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FESTIVAL OF JOBS

DSC - 2024

11,062 TEACHER JOBS



DATE

9TH OCTOBER 2024
04:00 PM

VENUE

LB STADIUM,
HYDERABAD



HANDING OVER OF APPOINTMENT LETTERS
By Hon'ble Chief Minister

Sri A. REVANTH REDDY GARU

REALISATION OF THE DREAMS OF YOUTH IN PEOPLE'S GOVERNANCE

6,956

31-01-2024

Nursing Officers and Staff Nurses

441

07-02-2024

Compassionate Appointments in Singareni Collieries

13,444

14-02-2024

Appointments in Police, Fire, Transport and Prisons Departments

1,997

15-02-2024

Librarians, Physical Directors and PGTs

5,192

04-03-2024

Lecturers, Teachers & Medical Staff

687

26-09-2024

Assistant Executive Engineers

1,635

06-10-2024

Librarians, PETs, AEEs, Agriculture Officers and Veterinary Assistant Surgeons

TELANGANA - LAND OF OPPORTUNITIES... ADDRESS FOR YOUTHS' CAREER !

Issued by Special Commissioner, Information and Public Relations Department, Govt. of Telangana

Pawan's new avatar may endanger his future

It was a jolt for the NDA government in Andhra Pradesh to see its Deputy Chief Minister, film star turned politician Pawan Kalyan's new avatar as Sanatan Dharm Parirakshak.

Picking up the issue of the desecration of the sacred laddu prasadam of Lord Sri Venkateswara at the Tirumala shrine, Pawan Kalyan, the person who toiled hard to build a viable, united opposition to topple former chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, announced that he would try to defend Sanatan Dharma and is proud to be called a Sanatan Dharm Rakshak. He also announced the Vaarahi Declaration meant to protect Sanatan Dharma. Pawan hastily added that he would respect faiths like Islam and Christianity.

Pawan called upon Hindus to unite and uphold the values of Hinduism. The desecration of the laddu prasadam which hurt



the sentiments of Hindus made Pawan Kalyan do a 11-day penance. Penance is intended to neutralise sin, which means that those who commit a serious sin must do that.

Here Pawan had to act like this because of his inability to detect the 'crime' committed by the YSRC government in the form of the desecration of the sacred sweet (laddu) of Lord Balaji. Although there was criticism from his adversaries questioning the propriety of his taking such a decision, Pawan rejected that. He addressed a meeting named Vaarahi Declaration and declared himself a Rakshak of Sanatan Dharma.

The way he conveyed his new ideology of Sanatan Dharma resembled his launching of the Jana Sena 13 years ago. He decided not to contest the 2014 Assembly election and opted to declare unconditional support

Pawan had to act like this because of his inability to detect the 'crime' committed by the YSRC government in the form of the desecration of the sacred sweet (laddu) of Lord Balaji. Although there was criticism from his adversaries questioning the propriety of his taking such a decision, Pawan rejected that. He addressed a meeting named Vaarahi Declaration and declared himself a Rakshak of Sanatan Dharma



M D RATNA KUMAR
Senior Journalist

for Narendra Modi who was then declared the PM candidate of the NDA.

After sailing with Modi, Pawan decided to part ways with the NDA as it rejected the demand to grant Special Category Status (SCS) for residual AP by criticising the special package declared by the Centre instead of SCS.

Pawan realised his blunder of leaving the NDA after getting a big zero in the 2019 polls. Immediately after the elections,

he joined the NDA without a single MP in the Lok Sabha. But he was given a warm welcome by Modi and Pawan became Modi's strong supporter.

Pawan drew accolades from Modi during the first NDA meeting held in Parliament in which Modi described Pawan as a 'toofan' by hailing his role in building a viable alternative in AP that finally broke the spine of the YSRC government.

After getting a suitable post in the AP government headed by

the dais of the Vaarahi Declaration meeting held at Tirupati at the end of his 11-day deeksha, Pawan presented himself as a completely new man.

Andhra Pradesh politics is controlled by the two major castes of Kammas and Reddys. Reddys had a monopoly in politics till the entry of the TDP in 1982. The TDP headed by film star NT Rama Rao (NTR) grabbed power in its first attempt in the elections held in January 1983. This created a sensation in the country as a 9-month-old regional party ended the 35-year continuous rule of the Congress.

Another important caste is the Kapus which has more numbers than all the other castes and has been looking for an opportunity to grab power. Due to its lack of leadership, the Kapu dream of becoming the ruling caste never got fulfilled. Pawan's elder brother Chiranjeevi tried to become an alternative to both the Kammas and Reddys by floating the Praja

Rajyam Party (PRP). But Chiranjeevi failed in his attempt. Pawan was the youth wing president of the PRP then. Unable to run the party, Chiranjeevi merged his PRP with the Congress. He said goodbye to politics after his term in the Rajya Sabha.

Pawan chose a different path from that of his brother in politics and blazed his own way. That's why he stood behind Modi without contesting elections that could have split the vote bank of Modi. Pawan chose to be part of the government despite getting enough seats to be the main opposition.

Now Pawan seems to be getting fame by projecting himself as a man defending Sanatan Dharma at the behest of Modi. Promoting Sanatan Dharma is nothing but paving the way for continuing NDA rule. Many states are going to Assembly polls soon and the results might decide the fate of the BJP.

Coming back to Sanatan dharma blended with the caste poli-

tics of Andhra Pradesh, there may be very little scope for people to get influenced by religion. The BJP may have got seats earlier. But that was due to national leaders and not because of religion. People in southern states like AP do not have strong feelings on religious issues. Many from AP took part in the demolition of the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya on December 6, 1992. The Andhra region of United AP is controlled by Kapus and all political parties need their support. This caste has been looking for a leader. Pawan somehow got this mantle and Kapus rallied behind him helping the NDA.

Pawan's 100% strike rate in the recent elections is simply because of this kind of followers. They may turn against him simply because of his new ideology. Pawan's future could be in danger as most people in AP do not favour religious fanaticism as in AP caste is more powerful than religion.

Jagadish slams HYDRAA, Musi Riverfront Projects for misusing funds

Accuses CM of misleading the public for personal gains

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLA G. Jagadish Reddy strongly criticised the Telangana government's handling of HYDRAA and the Musi Riverfront Project.



Addressing a press conference at the Telangana Bhavan, Jagadish accused Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka of pushing these projects without proper consultation and said that the government is trying to cover up its failures by diverting public attention.

Jagadish drew comparisons between the current situation and the 2016 demonetisation, stating, "Just as Prime Minister Modi made mistakes with

demonetisation, Revanth is making mistakes with HYDRAA under false pretences."

He claimed that the government is attempting to mask its failures by presenting these projects as beautification efforts, but in reality, they are intended for the benefit of a select few people close to the CM.

Jagadish raised concerns about the huge sums of public

money being spent on the Musi Riverfront Project, stating that over Rs 1 lakh crore would be wasted, while poor people's homes are being demolished in the name of development.

He questioned whether the project had been discussed in Cabinet and whether Bhatti was prepared to address the issue. He also claimed that the Musi Project is being used to siphon off funds and destroy

Hyderabad's brand image.

"You have already demolished houses worth thousands of crores, and now you plan to misuse public funds," Jagadish said, warning that the project could become a financial disaster for the state.

Jagadish did not hold back in criticising the current administration's governance and accused them of running the government on false promises and failing to deliver on key commitments.

He cited the incomplete farm loan waivers and the failure to implement welfare schemes like Rythu Bharosa and Varuna Bonus and alleged that welfare programmes are being stalled due to commission-related issues.

KTR lashes out at case filed against journalist Gowtham

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLA KTR expressed surprise and threw questions at the DGP regarding the case filed against Telugu journalist Gowtham Goud for sharing a video on X. "What exactly is wrong with the video shared by journalist Gowtham Goud for which a case has been filed?" he asked.

He asked whether simply sharing a video warrants a case. KTR said that he personally visited the same farmer, Mallaiiah, in his village to inquire about his situation. He emphasized that he also sought to understand the farmer's condition and asked, "Will you file a case against me for visiting him?"

BJP win in Haryana victory of politics of development: PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday hailed the BJP's win in the Haryana Assembly polls as a victory of its politics of development and good governance, assuring people that the party will leave no stone unturned to fulfil people's aspirations.

In a series of posts on X, Modi also complimented the National Conference for its "commendable" performance in the Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir.



These elections in Jammu and Kashmir were very special, he said, noting that they were held for the first time after the removal of Articles 370 and 35(A) and witnessed a high turnout, showing people's belief in democracy. He offered compliments to "each and every person" of the Union Territory for this.

Expressing heartfelt thanks to the people of Haryana, he conveyed his gratefulness to them for giving the BJP a majority for a third straight term. Describing the win as a grand victory, he hailed the party's "hardworking" members for serving the people and taking the organisation's development agenda to them. "The BJP has achieved this historic win due to this," Modi asserted.

With the party also notching up its best-ever tally in Jammu and Kashmir as in Haryana, he said he was proud of the BJP's performance in the Union Territory.

"I thank all those who have voted for our party and placed their trust in us. I assure the people that we will keep working for the welfare of Jammu and Kashmir," he said, praising party workers for their hard work.

People made Jammu 'Congress-mukt': Kishan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hailing BJP's victory in the Jammu region as "historic", Union Coal Minister G Kishan Reddy on Tuesday said people have shown once again in the assembly polls that Jammu is 'Congress-mukt'.

faith in the leadership of Modi, he said.

Reddy, who was BJP's incharge of J&K elections, said the BJP has won 29 of the 43 seats in the Jammu region, while Congress could win only one.

BJP leaders in the UT have worked hard under the guidance of the central leadership for the party's victory, he said.

BJP would endeavour for the progress of Jammu and Kashmir, he said. The BJP with 29 seats emerged as the second largest party, improving its all-time high tally of 25 in the 2014 elections. It had fielded 62 candidates with a major focus on its strong bastion of Jammu region

Kavitha celebrated Bathukamma but did not protect Bathukamma Kunta Lake: VH

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Alleging that lands given by the former Prime Minister, the late Indira Gandhi, to the poor were grabbed by 'Doras' during the BRS government, senior Congress leader V. Hanumantha Rao said that BRS MLC Kavitha played Bathukamma but failed to protect the Amberpet Bathukamma Kunta Lake. Many lakes were encroached on during BRS rule, VH said.

He said that BRS leader Sudhakar Reddy grabbed the Amberpet Bathukamma Kunta Lake in the name of the 'Neeru-Meeru' programme. VH said that he has evidence of the encroachment of the Bathukamma Kunta



Lake by Sudhakar Reddy. He demanded that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy should revive the Bathukamma Kunta Lake. It is the responsibility of the Congress government, VH said. He demanded that the government should take action against Sudhakar Reddy, who encroached on the Bathukamma Kunta Lake.

Speaking to the media at the Gandhi Bhavan on Tuesday, VH said that one Ahmed Ajam had handed over the Bathukamma Kunta Lake to the government during NTR's rule. He appealed to Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka to visit the Bathukamma Kunta Lake area once. VH said that Bathukamma Kunta Lake is the first lake encroached by BRS leaders and that he will meet the Advocate General and give the evidence regarding Bathukamma Kunta Lake. He requested the Congress government to revive the Bathukamma Kunta Lake and ensure that women can celebrate the Bathukamma festival next year.

Madhu reassures people in Musi catchment area

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC Campaign Committee Chairman Madhu Yashki Goud reassured the people of the Musi catchment area that there is no need to fear. He assured them that he would stand with them.

Alleging that the LB Nagar MLA and his followers had encroached on tanks and lakes, Madhu said that the Congress government would probe the encroachments and take action against the encroachers.

The government will certainly order a probe against the encroachers, Madhu said.

On Tuesday, Madhu had a meeting with the people of Phanigiri Colony near Saibaba Temple in Chaitanyapuri Division. Speaking to them, Madhu said that there is no need to fear when the people expressed their concern that they may lose their houses.



Madhu said the government is thinking about all aspects regarding Musi oustees as part of Musi cleansing. He said that the Musi is different inside the city and is different in Chaitanyapuri, Kothapet and Nagole areas. He said that the Musi is wide at Chaitanyapuri, Kothapet and Nagole.

Madhu said that he would talk to the government to see

that people do not lose their houses. He said that he would make the government acquire land where there are no houses. He assured them that he would try to take the people to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka.

He said that the government would not demolish the houses of the people without discussing it with them.

KTR's culture is pubs & drugs, says Beerla Ilaiah

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Government Whip Beerla Ilaiah said that BRS Working President KT Rama Rao's culture is pubs and drugs and that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is not enjoying in Dubai like KTR.

Ilaiah warned KTR that his tongue would be cut if he spoke as he liked against Revanth and that KTR has been criticising the CM due to envy. Speaking to the media at the CLP Media Hall on Tuesday, Ilaiah said that KTR has been criticizing the CM to give the impression

that the BRS is still alive. "KTR should tell what the trouble is with him if the CM goes to Delhi. KTR has been speaking mindless words saying that CM is sending funds to Delhi. Has KTR forgotten that his MLC sister Kavitha was caught while accepting a bribe of Rs 100 crore.

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham: Krishna Paksha
Tithi: Amavasya: Oct 01 09:39 PM to Oct 03 12:19 AM

Sukla Paksha
Pratipada: Oct 03 12:19 AM to Oct 04 02:58 AM

Nakshatram:
Uttara Phalguni: Oct 01 09:16 AM to Oct 02 12:22 PM
Hasta: Oct 02 12:22 PM to Oct 03 03:32 PM

Rahukalam: 12:05 PM to 1:34 PM
Vamagandam: 7:38 AM to 9:07 AM
Varjyam: 09:53 PM to 11:41 PM
Gulika: 10:36 AM to 12:05 PM
Abhritakalam: None
Amhijit Muhurtham: Nil

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Scattered Thunderstorms
Temp: 32°
Humidity: 70%
Sunrise: 6:07 AM
Sunset: 6:04 PM

Updated: October 1, 2024 5:00 PM

Govt will take public opinion on ROR-2024 Act: Kodanda

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Stating that the Congress Government had handed over the Dharani Portal's maintenance to the National Informatics Centre (NIC), the Agriculture Commission Chairman M. Kodanda Reddy said that the government had collected suggestions from intellectuals, retired revenue employees and others and the government will now take the suggestions of the people on the ROR-2024 Act draft. Kodanda said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will decide on the Dharani Portal soon.

Speaking to the media on Tuesday, Kodanda said that the Congress government will distribute peoples' money carefully by giving eligible beneficiaries. He said that field-level surveys are going on in this regard. The government is focused on fraudsters, he said asking the opposition parties to stop criticizing the government.

He said the government gave in its GO information clearly about whom to approach if one did not receive the loan waiver. He said the government solved 6 lakh applications and the government will give loan waivers to eligible farmers. Kodanda said the Congress government never told falsehoods to farmers regarding Rythu Bharosa. He alleged that the BJP and the BRS are spreading lies regarding the loan waiver scheme.

Eatala to head Office of Profit Joint Parliamentary Committee

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla Aditya appointed Malkajgiri MP Eatala Rajender as the Chairman of the Office of Profit Joint Parliamentary Committee. The Speaker also appointed Nizamabad MP Dharmapuri Arvind as a member of the same committee.

The Speaker appointed the committee with 15 members from the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. The Lok Sabha Secretariat issued orders regarding this on Tuesday.

Murmu presents Phalke to Mithun

70th National Film Awards: President honours Mithun, other winners

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Only 15 of the over 85 recipients of the National Film Awards are women, President Droupadi Murmu noted on Tuesday while presenting the Dadasaheb Phalke Award to veteran star Mithun Chakraborty at the 70th National Film Awards that honoured cinema across the country. The awards ceremony, the most prestigious in the Indian film industry calendar, celebrated the likes of music composer AR Rahman for best background music, Rishab Shetty who bagged the best actor award, and Nithya Menen and Manasi Parekh who shared the best actress honour.

"The total number of award



winners today is more than 85, but the number of women award winners is only 15. In most higher-education institutions, the number of girl students receiving awards exceeds that of male students.

"Similar changes should happen in employment and industry also. More efforts can be made by the film industry towards women-led develop-

ment," Murmu said at the award function. The president also said films and social media are a great tool to bring a change in society.

"The impact these mediums have on creating awareness among people is not possible through any other medium," she added.

Chakraborty, who was wearing an arm brace in his right

hand, received the award amid loud applause from the spectators who gave him a standing ovation as he walked to the stage along with an aid.

"I have come on this stage once again thanks to your blessings... Nothing was handed to me on a platter, I struggled a lot. But today, after receiving this award, I have stopped complaining. Thank you God, you gave me everything back and with interest," the 74-year-old, who was wearing a green beret much like Cuban revolutionary Che Guevara, said in his speech.

Malayalam film "Aattam" won the top prize of the best feature film, along with wins in screenplay for director Anand Ekkarshi and editing for Mahesh Bhuvanend.

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BRS leader Sudhakar Reddy encroached on the Amberpet Bathukamma Kunta Lake in the name of the 'Neeru-Meeru' programme. I have evidence of Sudhakar Reddy's encroachment on Bathukamma Kunta Lake. The Bathukamma Kunta Lake is the first one encroached by BRS leaders in Hyderabad city. I will meet the Advocate General and give evidence regarding this. I request the Congress Government to revive the Bathukamma Kunta Lake and ensure that women can celebrate Bathukamma next year
 - V. Hanumantha Rao, Senior Congress leader



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NO NEED FOR PANIC, ENOUGH OIL AVAILABLE IN THE WORLD

Shamkhan becomes 'Kingmaker'

'Suhas' of late paternity experience elevated his PERFORMANCE

DON'T MISS...

TG will be developed as a tourist...

Assuring that Telangana will be developed as a tourist and investment destination, and calling it the best State in India for investors, Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao addressed the Telangana Tourism Road Show at DoubleTree Hotel in Los Angeles on Tuesday, as part of his visit to the United States. The event saw participation from NRIs, foreign delegates, tourists and local officials. On this occasion, Jupally said that under Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's plans, Telangana ...

-PAGE: 3

Meddlesome Surekha...

The Congress party has been in power for ten months in Telangana, with Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy striving for good governance. However, his ministers seem to have been dragging him back. The ministerial positions given to legislators based on experience and seniority appear to have triggered internal dissent, with ministers often clashing with party cadres and each other. Despite repeated warnings from the Chief Minister and party leadership, the behaviour ...

-PAGE: 4

CAG asks for advancing...

CAG Girish Chandra Murmu on Tuesday urged all stakeholders to work in tandem to advance the date of finalising of monthly accounts in states by 10th of the succeeding month instead of 25th. He was speaking at the first State Finance Secretaries Conference organised by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India. In his inaugural address, Murmu focused on the need for harmonisation of expenditure at the disaggregate level of 'Object Heads' for all state governments and the Centre, a matter ...

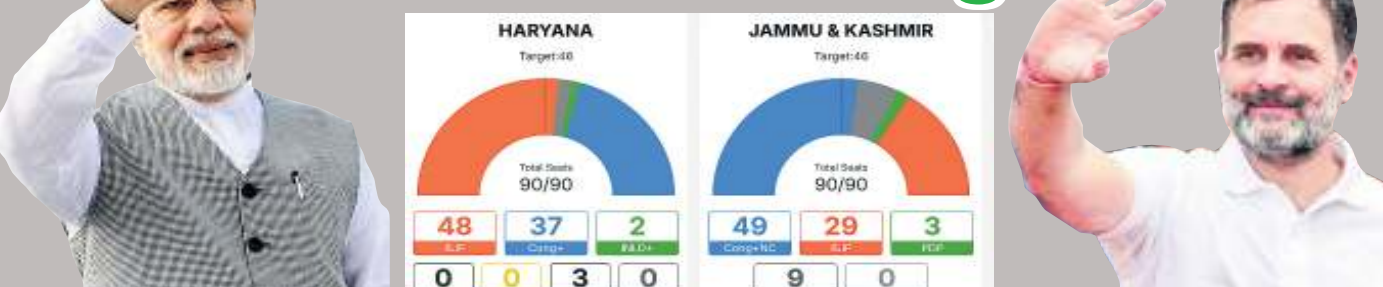
-PAGE: 8

India's T20 marauders eye...

An India so dominant that Bangladesh is admittedly clueless about how to match the "skills and mentality" of Suryakumar Yadav's men. The script is not expected to deviate much when the two sides clash in the second T20 International here on Wednesday with the home team's young mavericks proving more than a handful for the full-strength visitors. Bangladesh have hardly looked like the plucky opponents that they are hyped to be but India have looked every bit the marauding force that loves to intimidate on home turf. So, even with key players ...

-SPORTS

Hat-trick for BJP in Haryana, J&K backs Cong-NC



PNS ■ CHANDIGARH/SRINAGAR

The BJP on Tuesday clinched a stunning hat-trick win in Haryana overcoming anti-incumbency and dashing Congress' hopes of a comeback while the National Conference-Congress combine pulled off a spectacular victory in maiden elections in Jammu and

Kashmir after abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

The BJP's decisive victory in the Haryana Assembly elections for which Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini gave credit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi came as a big boost for the saffron party ahead of the crucial polls in Maharashtra,

where along with its two allies it is bracing for a tough battle, and also in Jharkhand and Delhi.

The BJP as well as the NC-Congress alliance got a comfortable majority in Haryana and J and K respectively where the Assemblies had an identical strength of 90.

While Saini, the 54-year-old

OBC leader who was made CM just six months ago to replace Manohar Lal Khattar in an unexpected appointment, is likely to retain his post, NC President Farooq Abdullah announced that his son and party leader Omar Abdullah will be the chief minister, a post he had held between 2009 and 2014.

Continued on Page 8

Haryana rejected Cong's 7 guarantees: KTR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress's seven guarantees have been firmly rejected by the people of Haryana, said KTR, noting that the failures of Congress governments in Telangana, Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh are haunting the party.

He said that while the Congress can deceive some people for a short while, it is now clear that it cannot fool everyone indefinitely. KTR criticized the Congress for building up its politics on lies and said that voters have shown them the door.

Continued on Page 8

Exit polls get it wrong yet again

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Exit polls, which had given a clear majority to Congress in Haryana and an edge to National Conference in Jammu and Kashmir, appear to have failed to feel the pulse of the voters once again.

The results of the assembly elections showed that BJP was set to form the government for a record third consecutive term in Haryana and the National Conference-Congress alliance comfortably coming to power in Jammu and Kashmir.

Continued on Page 8

Speed up tenders, acquire land fast for irrigation projects: Uttam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister, N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, directed irrigation officials to speed up the tender process for pending irrigation projects.

During a review meeting held at the Secretariat on Tuesday, he emphasized the need to accelerate land acquisition for crucial projects, including the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme, Sitarama, Dindi, and Devadula projects.

Uttam urged officials to prioritize obtaining administrative approvals for canals like the Bunadigani, Dharmareddy, and Pillayipalli canals. He highlighted the importance of completing these processes swiftly to ensure the smooth progress of ongoing projects. The meeting was attended by Irrigation Advisor Adityadas Nath, Special Secretary Prashant Jeevan Patil, ENC Admin Anil Kumar, ENC O&M Nagender Rao, and another ENC, Hareram.



Victory of development, good governance: PM Modi



2

DEFAMATION CASE AGAINST SUREKHA Court records Nag's statement

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Actor Nagarjuna appeared in court and recorded his statement along with witness Yarlagadda Supriya in a defamation case filed against

Minister Konda Surekha on Tuesday. The complaint was filed under Section 356 of the Bharatiya Nyas Sanhitha (BNS) in court on October 3.



The case was filed after Surekha allegedly spoke about the divorce between actor Naga Chaitanya and actress Samantha.

In his statement, Nagarjuna told the court that he had a good image in the film industry. "A Minister

made some false statements regarding Nagachaitanya's divorce with political intentions and it was published in the media and due to that my family suffered a lot," he said. Witness Yarlagadda Supriya also gave her statements in court. She said that the Minister told the media that Nagachaitanya and Samantha were divorced

due to a former minister in connection with the N Convention hall.

The counsel for the petitioner said that Nagarjuna requested the court to take action against Surekha as per law. It is a private case and not a police case.

Continued on Page 8



Priority to dalits, women in new MSME policy: Sridhar

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government's newly formulated Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) policy will prioritize women, Backward Classes and Dalit entrepreneurs, said IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu.

Speaking at a meeting of District Industries Centre General Managers held at the Marri Chenna Reddy Human Resource Development Institute on Tuesday, Sridhar outlined the direction for implementing the new policy.

During the meeting, he unveiled the MSME policy handbook, which was recently launched by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.

8



TG to finalise caste census procedures

Govt to complete the process within a month

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress government in Telangana is moving forward swiftly with its election promise to conduct a caste census. A key meeting to finalize the schedule for the census was held under the leadership of Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar at the Secretariat.

The meeting saw the participation of BC Commission Chairman Niranjana, Chief Minister's Chief Advisor Vem Narendra Reddy, BC Commission members, and senior officials from various departments.

The government had already set up the BC Commission to determine reservations for BC communities and passed resolutions in both the Assembly and the Cabinet to conduct the census. The discussion centred on how to effectively carry out the census, with officials examining studies conducted in other states.

The meeting reviewed the caste census methods adopted by Karnataka, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh, which employed different approaches such as door-to-door surveys. It was decided to implement the best practices from these states for Telangana.

Continued on Page 8

Murmu presents Phalke to Mithun



2

SC SUB-CATEGORISATION

Cabinet panel to recommend appointment of judicial commission

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Cabinet Sub-Committee on SC sub-categorisation has decided to recommend to the Cabinet to appoint a one-man judicial commission to study sub-classification within the Scheduled Castes (SC) reserved categories.

This was discussed during the meeting of the Cabinet Sub-Committee chaired by Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, held at the secretariat on Tuesday.

The meeting was attended by Ministers D. Seethakka, Ponnamp Prabhakar, D. Sridhar Babu and Damodar Rajanarasimha, Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari, Advocate General Sudarshan Reddy and other senior officials.

The committee, which has already held three meetings on this matter, resolved to use the 2011

It is decided to recommend the constitution of a one-man judicial commission, led by a retired judge of the Supreme Court or High Court, to assess intra-backwardness among different castes within the SCs

Census data as the basis for sub-categorisation. It decided to recommend the constitution of a one-man judicial commission, led by a retired judge of the Supreme Court or High Court, to assess intra-backwardness among different castes within the SCs.

Continued on Page 8



Pioneers in artificial intelligence win Nobel Prize in Physics

PNS ■ STOCKHOLM

Two pioneers of artificial intelligence - John Hopfield and Geoffrey Hinton - won the Nobel Prize in physics Tuesday for helping create the building blocks of machine learning that is revolutionising the way we work and live but also creates new threats to humanity, one of the winners said.



Hinton, who is known as the Godfather of artificial intelligence, is a citizen of Canada and Britain who works at the University of Toronto and Hopfield is an

American working at Princeton.

"This year's two Nobel Laureates in physics have used tools from physics to develop methods that are the foundation of today's powerful machine learning," the Nobel committee said in a press release.

Ellen Moons, a member of the Nobel committee at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, said the

two laureates "used fundamental concepts from statistical physics to design artificial neural networks that function as associative memories and find

Continued on Page 8

Skill University to launch ops soon

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana's Young India Skills University, a pioneering initiative in the country, is set to begin its courses this month. The university aims to provide skill training through its job-guaranteed courses. It has partnered with leading companies and institutions to design the curriculum. In addition to theoretical classes, students will also undergo practical training with industry experts. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy laid the foundation for the university on a 57-acre plot in

8

TAX CONCESSIONS FOR OLD VEHICLES

TG introduces vehicle scrappage policy



To bolster the VFMP, the government has sanctioned the construction of 37 Automated Testing Stations (ATS) across Telangana, with an investment of Rs 296 crore. These stations will replace manual vehicle fitness tests at RTOs, enhancing the efficiency and transparency of vehicle assessments

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has introduced Vehicle Fleet Modernisation Policy (VFMP).

Under it are the Voluntary Vehicle Fleet Modernization Programme and Registered Vehicle Scrapping Policy (RVSP) with incentives for the voluntary scrapping of end-of-life vehicles, prioritising road safety and environmental sustainability.

The amendments to the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988,

through multiple notifications, have established enabling provisions for setting up Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities (RVSF) and Automated Testing Stations (ATS).

The VFMP seeks to transform Telangana's vehicle ecosystem by encouraging the scrapping of old, unfit vehicles in a scientific and eco-friendly manner. The policy will reduce vehicular emissions and improve road safety. RVSP will ensure the safe and transparent

Continued on Page 8

CITY EVENTS

Colours of Navaratri

Step into a world of color and rhythm at our Dandiya Nights! Experience the joy of community, culture, and dance in a festive atmosphere that promises fun for all ages.

Venue

Rokkam Sathi Reddy Gardens, Turkayamjal, October 9, 5pm to 11 pm

Bottle Art workshop

Join us for a lively and creative event where we turn ordinary bottles into extraordinary works of art! Participants are encouraged to bring their old bottles-whether they're from beer, water, or any other source-and engage in a hands-on bottle paint workshop

Venue

Trailing Ivy Cafe October 9 to November 17

Bajao Dandiya

The Biggest Rooftop Dandiya Night in South India.

Venue

Ashoka One Mall, Kukatpally, October 11, 6pm to 11 pm

Vibrant Dandiya Night

Get ready to immerse yourself in an unforgettable evening of color, rhythm, and joy! Our Dandiya Night promises to be a dazzling celebration filled with traditional music, energetic dance, and the enchanting spirit of community.

Venue

Wesley Degree College Ground CFVJ+5X3, Begumpet Rd, Sindhi Colony, Begumpet, Hyderabad October 11, 6 pm

Toxic

By Abhishek Upmanyu

Venue

Shilpakala Vedika November 2

Prateek Kuhad

Silhouettes tour.

Venue

Hyderabad international convention centre November 8

395 grievances received at Prajavani

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In all, 395 grievance applications were received in Prajavani on Tuesday at the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Praja Bhavan, with the highest being 125 on housing issues.

According to the officials, 125 applications were received for housing, 56 for SC welfare, 50 for revenue issues, 36 for electricity, 28 for Panchayati Raj and Rural Development, 30 for Minority Welfare, 5 for Pravasi Prabhani along with 121 for other departments.

Deputy Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the State Planning Commission, G Chinnna Reddy, and Special Officer of Public Administration, D Divya, received the applications.

City Pioneer



HYDERABAD WEDNESDAY | OCTOBER 9, 2024

04

Azaruddin appears before ED in money laundering case

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Congress leader and former Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) president Mohammed Azharuddin appeared for questioning at the Enforcement Directorate (ED) office on Tuesday in a case related to the alleged financial irregularities in the HCA.

He was summoned a few days back regarding that case. The ED is probing alleged financial irregularities in the HCA. The ED had previously also conducted searches at HCA a few months back. Earlier, he skipped once and appeared on Tuesday at the ED office.

TO ATTRACT INVESTMENTS FROM TAIWAN TG's IT dept and TCC sign cooperation agreement

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Enhancing trade and economic cooperation between Telangana and Taiwan, the IT Department, Government of Telangana, and the Taiwan Chamber of Commerce (TCC) have signed a bilateral cooperation agreement, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), to attract investments from Taiwan, including an industrial park in the city.

This strategic partnership aims to bring foreign investment, infrastructure development and jobs to the State. The MoU was signed in Taipei by Dr. Vishnu Vardhan Reddy, Special Secretary (Investment Promotion and External Engagement), Government of Telangana, and Simon Lee, Vice President, Taiwan Chamber of Commerce in India (TCCIN).

The main objective is to



Vice-president of Taiwan Chamber of Commerce Simon Lee and special secretary to the State government Vishnuvardhan Reddy exchanging the agreement documents in Taipei

attract foreign direct investment (FDI) to Telangana, creating jobs for local workers. To enhance cooperation between Taiwanese investors and the Government of Telangana, TCC India will set up an office in Hyderabad to facilitate Taiwanese investment. Through this agreement, Taiwanese FDIs will

invest in biotechnology, electronics, artificial intelligence (AI), green energy, and creative culture. Additionally, plans will be made for the India-Taiwan Industrial Park (ITIP) in Hyderabad. Manchar Singh Yadav, Director General of India-Taipei Association, was also present.

CALLS IT THE BEST STATE IN INDIA FOR INVESTORS

TG will be developed as a tourist destination: Jupally

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Assuring that Telangana will be developed as a tourist and investment destination, and calling it the best State in India for investors, Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao addressed the Telangana Tourism Road Show at DoubleTree Hotel in Los Angeles on Tuesday, as part of his visit to the United States.

The event saw participation from NRIs, foreign delegates, tourists and local officials.

On this occasion, Jupally said that under Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's plans, Telangana, a centre of rich history, culture and heritage, is moving ahead with world-class infrastructure to boost tourism. He also announced a new tourism policy focused on promoting tourism and pre-



Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao seen with NRIs, foreign delegates and tourists in Los Angeles in the US on Tuesday

serving heritage. The Minister aimed to attract tourists and global investors, highlighting Telangana's blend of tradition and modernity, its natural

beauty, folk arts, eco-tourism, medical tourism and investment opportunities. He invited international tourists to explore Telangana's culture, festivals and lifestyle. He also mentioned Hyderabad's emergence as a hub for IT, healthcare and pharmaceutical industries.

Introducing the Future City project, Jupally said it would attract excellent investments in IT, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, making Telangana an attractive destination for global investors.

Managing Director of Telangana State Tourism Development Corporation NT Prakash Reddy, Consul General of San Francisco and California Chittireddy, Sripral Reddy and others were also present in the event.

Rs 21.55 lakh refunded to 2 victims of cyber fraud

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

An amount of Rs 21.55 lakh was refunded by Cyber Crime Police of Hyderabad City Police to two fifty-year-olds who lost to cyber frauds.

The amount was cheated by cyber fraudsters on the pretext of investment in trading and promising substantial profits, said the cyber sleuths. The first, a complaint received from a male victim, 67-year-old retired male from Hyderabad stating that the cyber fraudsters cheated him on the pretext of fake TRAI and CBI officers and made him transfer an amount of Rs 8,05,331 to the bank accounts provided by the accused.

In the second case a male

victim, 56 years from Hyderabad stated that the cyber fraudsters cheated him on the pretext of investment in NUVAMA securities and promising substantial profits and made him transfer an amount of Rs 13,50,000 to the bank accounts provided by the accused. Inspector of Police K Madhusudhan Rao and Inspector of Police S Naresh, along with their teams made efforts and sent notices to the bank officials and followed up to freeze the amount and guided the complainant to file a petition in the court for the refund and it got reverted as judgment was made by Metropolitan Magistrate, Eswaraiah of XII ACMM Court, Nampally, Hyderabad.

2 arrested for selling fake educational certificates

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The South Zone Task Force team, along with Amberpet Police raided a Xerox Centre at Owaisi Nagar in Amberpet and apprehended two accused who provided fake educational certificates of SSC, Intermediate, Degree and other fake documents to aspirants and collected huge amounts from them.

The accused are 41-year-old Mohammed Mahfooz Iqbal alias Iqbal, and 31-year-old Shaik Ilyas Ahmed.

Police have seized 84 fake certificates, 4 empty certificates, 14 judicial stamp papers, 40 empty A4 size papers (for printing certificates), 1 CPU, 1 monitor, 1 printer, 2 mobiles and other electronic gadgets.

Police said that the accused Iqbal is running a Xerox Centre named as 'MS Enterprises' at Amberpet and doing all types of online work. As his business was running in losses, he along with his friend Shaik Ilyas Ahmed hatched a



plan to prepare fake educational certificates to earn easy money.

The accused Mahfooz Iqbal having knowledge on photo-shop and Ilyas Ahmed acted as agent and brought candidates who need fake educational certificates.

To make fake and forged certificates the accused used to charge huge amount from each candidate and sharing the same.

SADDULA BATHUKAMMA

Grand celebration with 10,000 women on Tank Bund tomorrow

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The grand Saddula Bathukamma celebrations are set to take place on October 10 at Hyderabad's Tank Bund, with 10,000 women participating, according to Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari.

A high-level review meeting was held at the Secretariat on Tuesday where officials from various departments and police attended to finalise arrangements for the event. Santhi Kumari stated that on the 10th, at 4 pm, thousands of women will carry Bathukamma in a grand procession from the Martyrs' Memorial in front of the Secretariat to the Tank Bund. Hundreds of artists will also join the rally with their performances. She mentioned that public representatives would attend the celebrations at the stage set up on the Tank Bund.



As part of the festivities, special fireworks displays and laser shows will be held from Buddha Statue and Sanjeevaiah Park. Additionally, 150 major junctions across the city will be adorned with Bathukamma and decorated with lights, adding festive charm to the city.

Since a large number of women are expected to come from nearby colonies and areas to participate in Bathukamma at the Tank Bund, traffic diversions, barricading and basic amenities will be arranged to ensure

smooth flow. Special arrangements will also be made for Bathukamma immersion at the Bathukamma Ghat near Children's Park and on Necklace Road.

Santhi Kumari directed that each department assign a senior officer to oversee the arrangements. The meeting was attended by key officials including Commissioner of Police CV Anand, GHMC Commissioner Amrapali Kata and Health Secretary Dr Christina Z Chongthru.

Focus on sanitation management: GHMC Commissioner

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner Amrapali Kata directed the officials to pay special attention to sanitation management. On Tuesday, the Commissioner visited Attapur, Rajendranagar, Arangar, Mir Alam Tank, BahadurPura and other areas in Charminar zone and inspected the sanitation management and status.

She said that the management of sanitation should be done timely and in this regard appropriate measures should be taken to keep the city clean. Officials should inspect garbage collecting vehicles every day. The Garbage Vulnerable Points (GVP) should be eliminated and C&D waste should be transported by special vehicles.

'Barriers associated with disability, mental health must be addressed'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a panel discussion on disability and mental health, Dr Andrew Fleming, British Deputy High Commissioner, Kolkata has opined that there is a need to break barriers of stigma and create environments, both in education and the workplace.

Medica Superspecialty Hospital hosted the panel discussion on Challenges related to disability and mental health' on Tuesday.

Ayanabh Debgupta, regional chief operating officer, Manipal Hospitals East; Dr Ushasi Banerjee, senior clinical psychologist at Manipal Hospital, Mukundapur, also attended. Dr Andrew Fleming, during his speech, said, "In sharing my journey through the



challenges of neurodiversity and mental health, from my early struggles with undiagnosed dyspraxia and dyslexia to facing marginalisation in both educational and professional settings. I emphasise upon the critical need for understanding, support and inclusivity. These conditions are often misunderstood or overlooked, yet their impact on individuals is profound. We must break down

the barriers of stigma and create environments - both in education and the workplace - that not only accommodate but recognise and embrace the unique strengths of neurodiverse individuals."

Ayanabh Debgupta, shared, "We have embarked on a transformative journey in mental health care, recognising the critical role the mind plays in the healing process.

Two men arrested for Rs 10.61 cr digital fraud

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) has arrested two individuals involved in a massive digital fraud amounting to Rs10.61 crore. The accused, hailing from Bengaluru, were apprehended and brought to Hyderabad after being found for orchestrating an elaborate digital scam. They were identified as Vinay Kumar S. Khadke, (23) from Hudimavu, Bengaluru. Maruthi GH (28) from Bengaluru.

On September 10, 2024, a Hyderabad resident lodged a complaint after being duped by fraudsters posing as Mumbai Police. The scammers falsely claimed that the victim's Aadhaar and PAN were used to open a bank account implicated in money laundering. They also sent fabricated documents from the Directorate of Enforcement and the Income Tax Department, demanding sensitive financial information. Using these fake claims, the criminals threatened the victim with 3 to 7 years of imprisonment and coerced him into transferring a total of Rs10.61 crore into various accounts under their control. The victim, believing he was complying with law enforcement, followed their instructions. Both suspects were joint account holders of a current account under the name Tinkan Technologies, where Rs 4.62 crore of the victim's money was transferred.

Housing market witnesses 58% decline

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad housing market witnessed a significant downturn in the July-September quarter of 2024, as revealed by the latest 'Real Insight Residential Report' from PropTiger.com, part of REA India. According to the report, new residential launches in Hyderabad dropped by a staggering 58% year-on-year (YoY), while housing sales declined by 19%. The report attributes these trends to a sharp rise in home prices, which saw an average increase of nearly 20% across India's leading eight residential markets,



impacting affordability and curbing demand.

Hyderabad was among the cities most affected by the downturn. The city saw a 19% YoY decline in housing sales, with 11,564 units sold in Q3 2024 compared to 14,191

units in Q3 2023. New residential launches in Hyderabad also suffered, falling by 58%, with 8,546 units launched in Q3 2024 compared to 20,481 in the same quarter last year. This sharp decline is attrib-

uted to rising property prices and a recalibration of supply strategies by developers in response to changing market conditions.

Outlook for the future despite the declines, industry experts remain optimistic about a potential market recovery in the coming months. Overall, while the Hyderabad housing market has seen significant drops in both sales and new launches, the market is expected to stabilise in the coming months as buyers adjust to the new price realities and developers introduce offers to reinvigorate demand.

T-Hub partners with XDC Network to accelerate blockchain innovation

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

T-Hub, startup incubator, has partnered with XDC Network, a blockchain platform, to boost blockchain innovation for Web3 startups in India. This partnership will allow Indian startups to use XDC Network's hybrid blockchain, which combines public and private blockchain features.

T-Hub and XDC Network will offer incubation programmes with access to XDC's technology, expert mentorship, funding opportunities and global networking.

XDC Network is available on Indian cryptocurrency exchanges like CoinDCX and Unocoin, making it easily accessible to devel-

opers and investors. Blockchain adoption in India is expected to create significant job opportunities.

Nasscom predicts the blockchain market could reach \$ 5 billion by 2024, generating up to 1 million jobs in fields like blockchain development and cybersecurity.

T-Hub's CEO Mahankali Srinivas Rao said the partnership will help Indian startups innovate and grow, while XDC's Head of Venture and Ecosystem building, Sonny Mohanty highlighted XDC Networks potential to create jobs and transform industries through blockchain-based solutions.

Telangana



the pioneer

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05



Mahabubabad District Superintendent of Police Sudhir Ramnath Kekan releasing posters on Save girl child campaign in Mahabubabad on Tuesday

Save girl child campaign launched

PNS ■ MAHABUBABAD

The District Superintendent of Police Sudhir Ramnath Kekan released posters for "Let's Save Girls."

On this occasion, he said, "just as we strive to preserve the Bathukamma festival, we should also protect girls in our society."

He emphasised the need to create a safe and just environment for girls. He

stressed the importance of preventing atrocities on girls, preventing female feticide, and ensuring that girls are not harmed.

He called for an increase in the ratio of women to men, to grant respect to girls in society, and to support them in thriving in all fields.

The event was attended by CDAB Chairman Dr. Nagavani, and members Dr David and Dr Ashok.

Meddlesome Surekha triggers a rift in dist Cong

PNS ■ WARANGAL

The Congress party has been in power for ten months in Telangana, with Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy striving for good governance. However, his ministers seem to have been dragging him back. The ministerial positions given to legislators based on experience and seniority appear to have triggered internal dissent, with ministers often clashing with party cadres and each other.

Despite repeated warnings from the Chief Minister and party leadership, the behaviour of some ministers, particularly Konda Surekha, remains unchanged.

Surekha, a woman minister in the undivided Warangal district, has recently been embroiled in controversies. Her recent actions, such as public altercations with fellow party members during a government programme, have raised eyebrows.



Additionally, her close associate, Naveen Raju, has been causing trouble not just for the party but also for the ministers themselves. His behaviour towards police and party cadres has become controversial, leading to increased scrutiny from the Chief Minister's office. As controversies surrounding

Konda Surekha continue, political analysts suggest that a political career may be thrown into jeopardy.

Moreover, recent events have shown a disconnect between the Minister and her party cadre, exacerbating internal rifts, it is speculated. While Konda Surekha is occupied with administrative duties, her husband, Konda Murali, a former MLC, has also failed to address these issues effectively. The situation has led to discontent among party members, questioning the couple's ability to maintain unity.

As the Congress party navigates these challenges, the question remains whether Konda Surekha will receive support from the leadership or face backlash that could threaten her position.

In summary, Konda Surekha's controversies and the internal conflicts within the party have created a piquant situation.

Ground set to crack down on encroachment of water bodies

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

The ponds and water bodies in Rangareddy district, which forms a significant part of Greater Hyderabad and Outer Ring Road (ORR), are facing alarming levels of encroachment, raising concerns about potential disasters during heavy rains. To curb the menace, the state government has taken steps to safeguard these crucial water bodies. As part of this initiative, the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (Hydraa), an organisation focused on protecting natural resources, has been actively tracking the encroachments. According to information, as many as 45 ponds in Rangareddy district have been encroached upon, with maps detailing how these water bodies occupied between 2014 and 2023.

The ponds in key areas such as Gandipet, Rajendranagar, Serilingampally, Hayatnagar, Abdullahpurmet, Ibrahimpatnam, Shamshabad, and Balapur mandals have been the most affected by this land grabbing, which is attributed primarily to real estate developers.

The encroachments did not happen overnight. Officials have revealed that eight ponds have completely disappeared over the past decade. Additionally, as many as 37 ponds that were only partially occupied before the formation of Telangana have witnessed further encroachments. These findings are based on comparing Google Maps from 2014 and 2023. Authorities are currently working to gather data on the reasons behind these encroachments and to identify those who facilitated them.

The majority of the 37 partially



occupied ponds are located in the mandals of Abdullahpurmet, Hayatnagar, Ibrahimpatnam, Balapur, Shamshabad, Serilingampally, Rajendranagar, and Gandipet.

Four ponds in Rangareddy district have vanished completely between 2014 and 2023.

These include ponds in Puppulaguda in Gandipet mandal, Budvel in Rajendranagar mandal, Marrivanikunta in Mamidipalli in Balapur mandal, and Kunturu in Abdullahpurmet mandal.

In 2014, these ponds were only partially encroached, but by 2023, they had been entirely consumed by land encroachers.

Furthermore, four other ponds that were partially occupied in 2014, such as Brahmakunta and Makkagani Kunta in Puppulaguda, a pond in Bandlaguda Jagir, and Kittavanikunta pond in Narsingi, have now been fully taken over, primarily by real estate developers.

The officials are continuing their efforts to bring these issues to light and have promised to present detailed reports to the state government in the coming months.



Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and Chevella Lok Sabha member Konda Vishweshwar Reddy meeting in Delhi on Tuesday

Rise above political lines, work for State development: MP

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Chevella Lok Sabha member Konda Vishweshwar Reddy has expressed his commitment to working setting aside political differences for the comprehensive development of the Chevella region, particularly in Rangareddy and Vikarabad districts. He emphasised that despite being elected from different political parties, public representatives can cooperate with each other for the welfare of the people.

During his participation in the Union Ministry of Industries' meeting, Vishweshwar Reddy met Chief Minister Revanth Reddy in New Delhi. The two leaders discussed a wide range of issues related to the development of the region.

Among the topics raised were the conversion of the GO No. 111 area into

a sustainable development zone, the return of Sitarampuram village temple lands in Shabad mandal, and the proper management of sewage treatment plants in the twin cities. Discussions also included the handling of the Kaleswaram project and other pending matters essential to the comprehensive development of Telangana.

Vishweshwar Reddy made it clear that his focus is on development, regardless of political affiliations, and stated that his priority is to transform Rangareddy and Vikarabad districts into key milestones of growth.

He assured the Chief Minister that he would continue to provide assistance and offer suggestions for the region's development in coordination with other public representatives, setting politics aside for the greater good of the state.

Villagers vow not to allow liquor into village

PNS ■ KUMRAM BHEEM ASIFABAD

In Yelakapalli (B) village under the Penchikalapet mandal in Kumram Bheem Asifabad district, the villagers have made a sensational decision not to allow alcohol into their village. In this regard, the residents assembled and passed a resolution stating that no liquor should be sold or consumed in the village. They urged local liquor vendors to cooperate by refraining from selling arrack, citing that the consumption of illicit liquor not only leads to financial distress among families but also health issues. With the intention of preventing such incidents, the villagers unanimously decided not to allow liquor into their village.

They warned that if any individual in the village is found consuming or selling alcohol, he or she will face serious consequences.

Following this, the villagers collectively went to the police station and explained the decision taken by the community to Bejjur sub inspector Vikram, requesting his cooperation.

Army Jawan injured in knife attack

PNS ■ GADWAL

An Army Jawan was critically injured in a knife attack at Bathukamma celebrations in the district on Tuesday.

A petty dispute over loud music played at the celebrations turned into a tragic incident in which a youth stabbed the Jawan and injured him critically at Revalpalle village under Dharu mandal.

The Jawan, identified as Krishna, was rushed to hospital and later shifted Mahabubnagar for better treatment.

The police took a youth into custody following the incident.

Ponguleti releases fishlings into Palair reservoir

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy has said that the state government has been releasing fishlings into tanks and ponds across Telangana to encourage fishermen. The fishlings were released into Palair reservoir and other water bodies across the state for the benefit of fishermen.

The Revenue Minister was taking part as the chief guest in the release of the fishlings provided with 100 per cent government subsidy.

He was speaking after releasing fishlings into Palair reservoir, along with Khammam MP Raghuram Reddy, Additional Collector P Srija, Irrigation Development Corporation chairman Muvva Vijay Babu, Telangana Fisheries Federation Chairman Mettu Sai Kumar as part of his tour of Kusumanchimandal of Khammam district.

The fishermen wanted another five lakh fishlings and prawn seedlings to be released into Palair reservoir, he said, adding that he would go through their request and release the fishlings as per the full capacity of the reservoir.

In the flash floods that devastated Khammam rural mandal, the nets of fishermen and boats had



Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, along with Khammam MP Raghuram Reddy, and others releasing fishlings into Palair reservoir in Khammam district on Tuesday

been washed away. The government would soon come to the rescue of the fishermen on a war-footing.

Objective of the government is to bring smiles on the faces of the poor, he said, adding that he would make arrangements for providing shops to fishermen to sell fish adjacent to highways.

The government paid compensation to the owners of houses damaged due to floods, he said.

MP Raghuram Reddy said that seven lakh fishlings had been released into Palair reservoir spread over an area of 1,700 hectares. The Revenue Minister directed the officials to take steps to release six lakh more fishlings in the reservoir and also the prawn seedlings.

Minister comes to the rescue of accident victim

Minister for Revenue Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy has stopped his convey near Karunagiri to help a road accident victim and sent him to the KIMS hospital along with a police escort vehicle to avoid delays due to traffic jams. The incident took place at 4 pm when the Minister was returning to his camp office after his

tour of Tirumalayapale mmandal visit. Finding the road accident victim on the road, he assured him that nothing would happen to him. He made the accident victim board one of the cars in his convoy and asked the officials to send a police escort along with the vehicle. The Minister gave priority to save the

life of the injured in the accident to his personal security.

The Minister asked the Traffic Circle Inspector Sambasiva Rao to rush him to KIMS hospital immediately. The police officer complied with the Minister's orders. Later, the doctors at KIMS hospital declared his condition to be stable.

MGU likely to get new vice-chancellor soon

PNS ■ NALGONDA

All set for appointment of vice-chancellor for Mahatma Gandhi University (MGU). As many as 157 professor are reportedly vying for this crucial post. This initiative is aimed at enhancing higher education standards.

On January 27, the State government issued a notification inviting applications for vice-chancellor posts for 10 State universities. A notable 1,382 applications were received, with 312 candidates applying to multiple institutions. The previous Vice-Chancellors quit on May 21, creating a leadership vacuum at MGU.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy emphasised that enhancing the quality of higher education is a top priority for the state. He stated, "The future of our students is at stake, and we need a leader who can navigate the complexities of higher education today."

The MGU has been facing numerous challenges over the past decade, prompting discussion among education experts about



whether the State government will appoint a vice-chancellor with the necessary administrative acumen to address these issues effectively. The university has seen a succession of Vice-Chancellors, each contributing uniquely to its development: V Gangadhar (2007-2010), V Gopal Reddy (in-charge, 2010-2011), T Tirupati Rao (in-charge, 2011), DN Reddy (in-charge, 2011), K Narasimha Reddy (2011-2014), K Sunitha, IAS, (in-charge, 2014), Shailaja Ramaiyar IAS (in-charge, 2014), G Bhagyanarayana (in-charge,

2014-2015), A Vaniprasad, IAS, (in-charge, 2015), T Vijay Kumar, IAS, (in-charge, 2015-2016), Khaja Althaf Hussain (2016-2019), S Ramachandram (in-charge, 2019), Arvind Kumar (in-charge, 2019-2021), and Ch Gopal Reddy (2021-2024).

The MGU plays a vital role in serving the educational needs of the Nalgonda, Suryapet, and Yadadri districts, focusing on advancing academic qualifications and fostering community development. As the search for a new vice-chancellor progresses, the state government emphasises the urgency of selecting young leaders capable of enhancing student placement opportunities and ensuring quality education.

Established in 2007 as Nalgonda University and renamed Mahatma Gandhi University in 2008, the institution's mission encompasses scientific practices, human resource development, and building relationships with industries, ensuring a robust framework for future academic endeavors.

Collector for developing Kinnerasani park as tourism hub

PNS ■ BHADRADRI KOTHAGUDEM

District Collector Jitesh V Patil has instructed officials to develop the Kinnerasani Project as tourism hub.

On Tuesday, the Collector inspected the developmental works at the Kinnerasani Project Park. During the visit, he reviewed the developmental works at the project park and the facilities that should be provided to tourists, offering suggestions to the officials.

As part of this inspection, he recommended setting up a slide for children to play, shaded areas with bamboo, personal boating facilities, toilets, and drinking water facilities. He also suggested that mess

facilities be established around the shelters to ensure that tourists can have food without disturbance from monkeys. He urged the establishment of a canteen through DWCRA (Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas) groups to provide food items, snacks, and meals at low costs.

To ensure a pleasant experience for tourists visiting the project, he advised planting trees like Velaga, Marri, Karakkaya, Allaneer, and Banka Nakkere Tandras in an orderly manner. He also recommended the establishment of percolation tanks under the employment guarantee scheme and instructed the forest department



Bhadradi Kothagudem Collector Jitesh V Patil inspecting works at Kinnerasani project park in the district on Tuesday

officials to submit the necessary proposals within a week.

This program was attended by Tahsildar G Vivek, MPDO Vijayabhaskar Reddy, MPO Narayana, AE Suresh, Beat Officer Ramulu, among others.

Burglars targeting locked houses in Godavarikhani

PNS ■ RAMAGUNDAM

In the Godavarikhani of Peddapalli district, thieves are targeting locked houses, causing panic among residents.

On Monday night, burglars broke into the home of former MLA M Mallesh's son, Kiran Mal, in Markandeya Colony, and stole gold, and cash. Kiran expressed his distress, stating that he had gone to Hyderabad for shopping and found his home ransacked upon returning. The thieves gained entry into the house by breaking open the lock and made away with 13 tolas of gold and Rs 50,000 in cash. After filing a complaint, police, along with the clue team and sniffer dog squad, examined the crime scene and are investigating.

Despite the presence of CCTV cameras in the colony, residents have expressed frustration as they are not functioning and it has emboldened the thieves to go on the rampage.

Despite the increased patrolling, burglars are posing a challenge to the police, committing thefts of mobile phones and bikes, particularly in the industrial area, leaving the local population in distress.

'Do not fall prey to superstitions'

PNS ■ NALGONDA/KANAGAL

The Jana Vignana Vedika team conducted an awareness campaign in Lingalagudem and Kanagal Mandal, on Tuesday. Jan Vignana Vedika former district president and State committee member Vaddireddy Chandra shekhar Reddy interacted with people in the villages. He said that the vested interests have been exploiting the vulnerabilities of gullible people by creating fear among them. He said there was no black magic and the people need not fear of falling a victim to black magic. This fear may lead these individuals to seek out sorcerers in the name of deities.

HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
4th Floor, Swarnajayanti Commercial Complex, Ammapet, Hyderabad.

Public Notification No. 15 (4) of HMDA Act, 2008
G.O.Ms.No.124/M&UD/Dt., dated 09.08.2024

In exercise of powers conferred by Sub-Section (1) of Section 15 of Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority Act, 2006 (Act No.8 of 2006), the Government hereby makes the following variation to the land use envisaged in the MDP-2021 notified vide G.O.Ms.No.33, M&UD, dt.24.01.2015 as amended by sub-section (1) of the said section.

The site in G.O.Ms.82/AA/1 & 82/AA/3 situated at Garreddy Village, Garreddy Mandal, Sangareddy District to an extent of 6070.295 Sq.Mts which is presently earmarked for Conservation use zone in the Master Plan MDP-2021 approved vide G.O.Ms.No.33, M&A, dt: 24.01.2013 is now designated as Manufacturing use zone for setting up unit for Manufacturing of QR/3 Plates under White category.

The details of the above are available in Web sites <http://portal.telangana.gov.in/> and <http://hmda.gov.in/>.

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For Metropolitan Commissioner,
Director Planning & HRD&A

DRP/PLC No.: 502-PTCL-AGN/2024/11/2024-25 Date: 08-10-2024



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PAPER WITH PASSION

One year of Gaza war

With no clear end in sight, the war in Gaza risks becoming a protracted conflict that destabilises the entire West Asia

As the Gaza war enters its second year, the devastation continues to deepen, turning a political and military confrontation into a full-blown humanitarian crisis. The conflict, which began as a violent flare-up between Israel and Palestinian militants, has now drawn in regional players like Lebanon and Iran, making the prospects for peace even more elusive. The war's impact has rippled across borders, leaving countless civilians trapped in a spiral of violence, displacement and suffering. One year into the war, Gaza's population bears the brunt of the ongoing violence. Entire neighbourhoods have been reduced to rubble, essential infrastructure is in ruins, and thousands of lives have been lost. With over two million people crammed into a strip of land roughly 140 square miles, Gaza was already grappling with poverty, unemployment and limited access to basic services. The war has exacerbated these challenges to catastrophic levels. Hospitals are overwhelmed, clean water is scarce and electricity is available for just a few hours a day. The United Nations has described the situation as a humanitarian disaster. Around half of Gaza's population is now displaced, living in overcrowded shelters or temporary camps, with limited access to aid. The ongoing blockade of the strip has further restricted the entry of essential supplies, worsening the plight of ordinary citizens. Children, in particular, are facing the harshest consequences, with many losing access to education and mental health support, which adds another layer to the enduring trauma of the war.



What began as a localised conflict between Israel and Hamas has now escalated into a broader regional confrontation, with Lebanon's Hezbollah and Iran's proxy forces becoming increasingly involved. Hezbollah, the powerful Shia militant group based in Lebanon, has launched attacks on northern Israel, adding a new front to the war. This has drawn in Israeli forces, threatening to destabilise Lebanon, a country already grappling with its own internal crises. Iran's involvement, through its support of Hezbollah and various Palestinian factions, has further complicated the conflict. Tehran's backing of these groups is part of a broader regional strategy, aimed at countering Israeli and the US influence in the West Asia. As Iran's involvement grows, so does the risk of a wider regional war. The US and other global powers have expressed concern over the possibility of an all-out confrontation between Israel and Iran. Diplomatic efforts have been ineffective so far, with talks breaking down repeatedly. The involvement of Hezbollah and Iran signals that the war is no longer confined to Israel and Gaza but is part of a larger geopolitical struggle, further complicating any peace process. In Gaza, the humanitarian situation will continue to deteriorate unless there is an immediate intervention. The conflict has reached a point where military solutions alone cannot resolve the underlying issues. The time is running out, the UN must intervene to avert a crisis that could snowball into a regional catastrophe.

forces becoming increasingly involved. Hezbollah, the powerful Shia militant group based in Lebanon, has launched attacks on northern Israel, adding a new front to the war. This has drawn in Israeli forces, threatening to destabilise Lebanon, a country already grappling with its own internal crises. Iran's involvement, through its support of Hezbollah and various Palestinian factions, has further complicated the conflict. Tehran's backing of these groups is part of a broader regional strategy, aimed at countering Israeli and the US influence in the West Asia. As Iran's involvement grows, so does the risk of a wider regional war. The US and other global powers have expressed concern over the possibility of an all-out confrontation between Israel and Iran. Diplomatic efforts have been ineffective so far, with talks breaking down repeatedly. The involvement of Hezbollah and Iran signals that the war is no longer confined to Israel and Gaza but is part of a larger geopolitical struggle, further complicating any peace process. In Gaza, the humanitarian situation will continue to deteriorate unless there is an immediate intervention. The conflict has reached a point where military solutions alone cannot resolve the underlying issues. The time is running out, the UN must intervene to avert a crisis that could snowball into a regional catastrophe.

PICTALK



Devotees carry an idol of Goddess Durga to a puja venue, in Nadia

The rich heritage of Indian astrology and its global Influences

Indian astrology, deeply rooted in the Vedic traditions, has a history that intertwines spirituality, mathematics and cosmic wisdom

Indian astrology has a long and rich history. It all starts with the Vedas. The Yaga rituals prescribed in the Rigveda demanded accuracy in all respects. The Yagasalai — the tent where the rituals are performed — had to be built with precise measurements. The means and methods to compute these measurements later evolved into Vastu or Indian architecture. The Yaga rituals were to begin at an auspicious time, when planetary positions aligned in a certain order. The methods to compute such auspicious times — Muhurta, in Sanskrit — paved the way to the development of astronomy and astrology in India. Indian astronomy has a long and strong association with scholars from the other ancient civilisations. Suryasiddhanta, one of the ancient Indian treatises on astronomy, begins with the author's prayer to the Sun God asking Him to reveal the secrets of the universe. The Sun God then appears and advises the seeker to go and meet Turamaya in the Romaka country to learn more about cosmological systems and their calculations.



Experts in the field, including Dr Ebenezer Burgess who translated the text to English, opine that Turamaya mentioned in the text is the great astronomer Ptolemy, and Romaka stands for Roman Egypt. Indian predictive astrology too has a strong bond with Greece. One of the very first texts on predictive astrology, which is still widely used by Indian astrologers, is the Yavana-Jataka, or the Greek Horoscopy, authored by Sphujiddhvaja Yavaneswara. The word Yavana derives from Ionian, and broadly means Greece. Another text of the same lineage is the Vruddha-Yavana-Jataka, or the Great Greek Horoscopy. The ancient astrological texts often mention the Greek astrologers and astronomers with reverence and respect. Indian astrology made its mark through Varahamihira, who is considered as the fore-

most authority of ancient times. His text, the Horasastra is the most widely used astrological text. Varahamihira was a Maga-Brahmin, Priestly class of Hindus who worshipped Sun. It should be noted that his book on the lives of philosophers, Diogenes Laertius writes that the great Democritus learned from Magi-Priests. This could be the class of Varahamihira. It should be noted that Varahamihira was also a great mathematician and an astronomer who authored detailed treatises on these subjects. Indian kings and the elite class had their own team of astrologers, who advised them on the military strategies. Astrology was one of the chief components of Indian knowledge system and was metaphorically mentioned as the eye of the Veda. Under this branch, many subjects developed including astronomy and mathematics. Later, when the Mughal invaders tried to attack this knowledge system in the northern part of India, the center of Indian intellectual debates and studies shifted to the south of India. Astrology to Mathematics thrived in south

India. At the south they developed their own system of horary astrology, a detailed method of predicting the future, and named it Ashtamangala Prashna. In the field of Mathematics, the great Madhava of Sangamagrama independently discovered Infinite Series for the Trigonometric Functions, which is known today as the "Madhava-Gregory-Leibniz Series." India and Indian Astrology contributed heavily towards the development of science — specifically in the fields of astronomy, astrology, and mathematics. We always appreciated and respected scholars from civilisations and cultures foreign to us too. In the Veda, there is a line "Yatra Viswam Bhavatayeka Needam" which means, here the world becomes a single nest. In the arena of knowledge systems, we lived up to it. The world was a single and simple nest to us. Many birds, scholars and intellectuals, from many trees, many countries, resided in that nest harmoniously. (The writer is a vedic scholar based in Kerala; views are personal)



PARAPPANANGADI U PANIKAR

Sports: A catalyst for social change and unity



SANTOSH KUMAR BISWAL

Sports have long transcended mere competition, emerging as a profound social force capable of uniting diverse communities and inspiring meaningful change

Nelson Mandela, a Black nationalist and the first Black president of South Africa, once asserted, "Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It is more powerful than governments in breaking down racial barriers. It laughs in the face of all types of discrimination." This sentiment underscores the profound influence sports can have on society. Recently, Indian shooter Manu Bhaker, the first female athlete from her country to win an Olympic medal in shooting, echoed this sentiment, emphasising that one does not have to pursue conventional careers like medicine or engineering. She expressed that "sports life is a beautiful life," showcasing how sports can be a fulfilling and empowering path. The release of the Ga-Mashie Boxing Heritage photobook and video in Ghana highlights the socio-cultural dimensions of sports, suggesting that these occurrences should not be viewed in isolation but rather as part of a broader sociological and anthropological landscape. Throughout history, from ancient traditions to contemporary contexts, sports have blurred the lines between sociology and anthropology, influencing everything from local culture to global events.

Breaking Down Barriers Sports possess a unique ability to dismantle barriers related to race, gender and disability. Historically, they have served as a battleground for challenging exclusionary practices and promoting inclusivity. In ancient Greece, for instance, Spartan girls participated in physical training and competed in sports, an early testament to gender equality in athletics. Ghana, renowned for producing world-class boxers, has long viewed the sport as a symbol of hope and resilience. Racial integration in sports has often signified broader societal changes. A landmark moment in American history was Jackie Robinson's breaking of Major League Baseball's colour barrier in 1947. His courage in facing racial hostility while excelling on



the field not only inspired future generations of athletes but also set the stage for the Civil Rights Movement. **Catalyst for Social Change** Beyond unification, sports have historically acted as powerful catalysts for social change. Athletes often leverage their platforms to advocate for justice and equality, using their visibility to challenge societal norms and highlight injustices. The Paralympic Games, which began in 1960, have been instrumental in promoting inclusion and accessibility for athletes with disabilities. Sports icons like Muhammad Ali, Jackie Robinson, and Billie Jean King have used their influence to push for racial and gender equality. Ali's refusal to be drafted into the Vietnam War due to his opposition to racial injustice is one of the most significant acts of protest in sports history. The 1968 Olympics in Mexico City became a global stage for protest when American sprinters Tommie Smith and John Carlos raised their fists in a Black Power salute during the medal ceremony, drawing attention to the struggles of African Americans and other marginalised groups. Moreover, sports diplomacy has been a strategy for nations to ease tensions. A notable example is the 1971 "Ping-Pong Diplomacy" between the United States and China, where a simple table tennis match opened the door to diplomatic relations between



THE 1971 'PING-PONG DIPLOMACY' BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA IS A PRIME EXAMPLE, WHERE A SIMPLE TABLE TENNIS MATCH OPENED THE DOORS TO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO SUPERPOWERS

the two superpowers. **Community Development** Sports play a crucial role in community development, especially in underserved areas. Youth sports programmes provide numerous benefits, including improved physical health, enhanced social skills, and academic achievement. For many, these programmes serve as a safe haven, offering structure, mentorship, and opportunities that might otherwise be unavailable. At the community level, sports unite people around common goals. Local teams often foster a sense of pride and identity, bringing communities together to support their athletes. This sense of unity not only strengthens social bonds but also helps reduce crime rates and enhance community cohesion. **Cultural Dimensions of Sports** The sociological and anthropological impact of sports is undeniable. In India, for instance, sports reflect a complex interplay of caste, community, gender, and sexuality. Historical traditions such as 'Mallakhamb', an ancient Indian martial art that blends yoga and exercise, illustrate how sports can embody cultural heritage. Similarly, traditional games like 'Kabaddi' in Odisha and 'Jallikattu' in Tamil Nadu showcase the socio-cultural significance of sports in various regions. Sports events and local traditions can serve as powerful

tools for social change, transforming communities and promoting inclusivity. The 1995 Rugby World Cup in South Africa is a prominent example, where sports helped bridge the divide between black and white South Africans during Mandela's presidency. **A Continuing Legacy** The stories of athletes who have championed justice, the communities transformed by sports initiatives, and the barriers dismantled through athletic achievement illustrate the transformative power of sports. The recent resurgence of movements like Black Lives Matter has reemphasised the social power of sports. Athletes across various leagues have taken stands against racial injustice, using actions like taking a knee during the national anthem to raise awareness. Major sports organisations have embraced these movements, reflecting a growing recognition of the role sports play in advancing social justice. As we look to the future, it is evident that sports will continue to be a powerful force for good, uniting people, inspiring change, and contributing to a better world. The power of sports to foster connection and advocate for justice is more important than ever. (The writer is associate professor and head, Journalism and Mass Communication, Rama Devi Women's University, Bhubaneswar; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

IS 'MAKE IN INDIA' JUST A SLOGAN

Madam — This refers to the write-up on Make in India (October 7). Make in India is more a slogan than a solution. This is because the investments made in the production sector come from FDIs, FII or FPIs which are basically known as butterfly capital that tend to fly away anytime for little more benefit offered elsewhere. They are coming in without any conditionality like increasing employment, exports, or tax income. China utilised the system of foreign capital coming into China by imposing conditions like employing the locals, ensuring exports, bringing in new technology, etc. With such conditions, the country could transform itself from Make in China to Made in China and is able to threaten even the most advanced economies. The Indian model is functioning under 'Ease of doing business' where land, power, tax benefits and cheap labour are offered with the least monitoring, control or regulatory system in vogue or muted. The example of Samsung is to explain this. The management is facing a prolonged strike by the workers on basic demands like a hike in wage and the right to form a union of their choice. The government is neither able to convince the management nor compel them to respect the law of the land. All under the fear of losing future investments. Therefore, Make in India is a slogan but not a solution, as even after some decades the country will have no scope under the present system to transform to Make in India. AG Rajmohan | Anantapur

Antarctica turning green



Images of some regions of Antarctica's ice landscape turning green definitely ring an alarm bell to the whole globe and give a grim message alerting mankind to watch where we are heading to. This dramatic transformation, with its icy landscape increasingly turning green, reveals that the rate of this change has accelerated by over 30 per cent in recent

years. Scientists and environmentalists say that this "greening" of the Antarctic Peninsula, highlights the urgent consequences of a warming period and the tenfold rise underscores the significant impact of climate change. A study made between 1986 and 2021 by researchers has revealed that an increase in the vegetation cover across the Antarctic Peninsula has soared from less than one square kilometre to nearly 12 square kilometres within a period of 35 years, which according to the global clock is a short period. Global players, heads and the whole global community must come together and chalk out urgent measures to check this because if this is kept unchecked and ignored it will only end up in disaster resulting in an apocalypse. M Pradyu | Kannur

ruled the fortunes of his country for eight good years. To prevail against the maverick Donald Trump, Kamala Harris would require Obama's sage counsel. Kamala Harris and Obama have known each other for over two decades, and it was she who endorsed Obama for president in 2009. The Democratic campaign is now "all hands on deck," and beginning from Pennsylvania, where Obama has a huge clout could push Kamala Harris ahead, although, as Obama himself has admitted, it's going to be a "fight." Local galvanisation of supporters cannot be more crucial and relevant under the circumstances. Kamala Harris has hired some key aides of Obama who helped him in his campaign. Obama knows stakes are very high in this election. He also knows another Trump era could spell disaster for the US in many ways. Can the "mentor" swing the votes for his "pupil"? The answer may decide whether or not Kamala Harris will take over as the 47th US President. Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

STAMPEDE AT AIR SHOW Madam — Stampede is an expected incident in mass gatherings. The Air show at Marina Beach was a much-awaited event for the nation to inspire youth to be a part of the armed forces. Events like this must be planned meticulously by the state government to create an enthusiasm amongst the youth to be a part of the armed forces. Unfortunately, the stampede and deaths of five civilians during the show have left a void in the magnificent showcase of Indian Air Force power. Hopefully the venue, climatic condition and safety of the viewers are kept in mind while the state government plans such brilliant airshows. The magnitude of the event was such that the roaring Chennai shore saw the best of the showcase by the air warriors and the applause by the audience was one of immense enthusiasm. Mythili Vinod | Secunderabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN NAVIGATING THE WORLD OF EXTREMES

Yoga meditation, combined with values, is our best hope for navigating these turbulent times



RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR NIKUNJ JI

The world we live in today is full of extremists who seek to exert control over humanity. Unfortunately, a large part of the population is now influenced by factions that adopt agitative approaches to fulfil their social, economic, political, or religious demands. They are termed extremists because they abandon moderation, resorting to over-assertiveness, rigid attitudes, and a lack of appreciation for the views and interests of other communities or groups. In the process, what often gets sacrificed is any possibility of dialogue or mutual understanding, leading to a cycle of retaliation and resentment.

A closer look at society today reveals that, to some extent, we are all extremists in one way or another. Science and technology are racing toward their extremes. Trade, commerce, and consumerism have adopted a global, expansive form, becoming multinational and mega-scale. The world's largest corporations have achieved levels of influence and control that were once unimaginable. Corporate expansion and monopolistic behaviour continue to push the boundaries of ethics, often leaving smaller businesses struggling to survive.

Environmental pollution has reached disastrous proportions due to unchecked industrial expansion and the selfishness of a few. Entire ecosystems are being pushed to the brink, and climate change is now a pressing global crisis. A small number of individuals and corporations continue to profit at the expense of the planet's future. The increasing use of the internet is contributing to an overwhelming flood of information.



The rapid expansion of cities and transportation networks, have also brought their share of chaos. While these extremes might be seen as signs of development, they come with significant trade-offs, including the erosion of quality of life, mental well-being, and social cohesion. However, amidst all these extremes, the most concerning trend is the rise of anger, jealousy, hatred, violence, greed, and lust. These emotions are spinning out of control, leading to a breakdown in family structures and social harmony. Consumerism, commercialism, and materialism are shaping the very fabric of society, convincing people that their worth is tied to what they own rather than who they are. This pursuit of material success has left many spiritually impoverished, disconnected from their inner selves, and chasing superficial goals that do little to provide lasting fulfillment.

The current trends give us cause for concern, as we witness increasing divisions, social unrest, and the degradation of our environment. The question now becomes: how long can we continue down this path before we reach a breaking point? In such times, when self-control and moderation have all but vanished, and extremism has become the norm, we must learn how to restore our inner calm and balance. Yoga meditation, combined with values, is our best hope for navigating these turbulent times. Meditation can help us return to a state of self-control, calmness, and equilibrium. It purifies the mind and quenches our deep thirst for peace. Through meditation and the cultivation of moral and spiritual values, individuals can learn to be fully engaged in life yet detached from material cravings. They can contribute to the world without succumbing to greed and excess, achieving a balance between material success and spiritual well-being. So, let us make yoga and meditation a daily practice, not just for physical health but to combat the extremism we face within ourselves and in the world around us. Only through this inner journey can we reclaim the purity and peace that seem so elusive in today's fast-paced, hyper-connected world.

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

Ten years of Swachh Bharat: The road ahead



B K SINGH

From improved groundwater quality to managing solid and liquid waste, the mission's impact has been substantial, but the journey towards a cleaner India must continue



Swachh Bharat Abhiyan was launched by PM Narendra Modi on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti in 2014. The mission has completed ten years and during this period 120 million families have been provided access to safe sanitation at their homes. The rural household latrines have transformed the lives of the masses, especially about human health and well-being. It has cut open defecation and UNICEF's report in 2018 indicates that there is a saving of 5.2 per cent of GDP in a year on this count. The other observed benefits are preventing pollution of groundwater, less infant mortality and better attendance for girl children in schools. Though nearly 4000 cities are certified to have maintained hygiene and cleanliness, the challenge for users and managers is to keep it all functional and used continuously.

The golden decade of Indian sanitation is being celebrated this year starting from 17th September 2024 (PM's birthday) to 2nd October 2024, Gandhi Jayanti. Let me examine in this piece as to what are the hits and misses of the mission and also indicate the possible roadmap for the future. Civic agencies and local bodies have done their bit for the success of the mission. The annual ranking of city corporations on this front has made them highly competitive. Cities like Indore, Mysuru and Lucknow and several others have secured high ranks, which has induced other city corporations to do more work for better ranks. The segregation of solid wastes into wet and dry has taken a big leap. The processing of urban wastes which used to be 18 per cent in 2014 has gone up to 80 per cent today. The management of solid waste disposal sites has remained a challenge. The generation of electricity and biofuel from dry wastes has not picked up as yet. However, use of the wet wastes to generate compost and biogas is relatively better performing. More innovation, use of technolo-



THE INTRODUCTION OF BIO-LATRINES IN TRAINS HAS BEEN QUITE A REVOLUTION. BEFORE 2014 TRAIN TRACKS EVEN ABETTING THE PLATFORMS USED TO BE FILLED WITH HUMAN EXCRETA, A REPULSIVE SITE THAT NO ONE LIKES TO LOOK AT. THIS HAS BEEN OVERCOME THROUGH WONDERFUL INNOVATION

gy and investment can be a game changer. The bigger problem is the management of nearly 220 million tonnes of waste in the landfills around many cities. Mountains of garbage at Ghazipur, Okhala, Bhalswa and Bandhwari in and around the national capital have been engaging the attention of governments, experts and Courts for quite some time, but no workable solution has been found.

Liquid wastes are a more serious problem. The civic agencies allowing sewage to flow through open drains have to ensure that all such drains are concealed, lest the sewage mixes with the flood water and can find its way into urban water bodies. Further, the sewer lines carrying household sewage and the soak pits are to be periodically checked and repaired so that no leakage takes place and underground aquifers are not contaminated. A sewage treatment plant (STP) provided at the inlet point of a water body should be functional and no untreated sewage should be allowed to ingress into the water body without treatment. Local bodies and municipalities must ensure that individual houses do not connect their sewer line to stormwater drains, which often happens in thickly populated slums. The water flowing in stormwater drains ends up in the water body directly without going through any treatment. The mixing of sewage in the stormwater drains can be quite harmful and must be prevented at all costs. Bengaluru's city corporation used to generate 1400 Million litres per day (MLD) of sewage in 2005-06 and 2006-07, however, less than 400 MLD used to go through STP. Going through STP does not mean that

the said quantity was treated; often the managers of STP switched off power mischievously to save on cost. At present 1700 MLD sewage is generated, and nearly three-quarters of it goes through STP. The story in other metropolitan cities is similar. STP capacity has to be increased across the country to prevent the contamination of groundwater, which is otherwise the source of many water-borne diseases. Further, there should be stricter vigilance on the management so that these do not malfunction. Plastics and polythene have become the parts of our lives. It has its share of impacting our health and also that of wild animals and livestock. Especially single-use plastics are thrown haphazardly and find their way either into the mountain of garbage or into the water bodies. It is also directly consumed by livestock, wild animals as well as aquatic life, some of which suffocate and die. Imagine fishes feeding on it and our non-vegetarian friends relishing fishes. Microplastics are in all our blood and are a very big health hazard.

The introduction of bio-latrines in trains has been quite a revolution. Before 2014 train tracks even abetting the platforms used to be filled with human excreta, a repulsive site that no one likes to look at. This has been overcome through wonderful innovation. However, as the trains pass through the outskirts of big cities, the dumps containing plastics and polythene are seen on either side. It is often very painful to watch. We need to make changes in our behaviour and ensure that the uses are brought to a minimum. We must honour the ban on single-use plastics imposed by the

central government. Education and awareness campaigns must be run this fortnight when we are celebrating the golden decade of Indian sanitation. Burning of debris is often found to be an easy method in the dry season to get rid of weeds and garbage. Punjab and Haryana farmers after harvesting the paddy are in the habit of burning the stubble to prepare the field for growing wheat. Unfortunately, the season of stubble burning coincides with a weather system that has practically no vertical circulation of air and oxides of nitrogen and carbon emitted during burning do not escape into the upper atmosphere resulting in smog all around big cities.

This causes difficulties in breathing and is a serious health hazard for the citizens. Most aware citizens have been preventing any burning of weeds and garbage in their neighbourhood. This fortnight provides an opportunity to conduct many education and awareness campaigns. When plastics and polythene are burnt along with garbage and weeds, more obnoxious gases are emitted and it may be very difficult to stay around. All such emissions are greenhouse gases and find a place in the upper atmosphere when the weather pattern is favourable. Among these gases, carbon dioxide is a nonreactive compound and it stays in the atmosphere for hundreds of years. It accelerates the temperature rise. We are already facing adverse consequences in the warming world. We must bring changes in our behaviour.

(The writer is Retired Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Head of Forest Force, Karnataka; views are personal)

How shared decision-making and digital solutions are transforming healthcare

Digital innovations like the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission offer hope for improving communication and fostering patient autonomy in healthcare decisions

In the evolving landscape of healthcare, patient satisfaction and engagement as equal partners in their care journey have become pivotal. The quality of the patient experience—how well they feel cared for—greatly influences their perception of healthcare services. Many countries, such as the United Kingdom and Australia, have recognised this and introduced standards that emphasize active patient involvement to improve care outcomes. Shared decision-making (SDM) has gained significant global traction as a means to promote patient autonomy and foster truly patient-centered care.

Promoting Patient Autonomy: Shared decision-making is a collaborative



SHUCHIN BAJAJ

process where patients and healthcare professionals work together to make informed decisions about treatment plans. This collaboration spans various aspects, from immediate treatment needs to long-term care plans, such as advance care planning. Healthcare providers play a crucial role in facilitating this process by offering clear information and supporting patient

deliberation, empowering individuals to make decisions based on their preferences, values, and informed consent. Engaging patients in the decision-making process is essential to improving healthcare outcomes and experiences. When patients are confident and well-informed, they are more likely to choose treatments that align with their personal beliefs and preferences. This also increases health literacy, leading to better long-term decisions and greater satisfaction. Active patient participation can result in faster recovery times, reduced anxiety, and improved adherence to treatment plans. Patients who are actively involved in their care tend to have better outcomes, including improved overall well-being and quick-

er recovery from illness or surgery. Moreover, patients who feel respected and valued in the decision-making process tend to develop stronger relationships with their healthcare providers. This trust benefits both the patient and the provider, often leading to better treatment outcomes and reducing the risk of medical litigation. In today's healthcare environment, where patient-centered care is increasingly prioritized, the active participation of patients is key to achieving meaningful and lasting improvements. From a business perspective, higher patient satisfaction can lead to more returning patients, better reviews, and an increase in foot traffic for healthcare providers.

Challenges of Patient Engagement in India:

In India, the desire for more patient involvement in healthcare decisions is growing, but significant barriers remain. Many patients report feeling inadequately informed about treatment plans even after consenting to surgery, often seeking external sources of information. A study conducted at a tertiary hospital revealed that although all patients were aware of their diagnosis, less than one-third knew about the risks of their treatment or alternative options. Consequently, many sought answers outside their treating doctor, demonstrating a gap in communication between patients and providers. Patient involvement in treat-

ment decisions is largely limited to high-end healthcare institutions such as tertiary care centers, academic hospitals, or high-cost therapies. Overworked clinical staff in India often lack the time to engage patients meaningfully in the decision-making process.

Leveraging Digital Solutions for Better Patient Care: Digital technologies offer significant hope for improving patient engagement. These innovations enhance patient deliberation, promote self-responsibility, and strengthen patient-provider interactions. For resource-limited, overburdened healthcare systems like India's, digital solutions can save clinicians' time while boosting patient engagement, making them especially suit-

able for low-resource environments.

India's Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) aims to create an interoperable ecosystem that engages all healthcare stakeholders, providing tools to promote patient autonomy and facilitate patient-centered care. The convergence of global discourse, national policies, rising patient demand for participation, and available digital solutions presents an excellent opportunity to mainstream this approach across India. One of the significant ways digital solutions enhance patient engagement is by providing patients with access to comprehensive health records. When patients have control over their health information,

they can make better-informed decisions, improving their involvement in the care process. For clinicians, access to long-term records enables more personalized treatment options.

Through the ABDM, patient records are linked by a unique 14-digit Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA), ensuring that all health data—from diagnostics to treatment histories—are stored in one place. This enables providers to help patients make informed decisions based on accurate, comprehensive histories, while patients can participate actively by accessing their records at any time.

(The writer is Founder & Director - Ujala Cygnus Healthcare Services; views are personal)



Uncovering patterns keeping you in depression!

With Mental Health Day approaching, it's crucial to shed light on the realities of depression and dispel the damaging myths surrounding it. By addressing these misconceptions, we aim to foster better understanding and support for those affected by this condition.

Understanding nature of depression

Depression is often misunderstood, shrouded in myths that prevent proper understanding and treatment. One of the most prevalent misconceptions is the idea that those suffering from depression simply don't want to be happy. This belief fails to consider the complexities of the condition and the wide range of contributing factors that lead to its onset.

It's not about willpower

Contrary to popular belief, depression is not a reflection of weak will or lack of personal strength. No one consciously chooses to feel miserable or remain stuck in a cycle of sadness. Just as one cannot "will" themselves out of a physical illness, a person cannot overcome depression solely through determination. It is a complex condition that often requires professional intervention and supportive care. Another common misconception is that depression is solely triggered by external factors, such as life traumas or undesirable circumstances. While these can certainly play a role in its development, they don't fully explain why or when depression begins.

Complex interplay

Biologically, depression is linked to chemical imbalances in the brain. Neurotransmitters like serotonin, norepinephrine and dopamine—responsible for regulating mood—can become disrupted, leading to the symptoms of depression. This biochemical disturbance impacts normal brain function and can be a significant factor in the onset of the disorder. Psychologically, depression often stems from negative thought patterns and self-perceptions. Persistent self-criticism, distorted beliefs about oneself and a negative worldview can feed into a cycle of depression. These cognitive patterns reinforce feelings of hopelessness and despair, making it challenging to break free. Social factors also play a crucial role. A history of trauma, exposure to stressful life events, social isolation, or a lack of meaningful support systems can all contribute to the development and persistence of depressive symptoms. These external influences may not only exacerbate the condition but also impact the speed of recovery.

Overcoming mental hurdles

When someone is experiencing depression, they are often met with one of two unhelpful responses—either a dismissal of their feelings or a pathological lens that views them as lacking something vital, like happiness, competence, or stability. This stigma perpetuates harmful narratives and deepens the individual's sense of helplessness, causing them to retreat even further.

A more compassionate and respectful approach to mental health can make a significant difference. While it's important to acknowledge one's grief, shifting to a kinder, more understanding view of the illness can foster a renewed sense of self-worth and improve self-esteem.

Challenge voice of depression

One of the key symptoms of depression is the presence of an automatic, unhelpful inner voice. This voice may discourage self-care or personal growth, making the sufferer feel that nothing is worth the effort. Recognising this inner dialogue is the first step toward overcoming it. For example, depression may make everything seem monotonous or pointless. In response to the thought, "Why bother?" one could say, "It's better than sitting idle and feeling worse." With time, this small shift in perspective can weaken the grip of automatic negative thoughts, leading to positive changes in behavior and emotions.

Incorporate deep breathing and meditation

One of the most effective and accessible tools for managing depression is conscious deep breathing. Deep breathing helps activate the parasympathetic nervous system, which is responsible for calming the mind and body, reducing stress and bringing about mental clarity. Simple breathing exercises such as box breathing (inhaling for four counts, holding for four counts, exhaling for four counts, and holding for four counts) can be practiced daily to improve mood and overall well-being. Similarly, meditation can be a powerful tool for regulating emotions and thoughts. Mindfulness meditation, for example, allows individuals to observe their thoughts without judgment, creating space to detach from negative thinking patterns. By spending just a few minutes a day meditating, one can gradually build resilience to the emotional ups and downs that accompany depression. Meditation also promotes a sense of inner peace and balance, helping to alleviate the mental fog that often comes with depressive episodes.

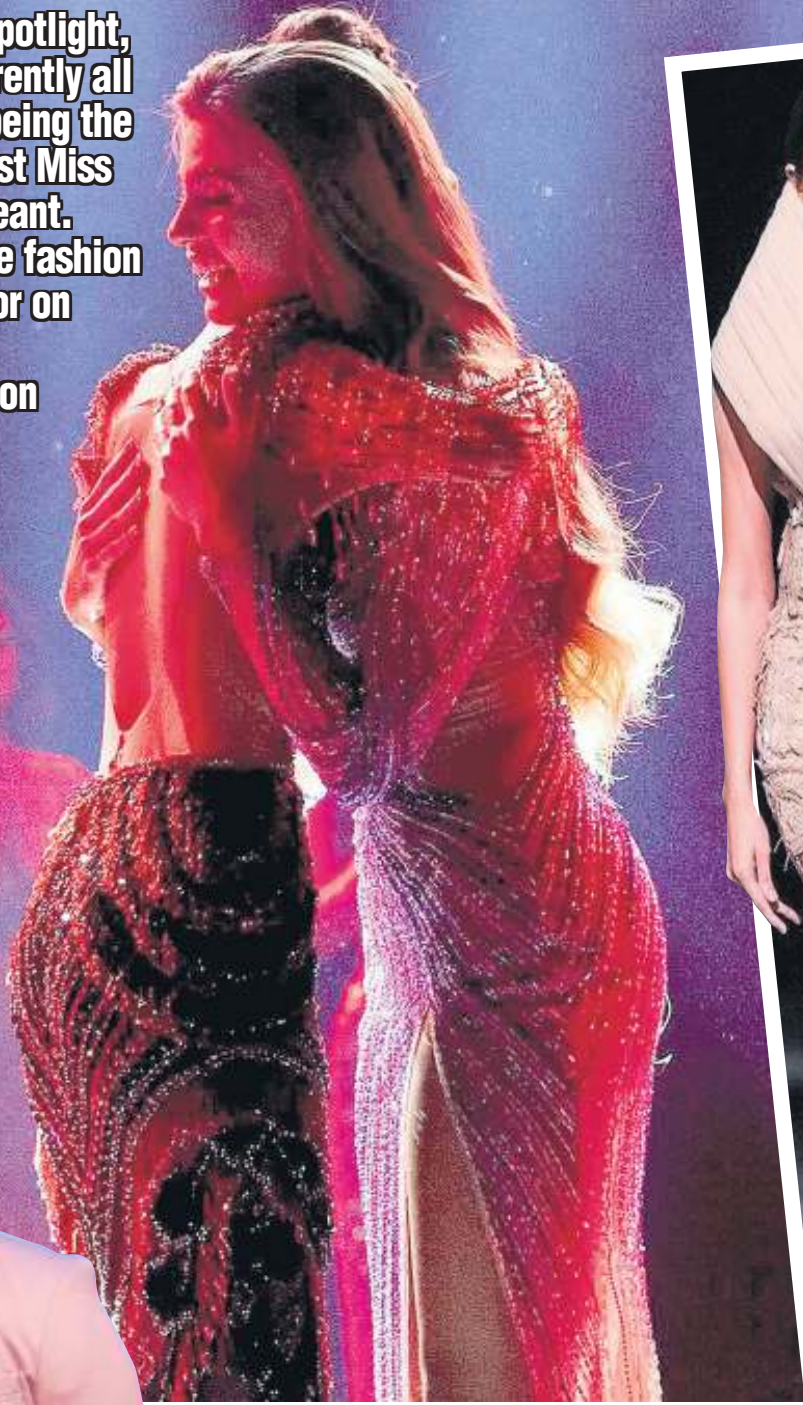
(The author, Anurag Rishi, is a holistic wellness expert.)



FROM STUDYING MECHANICAL ENGINEERING TO ENGINEERING FASHION

SHAMKHAN BECOMES 'KINGMAKER' OF FASHION SHOWS

Stepping into the spotlight, Shamkhan A is currently all over the news for being the director of the latest Miss Universe India pageant. *The Pioneer* has the fashion show's new emperor on board, taking us through his transition from mechanical engineering to fashion shows, directing the recent pageant and more



reach where he is today, he had to fight the odds, convincing his parents and the pressure he had to choose the fashion world over mechanical engineering.

With Miss Universe, "They have changed a lot of criteria, like the age: married women can participate and even transgender people. It was all about womanliness and freedom. I took this as an inspiration to direct the pageant this time."

Beyond a doubt, the Miss Universe India was a success, but guess what? Shamkhan doesn't take any of it as a challenge, though the time frame was one of it. He took it up as a strength over challenge. Further comes a revelation: "We had completed the entire work of the Miss Universe India pageant in just 2 days."

He went on to credit his national director of the Miss Universe organisation, Nikhil Anand, for being a great support to me. "He has always inspired me a lot. He's been very supportive and has given me complete authority to do the event with ease. I had no pressure to work in any certain way and use my own creativity. He is someone who has had the past experience of working with Miss Earth as well as Miss International. He put in his confidence that I could finish the work even if given a day."

Working on this pageant was a "smooth transition" for him. As we went ahead in this chat, we wondered how he keeps up with his creativity. "Depends on the project," he says.

Not only is he a beauty pageant director, but he also directs runway shows. And so, "It all depends on the designer, the national director and how we'd blend it with the particular season. It's a collection of group work that goes behind."

Just like in a movie, where the director takes charge of the entire process, he says, similarly, the fashion show director is important behind the success of a show and controls the entire functioning.

Not long back, he had finished working on two back-to-back shows, one of them being Miss Universe India and the other one being Miss Global India.

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In the world of fashion, glamour and pageantry, Shamkhan A stands out as a talent that's been behind some astonishing fashion shows; Miss Universe India being his latest work. Beginning his journey by studying to be a mechanical engineer, he however found his calling in engineering fashion shows. From a fashion choreographer, Shamkhan has now evolved into a show director and worked for Miss India Earth, Miss India International, Miss India Globe and many more.

Looking back at his journey, which really started off as a model back in 2013 and continued for the next three years, he later started working as a professional choreographer and directing shows in 2017.

"I began as an event coordinator in my youth organisation at Lovely Professional

University," begins Khan in an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*. During that time, he coordinated and worked on several shows and events.

Going ahead, he recalls, "It was during my college days itself that I started choreographing, being the team head for the fashion team."

His feelings of directing the Miss Universe India pageant have been no less than an overwhelming and proud moment. Having already directed many more shows, including Miss India and Miss India International, Miss India Tourism and Miss Asia Pacific, he enthuses, "My ultimate goal in the pageant industry is to direct Miss Universe and Miss India, where the contestant goes for Miss World. With this opportunity, my dream had come true. With Miss Universe India, I had to work a lot compared to other beauty pageants. I knew I had to give it my all." But, of course, for him to

Tour de Force into depths of Madhubani painting

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Synopsis

Mithila Art: A 360 Degree Review of Madhubani Painting presents an extensive exploration of Madhubani painting, a traditional art form that hails from the Mithila region of Bihar, India. This anthology compiles essays and artworks from a diverse group of contributors, offering insights into the history, techniques and cultural significance of this vibrant art form. The book examines the intricate patterns, themes and stories depicted in Madhubani paintings, making it an essential read for art enthusiasts, students, and cultural historians alike. Through a multidisciplinary lens, the editors highlight how Madhubani art serves as both a visual delight and a vital narrative of the socio-cultural fabric of India.

Background

The editors—Binita Mallik, an accomplished artist and curator; Dr. Minu Agarwal, a respected art historian and Dr. Laura Zizka, an international art consultant—bring their diverse expertise to the compilation. Their backgrounds not only enrich the narrative but also ground it in historical and contemporary contexts. The book aims to raise awareness about the preservation of this ancient art form, which faces challenges in the modern era due to commercialisation and the pressures of globalisation. By showcasing the work of both established and emerging artists, *Mithila Art* serves as a platform for dialogue about the importance of cultural heritage in an increasingly homogenised world.

Themes and arguments

A central theme of *Mithila Art* is the interplay between tradition and modernity. The book delves into how Madhubani painting has evolved over time while remaining deeply rooted in cultural traditions. The editors argue for the significance of cultural preservation and underscore the role of women artists

in keeping this art form vibrant and relevant. Many contributions highlight the themes prevalent in Madhubani art—such as nature, mythology and social issues demonstrating that these works are not merely decorative but carry profound narratives that reflect the lives and beliefs of the people who create them.

Another critical argument presented is the idea that Madhubani painting serves as a means of empowerment for women in the region. Historically, women were the primary artists in this tradition and the book examines how this art form has provided them with a voice and a means of financial independence. This empowerment aspect enriches the narrative and adds depth to the discussion about gender roles in art.

Style and tone

The writing style varies significantly among the contributions, ranging from scholarly essays rich in historical detail to personal narratives by contemporary artists that are reflective and engaging. This diversity makes the book accessible to a wide audience, from art scholars to casual readers. The tone throughout is celebratory and informative, inviting readers to immerse themselves in the beauty and complexity of Madhubani art. The editors maintain an inviting atmosphere, encouraging a dialogue about the art form rather than simply presenting information.



Characterisation

While the book primarily focuses on the art form itself, it does introduce key artists and their contributions to Madhubani painting. Profiles of notable figures, such as Shanti Devi and Ganga Devi, help to humanize the art and provide insight into the lives of the creators and the cultural contexts that inspire their work. These personal stories are woven into the narrative, illustrating how each artist interprets and expands upon the traditions of Madhubani painting.

Structure and pacing

Mithila Art is well-organised, with clear sections dedicated to various aspects of Madhubani painting, including its historical roots, artistic techniques and contemporary relevance. Each chapter flows logically into the next, creating a cohesive reading experience that encourages readers to engage deeply with the material. The pacing is steady, allowing readers to absorb the information without feeling overwhelmed. The editors have done an admirable job of balancing academic rigor with engaging storytelling.

Editors:
Binita Mallik, Dr. Minu Agarwal, Dr. Laura Zizka
Managing editor:
Dr Prashant Das

Visuals and presentation

The book is beautifully presented, featuring high-quality reproductions of Madhubani paintings that are both vibrant and detailed. These visuals not only enhance the text but also serve as a testament to the beauty and intricacy of the art form. The layout is thoughtfully designed, with images accompanying relevant text, allowing readers to appreciate the connection between the written word and the visual art. The quality of the images invites readers to linger on each page, appreciating the colors and details that characterise Madhubani art.

Critique and evaluation

Overall, *Mithila Art* is a valuable resource for anyone interested in Indian art and culture. Its strengths lie in its comprehensive approach, scholarly contributions, and stunning visuals. The editors have successfully created a narrative that intertwines history, personal stories and cultural critique. However, some readers may find certain academic sections dense, which could limit accessibility for those unfamiliar with art history. A glossary of terms or a more extensive introduction to the cultural context could have further enhanced the reader's experience.

Conclusion

In conclusion, *Mithila Art: A 360 Degree Review of Madhubani Painting* is an essential addition to the library of art lovers, students and cultural historians. It effectively celebrates the rich heritage of Madhubani painting while advocating for its continued relevance in contemporary society. By bridging traditional practices with modern interpretations, this book invites readers to appreciate the enduring beauty of Madhubani art and the stories it tells. Whether you are an art enthusiast or a casual reader, this book offers insights that are both educational and inspiring, making it a highly recommended read for anyone looking to deepen their understanding of this unique and beautiful art form.

what's brewing?

DUSSEHERA CELEBRATIONS

Lakshota College of Design marked Dussehra 2024 with vibrant festivities, blending tradition and creativity. The event featured a colourful rangoli competition, a dazzling ramp walk showcasing festive attire, energetic Garba performances and a grand feast.

● Bindiya Shankhla

● Affan, Ghufuran and Azhar Mujahid

● Umang Shankhla

● Vyshali

● Bhanupriya

● Rukshar

● Sushma

Students of Dhruva College of Fashion Technology, were seen having a gala time at the Dandiya Celebration, held at its campus in Madhapur.

● Venkata Reddy and Monika

● Vanishka and Vyastanavi

● Sirisha and Anupriya

● Shalini

Heartfulness in association with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and Granules India Limited announced the third edition of Granules Green Heartfulness Run (GGHR) to be held on 17 November 2024 in a press conference held in city. Uma Chigurupati – Executive Director – Granules India Limited; Dr. Naina Jaiswal – International Table Tennis Player; Jyothika Sri Dandi – Paris Olympics 2024 4x400m women and Sanjay Sehgal – Trustee, Heartfulness Institute were present at the press conference. The marathon aims to promote both physical health and environmental sustainability.

Hyderabad-headquartered Blue Cloud Softech (BCS), has announced the launch of four artificial intelligence (AI)-enabled products—BluHealth Application, Blura, EduGenie and BioSter in Indian market. Launched by Duddilla Sridhar Babu, Minister for IT, E&C, Industry & Commerce and Legislative Affairs, Govt of Telangana at an event in Hyderabad.

Hyderabad witnessed a new pinnacle of opulence and beauty as Eleve Salon made its highly-anticipated debut in the city. The grand launch was nothing short of magnificent, inaugurated by the revered King Nagarjuna Akkineni, who added a touch of star-studded brilliance to the evening. Akhil Sarthak, the franchise owner, was also present, celebrating this momentous occasion.

Bengalee Cultural Association (BCA) is a premium club that aims at promoting fraternity, fellow feelings, friendship and cooperation amongst the Bengalees and other communities of the twin cities; Hyderabad and Secunderabad.

FUN

ARCHIE

WHERE'S JUGHEAD? OUT IN THE HALL HAVING TROUBLE WITH HIS LOCKER! THE DOOR IS STUCK AGAIN!

THAT'S HAPPENING A LOT! SHALL I SEND THE CUSTODIAN TO OIL THE HINGES?

THAT WON'T HELP IN JUGHEAD'S CASE!

IT'S STUCK OPEN!

CALVIN AND HOBBS

HEY, SUSIE, GUESS WHAT I HAVE IN MY HANDS!

IS IT DISGUSTING?

UM... WELL...

IS IT SOME CREEPY, GOOEY THING THAT NO ONE IN HIS RIGHT MIND WOULD EVER WANT TO LOOK AT?

UH... I SUPPOSE THAT DEPENDS ON YOUR POINT OF VIEW.

FORGET IT, I'M NOT GUESSING.

YOU MIGHT AS WELL... YOU'RE NINE-TENTHS THERE.

GARFIELD

I LIKE THIS SAYING BY BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

"EARLY TO BED AND EARLY TO RISE..."

MAKES A MAN HEALTHY, WEALTHY AND WISE"

AND LONELY, DATELESS AND BORING

REALITY CHECK

CLOWN STATISTICIAN VS CLOWN MATHEMATICIAN

SPEED BUMP

TAKE THIS - IT WILL LIGHT UP AND VIBRATE WHEN A CARPIS BECOMING AVAILABLE.

CROSSWORD

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

ACROSS

- Cleaned with water
- Small town
- A wartime explosive
- Find these in a cookbook
- Light wind
- Robber at sea
- One quarter of thirty-six
- Pieces of cut bread
- Old-aged
- Not level
- Using a shovel
- Talented, skilful
- Wicked
- Gritty stuff on the beach
- Connected together

DOWN

- Close and open one eye quickly
- Unmarried
- Egg-shaped

SOLUTION

S	R	A	T	C	H	E	D
A	H	E	A	D	O	R	G
D	E	S	S	E	O	S	O
S	O	R	E	S	E	C	R
T	O	D	M				
R	A	T	T	L	E	T	A
I	D	I	T	L	N		
A	R	G	U	E	W	R	O
E	S	T	I	N			
P	R	E	T	E	N	D	E

NANCY

NANCY'S LOGGED FIVE HUNDRED HOURS ON THIS GAME?

BUT WHY HASN'T SHE BEATEN ANY LEVELS?

OH I LOVE THAT GAME

NOTHING OVERHEATS MY COMPUTER FASTER

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

SUDOKU

Yesterday's solution

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

Rules

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

GINGER MEGGS

WELCOME BACK, CHILDREN. I TRUST YOU ALL HAD A RESTFUL HOLIDAY?

NOT ME, MR. C!

TALK & CHEAT THEN YOU SEE THE LAWYER'S BILL.

AND WHY HASN'T THAT MEGGS?

I HAD TO WORK MY BUTS OUT TO MAKE SOME MONEY AT MY JOB! IT REALLY WAS HARD WORK!

YES... I CAN RELATE.

'SUHAS' OF LATE PATERNITY EXPERIENCE ELEVATED HIS PERFORMANCE'



Janaka Ayithe Ganaka director Sandeep Reddy shares insights on his film, its development and the inspiration behind it

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As the Dasara festival approaches, several Telugu films are set to hit the screens, one of them being *Janaka Ayithe Ganaka*. Directed by Sandeep Reddy, with Suhas playing the lead role, the film is slated for release on October 12. The makers have already screened the film in various cities, receiving positive responses. "We've shown the film to people ranging from young kids to 90-year-olds and they all appreciated and enjoyed it," said Sandeep. The idea for the film, Sandeep revealed, was inspired by people in his own circle of family and friends. "I come from a middle-class background and I like telling stories that reflect that experience," he said. In *Janaka Ayithe Ganaka*, the protagonist sues a condom company, and the film also highlights issues like the exorbitant fees in private schools. "One school asked for an Rs. 8 lakh donation for a fourth-class student. I've included facts like these in the film, along with middle-class emotions and a courtroom drama," Sandeep explained. The film is narrated in a humorous yet emotionally resonant manner. "I've always been a fan of Jandhyala and his films. If you like his style, you'll definitely enjoy my film," said Sandeep, adding that there are no adult dialogues in the movie. "It's a clean entertainer and the censor board has already cleared it with a U/A certificate." Sandeep initially narrated the story to Naga

Chaitanya, who responded positively. However, due to his commitments to Sekhar Kammula's film, Naga Chaitanya couldn't take up the project. "I then approached Dil Raju Garu, who accepted the story immediately and suggested Suhas for the lead role," Sandeep shared. He also praised Suhas' exceptional performance. "During the shoot, Suhas' wife gave birth and that personal experience helped him connect deeply with the story." The director noted that while films like *Vicky Donor* and *Badhaai Ho* have succeeded in Bollywood, such out-of-the-box stories are rare in Telugu cinema. "When Dil Raju accepted my story right away, I was a bit surprised. But Telugu audiences always support good films and I'm confident they'll appreciate this one too." Sangeethana, the female lead, has a well-defined role, Sandeep said. "After considering many actresses, I randomly found Sangeethana on Instagram. We conducted a workshop before filming to fine-tune her language skills. She dubbed her own lines and speaks just like a native Telugu girl." "It's a hilarious film that people will thoroughly enjoy, I can assure you," Sandeep concluded, speaking with confidence about *Janaka Ayithe Ganaka*.



Get ready to fall in love with Megna Mukherjee because she's all set to woo the Telugu audience with her debut, in *Baraabar Premistha*. In an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*, she discusses her humble beginnings, from modelling to the film industry, getting onboard, learning Telugu and more

New face alert! Megna enters spotlight with *Baraabar Premistha*

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debut into the world of Telugu cinema is heading towards its release! Having placed multiple feathers in her hat, Megna Mukherjee is now all set to woo the Telugu audience with her mesmerising beauty and extremely talented prowess.

Which movie, you ask? Well, it's the upcoming film *Baraabar Premistha*, starring none other than the 'attitude star' Chandrabhass. The former Miss India Finalist has been one artiste in the Indian entertainment industry who's shown the spirit and vibe of being a go-getter for all the right reasons. One of the finest trained jazz dancers in the industry, as far as her acting chops are concerned, she'd gone viral last year in an advertisement with Sourav Ganguly for all the right reasons.

Directed by Sampath V Rudra, the film is jointly being produced by producers Geda Chandu, Gayathri Chinni and Venkateswar Rao. The *Baraabar Premistha* team is all set to head toward the promotions of the film and here we have the lead actress for an exclusive chat. "I am very excited," expresses Megna with an immense sense of excitement for her debut. "The shoot has been completed and it's ready for release. The film will mostly be releasing by October end or the first week of November. It's all going to happen in the next 30-40 days! The promotions will start in the next few days. I'm super excited because this is going to be my first Telugu movie. I've been preparing for it, learning Telugu for this and my future projects."

Acting was something she knew that she had to take forward ever since she was about 15 years old. She had to go through her own process, which included performing in the school plays, making her shine up for herself, of course with no idea about how industry worked. "It was then that I got an opportunity to participate in Times Fresh Face and then a year later, Miss India happened," she harks back, adding, "Along with that, I was doing my college. I began auditioning for television commercials; I locked a few and did a few. One of them went viral. It was with Sourav Ganguly that went viral." These opportunities opened the doors for Megna, as she had begun getting in talks for films and web series. "It was then that this film came to me; I did the look test and here I am making my debut," she enthuses with great regards.

A new language, a new industry—were you a little nervous? We ask her and she quickly affirms, "On the first day, I was very nervous because I didn't know the language. I've

grown up in Mumbai. It was nerve-wracking for me. I don't know how I'd perform here. Never wanted language as a barrier. However, our director was so confident that as long as I emote, I'll be able to do my lines well. He gave me the confidence largely to believe in myself and not be afraid of speaking in a new language." But getting the right slang? She adorably asks us, "Ela Unaru" and we laugh out loud. "I began working a month before the film started. Every day, I was learning my lines with a Telugu teacher. She helped me a lot through the process. I was learning a language that I had no idea about. But now I actually understand everything that everyone is saying around. I've picked up a few words and a few sentences—maybe 15% of the language. I even had a person on the set who was constantly helping me with the lines."

Baraabar Premistha is a story about two college-going youngsters who are around 19-20 years old. They hail from two different villages and both of the villages have a rivalry. Though Megna and Chandrabhass' characters both hate each other initially, they eventually fall in love later. Overcoming the obstacles—what happens next—you'll have to watch on the big screen. "My character's name is Bujamma and everyone calls her Bujji. I'm a 20-year-old girl in this film who's not shy, doesn't have inhibitions and doesn't tolerate bad attitudes from anyone. My character is not this stereotypical shy girl. That usually is, you know, what you expect in a love story. I think my character in the film is also someone who speaks out what comes to her mind and I'm also someone like that in my real life." Going ahead, she also speaks of her camaraderie with her co-star. "What really helped me was that I think we were of very similar age. I was 23. He was 24. We were almost the same age. There was some kind of relatability while we were working together. We did shoot for 5-6 months. We became good friends over a period of time. We've laughed together, cried together and fought with each other, but I think that's how you become a really good friend." *Baraabar Premistha*, she reveals, was shot in three different locations: Hyderabad, Karimnagar and Kerala. "Ideally, it was like you start your day at 6 AM, you get ready and you do your first shot by 8:30ish. Everyday was a different experience, emotionally and work-wise. But let me tell you, the best thing about the South is that you wrap up the work at 6 every day. You get to have your own little me time," she gleefully shares as we were about to end the interview. But again, there was something she had to say to our dearest readers: "I actually have signed another film, but I can't talk too much about it because it's not been announced yet. I would love to tell the audience that I hope I can make a small place in your heart. I've worked really hard and I hope people go watch the film."



I DON'T PARTICULARLY LIKE WATER, SO UNDERWATER SCENES ARE TOUGH FOR ME: JR NTR

Jr NTR is feeling content despite the mixed reception of his film *Devara*, as it has performed well at the box office and is on its way to becoming a blockbuster. The setting of the movie is the ocean and the creators built a large set in Hyderabad specifically for this purpose. Some action scenes take place underwater on screen, but executing them during filming is extremely challenging.

The actor discusses the challenging scenes and how they were filmed underwater. "The underwater sequences, along with the shark scenes, took us about 35 days to shoot and it wasn't easy," he explained. Water added another layer of complexity to the process. "I don't particularly like water; I'm more of a mountain person, so it was tough," he admitted. Yet, as an actor, he understands the necessity of facing extreme situations, regardless of personal comfort.

The physical demands of underwater filming were intense. "Being in the water for long periods took a toll on my health," he added, highlighting the challenges posed by the winter cold and the rigors of constantly getting in and out of the pool. Despite these hardships, the rewards of seeing the film's release and receiving applause made the struggle worthwhile. "When you see the applause—especially for that sequence—it makes you forget the hard work."

One of the more technical aspects of underwater filming involves breath control. "As for how long I can hold my breath? About a minute, which is enough to get the shots," he explained. However, the depths they filmed at—around 10 to 12 feet—added another layer of difficulty, with pressure changes requiring constant ear adjustments. "Visibility is tough; after removing my goggles, everything becomes a blur," he described, adding that chlorine often resulted in red eyes.

"It was thrilling enough to keep doing it every day. It truly was a beautiful experience," said Jr NTR.



Injury prevention or fitness frenzy; VD keeps his physiotherapist close

Upon seeing the initial appearance of Vijay Deverakonda and director Gowtam Tinnanuri's movie, the actor's transformation piques everyone's interest. Vijay consistently puts forth his maximum effort in each film and diligently strives to embody the character. The movie is not officially titled, but the creators refer to it as *VD12* and it falls under the action genre. Bhagyashree Bhorse plays the main female role.

Vijay Deverakonda is being extra cautious to avoid injuries as he dips his toes into the action genre for the first time.

According to a source, "Vijay Deverakonda is all set to explore the action genre in *VD 12*. To avoid injuries while preparing for his action-packed role, the actor always has his physio with him. His physio is always there while shooting the action sequences, so that he is able to complete it without any injury."

This update truly demonstrates Vijay Deverakonda's awareness of personal safety and well-being, making it quite interesting. It also emphasises the actor's dedication to creating an exciting entertainment with *VD 12* by putting in a lot of effort. The film is scheduled for release on March 28, 2025 by the makers.

Emraan Hashmi suffers injury while shooting *Goodachari 2*



Emraan Hashmi, sustained an injury while filming for *Goodachari 2*. The actor Adivi Sesh takes on the lead role, while Vinay Kumar serves as the director. Per the producers, Emraan Hashmi was filming a high-octane action scene that required him to leap from a distance and sustain a neck injury. The creators stated that the injury is not serious and the actor is in good condition.

Adivi Sesh is the main actor in *Goodachari 2*, which is the follow-up to the successful movie *Goodachari*. Adivi Sesh's previous movie *Major* was launched in various languages such as Hindi, Tamil, Kannada and

Malayalam, excluding Telugu. Therefore, the actor is currently strategizing to launch *Goodachari 2* in multiple languages. The source explains that is the reason why they enlisted Bollywood actor Emraan Hashmi for an important part!

The Bollywood actor has recently agreed to be in another Telugu movie called *OG* alongside AP Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. The actor is very occupied in the southern region with these two movies. The makers mentioned that the team of *s* will start a foreign schedule shortly to film crucial scenes with the main cast. The movie will be coming out in 2025.

Odela 2 lands in Odela village for final schedule

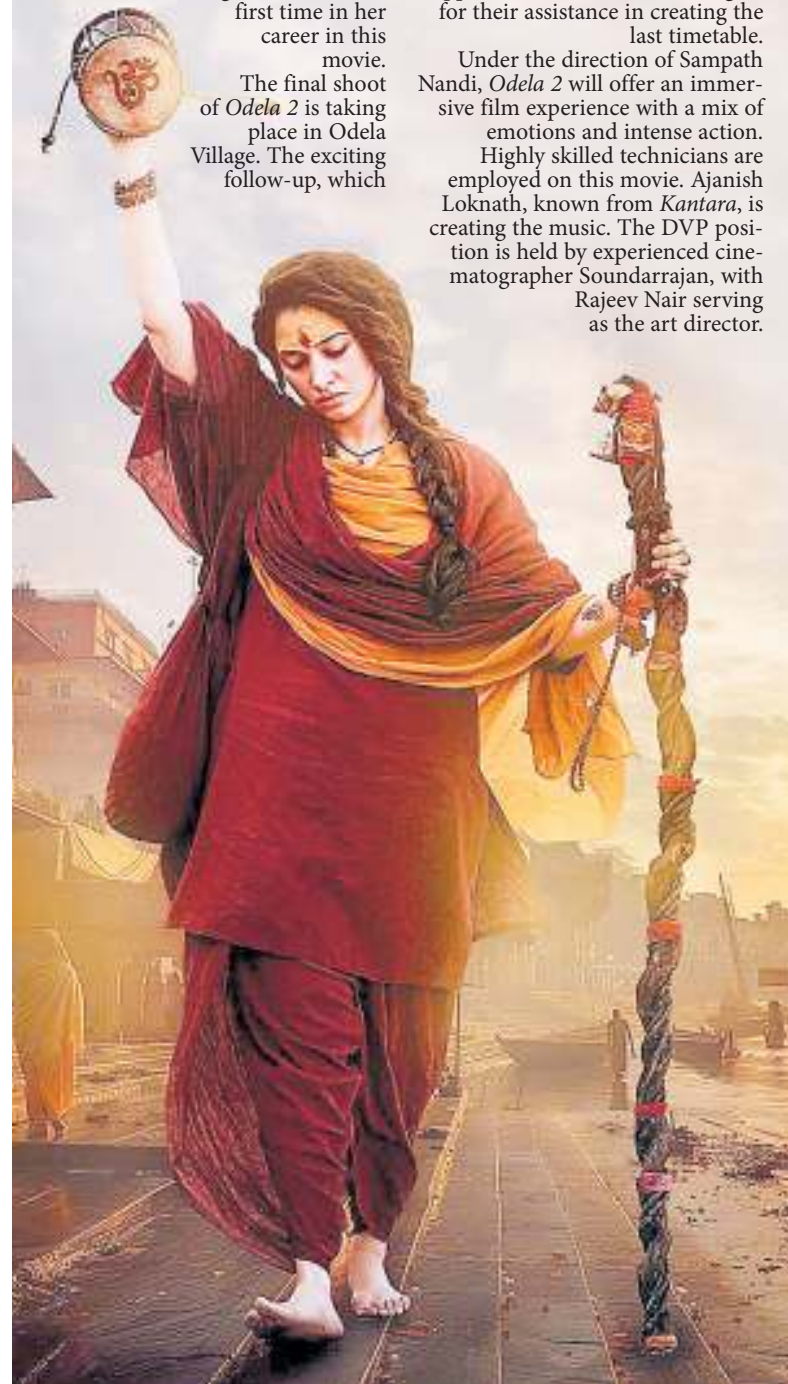
Tamannaah Bhatia, Madhu Creations, and Sampath Nandi are all working together to bring a new and exciting character to life in the highly-awaited sequel *Odela 2*. This movie, directed by Ashok Teja, is the sequel to the 2021 blockbuster hit *Odela Railway Station*. The initial glance, poster and behind-the-scenes material have already caused a stir. Tamannaah is portraying Shivashakti (Naga Sadhu) for the first time in her career in this movie.

The final shoot of *Odela 2* is taking place in Odela Village. The exciting follow-up, which

began in Kashi with Mahadev's blessings, is currently being filmed in Odela Mallanna Kshetra. Key scenes are being filmed by the team at the picturesque sites of the famous Odela Mallanna temple and village. Tamannaah, Murali Sharma, Hebba Patel, Yuva, along with other actors, are taking part in the filming. This is the first time Tamannaah is filming in Odela village. The producers expressed their appreciation to the Odela villagers for their assistance in creating the last timetable.

Under the direction of Sampath Nandi, *Odela 2* will offer an immersive film experience with a mix of emotions and intense action.

Highly skilled technicians are employed on this movie. Ajanish Loknath, known from *Kantara*, is creating the music. The DVP position is held by experienced cinematographer Soundarajan, with Rajeev Nair serving as the art director.



India look to fix batting woes, bolster NRR against Sri Lanka in Women's T20 WC

PTI ■ DUBAI

On a sticky wicket after a mixed start to the campaign, India will look to fix their batting woes to bolster their net run rate when they take on bottom-placed Sri Lanka in their third and penultimate Group A match of the T20 Women's World Cup here on Wednesday. It has not been smooth sailing for the Indians in the showpiece event so far, having lost to New Zealand by 58 runs in their tournament-opener and then scampering home in 18.5 overs against arch-rivals Pakistan while chasing a modest 105. India's main problem in the tournament so far is the performance of their batters, especially the explosive opening combination of Shafali Verma and vice-captain Smriti Mandhana.

While Shafali scored just 2 and 32 in the first two games, Mandhana also fared poorly managing 12 and 7 runs. And it's time the duo fires in unison to ease the pressure on the middle-order. To make matters worse for India, skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, who scored 15 and 29 retired hurt, is doubtful for the match against Sri Lanka after suffering a neck injury while batting against Pakistan. The likes of Jemimah Rodrigues, Deepti Sharma and Richa Ghosh too need to step up with the bat and share the burden of responsibility. While medium pacer Arundhati Reddy sparked against Pakistan with the ball, returning with figures of 3/19, she would look for more support from the likes of fellow pace colleagues Renuka Singh and Pooja Vastrakar, who didn't play the previous game because of an injury.



The Indian team relies heavily on Deepti Sharma in the spin department but she hasn't quite managed to hit her strides in the tournament so far. Young off-spinner Shreyanka

Patil and leg-spinner Asha Sobhana have done a decent job, picking up a few wickets. The Indians will need to lift themselves in all departments of the game as in Australia a strong opponent awaits them

in their last group match. India will not only need to win but record a victory big enough against Sri Lanka to boost their Net Run Rate (NRR) before the do-or-die league game against defending

champions Australia on October 13. Sri Lanka might have lost both their opening matches, but the islanders won't be an easy opponent for India, especially after the win in the Asia Cup final in

August. India opener Shafali admitted that Sri Lanka are no longer only dependent on their skipper Chamari Athapaththu. "There was a time when Chamari was the one scoring most of the runs and taking wickets, but in the Asia Cup, her entire team performed well. They've improved a lot, which is why they won the cup," Shafali has said. "Chamari carries the pressure of being a key player, and it's inspiring to see how she handles it and performs for her country." India pacer Renuka also knows how important it is to dismiss the Sri Lankan skipper cheaply as she can take the game away in a flash with her audacious strokeplay. "Chamari Athapaththu is very interesting. She's the only one from Sri Lanka who takes the team to the other side. I try to get her out as soon as possible

because if she is set, she can take over the match. So I have a plan on how to get her out," Renuka has said. **Teams (From):** **India:** Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Verma, Deepti Sharma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh (wk), Yastika Bhatia, Pooja Vastrakar, Arundhati Reddy, Renuka Singh Thakur, Dayalan Hemalatha, Asha Sobhana, Radha Yadav, Shreyanka Patil, Sajana Shreevan **Sri Lanka:** Vishmi Gunaratne, Harshitha Samarawickrama, Hasini Perera, Anushka Sanjeevani (wk), Nilakshika Silva, Chamari Athapaththu (c), Kavisha Dilhari, Ama Kanchana, Inoshi Priyadarshani, Shashini Gimhani, Achini Kulasuriya, Sugandika Kumari, Sachini Nisansala, Udeshika Prabodhani, Inoka Ranaweera.

India's T20 marauders eye another big win; Bangladesh hope for turnaround



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

An India so dominant that Bangladesh is admittedly clueless about how to match the "skills and mentality" of Suryakumar Yadav's men. The script is not expected to deviate much when the two sides clash in the second T20 International here on Wednesday with the home team's young mavericks proving more than a handful for the full-strength visitors. Bangladesh have hardly looked like the plucky opponents that they are hyped to be but India have looked every bit the marauding force that loves to intimidate on home turf. So, even with key players such as Rishabh Pant, Axar Patel, and Jasprit Bumrah rested, India's remarkable depth in white-ball cricket shone through in a comfortable seven-wicket victory in the opening game in Gwalior. One man who made a strong statement of intent in that game on Sunday was Sanju Samson. Confirmed by Suryakumar as an opener for the series, Samson has been in and out of the national set up since his debut in 2015 and his lack of consistency has been a major contributing factor. In the series-opener in Gwalior, the keeper-batter, who usually comes in the middle order, revelled in his new role as opener and played some delightful strokes in his 19-ball 29, showcasing his ability to play freely in the powerplay. However, he couldn't convert his promising start, much like his opening partner Abhishek

Sharma, who showcased sheer power before running himself out. With first choice openers Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shubman Gill rested for this series, both Samson and Sharma would be keen to prove they can go beyond mere cameos. The duo would look to seize this opportunity here and get a big score on Wednesday night in front of, what is likely to be a sellout crowd. The stakes are higher for the 29-year-old Samson, who is aiming to solidify his position as wicketkeeper in the absence of Pant. With the T20 World Cup still two years away, a series of consistent performances as both opener and wicketkeeper could make him a strong contender for future selections in the white-ball formats. The hosts are unlikely to tinker with their playing XI after everything went India's way in the opener. Debutant Mayank Yadav dazzled with his fiery pace, while fellow first-timer Nitish Kumar Reddy made a mark as a seam-bowling all-rounder, a rarity in Indian cricket. Arshdeep Singh capably led the pace attack and mystery spinner Varun Chakaravarty made a striking comeback after staying away from the national team for three years. He will be eyeing the spin all-rounder's spot left vacant by Ravindra Jadeja as will Washington Sundar. On the other hand, the tourists will have to regroup quickly if they want to fashion a turnaround and stay alive in the three-match

series. Bangladesh, who went with more or less than same side they fielded at the World Cup earlier this year, have the advantage of experience but the side has just not been able to crack the T20 format. "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," captain Najmul Hossain Shanto conceded in Gwalior. Batting continues to remain their weak link and it wasn't a surprise to see the side struggle against India's disciplined bowling attack. Senior players like Liton Das and Mahmudullah have to get their act together. The Bangladesh bowlers have the ability to spice up things but against India's formidable lineup, they would need plenty of runs on the board. **India:** Suryakumar Yadav (C), Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (wk), Rinku Singh, Hardik Pandya, Riyan Parag, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Tilak Varma, Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Varun Chakaravarty, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Arshdeep Singh, Harshit Rana, Mayank Yadav. **Bangladesh:** Najmul Hossain Shanto (C), Tanzid Hasan Tamim, Parvez Hossain Emon, Tawhid Hridoy, Mahmud Ullah, Liton Kumer Das, Jaker Ali Anik, Mehidy Hassan Miraz, Shak Mahedi Hasan, Rishad Hossain, Mustafizur Rahman, Taskin Ahmed, Shoriful Islam, Tanzim Hasan Sakib, Rakibul Hasan.

Jaiswal can play in any conditions, needs mental adjustment for Australia tour: Lara

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal is equipped to "play in any conditions" but will need to make some mental adjustments for the upcoming tour of Australia, the legendary Brian Lara said here on Tuesday. Jaiswal has established himself as a vital cog in the Test side with 929 runs in only eight matches this year at 66.35, his two centuries and six fifties putting him as the leading run-scorer for India in 2024. "He has got the ability to play in any conditions. I saw him in the Caribbean. Obviously, the pitches in Australia are slightly different, but if you take that sort of strength that you have, you're going to play good cricket in any conditions. "I expect to see him do well," Lara told the media during the launch of the International Masters League. The West Indies great said Jaiswal will need to make some mental adjustments to continue his success Down



Under. "I think the adjustment is upstairs," said Lara, pointing towards his head when asked if the Indian opener will have to make any adjustments. "The adjustment is your ability to back your talent in whatever conditions. I say this with a pinch of salt because conditions in India have changed. "With the IPL you've got international players coming. You are feeding your players a different level of competition, which is great, so I don't think there's much that he has to do

technically," he added. "I just think, mentally, travelling away from home, playing against Australia on their shores is a different beast. But I believe that the Indian team that I've seen going to Australia over the last couple of occasions, are very capable of winning," he said. Lara picked Jaiswal and another southpaw Abhishek Sharma as the "two most exciting Indian batters" right now. "Jaiswal and Abhishek Sharma. First of all, they're left-handers. They're very young. They play

the game in a style, very attacking and very stylish," he said. "Of course the relationship I have had with them over the last couple of years has been very special. It's great to see them go from strength to strength," he added. Lara said having a "good plan" will be crucial for India's success in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, which will comprise five Tests for the first time. "You have got to have a plan. And your plan has to be something that when it comes to fruition, you get the success," he said. "When you're coming up against Australia, you've got to have a damn good plan, and you've got to be able to soak in pressure because they're going to apply a lot of pressure. "From an Indian scenario, they've got to play good cricket. They've got to believe in themselves and they've got to play each session at a time. They can't think way beyond that," he added. While the former West Indies

captain praised India's aggressive approach to force a result in the rain-hit Kanpur Test against Bangladesh to try and earn World Test Championship points, Lara said such an outcome is not possible every time. "It was not just (about) the points. It's a situation where India knows that they have the advantage in terms of being the better playing team against Bangladesh, and they've got to put themselves," he said. "They've got to give themselves the opportunity. I love the way that they went about it in such a short space of time to put Bangladesh under pressure. The performance by India with the bat was always to put Bangladesh under pressure. "Test cricket is about attrition. Not every single day you're going to have 2-3 days washed out. I want to see a lot of games going into the fourth and the fifth day. I want to see batters holding on, battling if they have to battle. Bowlers being as disciplined as possible."

Two years just flew by enjoying highs, lows of my game: Arshdeep

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

T20 World Cup-winner Arshdeep Singh doesn't like fretting over the future or dwelling on the past. The left-arm pacer prefers to embrace the present. The 25-year-old, who is leading the Indian pace attack in the ongoing three-match T20I series against Bangladesh, made his debut just two years ago but has already played 55 T20Is, including two World Cups. "I am enjoying my game and didn't even realise how these two years flew by. I just try and stay in the present, enjoy the highs and lows, that is my focus," Arshdeep said ahead of the second T20I against Bangladesh on Tuesday. "My life's mantra is to enjoy the present. Today is my rest day so I will enjoy my rest today. Kal ka Kal dekhenge (Will think about tomorrow when it comes). The T20 World Cup is two years away,



very far I don't think much about the future," he added when a question on his future was thrown his way. The Punjab pacer, who honed his red-ball skills in county cricket last season and put up a stellar display in

the Duleep Trophy recently, has been making a case for a maiden Test cap too but doesn't want to talk about that. "I want to do my best in all the formats wherever I get the opportunity," he said

Asked what difference he has felt in his white-ball skills since becoming an all-format player, Arshdeep said, "I enjoy that we can see how quickly you can adapt to the conditions, ground dimensions and format.

"It gives opportunity to the players to explore their skills. How he can take wickets in different ways, how to absorb pressure. "Playing in different formats teaches players a lot. In red ball, you get more over to bowl, it teaches you patience, here (in T20s) you don't need patience, you have to think about what a batter can do." The hosts lead the series 1-0 and the second game is expected to be a high-scoring affair. In the five matches that the Arun Jaitley Stadium hosted in the IPL earlier this year, teams crossed the 200-run mark eight times. "We (Punjab Kings) didn't have a match here in the IPL this season but seeing the scores at this ground, I didn't feel like seeing the wicket. "We will come tomorrow and assess the conditions and make plans accordingly. The coach and captain will check the wicket and tell us the plan," Arshdeep said.

England off to brisk start after Agha century propels Pakistan to 556 in 1st test

AP ■ MULTAN (PAKISTAN)

England chipped at Pakistan's massive 556, three-centuries total by reaching 96-1 at stumps on day two Tuesday of the first test. Pakistan started the day on 328-4 and was spearheaded by Salman Ali Agha's unbeaten 104 and Saud Shakeel's 82. On a pitch which still looks good for batting with little help for fast bowlers or spinners, England raced at nearly five-runs-per-over as Zac Crawley smashed 11 fours in his unbeaten 64. Joe Root was not out on 32. England lost stand-in captain Ollie Pope without scoring in the second over to a stunning one-handed catch by a diving Aamer Jamal at midwicket off

Naseem Shah. England trails Pakistan by 460 runs. Pope had to open the innings after Ben Duckett injured his left thumb while grabbing a sharp chest-high catch of No. 11 Abrar Ahmed in the slips that finally ended England's heat-sapping 5 1/2 sessions on the field at Multan Stadium. Whether Duckett bats was yet to be determined. England's Jack Leach took 3-160 and Shoaib Bashir 1-124 but Pakistan dominated both spinners. Brydon Carse's long wait for his first wicket in his debut test came on Tuesday, which he finished with 2-74. Gus Atkinson (2-99) and Chris Woakes (1-69) toiled without finding any reverse swing on the green square. England did well in the first



session and allowed Pakistan only 69 runs with Carse breaking the resistance of nightwatchman Naseem, who gloved a legside catch after scoring his test-best 33. Naseem denied England a breakthrough for 1 1/2 hours and braved a couple of blows. He got a knock on the back of his helmet when he was struck hard by an Atkinson short ball and also received brief treatment when Carse struck the batter's right thumb off another short ball before round-the-wicket worked for the right arm fast bowler. Leach had Mohammad Rizwan caught at mid-off for a 12-ball duck. Shakeel, who began the day on 35, showed plenty of resistance and raised his half-century with a swept boundary off

Bashir. Shakeel was undone by the off-spinner after lunch and feathered a low catch to Root in the slips. Agha took charge with meticulous drives and sweeps. His third test century followed tons by captain Shaban Masood (151) and Abdullah Shafique (102) on day one. Agha gave Pakistan an ideal finish on the benign pitch. In the company of Shaheen Shah Afridi (26), Agha hit 10 boundaries and three sixes in his 119-ball knock to propel Pakistan past 550. England was scratchy late in Pakistan's innings as wicketkeeper Jamie Smith missed an easy stumping of Abrar, and Atkinson couldn't judge a catch over his shoulder before Root folded the innings.