to its customers. For the first time in industry introducing nine offers for Dussera and Diwali on purchase of smart phones, smart TVs laptops and electronic and consumer

This Dussera and Diwali Introducing nine offers exclusively at LOT Mobiles Stores.

On every purchase assured gifts worth up to 9,999, 2. 40% instant discount and 10% instant cashback on smart phones, smart TVs, laptops and ACs.



Police seek cancellation of Jani Master's interim bail

PNS HYDERABAD

The Narsingi Police on Monday approached the local court seeking cancellation of bail granted to Tollywood choreographer Jani Master faced. Jani Master was announced as the recipient of the Best Choreographer award for his work in the 2022 film Thiruchitrambalam." However, due to the severity of the allegations against him, the National Awards Committee decided to temporarily withhold the award.

Additionally, the invitation extended to him for attending the 70th National Film Awards ceremony, scheduled to be held on October 8th in New Delhi, was also withdrawn. Earlier, Jani Master had sought bail in order to attend the award ceremony, and the city court had granted him interim bail from October 6 to 9.

Cyberabad CP calls for carpooling by IT professionals

EASING TRAFFIC CONGESTION

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a significant move to address the growing traffic concerns in the Cyberabad region, Cyberabad Police Commissioner Avinash Mohanty, along with Cyberabad Joint Commissioner (Traffic) D Joel Davis, convened a high-level interactive meeting with IT industry leaders on Monday on traffic con-The objective of the meeting was

to explore short-term and mediumterm solutions to alleviate traffic congestion in the IT hubs of Hitec City and the Financial District. In the meeting, several actionable strategies were discussed and IT

companies said that they would share information on arrival patterns for better data collection and predic-

Installation of cameras on highrise buildings for live monitoring of traffic flow and support with traffic marshals to enable better traffic



CSR funds for this initiative matter

also discussed in this meeting. The Police Commissioner told IT companies to encourage their areas including parking facilities and employees to carpool. Improvement bus bays at Raidurgam metro staof roads and creating alternate tion, and Image Towers matter also routes to help ease some of the trafdiscussed in the meeting.

IT industry leaders in Hyderabad on Monday management, potentially utilising fic flow point has been discussed. Improving public transport infrastructure for support staff across Hitec city and financial district

Officials told to resolve people's grievances

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Greater Hyderabad (GHMC) Commi ssioner Amrapali Kata spent around one hour from 12.05 pm at the Prajavani programme and received 90 petitions from the people. Through the phonein programme she received nine complaints from the citi-

The Commi ssioner received petitions from people from all over the city seeking resolution of various issues at the Prajavani programme held at the GHMC head

Planning department with 22 and other departments of the corporation. A total of 49 applications had been received in six zones under GHMC, out of which 26 in Kukatpally zone, 10 in Serilingampally

She ordered the

authorities concerned

to resolve the issues

Out of the 90 pleas,

most of the petitions are related to Housing with 59

complaints, followed

zone, Secunderabad zone, 2 in LB Nagar zone, 3 in Charminar zone and one petition in office on Monday. Khairatabad zone.



HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | OCTOBER 8, 2024

PNS WARANGAL

Cybercriminals posing as CBI officials allegedly cheated a prominent industrialist from Hanamkonda of Rs 28.50 lakh. The fraudsters claimed

to have been investigating a money laundering case. The incident happened on October 2.

According to sources, the indus-

trialist received a phone call from a

woman who claimed that she was an

official of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). She told

the industrialists that her superiors

would talk to him regarding the for-

mer not linking his Aadhaar num-

and said she was a CBI officer from

Later, another woman called him

She talked to the industrials on a

WhatsApp video call to make the former believe that she was speaking from the CBI office. She threat-

ber to his mobile number.

the Mumbai branch.

Bus driver dies of heart attack, **but saves** passengers' lives

PNS GAJWEL

A TSRTC bus driver, who suffered a heart attack, saved 45 passengers, by parking the vehi-cle on the side of the highway,

cle on the side of the nighway, before collapsing at the wheel. The TSRTC bus departed from Huzurabad in the Karimnagar district for Hyderabad. While driving, Thakur Ramesh Singh, told the passengers that he was the passengers that he was experiencing chest pain as vehicle approached Gajwel. He then safely pulled the bus over to the side of the road and called 108 for ambulance to go to hospital. But, unfortunately, he died en route to hospital. The incident brought tears to the eyes of the passengers.

There were 45 passengers in the bus when the driver suffered a heart attack. In another incident, a passenger on an RTC bus attacked the conductor and driver. Under the influence of alcohol, he assaulted them with stones. The driver sustained serious injuries to his head. In detail, on Sunday, an RTC bus from the Ibrahimpatnam depot was heading to Hyderabad. At the Bongloor Crossroad, a person boarded the bus. Despite the conductor loudly asking for a ticket, the passenger ignored him and fell asleep in his seat.

Kumram Bheem Asifabad Collector Venkatesh Dhotre at a sports rally in Asifabad on Monday

State govt aims to develop

rural sports: Collector

PNS KUMRAM BHEEM Meena Reddy, participated in

the Sports Flame Rally.

During this event, he men-

tioned that the rally would

continue across the State until

the October 17. The Chief

Minister's Cup aims to devel-

op sports in rural areas and

He emphasised that these

sports activities strive to

enhance team spirit among

He also assured that mea-

The programme saw partic-

sures are being taken for the

ipation from Congress party

district president Kokkirala

Vishwaprasad Rao, former

ZPTC Santosh, former MPPs

Balesh Goud and Mallikarjun,

development of sports.

and Congress leaders.

encourage rural athletes.

Komatireddy: SLBC can make Nalgonda, Nagarkurnool lush green

The Minister criticised former chief minister K Chandrshekar Rao for pushing the state into debt trap

PNS NALGONDA/DEVARAKONDA

Former chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao neglected the Srisailam Left Bank Canal (SLBC) project which is a lifeline for irrigation in Nalgonda district. "God has confined KCR to his farmhouse. We are a farmers' government. There is no tunnel like this anywhere in the world, spanning 50 kilometers. We are trying to supply water through the tunnel using gravity, without relying on rain," Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy pointed out.

During the oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected Devarakonda Agricultural Market Committee, Venkata Reddy, outlined his vision for the Nalgonda region. He stated, "My goal is to provide irrigation and drinking water and to construct double

roads for all villages."

He emphasised the importance of the Market Committee's role in connecting farmers with the government, stressing that it should prioritise the welfare of farmers. He recalled the initiation of the SLBC (Surface Lift Irrigation)



Roads and Building Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy speaking at a meeting at Devarakond in Nalgonda district on Monday

cessfully completed up to 40 kilometersd, with 9.5 kilometers still pending.

He criticized political opponents, claiming that a rival who boasted of defeating Balun Naik in the upcoming elections had vanished from the scene. He said the BRS government frittered away Rs 1 lakh crore on Kaleshwaram project, which collapsed, while asserting that the previous govern-

project in 2005, which was suc- ment failed to allocate Rs 2,000 crore for SLBC.

Venkat Reddy noted that with the Chief Minister's intervention, funds were allocated, and actions were taken for mission repairs, promising that work would commence in November and December through two missions, aiming to complete it in 30 months. He assured that the entire Nalgonda district, including the Nagarkurnool, Nakrekal, and

Munugodu constituencies, would be transformed into a lush green

Addressing the criticisms from BRS leaders regarding the Rs 6,000 crore spent on the Mission Bhagiratha, Venkat Reddy chal-lenged them to identify which areas had benefited from adequate water supply. He claimed the previous administration left behind a legacy of unpaid debts, totaling Rs 8 lakh crore. He said the government would extend loan waivers to those with debts exceeding RS 200,000 in the near future.

He announced plans to launch a scheme next week to construct 3,500 Indiramma houses in each constituency, alongside expenditures of Rs 200 crore per month on free bus travel for women and Rs 500 LPG connections.

Over the past ten months, 60,000 jobs have been filled, and plans are in place to establish a skill university in the region to enhance employment opportunities for

The oath was administered to the new Agricultural Market Committee by Chayadevi, District Marketing officer.



grievances stressed

PNS KUMRAM BHEEM

District Collector Venkatesh Dotre emphasised the need to resolve petitions received at Prajavani programme at the grassroots.

On Monday, during the Prajavani, the Collector received applications from citizens, along with Additional Collectors Venu at the Integrated District Collectorate build-

ing here. People from various areas, including Bazarwadi, Sandeep Nagar, and Brahmanwadi in Asifabad Municipality, sought permission to operate busi-

A resident from Motlaguda village under mandal, Dahigam Enagandula Sanchi, requested employment after completing a PGDCA course. Bomman Rajayya from Buruguda village in Asifabad mandal submitted an application for an old-

Nagosh Mothiram from Lanjan Veera village in Wankidi mandal requested justice regarding a land dispute within his family.

Uyaka Girijabai from Punuguda village in Wakidi mandal applied for land transfer in her name after her husband's death.

Kushnapalli Narayana from Sarandi village in Wankidi mandal requested passbook by registering details of his land. Rathod Srinivas from Karanji Wada village in Kerameri mandal sought farmer assistance funds for his land.

Durgam Maruthi from Chandrapelli village in Dahigam mandal requested employment at a medical college after completing a lab technician course.

Gummala Vidyasagar from Ippal Navegam village in Asifabad mandal applied for a disability pension.

During this occasion, the officials of all departments work in coordination to address grievances voiced by people promptly.

Ministers take part in Bathukamma fete

Ministers Konda 🌉 Surekha and Seethakka and Women's Corporation chairperson Sobha Rani on

Bathukamma

Monday took and Seethakka taking part celebrations held

at the local junior college grounds under the aegis of the Mynampalli Social Organisation. Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the Ministers hailed Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for implementing various developmental activities in Telangana. Women took part in large numbers and danced as part of the celebrations. Renowned singer Mangli rendered Bathukamma songs. MLA Mynampalli Rohit Rao, former MLA Mynampalli Hanmant Rao, District Collector Rahul Raj SP Uday Kumar Reddy and several district

PNS MEDAK



Ministers Konda Surekha in Bathukamma celebrations in Medak

Suresh Reddy, along with Telangana State Fisheries Federation chairman Mettu Sai Kumar, on Monday released fishlings. The fishlings were supplied on 100 per cent subsidy. They were released into the Tamma Tank for the benefit of the fishermen. Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the Municipal chairperson and the Fisheries corporation chairman said that the Minister has been Congress leaders took part in the event. striving to promote the welfare of

PNS MANTHANI

fishermen in all spheres of activity. On directions from Information Technology Minister D Sridhar Babu, municipal chairperson Pendri Rama

Cybercriminals cheat

industrialist of Rs 28 lakh

ened him that a case of money laundering was registered. She claimed to

have received a complaint that a per-

son had leaked to the CBI that the

industrialists indulged in money laundering. She told the industrialists that a CBI officer would soon reach his office.

Fearing arrest, the industrialist was

instructed to transfer the money cur-

rently in his bank accounts to the

account indicated by her, with the

assurance that it would be returned to him after the investigation was

Trusting her words, he transferred Rs 28.50 lakh from his two

bank accounts to the specified

call when the mobile from which he

received the call remained switched off. He approached the police. The

police registered a case. Investigation

He, later, realised that it was a fake

completed.

Manthani Municipal Chairperson P Rama Suresh Reddy and TSFF chairman M Sai Kumar releasing fishlings into a tank at Manthani on Monday

Fishlings released in

Manthani tank

The state government has been supplying fishlings on 100 per cent subsidy to grow them in tanks. The distribution of fishlings is being done in a festive atmosphere, they

Later, the Telangana State Fisheries Federation Chairman Mettu Sai Kumar was felicitated by the Boinpet

The governing body member of the municipality P Siva, single window chairman K Srinivas, fisheries department district director P Kranti and Mudiraj Association members and others took part in the event.

Photography, short-film contest to be held in Khammam

PNS KHAMMAM

In connection with observing the police flag day on October 21, the police department is conducting a photography and short-film contest in the limits of the city police commissionerate and inviting entries from enthusiastic participants.

Police Commissioner Sunil Dutt, the entries should highlight the sacrifices made by the police, their service during natural calamities and their talent in dischargcan send only three pholength of the short film should not exceed three min-

The last date for submission of entries would be October 20. ing duties. Each contestant The photographs should be in

the size of 10x8. The photos and the pen drive containing the short film can be handed over to the PRO of the police department.

The photos or the short film should have been captured during October 2023 to October this year. For details, contact 8712659256.

Jainoor victim recovers, discharged from hospital

ASIFABAD

The government's objective

is to promote sports in rural

areas, said Kumram Bheem

Asifabad District Collector

In connection with the

upcoming Chief Minister's

Cup to be held in November,

the Olympic Flame Rally

reached the district headquar-

ters under the leadership of

Gachibowli Sports Officer Alexander and Rally Nodal

Officer Kanna Madhubabu.

District Sports Officer

Ramadevi, along with District

Superintendent of Police DV

Srinivasa Rao, Additional

Collector Dasari Venu, and

District Tribal Sports Officer

Venkatesh Dothre.

PNS ■ KUMRAM BHEEM ASIFABAD

After receiving treatment for the past month at Gandhi Hospital, an Adivasi woman, who was severely injured in the Jainoor incident, has been discharged on Sunday. The doctors decided to discharge her as she recovered. Throughout her stay at Gandhi Hospital, the state government provided unwavering support. Minister Sitaakka, Minister for Panchayat Raj Rural Development and Women and Child Welfare, took special care to ensure that the victim and her family received all necessary assistance, including access to quality medical services.

The Minister frequently visited hospital to encourage the victim and provide her with emotional support. The medical staff at Gandhi Hospital treated the victim with utmost care for a month, performing several surgeries to save her life.

SP inaugurates primary school in Maoist-hit village PNS BHADRADRI

KOTHAGUDEM

To help students, the Charla police built a primary school in Maoist-affected village. Burugupadu Superintendent of Police Rohit Raju inaugurated the school on

The Charla police noticed that the students of Burugupadu village were facing difficulties studying in a school established in a thatched house in the Maoistaffected border area. In response, they took steps to

construct a building to house the school.

The villagers expressed their gratitude to the police, the SP, and others for their gesture toward the village.
The SP stated that the police

work with the objective of developing the Adivasis, whereas the Maoists have been using the Adivasis to serve their own selfish ends, denying them basic facilities. He pointed out that the Maoists have not initiated even a small program for the benefit of the Adivasis.

The SP accused the Maoists



Bhadradri Kothagudem District Superintendent of Police Rohit Raju inaugurating a primary school in Maoist-affected Burugupadu village on Monday

of forcing the tribals to participate in their meetings at gunpoint and of enrolling minors

and youth in their party to

carry out illegal activities.

Therefore, he appealed to the

Adivasis not to cooperate with

the Maoists. He encouraged the children to attend the school, which was set up under the leadership of Charla Circle Inspector Raju Varma, to study well and secure good jobs.

He urged the villagers to take responsibility for making this happen.

He also asked the villagers to bring any problems in the village to his attention so that he

could work to resolve them. Later, he distributed sweets, notebooks, and fruits among the students who attended the inaugural function.

Additional SP T Sai Manohar, SB Inspector Srinivas, Charla CI Raju Varma, SI Narsireddy, CPRF Inspector Balakrishna, and school headmaster Veera Swamy were also present at the



Weaver commits suicide in Sircilla

PNS RAJANNA SIRCILLA

In Sirisilla town, a weaver named Sirimalla Sridhar (34), a resident of KCR Nagar, committed suicide at home.

He had completed his intermediate education and was living with his parents while working on his loom. However, recently, as the loom work came to a standstill, he found himself without money and in deep dis-

He took his own life by hanging from a fan when no one was at home. Sridhar's death cast a pall of gloom over the town.

The handloom industry, which once flourished has now been facing tough times.

Gold, cash stolen from woman at bus station

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

A theft took place at the Shadnagar bus station in broad daylight on Sunday sparked outrage over lack of security in the public place. A thief stole two totals of gold and Rs 28,000 from a woman passenger.

The passenger, identified as Alivelu from Chinthakon dapalli village, Keshampet mandal, went to the bus station to to Jadcharla. When she was boarding bus, a thief snatched away her purse containing cash and gold and fled.

The woman's brother, Anemoni Krishna, filed complaints with both the local police and the depot manager, expressing frustration over the indifference shown by officials.

Local BJP leader and state executive committee member Palamuru Vishnuvardhan Reddy visited the bus station and met the depot manager to discuss the incident.

Vishnu Vardhan Reddy handed over a formal letter on behalf of the victim, highlight-



Local BJP leader Palamuru Vishnuvardhan Reddy representing to Shadnagar depot manager about non-functional CCTV cameras at the bus station

ing concerns such as the nonfunctional CCTV cameras at the bus station for the past five days, the lack of a proper surveillance system, and the absence of security personnel during peak hours when the

buses are crowded.
Anemoni Krishna voiced his concerns, stating that many women travel via RTC buses, and their safety must be priori-

He questioned the efficiency of the RTC staff, expressing his disappointment over the largescale theft and the failure of the authorities to act swiftly. Krishna emphasized that his letter to the depot manager aimed to ensure that similar incidents do not occur in the future.

The police have also been notified, and an investigation is underway.



ACROSS THE STATES



6 killed in coal mine blast in West Bengal's Birbhum

when explosives kept in a truck went off in a coal mine Ain West Bengal's Birbhum district on Monday, a police officer said. The explosion occurred when detonators were being transported in the truck for planned blasts at the Gangaramchak and Gangaramchak-Bhadulia coal mines, an official of the West Bengal Power Development Corporation Ltd (WBPDCL) said. The incident happened around 10.30 am in Bhadulia village in which the captive mine of the WBPDCL is situated. "Six people were killed and three others were injured," Additional Superintendent of Police of Birbhum, Rana Mukherjee, said. The incident occurred in the dump yard of the coal block, WBPDCL Chairman and Managing Director P B Salim said. "An investigation has been initiated to ascertain the cause of the blast. Those killed in the explosion were workers of the agency deployed for



SC sets aside death sentence in murder case

he Supreme Court has set aside the death penalty awarded to a man convicted of dacoity and murder of a couple in Ahmednagar in Maharashtra and sentenced him to life imprisonment. A bench of Justices BR Gavai, Prashant Kumar Mishra and KV Viswanathan restored the October 21, 2013 order of the Ahmednagar trial court and set aside the high court order awarding death sentence to one Shivkumar Ramsundar Saket. The bench refused to interfere with the conviction orders of the trial court and the April 8, 2022 order of the Aurangabad bench of the Bombay High Court. "We find that the trial judge as well as the judges of the high court have correctly appreciated the material on record and come to a conclusion that the appellants are guilty of committing the crime," the bench said in its order dated September 26.



Kolkata's iconic Globe cinema to reopen today

olkata's iconic Globe Cinema is set to reopen on Maha Panchami (Tuesday) after a hiatus of nearly two decades. Once a hub for film lovers, the cinema will screen three Bengali films alongside two recent all-India hits, rekindling the magic that once captivated audiences. The reopening promises to be a celebration of nostalgia and excitement, as the city's cinephiles eagerly anticipate the revival of this cultural landmark. Satadeep Saha, managing director of SSR Cinemas, which has leased the property, on Monday announced that the newly revamped Globe will feature two screens (Dual-Plex) equipped with state-of-theart facilities, with seating capacities of 239 and 197, respectively. Originally built by the British in 1867 as the

TGIIC clears land for 70..

Continued from page 1

investing Rs 502 crore in lithium-ion battery manufacturing providing jobs to 414 people. Amrutanjan Healthcare will

invest Rs 125.04 crore creating 142 jobs, while Jayadurga Home Décor will invest Rs 114.12 crore, employing 950 people. Drone manufacturing company Drogo Drones Pvt Ltd is set to invest Rs 34.63 crore, providing 300 jobs.

These companies, along with others, are expected to

Under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, In the last 10 months after the formation of the Congress government, 321 companies have committed to investing Rs 7,108 crore through TSIIC. These companies are projected to create direct employment for 25,277 youth. The TSIIC has allotted 566.53 acres across the state to companies.

Aid does not match... Continued from page 1

The Chief Minister requested Amit Shah to resolve the long-standing bifurcation issues, including the distribuings, corporations and institu-

significantly contribute to

Telangana's industrial growth,

generating thousands of jobs.

India and Maldives ink currency swap agreement

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Seeking to strengthen bilateral ties, India and the Maldives on Monday inked a currency swap agreement, a move that would help the archipelago nation overcome foreign exchange reserve issues.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu also launched Rupay card in the Maldives, inaugurated the new runway at the Hanimadhoo International airport and agreed to further strengthen bilateral relations that had hit a rocky patch last year.

Muizzu, who is on a four-day state visit, held talks with Prime Minister Modi at the Hyderabad House here.

After the talks, India also handed over 700 social housing units to the Maldives built under the EXIM Bank's buyer's credit facilities. 'Today, we have inaugurated

the redeveloped Hanimaadhoo Airport. Now, the Greater Male Connectivity Project will also be expedited. We will also support the development of a new commercial port in Thilafushi," Modi told reporters here with Muizzu by his side.

Modi said India and Maldives have decided to initiate discussion on the Free Trade Agreement to further strengthen economic ties. The prime minister

described Maldives as a "close

friend" which had an important position in India's neighbour-

hood policy and SAGAR

"India has always fulfilled the responsibilities of a neighbour. Today, we have taken up the vision of a comprehensive economic and maritime security

partnership to give our mutual cooperation a strategic direction," Modi said

To initiate talks on FTA

Earlier, Muizzu was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the Rashtrapati Bhawan by President Droupadi Murmu. Prime Minister Modi was also present on the occasion.

Muizzu was given a tri-ser-

vices guard of honour before he drove down the Rajghat to offer his respects at the memorial to Mahatma Gandhi.

The ties between India and the Maldives came under severe strain since Muizzu, known for his pro-China leanings, took charge of the top office in November.

GLOBAL OIL PRICES

India watching situation very carefully: Hardeep



PNS NEW DELHI

With global oil prices flaring due to widening conflict in the Middle East, India is watching the situation carefully and is confident of navigating any chal-lenges it may pose, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Monday.

International oil prices have flared to over USD 78 per barrel from about USD 70 per barrel, as the market waited to see if Israel would retaliate against Iran for a missile attack last week.

"We are watching the situation very very carefully," Puri said at ExxonMobil Global Outlook 2024 here.

Energy availability, he said, can be affected if there is an escalation in the Middle East.

But supplies are not impacted and India, the world's third largest oil consuming and importing nation, is confident of being able to navigate any situ-

"I am confident, we will be able to navigate as we did previously," he said.

Puri said there is no shortage of oil and India is confident of sourcing its requirement.

After the Iranian missile attack, it is being speculated that Israel may target oil or nuclear facilities in Iran. And Tehran can choose to respond with either direct attack on Israel or shutting the Strait of Hormuz - the world's most important oil transit point, further flaring oil

The Strait of Hormuz, located between Oman and Iran, connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea. A fifth of global oil flows from the Strait. Oil from all major oil producers - Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait and UAE -is exported via the Strait.

Will protect Constitution that gives Bahujans their rights: Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress will protect that Constitution that gives Bahujans their rights but true inclusion and equality for all in the society will be possible only when every Indian strives with the spirit of brotherhood in their hearts, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said on Monday.

Gandhi shared a video on his social media handles of his recent interaction at a Dalit household where he helped out in cooking a meal in their "Even today, very few peo-

ple know about Dalit kitchens. As Shahu Patole said, 'Nobody knows what Dalits eat. Intrigued by what they eat, how they cook, and its social and political significance, I spent an afternoon with Ajay Tukaram Sanade and Anjana Tukaram Sanade," Gandhi said



in his post in Hindi on X along with the video.

'They honored me by inviting me to their home in Kolhapur, Maharashtra to help out in the kitchen. Together we cooked 'chane ke saag ki sabzi harbharvachi. 'tuvar dal' with brinjal," the for-

mer Congress president said. "Drawing on Patole and the Sanade family's personal experiences with caste and discrimination, we discussed the lack of awareness about Dalit cuisine and the importance of documenting this culture," he

Buzz over Cong's Haryana CM pick

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

On the eve of the Haryana assembly poll results, the issue of chief minister-ship has taken centre stage in the Congress with all eyes on its high command's next move as the party expects to regain power after 10 years in the state.

Although the Congress, unlike in 2019, gave the former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda a free hand in finalising majority candidates and formulating election strategy, another heavyweight and Dalit leader from Haryana Kumari Selja has thrown her hat in the ring, queering the pitch for the Jat stalwart.

In a move uncharacteristic of her, AICC general secretary and Lok Sabha MP Selja has publicly staked claim to the CM's post and said the high command will take the final call on who will lead the state should the party win tomor-

Hooda on the other hand in his latest remarks has said that the MLAs' opinion will be taken and the final decision of

the central leadership will be acceptable to all.

Another senior leader Randeep Surjewala, who is also the party general secretary and a Rajya Sabha member, has stated that the party high command will decide the chief minister even though he has not staked claim.

Bhupinder Hooda's son Deepender Hooda, the Congress' Rohtak MP, is also not ruled as a potential candidate by a section of the party.

Krishna Reddy to...

Continued from page 1

Teegala Krishna Reddy and BRS MLAs

Chamakura Malla Reddy

and Marri Rajashekhar

Reddy met TDP chief N.

Chandrababu Naidu at

his residence in

Hyderabad. A few

months ago, Malla Reddy leaked to the media that

he would join the TDP. However, later he denied

it and said that he would

The meeting with

Chandrababu Naidu on

Monday raised eyebrows

and it is learnt that Malla

Reddy and his family

may join the TDP to

protect his family from

continue in the BRS.

If recent trends are anything to go by, the Congress, under party president Mallikarjun Kharge, has cho-

Bhupinder Hooda ahead in race sen to honour mass leaders on the issue of chief ministership.

If this trend holds, Bhupinder Singh Hooda, who had a say in selecting over 70 of the 90 party candidates in Haryana, would be the evident choice for the top job should exit poll results translate into reality.

Having learnt the lessons of

neglecting regional satraps in the past, the Congress has of late been taking a conscious call to install mass leaders in power positions.

In Himachal Pradesh, the party chose Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu as chief minister despite parallel claims made by state unit chief Pratibha Singh, who reminded the party of husband and ex-CM Virbhadra Singh's legacy.

In Karnataka, the party set-tled for Siddaramaiah, the popular leader of the state, over his more resourceful and financially influential competitor D K Shivakumar, who had to make do with the deputy CM's posi-

Coal scam: Delhi court awards jail terms to four accused persons

PNS NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Monday awarded jail terms to four persons accused in a case related to the alleged scam in allocation of two coal blocks in Jharkhand.

Special Judge Arun Bhardwaj awarded a threeyear jail term to Rungta Project Ltd's former managing director R S Rungta, Sanjay Rungta and T M Achyutan, and a two-year jail term to Shambhu Nath.

The judge also imposed a fine of Rs 30 lakh on the company and R S Rungta each, while Sanjay Rungta and Achuthan were directed to pay a fine of Rs 40 lakh each.

The judge further directed Nath to pay a fine of Rs 20 lakh. The case relates to the allocation of Hutar Sector C and Hurilong coal blocks situated in

Jharkhand during the

Congress-led UPA govern-

ment at the Centre.

In this Lucknow temple, demon king Ravana is worshipped on Vijayadashami

PNS LUCKNOW

While Ravana is killed throughout the country on Vijayadashami or Dussehra, there is a temple in Lucknow where the demon king is worshipped on the occasion.

In the Char Dham temple at Rani Katra in the old city area, the 'Ravana Darbar' is present where he is worshipped by some people, Siyaram Awasthi, a priest at the temple, told PTI Videos. He said that the temple was constructed about 135 years

ago.
"The Char Dham temple was built by Kundan Lal Kunj Bihari Lal and now his sixth generation is managing it. In this temple, all four Dhams are there and it is famous as Chhoti Kashi also. We have Ravana Darbar here for people to realise what type



also," the priest said. He said that people who come here also visit this darbar, where Ravana is worshipped on Vijayadashami.

"It (Ravana Darbar) is there

lives which can lead them to hell or heaven," Awasthi said. "Here Ravana's entire court is present. While Ravana's ministers are seen sitting on both sides in the court, the demon king is seated at the top," he said.In this temple, Ram Setu and Lanka have also been built. The way to reach Ravana's court comes only after passing through the Ram Setu. In the Darbar, near Ravana, Kumbhakaran is lying down next to him, and Meghnad is sitting next to him, the priest said, adding Vibhishana is also standing

The slaying of Ravana by Lord Ram on Vijayadashami is a central part of the Dussehra, which celebrates the victory of good over evil.

Defamation case... Continued from page 1

ED and IT raids.

against the Akkineni family, especially against actor Nagachaitanya and actress Samantha's divorce issue. Meanwhile, a lawyer named Thiru pathi Varma told the media that the TPCC legal cell will file a Vakalat for Surekha and we will file counters. She has already taken back her statement against the actors. "We are assuming that KTR is backing this case. So we will also file a case against Nagarjuna and his supporters," he said.

Who will have the last..

Continued from page 1

Rejecting the exit poll results, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has claimed his party BJP will form the government for a third time with full majority on October 8.

He said when results are announced on October 8 the Congress will blame Electronic Voting Machines. On the other hand, Congress leader and former Haryana chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, a frontrunner for the chief minister's post if his party wins, exuded confidence of a comfortable majority. On BJP leaders claiming that their party will return to power, Hooda had earlier stated, "What else will BJP say? They will come to know once results are out."

The INLD-BSP alliance has also claimed that it will form the next government once results are declared, while JJP leader Dushyant Chautala has exuded confidence that his alliance will get good numbers. Aam Aadmi Party supremo Arvind Kejriwal, whose party contested Haryana polls on its own, has been claiming that no government in

Haryana can be formed without the support of his Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

The ruling BJP has been saying that its return to office will be powered by its record on good governance, transparent administration, equitable development, jobs on merit, welfare initiatives for all sections including farmers, poor and the weak.

However, Congress and other opposition parties have dubbed the BJP government a failure, and targeted it on issues related to farmers, unemployment, Agniveer, inflation, law and order, and others. Prominent among those in the fray are Chief Minister Saini (Ladwa), Leader of Opposition Hooda (Garhi Sampla-Kiloi), INLD's Abhay Chautala (Ellenabad), JJP's Dushyant Chautala (Uchana Kalan), BJP's Anil Vij (Ambala Cantt), Capt Abhimanyu (Narnaund), O P Dhankar (Badli), AAP's Anurag Dhanda (Kalayat) and Congress' Vinesh Phogat (Julana). From Tosham seat, former MP Shruti Choudhry of BJP and Anirudh Chaudhary, both cousins, are contesting.

CM's Delhi trips to cover..

Continued from page 1

KTR criticized Revanth for making excuses about meeting Central leaders to secure funds for the state. "You called Prime Minister Modi your 'big brother'. How much has your 'big brother' contributed to Telangana?" KTR asked, reminding everyone of the injustices

Telangana faced in the Central budget and recent flood aid. He said the people of Telangana are aware of the false pretences under which the CM continues his New Delhi tours. He urged Revanth to focus on fulfilling the promises made to the people rather than repeatedly abandoning governance for his New Delhi visits.

tion of government build-

tions listed under Schedules 9 and 10 of the Reorganization Act. He asked for fair treatment in settling claims being made by Andhra Pradesh on assets not mentioned in the Act but being contested by both states.

Maheshwar challenges..

Continued from page 1

completely disappointed with your non-fulfilment of the promise during the Lok Sabha elections in May, you came up with another promise that farm loans will be waived on August 15, 2024. Unfortunately, you fulfilled your promise only for half the farmers and ignored the other half," he said. Maheshwar said the PM had only highlighted the same at a public meeting in

Maharashtra ĥeld last Saturday

by stating that the Congress government in Telangana did not fulfil its farm loan waiver promise fully.

The PM pointed out that half of Telangana farmers are still waiting for their farm loans to be waived. Modi had explained how the Telangana Congress government did not fulfil its promise on farm loan waiver, he said.

The Congress high command realised that the PM exposing the Telangana Government would affect its

Assembly elections and in a knee-jerk reaction as per the orders of the Congress high command, the CM wrote a letter to Modi filled with lies and half-truths, he said.

'In the letter, Revanth claimed to have fulfilled the crop loan waiver promise which is nothing but a blatant lie. The CM also filled his letter with other lies and false claims which is tantamount to misleading the people," Maheshwar said.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Strategic balancing act

Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu assures India that he would never jeopardise India's security interests

he first state visit of Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu to India marks a milestone in the evolving diplomatic relationship between the two neighbouring countries. President Muizzu's visit, represents not only a continuation of the historically strong India-Maldives ties but also signals a renewed commitment to fostering regional stability and cooperation. To put it in perspective, China has made inroads into Maldives much to the consternation of India. Chinese presence in its backyard is a clear security threat. But now things are looking better. President Muizzu has emphasised that while the Maldives follows a 'Maldives First' policy, it remains committed to ensuring that its actions would never undermine India's security interests. The Maldives occupies a key strategic position in the Indian Ocean, making its foreign policy decisions crucial to India's security and regional aspirations. India has long viewed the Maldives as an important ally in maintaining stability in the Indo-Pacific region. This visit, following a period of

political transition in the Maldives, underscores the importance of maintaining a strong bilateral relationship, especially amid concerns over the growing influence of China in the region.

President Muizzu has reaffirmed that its engagements would never compromise India's security which indeed is music to Indian ears. This statement comes at a time when concerns have arisen regarding the Maldives' expanding ties with China, especially in defence and trade. President Muizzu sought to allay these fears, stressing that the relationship with India, built on 'mutual respect and shared interests,' remains a priority. One of the key aspects of the India-Maldives relationship

has always been defence cooperation. Earlier President Muizzu's decision to expel Indian military personnel was seen as a clear sign of Maldives acting on Chinese advice. Though on his part he explained that this move, though sensitive, was aligned with the will of the Maldivian people and aimed at ensuring the sovereignty of the Maldives. But that is diplomacy for you. Historically, defence and economic cooperation has long been a cornerstone of India-Maldives relations. But things changed after President Muizzu took over last year in November. President Muizzu has expressed satisfaction with the progress of key Indian initiatives, including the Greater Male Connectivity Project, which is expected to significantly boost the country's infrastructure and local economy. India has also restructured a line of credit arrangement to facilitate smoother execution of developmental projects, which President Muizzu acknowledged as a positive step. The visit is expected to further strengthen economic ties between the two countries, with discussions centered on boosting trade, tourism and investment. Perhaps shift in Maldives' stance comes with the realisation of perils of aligning with China as many countries like Sri Lanka have paid a heavy price for their dependence on Chinese investments and



An artisan gives finishing touches to effigies of Ravana and Meghanad ahead of the Dussehra festival, in Nagpur

BRICS: Dealing with emerging challenges



As geopolitical tensions escalate and new security challenges emerge, the upcoming 16th BRICS Summit in Kazan promises to be a critical turning point

he 16th BRICS Summit, set to take place from October 22-24, 2024, in Kazan under Russia's chairmanship, comes at a critical juncture for global affairs. The summit will address pressing issues like the geopolitical tensions caused by escalating regional conflicts worldwide, the need for effective governance in emerging societies, and the evolving challenges of environmental degradation.

With these multifaceted threats becoming more severe, there is a growing urgency for BRICS nations—Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, along with newly inducted members Egypt, Iran, the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia—to modernise and diversify their security and economic frameworks. A recent BRICS National Security Advisors' (NSA) conclave in St Petersburg underscored the urgency of these challenges. India's National Security Advisor highlighted the critical role of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in tackling modern security concerns, particularly the evolving threat of transnational terrorism. ICT will likely remain a focal

point during the Kazan summit as BRICS nations look to leverage advanced technology to mitigate security risks and ensure more effective regional and global cooperation. Russia has expressed its intention to prioritise five key areas of partnership at the summit: politics, security, the economy, finance and cultural and humanitarian ties. In light of the rising number of security threats confronting the BRICS nations, this broad-ranging focus is timely. The inclusion of the five new BRICS members adds to the group's strategic importance. Their cooperation will be vital in addressing the sudden and unpredictable threats that arise from both state and non-state actors. This includes real-time sharing of strengthening global coopergeospatial data, which will be instrumental in improving border security and countering transnational terrorism. The Kazan sum- areas, including the financing mit will likely focus on enhancing cooperation in areas such as



These developments would further strengthen ties between India and BRICS, especially Russia, while fostering a new era of defense cooperation. Given the rise of security challenges across the BRICS countries, particularly concerning border disputes and terrorism, the summit presents an opportunity to improve international coordination on these matters. Satellite data sharing, military intelligence cooperation, and logistical support are expected to be central components of future BRICS security strategies.

For instance, one significant point of discussion could be China's expansionist policies, which have raised concerns about regional stability. Additionally, the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war is another issue that could dominate the agenda, with hopes for a possible resolution. The summit holds great potential for ation in fighting transnational terrorism. This cooperation could encompass several key of terrorist activities, enhancing police cooperation, and



THE SUMMIT MAY **EXPLORE** STRATEGIES FOR ANTICIPATING

NEUTRALISING THESE THREATS, FOCUSING ON **COOPERATION** BETWEEN THE SECURITY AND DEFENCE **ESTABLISHMENTS MEMBERS**

The summit may also discuss tightening security measures at borders and maritime zones, alongside the development of advanced communication networks and security management systems. One of the key challenges in counter-terrorism will be dealing with groups motivated by religious ideologies. The summit may explore strategies for anticipating and neutralising these threats, focusing on cooperation between the security and defense establishments of BRICS members. As nations adopt a more pragmatic and bilateral approach to foreign policy, there is less concern that enhanced BRICS cooperation would adversely affect relations with other major powers, such as the United States. Another area requiring immediate attention is the threat posed by chemical weapons in the hands

addressing cyber threats.

of terrorists. These weapons, often difficult to detect and transport, pose a significant risk. International collaboration in formulating stricter regulations and preventing the acquisition of such weapons could be vital in managing this growing concern. Furthermore, the BRICS enhanced security-related nations could work together to establish a robust mechanism to limit the accessibility of dangerous materials like RDX, Erythritol Tetranitrate (Penta), and advanced weapons such as

Efforts to curb drug traffick-

ing are also expected to feature prominently at the summit, particularly in light of the strong nexus between drug cartels and terrorist groups in regions like Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Southeast

Enhanced policing coopera-tion among BRICS members could lead to more effective crackdowns on these criminal networks. India's leadership approach, as demonstrated by Prime Minister Modi in recent international forums like the UN Summit on September 23, 2024, emphasises a humancentric focus.

At the BRICS summit, India is expected to push for policies that address economic, technological, and social gaps, thereby advancing the interests of the Global South. India's growing influence on the global stage is also reflected in its strong relationships with both the United States, the world's largest democracy, and Russia, one of its closest strategic

These ties place India in a unique position to play a leading role at the BRICS summit. The meeting in Kazan is likeinformation sharing and greater confidence-building measures among BRICS

(The author is a recipient of the Bharat Gaurav Award and an expert in strategic affairs; views are personal)

lakh people, set a new world record, earning

a place in the Limca Book of Records for the

largest-ever gathering at an air show.

Spectators were treated to a breathtaking dis-

play of aerial astronautics. The highlight of the show was the Rafale fighter jets demonstrat-

ed their skills in mid-air refuelling, a sight that added an extra layer of wonder to the spec-

Saddeningly, however, the event saw five peo-

ple have died and many reportedly suffered from dizziness and fainting due to searing heat.

Though the air show displayed its pageantry,

and the event was a proud reminder of India's

growing self-reliance in defence, it raises an

important question over the need for IAF

aggressively pushing the occasion to set a new

world record by aiming to mobilise a crowd

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

Madam — The release of the 18th install-

ment of the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi

scheme is a significant achievement,

benefiting over nine crore farmers across

much beyond the manageable level.

FINANCIAL AID FOR FARMERS

Mitigating heatwaves and floods in rural India



Only by engaging in comprehensive dialogue can India hope to counter the growing threats of climate change and protect its rural population

ndia is currently facing the severe consequences of Climate change. At the very onset of summer, a severe heatwave gripped vast regions of the country. More recently, heavy rainfall and floods have disrupted numerous lives and livelihoods in many states. Owing to a lack of infrastructure and resources, communities in rural areas are the worst impacted. In the face of this crisis, the power of dialogue emerges not just as a tool but as a necessity to formulate effective policies and mitigate the impact of climate change on vulnerable populations. on Rural Impact Communities

The recent heatwave in India was relentless, with temperatures soaring well above 40 degrees Celsius in many regions. This is now succeeded by an onslaught of floods in various regions, especially in Assam. Rural communities, often more exposed and less equipped to cope with extreme weather events, bear the brunt of these conditions. Agriculture, the backbone of rural livelihoods, suffers as crops wither under scorching tempera-



tures or are submerged during floods, leading to reduced yields and income losses. Many states have implemented State Climate Change Programmes (SCCCs) and Heat Action Plans (HAPs) to deal with the situation. Effective as many of these initiatives are the severity of the problem leaves scope for

much more to be done. Dialogue as a Way Forward Dialogic processes and methods often serve as useful mechanisms to address various complex social challenges and can be potentially valuable in addressing extreme weather conditions, both in the short and long run. Dialogue as an idea and a rigorous academic discipline that has found its place across multiple domains ranging from conflict resolution to adaptation strategies that can

involves more than just conversation. Dialogue is essentially an approach that weaves together multiple elements to ic interventions. craft effective and long-lasting solutions.

Dialogic Approach for Climate Crisis

From its various applications across problem-solving, community mobilization, building policy narratives, and engaging with diverse stakeholders, a dialogic approach may be integral to addressing the challenges posed by heat waves, particularly in rural India. First, by engaging stakeholders-from policymakers and scientists to community leaders and affected populations—dialogue facilitates a comprehensive understanding of the issues at hand and fosters consensus on actionable solutions. It encourages the exchange of knowledge, expertise, and local insights necessary to tailor policies that are responsive to the needs of vulnerable communities.

Next, putting dialogic methods into place can also help uncover local solutions and

policy making and even busibe built into nationwide polness and management, icy. Farmers, for instance, possess invaluable traditional knowledge and practices that can complement scientif-

Through dialogue, these insights can be integrated into agricultural policies aimed at promoting climateresilient farming practices, improving water manage-ment, and enhancing crop diversity to withstand extreme weather events. Finally, dialogue can enhance community mobilization and self-governance, which can lead to community-driven initiatives to counter the current crisis - from community heat shelters, and water management practices, to creating awareness of related health risks such as heat strokes and increase in vector and waterborne diseases.

Discussion to **Collaborative Action**

Dialogue-driven policies ensure that interventions are inclusive, transparent, and accountable, thereby fostering trust and cooperation among stakeholders.

(The writer is CEO of Kshetra Foundation; views are personal)

ESCALATING CONFLICT IN WEST ASIA

Madam - After Iran supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's penchant claim that the "Zionist nation would not last long" and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's vow of retaliation, "Whoever attacks, we will attack them," the two countries are closer to a destructive all-out war. West Asia is being pushed into a nuclear firestorm by the challengers in conflict and the proxy groups. Israel is allied with the United States of America and NATO nations, while the Islamic militant groups, Hamas, Hezbollah and Houthis, are proxies of Iran.

Hamas' failed missile attack gave Israel an opportunity to bomb Gaza indiscriminate-Since then, Israel Defence Force has killed and injured thousands of innocent Palestinians. The mass annihilation of women and children served as a reminder of the genocide committed against European Jews during World War II. The United States seamlessly provides Israel with strategic support, advanced weaponry and manpower. Their occasional counsel for sanity is for the world to hear and not for Israel to heed. Neither side-Israel, America and other NATO nations, or Iran and the proxy groups-is seeking a lasting peace. This war threatens to wreck world peace and economies, with the chance of more countries being sucked into it. India is stuck between two stools.

Haridasan Rajan | Kozhikode

RESERVATION POLICY CRITICISED Madam- The news report titled 'Removing 50 per cent cap on reservation necessary to protect Constitution: Rahul Gandhi' (October 6) hardly evokes surprise as Rahul Gandhi constantly chants the ridiculous statement "Rights and benefits in proportion to share of population" since several months! What a criminal wastage of time, energy and resource to determine which caste group will receive what quantum of share in job openings, higher education and other rights and benefits in this heterogeneous country-that too through the yardstick of numerical strength only!

IAF celebrates 92nd anniversary



he clear blue skies over Chennai were incandescent with adventurous excitement last Sunday, as the Indian Air Force (IAF) staged a stunning air show at the famous Marina Beach in celebration of its 92nd anniversary. Much to the pride of the city, the event, which was reportedly attended by 15

When demands should have been raised to treat all downtrodden and economically weak Indians equally in terms of opening the door of opportunities to prosper and flourish by providing food, shelter, education and medical services for free or through nominal service cost and thereafter allowing the best to enter the field of higher education, service and all sectors of the country by according eligibility and merit the sole yardstick, Indians are being continuously fragmented through all sorts of demographic equations, that too by relegating all norms of quality and efficiency to oblivion! Nothing can be more tragic than this mindset.

Already the caste-based reservation policy has posed a severe threat to the country as absolutely ineligible candidates are often attaining "pride of place" in government offices and educational institutions with innumerable candidates of merit quality getting scandalously deprived of their rightful seats and jobs despite scoring high marks! Now even private universities are being coaxed to go such a fatal way!

Kajal chatterjee | Kolkata

the country. Both the central and state governments deserve recognition for their collaborative efforts in supporting the agricultural sector. The Central government's direct financial aid to farmers, particularly the inclusion of 31,51,700 beneficiaries from Odisha, highlights a continued commitment to rural develop-

> At the state level, the Odisha government's CM Kisan scheme, complementing the PM Kisan Yojana, is another positive step towards ensuring that small and marginal farmers receive much-needed financial assistance. This dual support, reaching farmers through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system, is a model for efficient governance.

Manoj | Almora

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com www.dailypioneerloneer.com facebook.com/dailypioneerl@TheDailyPioneerlinstagram.com/dailypioneer/

FIRST COLUMN THE GIFT OF **ATTENTION**

Offering our full attention not only strengthens bonds but also gives us clarity and wellbeing



RACHNA LAKHPATI

It's paradoxical that in a world where distractions never stop and sincere appreciation of attention is as precious as it is a type of most valuable coin. Notifications echo from every direction, screens compete for our attention, and in our quest to be "present," I fear we have lost sight of who we truly are. Amidst the chaos, there exists a profound reality: the act of giving one's attention may indeed be the most precious gift one can bestow. Think about it. When was the last occasion you experienced someone's full focus—no devices, no interruptions, just an authentic, human connection? If that moment is hard to remember, you're not the only one. The fast pace of modern life has taught us to multitask, to balance discussions with brief looks at our devices, and to believe that speed equals efficiency.

Yet in this pursuit, we have sacrificed something invaluable: the capacity to truly engage with the moment. When we focus on someone, we absorb more than just their words. We are expressing, "I acknowledge your presence." Your existence is significant. In this manner, attention serves as a quiet endorsement of an individual's value—it transcends superficial exchanges and paves the way for a more profound comprehension, fostering empathy, compassion, and genuine connection. Engagement serves as the foundation of confidence in connections. By focusing our attention on our partners, friends, or family members, we convey a powerful message regarding the significance of their thoughts, feelings and experiences. It's no surprise that the depth of our connections often reflects the level of attention we invest in them—the stronger



our bond with those who truly listen and comprehend us. And personal connections are the final aspect of it. Focus holds immense power in the professional realm. Think about a manager who listens to his team or a leader who takes the time to interact with employees, rather than rushing through meetings.

These individuals foster loyalty, ignite creativity and guide collaborative environments. What is the reason behind this? People naturally feel invigorated when they believe their actions hold significance and are appreciated. Focus fosters involvement, and involvement leads to achievement. Yet, perhaps the most significant impact attention has lies in how we relate to ourselves. In our rush to achieve and accumulate, we often overlook the importance of self-care. Mindfulness-the practice of immersing ourselves in the present moment—reveals that genuine wellbeing is at the heart of our experiences: pursuing goals, dedicating time to others and even engaging with our feelings.

By taking a moment to observe, we can discover a profound clarity and tranquillity that has the potential to transform our lives. In a realm where time is an actual finite commodity, the gesture of dedicating our complete focus is truly transformative. It requires no expense yet holds immense significance.

As we navigate our daily lives, constantly facing new demands on our time and energy, it's important to remember that the most valuable gift we can offer is not material wealth, but rather our full presence. Next time you're engaged in a conversation, set your phone aside. Pay close attention. Offer your focus willingly and without interruption. It might surprise you that by focussing your attention, you receive something far more valuable in return—a profound and significant bond that enhances the lives of both individuals.

(The writer is a motivator and freelance writer; views are personal)

Will the three farm laws be revived?



Were the laws a missed opportunity to address the deep-seated issues faced by millions of India's struggling farmers and consumers?

ecently, a BJP Member of Parliament talked of resur-recting the three national Farm Laws. Faced with critparties, a spokesperson of the BJP clarified that 'her statement does not represent the party view.' Modile The government of the BJP clarified that 'her statement does not represent the party view.' Modile The government of the BJP clarified that 'her statement does not represent the party view.' Modile The government of the BJP clarified that 'her statement does not represent the party view.' Modile The BJP clarified that 'her statement does not represent the party view.' Modile The BJP clarified that 'her statement does not represent the party view.' Modile The BJP clarified that 'her statement does not represent the party view.' Modile The BJP clarified that 'her statement does not represent the party view.' Modile The BJP clarified that 'her statement does not represent the party view.' Modile The BJP clarified that 'her statement does not represent the party view.' Modile The BJP clarified that 'her statement does not represent the party view.' Modile The BJP clarified that 'her statement does not represent the party view.' Modile The BJP clarified that 'her statement does not represent the party view.' Modile The BJP clarified that 'her statement does not represent the party view.' Modile The BJP clarified that 'her statement does not represent the party view.' Modile The BJP clarified that 'her statement does not represent the party view.' Modile The BJP clarified that 'her statement does not represent the party view.' Modile The BJP clarified that 'her statement does not represent the party view.' Modile The BJP clarified that 'her statement does not represent the party view.' Modile The BJP clarified that 'her statement does not represent the party view.' Modile The BJP clarified that 'her statement does not represent the BJP clarified that 'her statement does not represent the BJP clarified that 'her statement does not represent the BJP clarified that 'her statement does not represent the BJP clarified that 'her statement does not represent the BJP clarified that 'her statement does not represent the ernment doesn't intend to bring back these laws.

What were those laws?

Enacted in September 2020, the most far-reaching of these laws was the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020. It allowed the Centre to regulate inter-State trade and intra-State trade, providing for freedom of choice to the farmer or trader to conduct trade and commerce while allowing traders to purchase specified farm commodities directly from farmers anywhere in the country, even outside the designated State APMCs (Agricultural Produce Market Committee).

The second law was the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020. It provided a legal framework for farmers to engage with processors, aggregators, large retailers etc in a 'fair' and 'transparent'

The third law was the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020. It took off pulses, cereals, edible oil, oil seeds, onions and potatoes from the purview of this archaic law. The enactment of these laws triggered prolonged protests - mostly confined to Punjab, Haryana and Delhi. In January 2021, the Supreme Court stayed their implementation and set up a committee to undertake a thorough review. The report of the committee submitted within the set deadline of three months was never made public. Meanwhile, the farmers continued with their stir. On November 19, 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced their repeal.

Was there anything wrong with them? But, first, we need to ask as to how the subsisting laws on the marketing of farm produce are treating farmers. The widely reported plight of a farmer from Maharashtra's Solapur says it all. Last year, he got a measly Rs 2.49 from the sale of 512 kg of onions to a trader at Rs 1 per kg on sale at the Solapur market yard, the total sale value was Rs 512; after deducting labour, weighing, transportation and other charges adding to Rs 509.5, the net back was Rs 2.5. Let's be clear, it isn't a profit. To arrive at it, we need to deduct from this the cost of producing 512 kg onions which includes the expenses on seeds, fertil-

izers, pesticides, irrigation, etc. This would result in a colossal loss. This leads to a mounting debt burden as the farmer is forced to take a loan (often at a high interest rate) to finance the loss. The condition of tens of millions of poor farmers with small land holding sizes of fewer than 2 hectares (they are about 86 per cent of the total number of land-owning farmers) is no dif-

Why does the farmer get a low price? This is because she can sell her produce only in the 'designated' mandi under the State APMC Act. In the mandi,





THE APMC MANDIS CAN HANDLE ONLY A FRACTION OF THE QUANTITY FARMERS BRING

MOST OF THEM ARE FORCED TO COME TO PRIVATE LOCAL MARKETS, WHERE SALES ARE LEGALLY BARRED

arthritis - the local term for commission agents (they arrange for auction and delivery of the produce) - and the licensed trader/buyer rule the roost. The duo exploit her to the hilt by giving a low price, rejections, weighing less, delaying payment, etc. Levies such as market fees, anthias commission, rural development cess (RDC) etc further erode her net-

The APMC mandis can handle only a fraction of the quantity farmers bring to sell. So, most of them are forced to come to private local markets, where sales are legally barred.

At these markets, they end up selling their produce to traders at throwaway prices. The latter have the blessings of corrupt bureaucrats and politicians (in many cases, they or their kin also masquerade as traders) and hence, won't face any action for violat-

True, the state agencies such as The Food Corporation of India (FCI), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) etc purchase in the mandis specified crops needed for running welfare Schemes such as the distribution of free food under the National Food Security Act (NFSA). They make purchases at the minimum support price (MSP) notified by the Centre. But, their purchases are limited. Except for paddy and wheat where the agencies buy only 30 per cent of farmers' produce, for all other crops their purchase is minuscule. Even so only 6 per cent of farmers - mostly rich with larger land holdings - get the ben-

efit of government procurement. In short, under the existing State APMC laws, most poor farmers have no hope of getting a better price. They are forced to live in abject poverty and run high debt leading to even suicides that have become a national phe-

The millions of consumers too are at the receiving end. They pay high prices for the foodstuff they buy from the market. People getting free food under NFSA 820 million, but that leaves out a mammoth number who buy their needs from the market; even other than wheat/rice. The extra money they pay fills the coffers of the commission agents, traders and middlemen. Retail inflation very often gets out of control primarily because food inflation (it has a share of 40 per cent in the retail basket) remains sticky most of the time. It remains so even when there is a normal monsoon enabling surplus production. This, in turn, has a lot to do with the cartelization of the supply chain by a few middlemen working in collaboration with the political brass in states – abetted by the State APMC laws.

High inflation doesn't let the RBI reduce interest rates and that imposes an additional burden on millions of borrowers whose EMIs remain high; small businesses getting crippled due to the high cost of servicing their loans. Even the government's budget comes under stress due to higher interest payments on its debt. The solution lies in liberating all such stakeholders from the stran-

glehold of the big sharks. The way forward is to give more options to the farmers to sell and more options to consumers to buy. This is precisely what the three laws sought to do. The laws legit-imized sales on all non-APMC platforms such as private traders, processors, aggregators, exporters etc without disturbing APMC mandis. These opened up unlimited opportunities for farmers to sell their produce, thereby helping them get higher prices, which could even exceed MSP depending on the demand-supply. They don't have to pay any levies for NFSA beneficiaries depend on selling at non-APMC platforms. the market for buying their needs These enabled the farmers to enter into contracts with enterprises (private companies, cooperatives etc) that would not only give them an assured market at pre-set good prices but also the timely supply of quality inputs viz. fertilizers, seeds, pesticides etc and good agronomic practices for securing higher yield and quality foodstuff. In short, the laws gave a fair deal to millions of poor farmers on one hand and millions of consumers on the other. This would have reined in the unjust enrichment of a few and left more money to the farmers and consumers. Resulting lower inflation would prompt RBI to reduce interest rates helping millions of borrowers at one level and improving the Centre's fiscal health. ALAS! Their withdrawal has restored the status quo. Thanks to the political compulsion of the BJP, it is unable to even talk about those laws; forget resurrection.

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

India and UNICEF: Celebrating 75 years of transformative partnership for child welfare India and UNICEF have worked hand in hand, advancing the health, safety and rights of millions of children across India

or 75 years, India and UNICEF have worked together, advancing the rights and well-being of millions of children. The longstanding trusted and multifaceted partnership is deeply rooted in shared values and a commitment to children's wellbeing in India and around the world, encompassing child health, safety, protection, equality, rights and wellbeing.

An important, but lesserknown aspect of India's partnership with UNICEF is procurement of lifesaving supplies around the world. From 2016 to 2023, India supplied to UNICEF, com-



CYNTHIA MCCAFFREY

UNICEF's humanitarian and development response to children's health and nutrition needs, globally. In 2023 alone, India ranked as the India's role as a key source of third-largest source of essential supplies for UNICEF, with procurements totalling \$483 million. Of this expenditure, approximately 74 per modities worth \$3 billion, cent was allocated to vac-

global immunisation efforts. India's collaboration with UNICEF in advancing global health was best exemplified during the COVID-19 pandemic. Demonstrating exceptional leadership, resilience, and innovation, India, as the world's largest vaccine producer, played a key role in providing COVID-19 vaccines globally. During 2021 and 2022 in partnership with UNICEF, India supplied 292 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines under the COVAX initiative to 47 countries, all of which were delivered to low and middle-income coun-

Efficiently managed supply chains that allow children, including vaccines, and cines, underscoring India's adolescents, and mothers health supplies essential for integral role in supporting access to quality, safe, equiadolescents, and mothers

table, and affordable healthcare and essential services are critical. UNICEF supports the government in establishing and managing these agile, cost-effective, and sustainable end-to-end

supply chains.
These have also strengthened UNICEF's ability to respond swiftly to emergencies and ensure the sustained availability of essential supplies. During COVD-19, UNICEF supported the government address critical challenges by installing oxygen plants, providing medical equipment, and distributing PPE equipment, strengthening the country's pandemic response.

In fact, over the past decades, UNICEF supported the government's efforts



to strengthen immunisation systems by investing in the capacity building of health workers, upgrading and expanding cold chain capacgencies. Supplies are essenity, and introducing elec-tronic management infor-mation systems to track tial to fulfil children's rights and innovations with sustainable supply chains are progress. important considerations.

sustainable procurement, aligning with national priorities and SDG-12 on responsible consumption. In India, UNICEF works with suppliers to adopt eco-friendly business practices, ensuring essential supplies are sourced ethically, supporting both environmental goals and child welfare. Both India and UNICEF recognise that the well-being of children is inextricably linked to the These efforts have improved the system's resilience, prosperity of future generapreparing the country for future public health emer-

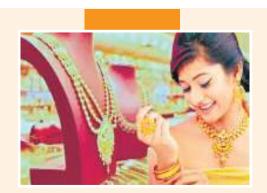
India has made significant progress in reducing child mortality, increasing immunisation coverage, achieving high enrolment in primary

By partnering with the private sector, UNICEF proeducation, and improving access to sanitation and motes product innovation, clean water. The 75th digital transformation, and anniversary of the collaboraanniversary of the collaboration between UNICEF and the Government of India this year is a historic milestone that bears evidence of the legacy of progress. India's collaboration with UNICEF has remained steadfast which has accomplished millions of children having been vaccinated, educated, and lifted out of poverty. UNICEF remains committed to supporting India, for every child in the country to have equal access and opportunities that help them realize their dreams and aspira-

> (The writer is Representative, UNICEF India; views are personal)

HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | OCTOBER 8, 2024

IN BRIEF



Gold jumps Rs 250 to hit fresh all-time high

old prices appreciated by Rs 250 to hit a fresh all-time high of Rs 78,700 per 10 grams on Monday on account high of Rs 78,700 per 10 grams on Monday on account of consistent buying support from jewellers and firm trends in the overseas markets. The precious metal had settled at Rs 78,450 per 10 grams in the previous close on Friday. However, silver declined Rs 200 to Rs 94,000 per kg from Rs 94,200 per kg on Friday, according to the All India Sarafa Association. Meanwhile, gold of 99.5 per cent purity climbed Rs 200 to hit an all-time high level of Rs 78,300 per 10 grams. The yellow metal had closed at Rs 78,100 per 10 grams in the previous session. Traders attributed the gains in gold prices to an increase in the domestic demand by



'Airbus to source more components from India'

irbus will increase sourcing of components from India, Awhich offers pierity or opportunition, according to Alaircraft maker's CEO Guillaume Faury. The European IndiGuillaume Faury from IndiGuillaume F which offers plenty of opportunities, according to the major, which has bagged huge aircraft orders from IndiGo and Air India, doubled its sourcing of components and services from India to 1 billion euros during the period from 2019-2024, he said. The company has more than 100 suppliers in India. At a press briefing in the national capital on Monday, Faury, who is also the Chairman of the French Aerospace Industries Association (GIFAS), said there are plenty of opportunities in India. "We will be continuing to grow (sourcing of components)... We will continue to double around every 5 years, that is in the next decade to come. It is a stable pace," he said.



Hitachi Energy plans Rs 2,000 cr investment

witzerland-based technology player Hitachi Energy has plans to invest Rs 2,000 crore over the next 4-5 years in India, a company official said on Monday. The investments will be made towards expanding capacity of transformers, talent base and increasing portfolio, N Venu MD&CEO, India and South Asia, Hitachi energy India said. Hitachi Energy India is an arm of Hitachi Energy. The investment of Rs 2,000 crore will be made over a period of 4-5 years towards building capacity of large and small power transformers, and dry and traction transformers, he said. Besides, the investment will be towards building capacity of insulation and components, strengthening the company's existing HVDC high voltage direct current capacity. It will be focussed on network control solution offerings to customers coming from sectors like industries, utilities, transportation, Venu said. He said the company intends to invest Rs 400 crore every year up to 5 years.

India, UAE to set up food corridor at USD 2 bn investment'

India and the UAE will set up a food corridor with an expected investment of USD 2 billion which will cater to the UAE market and beyond and help Indian farmers earn higher income and create

more jobs, Union Minister Piyush Goyal said on Monday.

Addressing a press conference on the 12th meeting of India-UAE High-Level Task Force Investment here,

Goyal, who is the Minister for Commerce and Industry, said that a small working group comprising central government, state governments involved and the UAE has also been set up to take forward the establishment of food corridor between the two countries on a mission mode basis.

... Another area which was discussed in great detail was the setting up of food parks in

The background work is largely completed, (this is) another area which will help

provide jobs in food processing to thousands if not lakhs of our youth and will also ensure the food security of UAE," Goyal said.

The minister said that approximately USD 2 billion dollars is the ini-

tial commitment that UAE has made to invest in the food processing industry and the food park logistics that can be required to move the material to the UAE. "We have set

up a small working group of Central Government and state governments involved and the UAE to take forward this establishment of a food corridor between the two countries on a mission mode basis," he

Stating that this investment is expected to happen in the next two-and-a-half-year period, Goyal said, "But the overall investment is also a factor of the opportunities that Indian businesses are able to

Status quo on interest rates likely

RBI's panel starts deliberations, decision tomorrow

PNS NEW DELHI

The reconstituted rate-setting panel of the Reserve Bank on Monday started deliberations on the next bi-monthly monetary policy amid expectations of a status quo on interest rates in view of inflationary concerns and the possibility of a flare-up in the Middle East crisis that could jack up commodity prices.

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

Earlier this month, the government reconstituted the Monetary Policy Committee

It has appointed Ram Singh, Saugata Bhattacharya, and Nagesh Kumar as external members of the MPC. They have replaced Ashima Goyal, Shashanka Bhide, and Jayanth

unchanged at 6.5 per cent since February 2023, and experts Shaktikanta Das, the other think some easing could only internal members are the RBI Deputy Governor in charge of e possible in December. The government has tasked monetary policy Michael Debabrata Patra and the the central bank to ensure that Executive Director monetary Consumer Price Index (CPI) policy department of RBI Rajiv based retail inflation remains at

4 per cent with a margin of 2 MPC Chairman Das will per cent on either side. reveal the outcome of the threeday discussion on Wednesday (October 9). The central bank





the change in global rates cycle and potential risks to India's growth momentum going forward," said Kaushik Das, chief economist, India & South Asia,

Deutsche Bank. The RBI is likely to keep its FY25 real GDP growth (7.2 per cent yoy) and CPI inflation (4.5 per cent yoy) forecasts unchanged in the October policy, though there could be changes made to the quarterly CPI forecasts, particularly for

July-Sep'24, he added.
On expectations from the MPC, Radhika Rao, executive director and senior economist, DBS Bank said the central bank's resolve in addressing food price inflation and preventing an un-anchoring in inflationary expectations is likely to see the MPC members lean towards a pause in October, with a softening in stance towards the December rate review. "Geopolitics also warrant attention after the overnight escalation in tensions between Iran and Israel," she added.

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

Investors' wealth erodes by Rs 8.9 lakh cr as Sensex tumbles for sixth straight day

PNS NEW DELHI

Market investors became poorer by Rs 8.90 lakh crore as Sensex extended its losing streak for the sixth straight session and settled sharply lower on Monday dragged down by heavy selling in bellwether stocks amid mixed global trends and outflow of foreign

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms slumped Rs 8,90,153.84 crore to Rs 4,51,99,444.70 crore (USD 5.38 trillion) from Rs 4,60,89,598.54 (USD 5.49 tril-

Falling for the sixth consecutive session, the BSE Sensex tumbled 638.45 points or 0.78 per cent to settle at 81,050. During the day, it plummeted 962.39 points or 1.17 per cent

In the past six trading sessions, the 30-share BSE Sensex per cent. The market capital-



isation of BSE-listed firms plummeted by a massive Rs 25.16 lakh crore to Rs 4,51,99,444.70 (USD 5.38 trillion) since September 27,

"Indian shares declined on Monday, driven by height-ened tensions in the Middle East and subdued quarterly earnings, which dampened

"Foreign investors withdrew IndusInd Bank, Axis Bank, on the BSE

funds from Indian markets, shifting focus to more affordable markets like China and Hong Hong Kong," Ameya Ranadive, Chartered Market Technician, CFTe, Senior Technical Analyst at StoxBox,

From the 30 Sensex firms, Adani Ports & Special Economic Zones, NTPC, State Rank of India PowerGrid

HDFC Bank, Titan and UltraTech Cement were the major laggards.

Mahindra & Mahindra, ITC, Bharti Airtel, Infosys, Bajaj Finance, Tata Consultancy Services and Tech Mahindra defied the

Even the exit poll outcome of the two states (Haryana and Jammu & Kashmir) are not in favour of the ruling govern-ment at the centre, which has further dampened investors' sentiment," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research) at Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 8,293.41 crore on Monday, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought equities worth Rs 13,245.12 crore, according to exchange data.

A total of 3,493 stocks declined, while 568 advanced

Hero Motors withdraws Rs 900-cr IPO papers

PNS NEW DELHI

Hero Motors Ltd, the autocomponents firm of the Hero Motors Company (HMC) Group, has withdrawn its documents for an initial public offering (IPO) worth Rs 900 crore, an update with markets regulator Sebi showed on Monday.

In its draft papers, the company had proposed to raise Rs 500 crore through a fresh issuance of equity shares and an offer for sale (OFS) of shares valued at Rs 400 crore by promot-

Under the OFS, O P Munjal Holdings was offloading shares valued at Rs 250 crore while Bhagyoday Investments and Hero Cycles were selling shares to the tune of Rs 75 crore each.

It had filed its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) in August with Sebi to seek the regulator's nod to float IPO. Without disclosing the rea- heavy-duty vehicles.

son, the company said its "DRHP (was) withdrawn on October 5, 2024" Going by the draft papers,

proceeds from the fresh issue was proposed to be used for debt payment and purchase of equipment required for expansion in the capacity of the

company's facility in Gautam Buddha Nagar, Pradesh. Hero Motors is

India's leading auto-

motive technology company engaged in designing, developing, manufacturing and supplying high engineered powertrain solutions to automotive OEMs in the United States, Europe,

India, and the ASEAN region. The company's product range includes both electric and non-electric powertrains for various vehicle categories, including two-wheelers, ebikes, off-road vehicles, electric as hybrid cars and

Tax dept invites public suggestions for I-T Act

The Income Tax department on Monday invited public inputs for review of the sixdecade old I-T Act with regard to simplification of language, litigation reduction, compliance reduction, and obsolete provisions. Pursuant to the Budget

announcement by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for a comprehensive review of the Income-tax Act, 1961, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) had set up an internal committee to oversee the review and make the Act concise, clear, and easy to understand, which will reduce disputes, litigation, and provide greater tax certainty to taxpay-



"The committee invites public inputs and suggestions in four categories: simplification of language, litigation reduction, compliance reduction, and redundant/obsolete provisions," the CBDT said.

A webpage on the e-filing

https://eportal.incometax.gov.i n/iec/foservices/#/prelogin/ita-comprehensivereview -- has been launched and the public can access the page by entering their mobile number and validating it via

Suggestions should specify the relevant provision of the Income-tax Act, 1961 or Income-tax Rules, 1962 (mentioning the specific section, sub-section, clause, rule, subrule, or form number), as the case may be, to which the suggestion relates under the aforementioned four categories.

The Finance Minister in the 2024-25 Budget presented in July had proposed that the I-T law review will be completed in six months.

India's domestic air passenger traffic to touch 300 mn: Naidu

PNS NEW DELHI

India's domestic air passenger traffic is projected to touch 300 million by 2030 and about USD 11 billion is being spent to develop airports, Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu said on Monday.

The minister also said India and France can work together to develop a robust global SAF (Sustainable Aviation Fuel)

supply chain.

He was speaking at a conference organised by the French Aerospace Industries Association (GIFAS) in the national capital.

emphasizes auction as the

default method for assigning

spectrum for commercial ser-

reconsider and revise the con-

sultation paper, incorporating

specific questions that address

the level-playing field issues

between satellite and terrestri-

al networks. Both auction and

"We respectfully urge Trai to

France, India to set up aeronautics cluster

PNS NEW DELHI

France and India will be setting up an aeronautics cluster as well as developing an Indo-French campus for professional training in aeronautics and space. French Ambassador to India

Thierry Mathou on Monday said the two countries have been strategic partners for a long time, especially in the fields of defence and aerospace.

Speaking at the conference organised by the French Aerospace Industries Association (GIFAS) in the national capital, he said 55 per cent of French exports to India are in the aeronautical sector, amounting to 2.7 billion euros in the first half of 2024.

While noting that the partnership is not just strategic but universal, he said they are currently working on an Indo-French campus for professional training in aeronautics and

We are also working with the civil aviation ministry to set

Procurement www.tender.telangana.gov.in R.O.No. 5075-PR/CL/ADVT/1/2024-25, Dt. 07.10.2024

Specific details about the cluster proposal could not be immediately ascertained.

According to the Ambassador, France will support India's goal to decarbonise transport and on developing Sustainable Aviation Fuel At the event, Civil Aviation

said India and France can work together to develop a robust SAF supply chain. "Today, our partnership is not just strategic, you should call it universal because it goes liter-

Minister K Rammohan Naidu

ally from the seabed to the outer space," the Ambassador said. In the civil aviation space, Indian carriers are operating a

significant number of Airbus Also, IndiGo and Air India have placed orders for aircraft

with Airbus as they expand their fleets and networks to meet the rising air passengers demand.

Meanwhile, Airbus CEO Guillaume Faury on Monday

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT TENDER NOTICE Date: 05.10.202 1) NIT No's and Tender Inviting dates: 25-30/SEUnit IIV/BP/ Drain & CC Road / 2024-25

Dated .04.10.2024, From 09-10-2024, 10.30 AM to 17.10.2024, 4.30 PM. Name of Works: Construction of CC Roads and Storm Water Brain in Ibrahimpathar Municipality (5 works). 3) Total value of Works: Rs.345.00 Lakhs. Tender documents will be available in e-procurement market place in between 09-10-2024

10.30 AM to 17.10.2824, 4.30 PM. The tender detail can be seen by login into ⊚ www.tender.telangana.gov.in.

8.0.16: \$668-PPCLR3VTH002425, D: ET-16-2538 Unit-BI, Mahabubnagar @ Hyderabad www.tender.telangana.gov.in. R.O. No.: 506E-PPICL/RDVT/1003425, Dr. ET-10-2036

🔞 GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION 🚜 EE-Div 16/ EE/Divn.16//(SBZ)/GHMC

NIT No: 24/Cir-16/Engg-Div-16/SBZ/GHMC/2024 GHWC, Celt 8790374939/6309919002, Address of the Concerned Executive Engineer, Din-16 SBZ, GHWC, Abids, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation. Further details can be seen at

Name of the work: Providing Temporary Tollets for Bathukamma festival work in Amberge Circle-16, Secundershad Zone, GHMC. Total Tender Amount Rs. 1.50 lakh St. No. 1 Start Date: 07/10/2024 From 3:00 PM, Last Date & Time for receipt of Skid: 08/10/2024 at 3:00 PM Bri K.RAMESH BABU, Executive Engineer, Division-16, Circle-16, Amberpet, Sec'bed Zone

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Reliance Jio has urged telecom

regulator Trai to come up with

a revised paper on spectrum the lack of any questions addressing the need to create allocation for satellite commua level-playing field between these services," Reliance Jio nication alleging that it ignores the key point of ensuring levelplaying field between satellite (RJIL) said in a letter dated and terrestrial services. October 4. In a letter to the Telecom Jio said that due to the omission of this point, stake-Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) Chairman, Anil Kumar holders will not be able to ade-Lahoti, Reliance Jio has sought quately consider and provide revision of the consultation

mercial communication ser-"We are surprised that the process to explore methodolconsultation paper has comogy and price for assigning pletely overlooked the critical spectrum to satellite compa-

paper on recommending rules

for "terms and conditions for

the assignment of spectrum for

certain satellite-based com-

relevant inputs to Trai which will undermine the fairness of recommendations and the government's intent to promote balanced competition. On September 27, 2024,

Trai floated a consultation

issue of ensuring level-playing

field between satellite-based

and terrestrial access services.

This omission has resulted in



Jio seeks revised paper on satellite spectrum allocation

nies to provide calling, messaging, broadband and other ser-

vices in the country. The decision on spectrum price and allocation method-

ology will pave the way for satellite-based broadband services from companies like Elon Musk-owned Starlink, Bharti Group-backed OneWeb, and reference dated July 11, 2024 which makes the consultation paper and the consequent recommendations vulnerable to

Jio said the consultation

paper does not adequately

address competitive fairness

Department

legal challenges. Jio and Vodafone Idea have opposed allocation of spectrum to satellite companies without auction.

Jio alleged that the paper is tilted towards administrative spectrum assignment which undermines norms of The Telecommunications Act, 2023. It said that the Telecommunication Act, 2023

administrative assignment methods should remain open for stakeholders input, with due consideration given to competitive fairness," Jio said. Trai has invited comments

on 21 points, including a method for determining spectrum charges, frequency bands for the satellite communications services, duration of assignment, and provision for surrendering spectrum, etc.

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Tuesday October 8, 2024

A life dedicated to popularising Kathak

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n addition to being a skilled Kathak dancer and choreographer, Dr. Puru Dadheech is considered the "father of the Kathak education system" and a learned scholar of the 'Natyashastra' and treatises on *nritya*. He has received the Kalidas Samman, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award and Padma Shri. And what better chance could there be for us to speak with this virtuoso in an interview?

Akademi Award and Padma Shri. And what better chance could there be for us to speak with this virtuoso in an interview?

He begins by narrating to us unseen stories, "The intricate and sometimes disregarded rhythmic cycles, or Aprachalit (rare) taals, are among my favourite aspects of Indian classical music. I composed songs which correspond to particular taals and have their notations included, to make them simpler to interpret. For example, because of its complex structure, Brahma Taal, which contains 28 beats, is typically disregarded. I made a lighthearted dhrupad with lyrics that draw attention to its rhythms in order to simplify it. This has gained popularity among Dhrupad maestros like Gundecha Bandhu in addition to Kathak dancers."

Additionally, he has worked to revive the practically extinct Kathak dance form known as Dhrupad Nartan. In 1981, he played this style in honour of Dhrupad Samrat Chandan Chaubey's 100th birthday and wrote an article outlining its fundamental ideas. In his opinion, it's critical to introduce these customs to students in a playful manner so they can relate to the intricate narratives that underlie the gestures and motions! "Unfortunately, many people limit their learning to formal education and think that getting a degree means they've mastered their art," the interviewee says, delving deeply into the conversation. "A degree provides a foundation, but it doesn't make you a complete artiste," as Vishnu Digambar Paluskar once observed. "I am excited to share with my dhrupad the splendour of Basant Ritu at the NCPA, honouring the spirit of spring and providing an innovative experience that goes beyond the conventional themes."

Then, as the famous Bharat Muni pointed out in the 'Natyashastra,' Shastranat Shastram' refers to upholding discipline. This fundamental idea enables our interviewee to explore creatively in modern settings. It's encouraged for artists nowadays to push limits. "I recall taking two hours to do a solo performance of the entire Ramayana with just three music

Dr. Puru Dadheech is not only a proficient Kathak dancer and choreographer but also an erudite scholar of the *Natyashastra* and treatises on *nritya*, also regarded as the 'father of the education system of Kathak'. In an exclusive chat with **The Pioneer**, the recipient of the Padma Shri, Kalidas Samman and Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, narrates to us some interesting untold stories, the dance form and more

features a complete orchestration with 28 musicians and a troupe of 12 dancers. A number of variables, including time, place, audience and artists themselves, have an impact on how art

variables, including time, place, audience and artists themselves, have an impact on how art evolves."

This is where the narrative takes a turn:
Upon accepting the NCPA's invitation, he desired to showcase something innovative and exceptional that upheld the reputation of the organisation. Observing that there are few compositions and a lot of misconceptions regarding Dhrupad in Kathak, he made the decision to teach Dhrupad utilising an antiquated taal! Despite the fact that Taal Shikhar might be viewed as out of date, his intention is to show how it can be handled casually and amusingly.

"Although my gurus are unrelated, they have the same last name, which could lead to misunderstanding with other Prasad Brothers. I was urged to study under Narayan Prasad ji and Sunder Prasad ji by my first guru, Durga Prasad ji. All three are members of the Jaipur Gharana, which is renowned for its mastery of rhythm. In terms of my artistic development, I have combined the Laikari of Jaipur Gharana and the Abhinaya of Lucknow with aspects from traditional books such as Mudras, Karana and Anghar to create an independent style. In my opinion, the emotional and rhythmic expression that is in sync with the music defines dance. Dance forms change along with musical styles; for example, Dhrupad's abhinay technique is different from Thumri. When I'm planning my dance works, I consider these variations and ning my dance works, I consider these variations and

draw inspiration from the dance, literary and scriptural instruction I received from my gurus, describes the Kathak dancer!

Many Kathak artists nowadays, in the choreographer's perspective, mostly perform in *Teentaal*. He concentrated on writform in *Teentaal*. He concentrated on writing pieces in uncommon rhythms to help revitalise and make them more approachable in order to address this. His intention is to dispel any fear associated with these beats and portray them in a captivating manner. At the age of 85, he is committed to enhancing Kathak literature as one of the few dancers in Kathak with a foundation in literature and understanding of Sanskrit and and understanding of Sanskrit and Shastra. He is grateful to organisations that promote the arts by bring-ing in experts such as himself. Furthermore, despite their high

skill levels, many artists and teachers who have practiced Kathak for the past millennium lacked formal education and, as a result, were frequently ignorant of the scriptures. It's possible that they are unaware of the formal names of the dance steps they execute. Puru would frequently respond to his guru's questions about particular dancing styles by saying, "Our master danced like this and we dance like that; we do not know this scripture." Puru was motivated to investigate dance science by this. Due to a lack of resources, he had a lot of difficulties when conducting study at the time. For instance, it took a long ing study at the time. For instance, it took a long time and there were times when books could not be found in

The first doctorate holder in Kathak classical dance continues the conversation, saying, "Kathak is the only classical dance style that does not have a designated government research institution, even after seventy years of India's freedom. The texts are still incomfreedom. The texts are still incomplete, despite my and a few others' attempts to advance Kathak science. Additionally, there is an abundance of undocumented historical data about different dance traditions from Afghanistan to Nepal and from Kashmir to Bihar and Bengal. This demonstrates the enormous potential for Kathak research and I hope that it will eventually be acknowledged as an important professional course."

The Padma Shri bearer concludes by telling us that he came from a non-musi-

telling us that he came from a non-musical family and that he decided to adhere cal family and that he decided to adhere to the teachings of any guru or gharana that he found inspiring. Through his workshops, candidates can observe and learn from a variety of specialists' ways. He gives them advice and encouragement on how to develop a distinctive personal style and accept their preferences. They can only be considered a true artist if they can showcase their originality. It is crucial for aspiring artists to exercise both discipline and creativity, as was previously discussed.

Misters Kuru and art of fixing families: Trisha Das spills all

AARTI SREENATH aarti.sreenath9@gmail.com had my family, whereas she's been fending for herself." riages and individual choice. "Arranged marriage has Her background in filmmaking shines through in risha Das the award-winning filmmaker and bestselling author, is a master Das, the of reinvention and her latest book, The Grand popular Samara, proves it once again. The Never Meant to Stay than telling," she says. author behind author has written everything from documentaries to rom-coms and Ms Draupadi has tackled topics as vast as the Mahabharata and as lightheart-Kuru: After the ed as a love story. But at the heart of *The Grand Samara* is Pandavas and its something more universal: the search for "home." sequel, *The Misters* Samara Mansingh, the protagonist of The Grand Kuru: A Return to Samara, is a wedding phorelatable slice of life. Why did she choose wedding photography for Samara's profession? "A camera makes a wonderful tographer, who's more Mahabharata, Kama's comfortable behind the camera than in front of it. Last Sutra and The Home has always been a fleeting concept for Mahabharata Re-Samara, a diplomat's daughter who's lived *imagined*, among other all over. When asked if Samara's journey well-received books. mirrors her own, she admits, "I can speaks to *The Pioneer* absolutely relate to Samara. For me, about her latest novel home was always the Khannas." about people rather than The Grand Samara, places. Like Samara, I've felt that sense of belonging her filmmaking nonbackground and more

belonging simultaneously. The difference is, I always

e The Grand Samara actually started as a screenplay back in 2003, only to be shelved for twenty years before making its way into readers' hands. "I think my background in film shows up in my books, many readers say they feel cinematic. I think in terms of scenes, not chapters and focus on showing rather

Samara finds herself thrown into the chaos of the Khanna family—a household rife with grief, unspoken emotions and societal expectations. How does one balance these heavy themes in a rom-com? She has a simple answer: "The appeal of any kind of art lies in its relatability. Every human experiences grief, which makes moments of happiness stand out. Humour isn't funny without grief and laughter isn't special without tears." It's this mix of struggle and silliness that makes *The Grand Samara* more than just a rom-com; it's a

boundary wall between the subject

and the taker. A wedding photographer always remains an outsider, observing happy moments but never truly being part of them. That's Samara always looking at happiness from behind a lens until she meets One of the key tensions in The Grand Samara is between tradition

Khanna family? He's no cookie-cutter rom-com hero. "Sharav is good-looking, rich, and a family man," she says. "But the more important thing is that he's good for Samara. He's the Yin to her Yang. Writing men is the same as writing women when you treat them as individuals. Gender is a societal construct, but

humans are humans." Having found success in both film and writing, she often finds herself straddling these two creative worlds. "I still use filmmaking techniques to craft outlines for my books. Mood boards, film bibles—they all find their way into my writing process. The two mediums live side by side in my head."

and modernity, especially concerning arranged mar-

changed in bigger cities," says the Kama's Last Sutra

but the traditional constraints aren't what they used to

be. Nowadays, it's more like an extended date arranged

by your parents, and it's a lot safer than swiping, right?'

Her wit and humour have always been standout fea-

tures of her writing and it's no different in *The Grand*

Samara. How does she create characters that are both

personal and relatable? "To me, my characters are real

people, they might do funny things, but they're never

caricatures. I can't cook to save my life, but I can read

people." And she reads them well, creating a rich tapes-

try of characters, like Samara and the Khannas, that

disruptor; think Mary Poppins or Hrishikesh

Mukheriee's Khoobsurat and Bawarchi. She was

inspired by Georgette Heyer's The Grand Sophy, where

a young woman arrives in Regency England and proceeds to fix everyone's problems. "The disruptor is a

popular theme in books and movies. I thought I could

And what about Sharav, the eldest son of the

Samara's role in the Khanna household is that of a

stay with you long after the book ends.

do a modern. Indian take on it."

ill pressure to marry by a cert

And has she found her creative "home"? After all, she's worked across a dizzying range of creative industries, from filmmaking to PR. "Safe to say, I've found my creative home—it's in books. I have two more romcoms on the way. No matter what genre I write, books are my passion and I can see myself writing many more in the years to come."

Her comedic voice is all her own, despite the fact that her brother, Vir Das, is a well-known comedian. "We developed our comedic voices separately," she says. "Our interests and styles are quite different, but we support and appreciate each other's work."

The world of publishing and filmmaking is changing, especially in the digital age. How does Trisha Das stay creatively energised and what's her advice for emerging authors and filmmakers? "Creative inspiration can be found anywhere these days, but so can competition. It can be overwhelming for a newbie. My advice? Be focused and selective about where you hang out online. Educate yourself in how professionals do things. Be original, patient, and consistent. Don't create art for the eyeballs, create it because you love it. Once it's finished, then you can worry about the eyeballs."

Trisha Das's The Grand Samara is more than a rom-com. It's a story about finding where you belong, and as Samara learns, that might be in the last place you'd think to look, in a chaotic household full of grief, humour and love. And maybe that's the ultimate lesson: home isn't a place; it's the people who make it feel like one.

Rise to homeownership!

The dream of owning your own home forms a cornerstone of starter units or pushing out timelines economic aspiration across India. However, rising interest rates and fluctuating affordability require real estate at both central and state careful navigation by 2024's homebuying honefuls for turning vision into reality through optimal property decisions. This guide examines prudent purchase journeys against a shifting backdrop where real estate introspection outranks infatuation.

"Astute home seekers keeping meticulous budgets will discover value even with higher rates," Director, Forteasia Realty Pvt Ltd, Manoj Goyal reminds that cycles ebb and flow. "Rather than timing markets, prioritise your lifestyle needs, preferred locations and financial plans first."

Navigating complex Indian market landscape

India's divergent property ecosystem all too often perplexes novice buyers unfamiliar with regional norms and jargon. Expand your knowledge first through the wide array of edu-cational materials now available both online and via credible agencies. Arm yourself about prevailing rates in

localities meeting your needs.

While we all hope for the elusive bargain, realistic budgeting must reflect current market forces rather than wishful thinking. Optimal locations suiting daily commutes and family priorities then determine choices, not unrealistic expectations of space or luxury features.

LC Mittal, Director at Motia Group says, "The current environment calls for pragmatic buying based on need not greed." Mittal advises first-timers to build future equity by focusing more on land and location now, adding space judiciously over time.

Keep an eye on interest rates and regulatory changes

Property buying depends tremendously on home loans and rates, so track RBI and bank trends diligently before finalising plans. Mittal notes, "With interest rates inching up since mid 2022, prudent purchasing means sticking to budgets that leave breath-

starter units or pushing out timelines help reduce pressures. Also stay updated on policy changes impacting government levels. Entry of institutional capital, RERA implementa tion, GST rate revisions, green incentives etc. all impact dynamics.

Leveraging bank tie-ups to access best deals

Builders today partner with banks and NBFCs to offer direct home financing support and customised rates for projects to boost sales. Anurag Goel, Director at Goel Ganga Developments explains how buyers gain: "Tie-ups allow us to offer attractive incentives like processing fee waivers or reduced EMIs to home

buyers waiting for possessions."

So beyond location and budget, finding projects with active channel partner promotions enhances overall savings too. This helps new buyers stretch funds further through subsidised pricing and limited-period

Anurag added, "Bank relationships helping developers offer direct finance are a huge plus, often with preferential home loan rates, but read terms carefully." Scrutinise any contractual penalties on exiting before finalising.

Key takeaway: Patience and agility are prime

According to Aman Gupta, Director of RPS Group, "First-time home shopping in India rewards not the impatient but those willing to take some time and effort in understanding local dynamics. While current volatility sparks unease for new entrants, opportunities still abound for savvy buyers open to adjusting crite-ria to tap good deals as rates and inventory fluctuate."

The key is aligning expectations to market realities, not outdated perceptions. Work closely with developers aware of ongoing changes in rates, regulations and promotional financing to secure optimal gains as you turn renter woes into propertyowner pride!



what's brewing?







Garba event at Villa Greens, women and kids came together to put on an amazing show. It was a dynamic gathering. Everyone came together for a joyous celebration, perfectly capturing the essence of community spirit on this particular day.











Miss India Asia Pacific Dr. Sudha Jain, signified her presence at the inauguration of the 9-day D Sons Patola Art show, held at the Labels Pop-up location, Banjara Hills Road no: 1.



Zoya launched its signature collection, ALIVE, at an exclusive event graced by it's brand ambassador Sonam Kapoor and Titan's Chief Design Officer Revathi Kant. Inspired by the untamed beauty of wildflowers, this vibrant collection radiates optimism, offering a poetic homage to the woman-free-spirited, resilient and graceful.



Jubilee Hills' Daspalla Hotel hosted the

graduation and new student celebration

for Roots Collegium College. MP Vadviraju Ravichandra of the Rajva Sabha was present during the function.

SUGAR POP announced a collaboration with Bollywood actress, Kriti Sanon. Their recent campaign Colour Sahi, Transfer Nahi campaign marks its debut on television and launches its much-awaited lipstick in time for the festive season ahead.



Comic Con India brought the excitement early with an unforgettable cosplay workshop hosted by none other than Saurabh Singh Rawat and Zohair Khan (aka Kiwi Lemon Sorbet), held at the charming Aaromale Café in Film Nagar, Hyderabad. The duo led an interactive session that inspired aspiring cosplayers in attendance.

ARCHIE





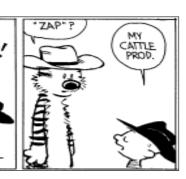




CALVIN AND HOBBES







GARFIELD



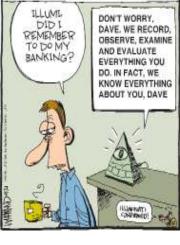




DAVE REGRETS NOT GETTING ALEXA OR SIRL

THE PHONE IS ON ME

REALITY CHECK





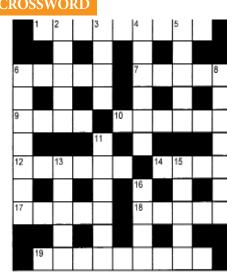
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Rul	les							

- exactly once. The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.
- 4 Shut 5 Very keen, enthusiastic

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Marked with the fingernails 6 In front
- 7 A keyboard instrument
- 11 Opposite of newest
- 9 Painful to touch
- 13 A large jungle cat 10 Something that is not to 15 By yourself
 - be told to anyone else 16 A brother or sister
- 12 A baby's toy 14 A hired car
- 17 Have a quarrel
- 18 Incorrect 19 Played make-believe
- DOWN
- 2 A shout of approval
- 3 Counts up



born at the same time

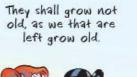
6 Vienna is the capital

of this country

8 Nil



GINGER MEGGS



NANCY

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning...

ARE YOU STILL ON

YOUR PHONE IN THERE?

remember

Chaffield-

DIFFICULTY RATING: **

tollywood

Sudheer Babu on his scarring experience on sets of *Maa Nanna Superhero*

Actor Sudheer Babu discusses his upcoming film Maa Nanna Super Hero, his role, acting alongside two senior actors, his real-life father, the best critics in his life, and much

more

sureshkavirayani@gmail.com fter an action film like Harom Hara, Sudheer Babu is back with an emotional film, Maa Nanna Super Hero. The story revolves around a fatherson relationship, and Sudheer Babu is confident in its success, as the plot focuses entirely on the bond between the two. "There are many films about the father-son relationship, but they are usually limited to a certain point. In my film, that relationship carries through the entire story," said Sudheer Babu. In the film, he has two fathers, one biological and one who raises him. "There have been many love triangle stories, but in this film, it's a love triangle between a son and two fathers. There are many interesting situations as the son tries to take care of both fathers. You don't need to come up with new ideas because they're already there. When a son gets angry with his father, you have

to explain it, but when you love

SURESH KAVIRAYANI

him, no explanation is needed," Sudheer Babu explained.

The actor shared that he didn't have to put much effort into the role, as each scene was very relatable to him. "It was very easy for me to emote while doing this film. For some roles, you need inspira-tion or real-life examples for better performance, but for this film, it was easy.
Portraying this character was natural for me and it didn't require much effort. What's interesting is that my performance has no reference to any of my previous films or other films. In Maa Nanna Super Hero, you won't find any comparisons; it feels fresh," he said.

Sudheer Babu also spoke about how he fully immersed himself in the role, saying, "I completely turned off my phone and kept my distance from family and friends. I didn't want any distractions, as I wanted to focus solely on my role."

Speaking about the film *Animal*, where the protagonist expresses love for his father in a bold and aggressive way, Sudheer Babu noted, "They presented a larger-than-life portrayal and audiences accepted it. In my film, we showed the father-son love with tenderness. We did-n't want to use a formulaic approach; it's very real and relatable. There are many intense scenes, but you'll also find moments that make you smile."

Sayaji Shinde and Sai Chand play the

father roles in Maa Nanna Super Hero. Sudheer Babu praised them, saying,

Initially, I had doubts about whether people would accept him in this role because he has mostly played funny, serious, or negative roles. But the director was confident in him and now, after completing the film, I feel he's completely fresh in this role. Not only is he a great actor, but also a good human being who does a lot of social work?

About Sai Chand, Sudheer Babu said, "He's a great actor with many films to his credit. Generally, character artists accept three or four films at a time, but Sai Chand is different. He takes one film at a time, which shows his dedication to

Sudheer Babu also shared a bit about his real-life father, who was neither too strict nor too friendly. "He's more of a disciplined person who never gets angry. My sister and I used to look forward to week-ends because he'd bring chocolates on Saturdays and take us to lunch on Sundays. His lifestyle is an inspiration to us." He added, "If he likes something about me, he never tells me directly. He

about me, he never tells me directly. He hasn't commented on any of my films till now, but once, he forwarded someone's message that he liked my film."

When asked about his best critics, Sudheer Babu said, "My sons, wife and friends are my best critics. My sons talk about the film, but they never point out anything negative. My wife, however, is

"Both are fantastic actors. Sayaji Shinde's my most honest critic." He also shared a memory from the film, mentioning, "I got a small injury during an action sequence, which left a scar, something

I won't forget."

Sudheer Babu also spoke about his upcoming film *Jatadhara*, calling it an interesting storyline. "It's a big film, not in terms of budget, but conceptually. This is the first time a Bollywood production house is making a film with me, which is exciting. The story is a mix of mythology and science and we start shooting in November. There's a lot of preparation involved," he said, adding that he has also signed another film with director Rahul

Sudheer Babu spoke candidly about his film choices: "I believe in all the films I do, and I never feel I'm experimenting with them. The only film I consider an experiment is *Hunt*. Many other films didn't do well, but people claim I experimented with those too." Addressing the failures at the box office, he added, "Some stories are great on paper, but there can be issues when they're translated on-

Sudheer Babu also did a negative role in the Hindi film *Baaghi*, but he isn't particularly keen on doing more negative roles. "If I say I'm ready for negative roles, filmmakers from all industries start calling me. But I didn't like many of the roles offered. If something really good comes up, I might consider it," he concluded.

Sneak peek into *Euphoria*



new cinematic journey is about to unfold with Euphoria, a film that promises raw emotions and untamed chaos, luring audiences into a gripping narrative. Directed by Gunasekhar, the movie's teaser gives viewers a glimpse into a powerful story that resonates with intensity and depth. The teaser, which was recently unveiled on YouTube, hints at a orld that is both visually stunning and emotionally turbulent, promising an unforgettable experience.

The teaser features glimpses of Bhumi Chawla, capturing raw performances that connect instantly, accompanied by Kaala Bhairava's evocative score. This combination of breathtaking visuals and emotionally charged music sets the tone for what is expected to be an immersive narrative.

Gunasekhar's latest directorial venture seems poised to capture audiences with a blend of drama, passion, and visual poetry. Supported by talented producers like Neelima Guna and a dedicated team that includes Vignesh Reddy and Yalamanchili Likitha, *Euphoria* is shaping up as a film to watch out for.

Euphoria has already curiosity with its intense teasers and collaboration of exceptional talent, aiming to take viewers through a roller-coaster of feelings. The film appears to be more than just entertainment; it's a dive into the emotional chaos and richness of human experience, something that Gunasekhar and his team have carefully crafted.

ANAND SAI TIPPED FOR KEY

Not long ago, Pawan Kalyan, the Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, paid a visit to Tirupati and stayed there for a few days. Accompanying him are renowned director Trivikram Srinivas and acclaimed film art director Anand Sai. The art director has been a close friend to the AP Deputy CM since the start of his career. Trivikram Srinivas has a strong bond with Pawan Kalyan as well.

Pawan Kalyan was offlate spotted with these two individuals in Tirupathi, sparking various speculations. Some sources indicate that Anand Sai will potentially be appointed as a board member of Tirumala Tirupathi Devasthanam (TTD). Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu recently revealed several appointed positions, excluding the announcement of TTD Chairman and board members.

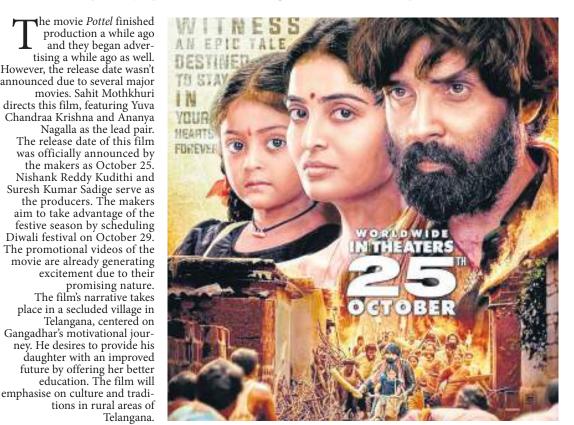
"Anand Sai is one of the finest art directors and he also worked many years to rebuild the Yadadri temple in Telangana State. So, Pawan Kalyan suggested his name to the Chief Minister," says a source. Despite Trivikram Srinivas being mentioned, the director intended to emphasise his film career, the source disclosed. The reports came close to verifying that Anand Sai is a member of the TTD board. Reports suggest that Chandrababu Naidu may bring in wellknown speaker Chaganti Koteswara Rao, famous for his talks on Sanatana Dharma and Puranas. "It is still not known whether Chaganti wants to accept it or

not, but the government is seriously considering his name for the TTD Chairman post at this time," said the source.

Pottel set to illuminate Diwali

¬he movie *Pottel* finished production a while ago and they began advertising a while ago as well. However, the release date wasn't announced due to several major movies. Sahit Mothkhuri Chandraa Krishna and Ananya
Nagalla as the lead pair.
The release date of this film
was officially announced by
the makers as October 25. Nishank Reddy Kudithi and Suresh Kumar Sadige serve as the producers. The makers aim to take advantage of the festive season by scheduling Diwali festival on October 29. The promotional videos of the movie are already generating excitement due to their promising nature. The film's narrative takes place in a secluded village in Telangana, centered on Gangadhar's motivational journey. He desires to provide his daughter with an improved future by offering her better education. The film will

tions in rural areas o



Kartik Subbaraj curates quirky thriller with Snakes & Ladders

n Monday, Prime Video had announced the premiere date of the Tamil original series, *Snakes & Ladders*. Curated by Karthik Subbaraj, produced by Kalyan Subramanian (A StoneBench Production), the Tamil Original series is created by Kamala Alchemis & Dhivakar Kamal and directed by Ashok Veerappan, Bharath Muralidharan and Kamala Alchemis. The edge-of-the-seat thriller boasts



Bharathiraia, Muthukumar, Srinda, Sreejith Ravi, Samrith, Surva Ragaveshwar, Surva Kumar, Tarun and Sasha Bharen in pivotal

Set in the mid-2000s, this quirky yet gripping dark-humour thriller truly celebrates friendship in all forms. The story follows the adventures of four school friends, Gilly, Irai, Sandy and Bala, who find themselves inadvertently entangled in a conundrum. As they navigate various challenging situations and personal struggles, leaving inevitable trails and making questionable choices along the way, their jour-ney ultimately leads them on an unexpected path of self-discovery.

Curator of the series, Karthik Subbaraj said, "It has been an absolute pleasure to work on *Snakes and Ladders*. Bringing the story of these four friends to life has been an incredibly exhilarating experience. Each character in the series is unique, with their own distinct personality and complex relationships that reflect the ups and downs of teenage life. The journey of unraveling a mystery that intertwines their lives will keep the audience hooked from beginning to end. We aimed to craft a narrative that entertains while also tapping into the nuances of friend-ship, personal growth, and the meaningful bonds and lessons that will resonate with viewers."



b'day with Adiparvam's first look

n the occasion of the birthday of talented actress Manchu Lakshmi, the first look of her character from the movie Adiparvam is released, the movie is coming to a grand theatrical release on 31st of this month Presented by Raoula Venkateshwar Rao, the movie *Aadiparvam* is produced under the banner of Anvika Arts in association with Al Entertainments. Manchu Lakshmi is playing the lead role in this movie. Another key role is played by Adityam Om. Director Sanjeev Megoti is making the film *Adiparvam* with graphics, mainly a periodical love story woven around Ammavari in the background of Erragudi. Adiparvam movie is going to have a grand theatrical release on 31st of this month after completing the censorship process. Talented actress Manchu Lakshmi released the first look of her character in the film *Aadiparvam* on her birthday. The first

look of her character is interesting and impressive. Manchu Lakshmi is going to entertain the audience in a new role, which she has not done till now. Director Sanjeev Megoti speaking on the occasion, firstly wished Manchu Lakshmi for her birthday and said, "With the collaboration of Anvika Arts and Al Entertainments, I am satisfied that I have made *Adiparvam* a great film. Manchu Lakshmi, Adityam Om, Shiv Kanthamanineni and Esther's roles are praised by people. Their performances are memorable. I have made this movie as a collection of real events that happened between 1974-90. This movie is a battle between evil power and divine power, similar to Ammoru and Arundhati films. A movie like this has not come out in recent times. Graphics will be highlighted in our movie.'

Malavika Mohanan shoots challenging action sequence for Sardar 2

After the success of her recent films Thangalaan and Yudhra, Malavika Mohanan is already diving into her next project. Currently, she is in the midst of shooting for the highly anticipated *Sardar 2*. In a recent conversation, Malavika described her role in this sequel as very "different and challenging." This description has been made more evident in a social media post

by Malavika, where she gives fans a behind-thescenes look at the demanding nature of her new character.

In her Instagram post, Malavika shared images and insights from a particularly intense stunt sequence, captioning it, "Shot some really challenging stunt sequences for *Sardar* 2 and thought I'd show you guys what the harness we wear inside our costume looks like. These are meant to hold us on the ropes when we jump off a height/float in the air or get lifted up to do a really high kick. I used to find rope work so tricky and tough the first few times I had to do it for some sequences in Thangalaan, but now with practice, even though some sequences can get nerve wrecking (I had to jump off a 100-meter height recently which wasn't so much fun) I've got the hang of it for the most part and it's such an adrenalin rush and so gratifying when you get the technicality and the shot right! Why should boys have all the fun, no?"

In her post, Malavika gives a glimpse into the physical and mental challenges of performing high-stakes stunts, while wearing intensive stunt gear. From mastering rope work to executing high kicks while suspended in the air, she's pushing her limits and honing her skills. The adrenaline rush and satisfaction she feels

when nailing these complex sequences is evident, showcasing her dedication and growth as an actress.

In Sardar 2, Malavika joins the cast in a new and undisclosed role, adding an intriguing layer to the film. While details of her character are still under wraps, her involvement has certainly piqued the interest of fans, who are eager to see how she will complement Karthi's dual roles as Agent Chandra Bose Sardar and Inspector Vijay Prakash. The film, slated for release in 2025, promises an exciting dynamic between Malavika and Karthi, with her character set to bring a fresh and thrilling element to the sequel.

OUR BATTERS DON'T KNOW HOW TO SCORE 180 RUNS, SKIPPER SHANTO

Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto has candidly admitted that his team doesn't know how to consistently post 180 plus totals in a T20 game. Batting has been Bangladesh's weak link for a while, especially their approach in the powerplay. They struggled to 39 for two in six overs on Sunday night before managing a below par 127. India chased that down in just 11.5 overs to go 1-0 up in the series.
"We have the ability, but we have

room for improvement in our skills. We have been batting in this way for the last 10 years. Sometimes we do well. We have to make some changes, perhaps where we practice back home."
Shanto feels that tracks in

Bangladesh aren't conducive for big scoring games of T20 and that has affected their collective batting performance. "We play on 140-150 wickets at

home. Our batters don't know how to score 180 runs. I won't blame just the wickets, but we have to consider skills and mentality," Shanto said following the crushing

The batters' shot selection was also questioned with the likes of Litton

Das falling to ordinary shots.
"I wouldn't say we played badly. We are a better team than this. We haven't done well in this format for a long time, but I don't believe we are such a bad team," said Shanto. "I don't want to talk about any individual player. I think the batting unit didn't do well today. There will be aggression in the way we approach our scoring, but sometimes we have to select the

deliveries correctly. We will think about it, but we can't rush in changing our approach."
Shanto went on to say that their

Shanto went on to say that their powerplay approach needs to be reviewed with the opening stands having contributed only 69 runs in the last eight innings.

"Powerplay is definitely a worry. The approach we talked about (before the game), it will be successful if we make a good start with the bat with the bat.

"We have to keep the wickets in the first six overs, and score runs in those. Otherwise those coming in next, it becomes too challenging for them. We have struggled in the tor them. We have struggled in the powerplay. Those batting in the power play must take more responsibility," said the southpaw. Rookier Indian pacer Mayank Yadav made a promising debut on Sunday, generating speeds close to 150kmph in his first competitive game in five months.

He hurried the batters but Shanto said they are used to facing such speed in the nets.

We have some similar fast bowlers in the nets. I don't think we were too worried about (Mayank Yadav). But he is a good bowler," he added.

Surya gives you freedom, he is a calm captain: Debutants Mayank, Nitish

Gwalior,(PTI) Mayank Yadav and Nitish Kumar Reddy were expectedly nervous ahead of their India debut in the first T20 International against Bangladesh here but the newcomers said skipper Suryakumar Yadav helped them stay calm with his comforting words.

Mayank, the 22-year-old pace sensation, made his debut here on



Sunday after recovering from a recurring abdominal strain after playing only four matches in this year's IPL. He impressed in the first match returning with figures of 1/21 from his four overs. Nitish, 21, also made instant

impact by remaining unbeaten on 16 off 15 balls, to help India register a commanding sevenwicket win in the series-opener. "He (Suryakumar) gives you freedom. When I was taking the run up, he was telling me 'do what

you feel, what you feel best. So that's very important for any fast bowler, specially when you making your debut," Mayank told

Nitish added: "He is very calm and cool. He is doing fabulous

captaincy, not giving any pressure to us. We were debutants, obviously we will have nervousness and pressure. He gave that license to us. Any youngster would like to get it from the

long injury layoff, Mayank became emotional.

"It's a great moment because I am coming from an injury. I was a bit nervous, like I was telling myself don't stress yourself.

When I got to know I am going to play my first match, making my debut, complete flashback of last four months came in front of my eyes," he said.

The speedster started his international career with a maiden over on Sunday and credited bowling coach Morne Morkel for shaping him.

"It felt good. I was not like thinking that I am going to bowl a maiden over. Just wanted to live in that moment, enjoy that moment," Mayank said. "It's very comfortable for me, I am

with him (Morkel) for the last three years. I know him, he knows me very well. So, it's very easy for me to work with him. He knows which things are better for me." Nitish too was satisfied with his

debut performance, saying it was a dream-come-true moment for

"For any cricketer in India it's a big moment. Playing for Indian cricket team is a dream-come-true moment. Obviously, there was nervousness but I enjoyed that. It was a very proud moment for me and my family as well," he said.

There are senior players and I got a lot of experience as well from the coaching staff. Even in bowling as well getting some keen points. I love this kind of atmosphere in the dressing room."

The second T20 of the threematch series will be played in New Delhi on Wednesday.



Jayasuriya appointed full-time head coach of Sri Lanka till 2026 T20 WC

Former captain Sanath Jayasuriya was on Monday appointed as full-time head coach of the Sri Lankan cricket team until the end of

the 2026 T20 World Cup.
The former left-handed opener was Sri Lanka's interim coach since early July, and after he impressed July, and after he impressed in the role against India and England, Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) has decided to hand him full-time responsibility. Under Jayasuriya's guidance, Sri Lanka won their first bilateral ODI series against India in 27 years, and then defeated England in an away Test for the first time in 10 years.

Most recently, Sri Lanka

defeated New Zealand 2-0 in

a Test series at home.
"The Executive Committee of Sri Lanka Cricket made this decision taking into consideration the team's good performances in the recent tours against India, England, and New Zealand, where Jayasuriya was in charge as the interim head coach," SLC said in a statement.

"The appointment came into effect on October 1, 2024, and will remain until March

Jayasuriya had been a chief selector in the past and his first assignment as full-time head coach will be the limited overs series against West Indies, starting in Dambulla on October 13.

Mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy says he is reaping the rewards of putting over-spin on the ball instead of side-spin following his successful India comeback.

The 33-year-old, whose India career came to an abrupt halt after an underwhelming debut in the 2021 T20 World Cup, took three wickets against Bangladesh in the series opener.

series opener.
As the great Nathan Lyon has shown over the years, putting over-spin on the ball generates sharp bounce and turn, which aided Varun on Sunday night. His googly to get rid of Jaker Ali showed the former architect's total control over his craft.

"I used to be a side-spin bowler, but right now, I have completely shifted to being an over-spin bowler," said Varun after playing a part in India's seven-wicket win.

"It's a minute technical aspect of spin bowling, but it took me more than two years. I gradually tested it in TNPL and IPL. While the mental aspect also had to be worked on, the major chunk of effort I put in was on my technical side."

Despite doing well in the IPL and domestic cricket over the past two seasons, Varun did not get a recall to the Indian team and that only made him hungrier. Now that he is back in blues, it feels like a rebirth. "Whenever there was a squad that was announced, I used to



I have completely shifted to overspin from sidespin: Varun Chakaravarthy

feel like, 'Why is my name not there?' and I used to keep thinking about that. So that of brought the motivation within me that I should not leave this.

"I should go all out and make a comeback, so I started playing a lot of domestic games and giving importance to it. That kind of helped me," said the soft-spoken

A catch was dropped in Varun's first over that eventually went for 15 runs with Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hasan Shanto and Towhid Hridoy going on the offensive against spinner in the powerplay. However, skipper

Suryakumar Yadav trusted Varun to bounce back in the following over and he did that by having Hridoy caught at long-on.

"Yes, in the first over the catch could have gone my way but that's how T20s are played. I felt the reverse-sweep six was a good ball but it still went for a six, so it's all mixed emotions."

He played the series opener of leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi who

in well the opportunities that he has got after the T20 Word Cup, reflecting India's robust bench strength. Varun acknowledged the fierce competition.

There is good competition and there is good camaraderie also. And the person who was cheering me was Ravi Bishnoi; he was coming and telling me messages, so I can't ask for more.

"It's actually good to have such competition so that people will keep pushing each other. Someone will be better than others at one point of time and he will definitely get the Cup for India, so that competition is very required," Varun added.

Gulveer Singh finds place in eight member senior squad for Asian Cross Country in Hong Kong

A sian Games medallist long distance frunner Gulveer Singh was on Monday named in the eight-member Indian senior team that will take part in the Asian Cross Country championships to be held on October 20 in Hong Kong. The 26-year-old Army man had won a bronze medal in the men's 10,000m race in the Hangzhou Asian Games last year. Singh had an excellent run on the track this season. In September, he improved his national 5,000m record to 13:11.82 seconds during a World Athletics Continental Tour event in Japan.

Athletics Federation of India (AFI) selection committee has also named the national senior and junior teams for the South Asian Cross Country Championships to be held on November



24 in Islamabad, Pakistan. The national team that will compete at the Asian Cross Country will also get the opportunity to compete at the South Asian Cross Country in Pakistan in

"The participation of the athletes at the South Asian Cross-Country Championship in Pakistan will be subject to fitness," AFI president Adille Sumariwalla said.

"Any athlete who is unfit will be dropped from the national squad," he added.

TEAM FOR ASIAN CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS:

Senior Men: Gulveer Singh, Karthik Kumar, Abhishek Pal, Arun Rathod. Senior Women: Ankita, Seema, Sanjivani Jadhav, Sonika. Junior Men: Amardeep Pal, Kripashankar Yadav, Vinod Singh,

Gaurav Bhaskar Bhosale.

Junior Women: Ekta Dey, Sunita Devi, Shilpa Dhiora, Prachi Ankush Devkar.



PCB chief 'confident' that Champions Trophy would be held in Pakistan

PTI LAHORE

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Mohsin Naqvi on Monday expressed confidence that the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy would be held in the country and all teams, including archrivals India, would participate in the tournament.

The 2025 edition of the Champions Trophy is scheduled to start on February 19, and the final is on March 9. Lahore, Karachi, and Rawalpindi have been earmarked as the venues. India hasn't sent its team to

Pakistan since July 2008 due to tense political relations between the two countries. "The Indian team should come. I don't see them cancel or postpone coming here and we are confident we will host

all the teams in the Champions Trophy in Pakistan," Naqvi said. He also said that Pakistan was prepared to host all the teams including preparations and India were schedule

"The stadiums will also be ready to host the matches on schedule and any remaining work would be completed after the tournament," he added. Naqvi said the stadiums would "definitely" be in a

much better shape to host the tournament in February-March. Asked about Babar Azam's resignation from captaincy

and who is going to replace him, the PCB chief said he had told the selection committee to take their time and make a long- term decision. "I have told them to take a decision after careful captain's

consideration because the position important." Naqvi also said he had inquired from the selection committee including the captain and head coach of the teams whether it was the right time to introduce some fresh

They said they are okay with the current set-up of players so I told them 'fine, it is your call'" he added.

blood in the national sides.

India win team gold in men's 50m pistol event

The troika of Deepak Dalal (545), Kamaljeet (543) and Raj Chandra (528) won the men's 50m pistol team gold medal on the concluding day of the Junior World Shooting Championship at the Peruvian capital of Lima capital of Lima.

Indian shooting team won the yellow metal with a combined tally of 1616 points beating Azerbaijan by a point. Armenia came third.

In all, India's junior shooters finished the championship on top with a rich haul of 24 medals which included 13 gold, three

which included 13 gold, three silver and eight bronze.
Italy finished second with five gold and four silver and bronze medals each while Norway was third with four gold and a total of 10 models. of 10 medals.

On Sunday, Mukesh Nelavalli also won an individual bronze in the event, his sixth medal of the competition, shooting a total of 548 over 60-shots. Azerbaijan's Imran Garayev won the gold with a score of 552.

In the junior women's 50m



pistol, Parisha Gupta won an individual silver with a score of 540. She could not get past Hungary's Miriam Jako's effort of 546, which was a junior world record.

record. Sejal Kamble (529), Ketan (525) and Kanishka Dagar (513) also combined to win India a team silver in the event, finishing behind Azerbaijan. Divanshi, the fifth Indian in fray, shot 523 to finish eighth. In the other event of the final day, Shardul Vihan and Sabeera Harris combined to give India a bronze in the junior

give India a bronze in the junior mixed team trap competition, played over 75 targets each. Shardul (71) and Sabeera's (67) shot a total of 138, which was not enough to get past gold winners Czech Republic (141+8) and silver medallist Italy (141+7). Zuhair Khan and Bhavya Tripathi, the second Indian pair in the event, shot a total of 134 to finish joint sixth.

finish joint sixth. The ISSF bandwagon will now move to New Delhi for the final stop of its 2024 calendar, the prestigious season-ending ISSF World Cup Final Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun