

# the pioneer

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People won't back hateful conspiracies of  
**Cong: Modi**



**CARBON TAX**  
PROPOSED BY EU UNILATERAL,  
ARBITRARY: FINANCE MINISTER



Actor Gopichand opens up about  
Viswam and return of  
**SRINU VAITLA**



**QUOTE OF THE DAY**  
The pioneer

"The Revanth Reddy government has given EC certificates to the lands located in FTL and buffer zones in the last 10 months. The Revanth Reddy government has been doing all this as part of diversion politics. Bhatti Vikramarka spoke targeting middle class people. I will soon reveal the details of 30 companies, along with the bigwigs, that have encroached the lands"



- Katipally Venkataramana Reddy, BJP MLA P2

**DON'T MISS...**

## French Aerospace strengthens ...

Telangana's position as India's leading hub for aerospace, defence and space manufacturing received a significant boost on Wednesday with the visit of a 90-member delegation from the French Aerospace Industries Association (GIFAS). Representing 60 prominent French companies, this marks the largest such delegation to visit Telangana, showcasing the growing partnership between France and Telangana in the aerospace and space sectors. Organised by GIFAS in collaboration with Business France, the delegation ...

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## Man exposes wife's alleged ...

In a shocking turn of events, Divya Jyoti, the Deputy Executive Engineer (DEE) of the Manikonda Municipality, has been accused of corruption by her own husband. Suvarna Sreepad, her spouse, made the startling revelation by releasing a video that purported to have exposed Divya's alleged involvement in bribery. According to Sreepad, Divya regularly brought home bribe money from her job, with hidden cash bundles totaling between Rs 20 and 30 lakh found throughout their house ...

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## Infosys, Microsoft to boost Cloud...

IT giant Infosys on Wednesday announced expansion of its partnership with Microsoft to help drive global customer adoption of generative AI and Microsoft's cloud platform Azure. Additionally, Infosys will also act as a strategic supplier to support cloud and AI workloads for Microsoft's enterprise customers. It will infuse Microsoft's generative AI suite of offerings across its Solution IP portfolio to bring unique capabilities to market, helping clients achieve cost-efficiency, scalability, and...

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## Arshdeep Singh enters top 10...

Riding on a string of impressive performances, Indian seamer Arshdeep Singh entered the top 10 among bowlers and was placed eighth in the ICC T20I rankings issued here on Wednesday. The left-arm seamer, who returned 3/14 in the opening T20I against Bangladesh in Gwalior last Sunday, jumped eight spots with 642 rating points to reach the eighth position. He is the only Indian bowler in the top 10. England's Adil Rashid continues as the top-ranked bowler in the shortest format followed by Akeal...

-SPORTS



## India defeats Bangla Claim T20I series with 86-run

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A dominant India claimed the three-match T20I series against Bangladesh with an 86-run hammering of the visitors in

the second game here on Wednesday. Asked to bat first, India scored an imposing 221 for nine and then stopped their opponents at 135 for nine for the home team's ...

Continued on Page 5



## People won't give power to BRS again: CM Revanth

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has observed that people would not give power to the Bharat Rashtira Samithi party again. He was addressing a huge gathering at the 'Festival of Jobs' held at LB Stadium on Wednesday, after initiating the process of handing over 11,062 appointment orders to candidates selected for teacher posts.

Revanth Reddy said that Bharat Rashtira Samithi candidates had lost their deposits in seven Lok Sabha constituencies. People gave power to the Congress to develop the state. "Some have

- Bharat Rashtira Samithi candidates had lost their deposits in seven Lok Sabha constituencies
- There is a need for Telangana to get the 2028 Olympic medal in athletics
- The Congress government gave 30,000 appointment orders within 90 days and completed DSC appointments within 65 days

been speaking irresponsibly, saying that they will dethrone the Congress government. Is it justified? BRS will not get power again as people won't give it," he remarked.

Referring to South Korea winning 32 medals in the recent Olympics, he said: "There is a need for Telangana to get the 2028 Olympic medal in athletics." Youth in Telangana had become addicted to drugs and other vices and moving on the wrong path, the Chief Minister said and alleged that the unemployed had faced a lot of troubles due to "some devils" as

Continued on Page 5

# Biz titan Tata no more

## Nation mourns the loss of a visionary

PNS ■ MUMBAI/HYDERABAD

Ratan Tata, chairman emeritus of the Tata Group, has died at the age of 85. Tata was in critical health condition and admitted to the Intensive Care Unit at Mumbai's Breach Candy hospital.

Tata Group Chairman N Chandrasekaran expressed profound grief on the passing of Padma Vibhushan Ratan Naval Tata, a man whose leadership and values left an indelible mark on the Tata Group and the nation. Ratan Tata passed away on 9th October 2024, leaving a legacy of excellence, philanthropy, and innovation.

Ratan Tata, born on 28th December 1937, was the scion of one of India's most influential business families. He took over as chairman of Tata Sons in 1991 and under his leadership, the group expanded significantly, acquiring global brands like Jaguar Land Rover and Tetley Tea. Known for his vision and bold decisions, Tata transformed the conglomerate into a global powerhouse while maintaining a strong emphasis on

ethical business practices.

In a heartfelt tribute, N Chandrasekaran described Tata as more than just a chairperson. "To me, he was a mentor, guide, and friend," Chandrasekaran shared. He spoke about Ratan Tata's unwavering commitment to integrity, innovation, and social causes, which helped the group become a global icon under his leadership. "He led by example, and his values will continue to guide the Tata Group," he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also took to social media to pay his respects to Ratan Tata. In a tweet, he wrote, "Shri Ratan Tata Ji was a visionary business leader, a compassionate soul and an extraordinary human being. He provided stable leadership to one of India's oldest and most prestigious business houses. At the same time, his contribution went far beyond the boardroom. He endeared himself to several people thanks to his humility, kindness and an unwavering commitment to making our society better." Ratan Tata's contributions to philanthropy,

particularly in education and healthcare, were noted as having touched the lives of millions. His dedication to social welfare is reflected in Tata Trusts, which has supported various initiatives, including healthcare, education, rural development, and innovation. His leadership in launching the Tata Nano, an affordable car, demonstrated his commitment to improving

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## Govt introducing 'bulldozer culture' in Telangana: KTR



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Bharat Rashtira Samithi working president K. Tarakarama Rao has accused the Congress government led by Revanth Reddy in Telangana of disrupting the festive atmosphere during Bathukamma and Dasara through its recent demolition drives. "Musi kay naam par musebat la diye," he remarked, referring to the ongoing demolitions across the state.

He was speaking on Wednesday at an event at which senior Congress leader Mohammed Alauddin Patel and hundreds of his followers from Serilingampally joined the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) at the instance of BRS senior leader Shaik Abdullah Sohal. KTR criticised the Congress government's approach to festivals. KTR extended festive wishes to the people of Telangana, while draw-

ing attention to the "absence of a true celebratory environment".

"If KCR were the Chief Minister, farmers would have already received financial assistance, and women would have received their Bathukamma sarees by now. This year, there is no festive cheer. Instead, a climate of fear has been created with bulldozers," KTR remarked. He recalled an incident in Warangal where locals mistook an official's visit to a Bathukamma ghat for an attempt to demolish houses, highlighting the growing distrust and anxiety among the public. "We thought only Uttar Pradesh had a 'bulldozer CM', but now the Congress government in Telangana has also adopted this culture," he observed.

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PNS ■ HYDERABAD

IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu has called on Indian Terrain Fashions to establish a textile manufacturing unit in Telangana, highlighting the availability of high-quality cotton and skilled youth in the state. He pointed out that the company had already

## Indian Terrain urged to set up textile manufacturing unit in TG

Minister pitches high-quality cotton and skilled workforce

been sourcing organic cotton from 80,000 farmers in Adilabad district for producing four crore meters of cotton fabrics annually. He stressed that Telangana offered a conducive environment for textile industries to flourish. The Minister made the pitch while inaugurating Indian Terrain's 196th showroom at Banjara Hills, Road No. 3, on

Wednesday, accompanied by former minister and Bodhan MLA Sudarshan Reddy.

Sridhar Babu expressed his happiness that each showroom provided employment to 12 people. He congratulated the showroom owner Ankanagari Utkarsh on creating significant job opportunities through his entrepreneurial ventures.

## BRS to lay siege to Sectt

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Bharat Rashtira Samithi leader Dr. K. Vasudeva Reddy has announced that the party will soon lay siege to the Secretariat, demanding the Congress government fulfill the promises made in its manifesto for the welfare of Divyang (persons with disabilities).

Addressing a press meet at Telangana Bhavan, Vasudeva Reddy strongly criticized the Congress for failing to implement key guarantees like the Rs. 6,000 pension and free bus travel for Divyang. He questioned why these promises, made with much fanfare, had not been realized by the differently abled, leaving them in distress. Vasudeva Reddy refuted the

allegations made by Divyang Corporation Chairman Veerayya against him and other BRS leaders, calling them baseless. He emphasized that under former CM K Chandrasekhar Rao's leadership, all Divyang welfare schemes were implemented with full transparency through an online selection process. "If there was any corruption, they should investigate. Who stopped them?" he challenged.

Highlighting the BRS government's extensive efforts, including the allocation of Rs. 10,000 crore for pensions and the reservation of 5 per cent in double-bedroom housing for Divyangs, Vasudeva Reddy dismissed the Congress's accusations as politically motivated and unsubstantiated.

## WORK ON PROTEINS, BUILDING BLOCKS OF LIFE

# 3 scientists get Nobel Prize in chemistry

PNS ■ STOCKHOLM

The Nobel Prize in chemistry was awarded Wednesday to three scientists for their breakthrough work predicting and even designing the structure of proteins, the building blocks of life.

The prize was awarded to David Baker, who works at the University of Washington in Seattle, and to Demis Hassabis and John Jumper, who both work at Google DeepMind, a British-American artificial intelligence research laboratory based in London.

Heiner Linke, Chair of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry, said the award honoured research that made connections between amino acid



sequence and protein structure. "That was actually called a grand challenge in chemistry, and in particular in biochemistry, for decades. So, it's that breakthrough that gets awarded today," he said.

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## 'EVMs not tampered'

No link between battery strength and results: EC sources

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Election Commission sources on Tuesday rejected claims by Congress leaders of alleged tampering of EVMs in some Haryana seats where machines with varying battery strength gave out different results.

The sources were responding to claims by Congress leaders who said complaints had been received from Hisar, Mahendragarh and Panipat that there were electronic voting machines (EVMs) with 99 per cent battery on which the BJP won while units with 60-70 per cent battery saw the Congress win. "Have you understood this con-



Congress

spiracy? Where there was 99 per cent battery in EVMs, the BJP won. Where there was less than 70 per cent battery, the Congress won. If this is not a conspiracy, then what is it?" party general secretary Jairam Ramesh said Tuesday.

The EC sources explained that alkaline batteries are used in the

control unit of EVMs. New batteries are inserted in the control unit on the day of commissioning in the presence of candidates and are sealed, they said.

They explained that initially, the battery provides a voltage between 7.5 and 8 volts. Hence, the battery capacity is displayed as 99 per cent when the voltage is above 7.4, they said.

With the use of the EVM, its battery capacity and consequently the voltage decreases. As the voltage goes below 7.4, the battery capacity is displayed as 98 per cent to 10 per cent, they explained.

The control unit remains functional when the battery has more than 5.8 volts. Continued on Page 5

## PADDY PROCUREMENT

# Cabinet sub-panel to address issues

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has formed a Cabinet Sub-Committee to examine and provide recommendations on various issues related to paddy procurement in the state. The committee, established through a government order (G.O.Rt.No.1353) dated October 8, 2024, will focus on resolving the challenges faced in the paddy procurement process and suggest solutions to improve its efficiency.

The Sub-Committee comprises key ministers, including Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Finance & Planning, Energy, Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu, Minister for

Irrigation, CAD, Food & Civil Supplies, Nalamada Uttam Kumar Reddy, Minister for Information Technology, Electronics & Communications, Industries & Commerce, Legislative Affairs, Duddilla Sridhar Babu, and Minister for Agriculture, Marketing, Cooperation, Handlooms & Textiles, Tummala Nageshwar Rao. The committee has been tasked with studying several critical areas, including the hiring of godowns for paddy storage, obtaining bank guarantees from rice millers, determining milling charges for rice millers, and addressing drage issues in paddy procurement.

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# Cong's hopes of resurgence dashed as BJP continues to dominate

The Bharatiya Janata Party's victory in Haryana's 2024 Assembly elections stunned political observers and pundits alike. All exit polls had predicted a resounding win for the Congress, based on its perceived resurgence and public dissatisfaction with the incumbent BJP government. However, defying these projections, the BJP secured a hat-trick, winning 48 seats in the 90-member Assembly, while the Congress managed to get only 37. The remaining seats were split between the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD), independent candidates, and smaller regional parties.

This victory for the BJP is significant, as it has been achieved despite anti-incumbency factors and a supposedly growing wave of discontent with the party's governance in Haryana. The fact that the BJP not only retained power but also managed to increase

its vote share compared to 2019 sent a clear message: the public's faith in the BJP under Narendra Modi's leadership remains strong.

Several factors contributed to the BJP's unexpected triumph in Haryana. First, the party's focus on hyper-local issues and its strong organizational network helped consolidate its core voter base. The BJP's deep grassroots connections and effective mobilization efforts, particularly in rural and semi-urban constituencies, gave it an edge over the Congress.

Secondly, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal continues to be a major vote magnet. Despite growing national and local criticism, Modi's larger-than-life persona and the perception of him as a strong, decisive leader resonate with a significant section of voters who prefer continuity and stability over change. The "Modi factor" was espe-

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**RAMESH KANDULA**  
Chief Editor Swatantra TV and author

cially apparent in regions where the party was predicted to underperform.

Meanwhile, the Congress, despite widespread expectations, failed to capitalize on the anti-incumbency sentiment. Although All India Congress Committee leader Rahul Gandhi's aggressive campaign and strategic positioning appeared to boost the party's chances, the party could not translate that momentum into electoral success. The BJP's strategic focus on develop-

ment and governance, combined with its outreach to farmers, traders, and youth, outclassed Congress's campaign efforts.

The defeat of the Congress in Haryana comes as a blow to its claims of resurgence. Rahul Gandhi, who had been vocal and combative in his opposition to the BJP, was expected to lead the Congress to victory, given the BJP's perceived vulnerability. However, the results tell a different story.

In a somewhat weak attempt

in 2019 to 39%—though this failed to translate into seats.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the BJP also put up a strong performance in the 2024 Assembly elections, securing 29 seats, up from 25 in 2014. Although the BJP fell short of the number required for forming the government, its performance was commendable, especially considering the opposition it faced following the Centre's controversial decision to abrogate Article 370 and strip Jammu and Kashmir of its statehood in 2019.

Jammu and Kashmir's political landscape remains complex, but the BJP's ability to increase its seat count despite protests and criticisms surrounding Article 370 indicates its growing foothold in the region. While the BJP lacks the numbers to govern alone, the party has proven that it remains relevant in the Union Territory. The BJP's focus on national security, development,

and an aggressive campaign narrative centered on restoring peace and normalcy seems to have resonated with voters.

In contrast, the Congress continued to struggle in Jammu and Kashmir, securing only six seats, down from 12 in 2014. Despite being part of an alliance government with the National Conference, which made impressive gains with 42 seats, Congress's dismal performance marks a significant decline in its influence in the region.

The National Conference emerged as the dominant player in Jammu and Kashmir, thanks to its strong regional identity and focus on local issues. However, the Congress's inability to build on past performance and connect with the electorate raises questions about its future prospects in the region.

**A reality check for political pundits**  
After the recent Lok Sabha

elections, many pundits predicted that the BJP's influence under Narendra Modi was shrinking, while the Congress was seen as making significant progress nationwide. However, the results of the Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections suggest otherwise. The BJP remains a formidable force, and the Congress's so-called resurgence appears overstated.

These state elections, the first since the recent General Election, indicate that there has been no dramatic shift in public sentiment in favor of Congress or against the BJP. If anything, the results show that voters are not yet tired of the BJP or Narendra Modi. Despite facing opposition on various fronts, the BJP's electoral machinery remains strong. While predictions of its decline and the Congress's resurgence proved inaccurate, the BJP has once again demonstrated its ability to win elections.

## KTR mocks Rahul over unfulfilled job promises in TG

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a dig at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, BRS working president KTR took to Twitter to mock the latter's unfulfilled promises regarding job creation in Telangana.

Referring to Rahul's earlier commitments, KTR sarcastically addressed him, saying, "Rahul ji, youth in Ashok Nagar are wait-

ing to thank you for delivering on 2 lakh jobs in one year. Also thank you for the 5 lakh Yuva Vikasam assistance and revamp of TSPSC. Welcome back to Hyderabad to meet with the youngsters since your guarantee is done." KTR's tweet referred to Rahul Gandhi's speech on November 27, 2023, where the Congress leader had promised to create 2 lakh government jobs

### 'Unfulfilled dreams for unemployed youth'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former Minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy criticised the Congress government for failing to deliver on its promises of job creation, calling the recent announcements by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy deceptive.

Ahead of the festival season, the government has disap-

pointed the unemployed youth with false promises and misleading announcements, he said. Referring to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's claims of issuing 60,000 appointment letters as part of Congress achievements in the last 10 months, Niranjan Reddy stated that the government's own release on Wednesday exposed this as a lie.

### Only traitors of Telangana will call KCR a 'demon': Harish

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former Minister Harish Rao has launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, accusing him of hypocrisy and criticizing his recent remarks while addressing teachers.

Rao said Revanth's behavior, marked by sermonizing on ethics, was akin to that of "a cat going on a pilgrimage after

eating a thousand rats," and referenced the Chief Minister's involvement in a bribery scandal (cash-for-vote scam). Harish Rao condemned Revanth Reddy for using public funds to defame former chief minister and Telangana's 'architect' Chandrasekhara Rao, and alleged that the Chief Minister was corrupting the minds of teachers with his inappropriate language.

within a year, revamp the Telangana State Public Service Commission (TSPSC) along the lines of UPSC, and introduce a Rs 5 lakh 'Yuva Vikasam' assistance programme for the youth.

At the time, Rahul Gandhi had criticised the previous KCR government, claiming that the youth of Telangana were "suffering immensely" under its rule. In his

November speech, Rahul Gandhi had confidently stated, "Our 'Job Calendar' is the first step in easing their pain. We will ensure 2 lakh government jobs in one year, revamp TSPSC on UPSC lines, and provide Rs 5 lakh assistance through Yuva Vikasam. The future of our youth is secure in the hands of Congress' Prajasa Sarkar—this is my guarantee."

## New notifications only after receipt of report on SC sub-categorization

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has ordered the constitution of a 'One-man Commission' to facilitate the sub-categorization of Scheduled Castes (SCs) in line with a recent verdict of the Supreme Court. The Commission, to be headed by a retired High Court judge, is expected to submit its report within 60 days.

The Chief Minister made it clear that new job notifications

will be issued only after the submission of this report. The decision was taken during a review held at the Secretariat on Wednesday with focus on the implementation of SC sub-categorization and the BC social and economic caste survey. During the meeting, members of the Cabinet Sub-Committee on SC categorization—N Uttam Kumar Reddy, Damodara Rajanarasimha, Ponnamp Prabhakar, and Seethakka-briefed the Chief Minister about

the various representations received and discussed the implementation of SC categorization in other states like Punjab and Tamil Nadu, and ongoing efforts in Haryana.

The Chief Minister instructed State Chief Secretary Santhi Kumar to ensure that the Commission collects relevant data from all departments to prepare a comprehensive report. The meeting also decided to use the data from the 2011 Census to enumerate the SC population.

## 'Cong govt issued EC certificates to houses located in FTL and buffer zones'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BJP MLA from Kamareddy constituency Katipally Venkataramana Reddy alleged that the Congress government issued encumbrance certificates (EC) to the houses located in FTL and Buffer Zone areas in many places.

While reacting to Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka's comments on HYDRAA, Venkataramana Reddy slammed Bhatti Vikramarka saying that the comments of the latter are totally false. He alleged that several lands worth lakhs of crores of rupees were subjected to encroachments in GHMC limits. He said that the Congress government also gave permission to the foreign companies to set up their companies in those lands.

## Veeraiah says Cong will order probe into graft during BRS govt

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Disabled Corporation chairman Muthineni Veeraiah warned former chairman Vadudeva Reddy that a vigilance inquiry would be ordered to probe the irregularities that took place in the corporation during BRS regime. He said that the Congress government will

send Vadudeva Reddy to jail for diverting funds of the corporation. He alleged that the BRS leaders ate the money of handicapped also. He alleged that Vadudeva Reddy took Rs 40,000 more than his salary besides handicapped pension.

He said that the Congress government would also give enhanced pension to

Vadudeva Reddy besides giving mentally handicapped KCR and KTR. Veeraiah alleged that Rs 28 lakh was supposed to be spent for handicapped equipment but Vadudeva Reddy spent it for his office beautification.

Veeraiah alleged that Vadudeva Reddy indulged in every possible corruption including that of CC cameras.

Venkataramana Reddy said, "Revanth Reddy government gave EC certificates to the lands located in FTL and buffer zones in the last 10 months after Congress came to power. The Revanth Reddy government has been doing all this as part of diversion politics. Bhatti Vikramarka spoke targeting middle class people. I will soon reveal the details of 30 companies along with the bigwigs who have encroached the lands."

While reminding that several banks gave loans to thousands of the people to construct houses in GHMC limits, Venkataramana Reddy threw a challenge to the CM Revanth Reddy's government that he will die committing suicide if proved that his allegations are wrong.

Venkataramana Reddy suggested to CM Revanth Reddy that all 119 MLAs, 19 MPs and MLCs in the State should give their salaries to the HYDRAA victims. He said that he is ready to give his 10 months salary Rs 20 lakh to the HYDRAA victims. Whether others are ready to do the same?, he asked CM Revanth Reddy.



## Patnam Mahender Reddy assumes charge as Legislative Council Chief Whip

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Dr Patnam Mahender Reddy has officially taken charge as the Chief Whip of the Telangana Legislative Council in the presence of Secretary Narasimhacharyulu. Following the ceremony, Mahender Reddy paid a courtesy visit to Council Chairman Gutta Sukhender Reddy, who extended his heartfelt congratulations on the new role.

Several prominent leaders, including Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar, Ministers Sridhar Babu and Ponnamp Prabhakar, MLAs Rammohan Reddy, Prakash Goud, Eerlapalli Shankar, Malreddy Rangareddy, MLCs Kodandaram, Balmuri Venkat, Egge Mallesh, Bhanu Prakash, and Prabhakar, along with former MPs Madhu Yashki Goud and Gaddam Ranjith Reddy, offered their best wishes to Mahender Reddy.

## T-Consult signs MoU with Queen of the Philippines

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad's recently launched T-Consult, a Cyber Satyagraha movement aimed at addressing pressing issues like cyber violence, misinformation and digital abuse through initiatives such as cyber peace conferences, digital literacy campaigns and a global cyber peace pledge, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Queen Mariam Leonor Torres of the Philippines, a member of the royal family of the Royal Sultanate of Maguindanao, at T-Hub on Wednesday.

She appreciated the royal alliance between the Philippines and T-Consult. Mariam emphasised the importance of caring for humanity and integrating tech-



Queen Mariam Leonor Torres seen along with T-Consult chairman Sundeep Kumar Makthala at the MoU signing programme at T-Hub

nology. She cited the movie Wakanda, highlighting its innovations in technology. She mentioned that king-

doms and tribes should not remain under-developed and that there is a need for improvement. With T-Consult's help, she stated that she believes this is possible. Mariam pointed out that, especially in Africa and Asia, technology like T-Consult is a starting point for tribes and indigenous groups. She called for reaching out to these tribes by combining with skills, talent and technology, which will lead to a better world and a more prosperous humanity.

Later, T-Consult Chairman Sundeep Kumar Makthala gave a tour of the world's largest innovation campus, T-Hub. The Queen also participated in the Bathukamma celebrations with the T-Hub employees.

## TG govt approves Rs 2.59 cr for Regode tanks supplementation project

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana government has approved administrative sanctions for an amount of Rs 2.59 crore for the supplementation of Regode tanks from Phase-2 Gravity Main-4 at Borancha Lift Irrigation (L.I.) Scheme in Sangareddy district.

Engineer is tasked with ensuring that all provisions in the estimate follow the necessary IS codes and guidelines. Additionally, the correctness of the quantities, rates adopted, and other provisions in the estimate must be validated.

The project aims to provide irrigation benefits to an ayacut of 500 acres, which will aid local agriculture in the region. The approval came following the proposal submitted by the Chief Engineer (MI) of Hyderabad, with the government issuing orders under G.O.Rt.No. 257, dated October 9, 2024.

The Chief Engineer has also been assigned the responsibility for determining the necessity and length of the gravity main and ensuring that there is no overlap or repetition with earlier sanctioned estimates. The project is a part of the State's ongoing efforts to improve water resources and irrigation facilities for farmers in Telangana.

The funding for the project falls under the head of account 4702-00-101-25-15-530/531, as per the 2023-24 Standard Schedule of Rates (SSR). As per the directives, the Chief

The administrative approval has been granted with concurrence from the Finance (EBS-IX) Department, and work is expected to commence soon under the supervision of the Chief Engineer, Sangareddy.

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**TODAY ALMANAC**

Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha  
Tithi: Saptami: Oct 09 12:14 PM to Oct 10 12:32 PM  
Ashtami: Oct 10 12:32 PM to Oct 11 12:07 PM

Nakshatram:  
Purva Ashadha: Oct 10 05:15 AM to Oct 11 05:41 AM  
Uttara Ashadha: Oct 11 05:41 AM to Oct 12 05:25 AM

Rahukalam: 1:30 PM to 2:58 PM  
Yamagandam: 6:11 AM to 7:39 AM  
Varjyam: 01:36 PM to 03:11 PM  
Gulika: 9:07 AM to 10:35 AM  
Amritakalam: 12:48 AM to 02:25 AM  
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:39 AM to 12:26 PM

**HYDERABAD WEATHER**

Forecast: Showers  
Temp: 30°  
Humidity: 75%  
Sunrise: 6:08 AM  
Sunset: 5:58 PM  
Updated: October 9, 2024 5:00 PM

## EGF introduces curriculum for youth

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Raising awareness on gambling and e-gaming addictions, the E-Gaming Federation (EGF) introduced a curriculum and workshops for youth. CEO of EGF, Anuraag Saxena, discussed the common confusion between skill-based gaming and gambling. He emphasised the need for regulations in the gaming sector and clarified that the EGF represents only skill-based gaming members. He said their curriculum aims to help youth avoid addiction to e-gaming platforms and gambling.

Addressing the media in a round-table meeting on Wednesday, Anuraag explained that the EGF uses methods like a pop-up warning every 60 seconds, reminding players to take a break to prevent eye strain and other issues. He also announced the introduction of risk scores and a "No BOT" certification to ensure fair gaming, similar to Western standards. He announced that EGF decided to hold 30 workshops across four states, including Telangana, to raise awareness.

He called for the need for more regulations in the gaming sector to support the industry's long-term growth while promoting responsible gaming. Anuraag appreciated Hyderabad's strong startup ecosystem, noting that the city's IT infrastructure has helped create the growth of 77 gaming startups.

## Rata Tata -- part corporate titan, part secular living saint

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

He was one of the world's most influential industrialists yet he never appeared on any list of billionaires. He controlled over 30 companies that operated in over 100 countries across six continents yet lived an unpretentious life. Ratan Naval Tata, who died at a Mumbai hospital on Wednesday night at the age of 86 years, enjoyed a perhaps unique status -- a corporate titan who was considered a 'secular living saint' with a reputation for decency and integrity. Tata joined the family firm after acquiring a B.S. in architecture from Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, in 1962. He initially worked on the shop floor, gaining experience in a number of Tata Group businesses before being named director in

charge of one of them, the National Radio and Electronics Co in 1971.

He became chairman of Tata Industries a decade later and in 1991, took over as the chairman of the Tata Group from his uncle, JRD, who had been in charge for more than half a century. This was the year when India opened its economy and Tata soon turned the group, which began as a small textile and trading firm in 1868, into a global powerhouse with operations stretching from salt to steel, cars to software, power plants and airlines.

He was the chairman of Tata Sons, the group's main holding company, for more than two decades during which the conglomerate aggressively sought to expand, acquiring London-based Tetley Tea in 2000 for USD 431.3

million, buying truck-manufacturing operations of South Korea's Daewoo Motors for USD 102 million in 2004, paying USD 11.3 billion to take over Anglo-Dutch steel manufacturer Corus Group and spending USD 2.3 billion to purchase elite British car brands Jaguar and Land Rover from the Ford Motor Company. Along with being one of India's most successful business tycoons, he is also known for his philanthropic activities. His personal involvement in philanthropy began early. In the 1970s, he initiated The Aga Khan Hospital and Medical College project, laying the foundation of one of India's premier healthcare institutions.

After his appointment as the chairman of Tata Sons in 1991, Tata's philanthropic efforts gained new momentum. He actively

steered the Tata Trusts, established by his great-grandfather Jamsetji, towards addressing vital social needs and set up institutes of excellence like the Tata Institute of Social Sciences and funded educational initiatives across India. Despite being the embodiment of class and elegance, Tata was not untouched by controversies. Though the group was not implicated directly in the 2008 scam in the allocation of second-generation telecom licences, he was drawn through the leaked recordings of purported phone calls he made to lobbyist Nira Radia. He was not implicated in any wrongdoing.

In December 2012, he ceded control of Tata Sons to Cyrus Mistry, who was his deputy then. But the owners had problems with the functioning of the first

non-Tata family member, leading to the ouster of Mistry in October 2016. Ratan Tata was said to be one of the shareholders who disagreed with Mistry on several projects. This included Mistry's decision to stop loss-making small car Nano, a pet project of Ratan Tata.

Following Mistry's ouster, Tata briefly served as the interim chairman beginning in October 2016 and returned to retirement in January 2017 when Natarajan Chandrasekaran was appointed the chairman of the Tata Group.

He has since been the emeritus chairman of Tata Sons. During this time, he donned a new hat, helping young entrepreneurs of the 21st century, investing in new age tech-driven start-ups which will play a significant role in shaping the future of the country.

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## CITY EVENTS

### The blacklist

Faria Abdullah live  
Broddha V live in concert

#### Venue

Rama Naidu Studios,  
Hyderabad  
October 13, Tickets  
available on  
BookMyShow

### Rivaayat

A beautiful at home  
evening curated specially  
with our designer partners  
Shivan & Narresh.

#### Venue

Bobby Khandaris resi-  
dence, 443, Jubilee Hills  
Rd. No 86, Filmnagar  
Phase 3  
October 16, 6:30 pm  
onwards.

### 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  
till 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 unforget-  
table evening of color,  
rhythm, and joy! Our  
Dandiya Night promises  
to be a dazzling celebra-  
tion 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

SIhouettes tour.

#### Venue

Hyderabad internation-  
al convention centre  
November 8

# City Pioneer

the pioneer

HYDERABAD THURSDAY | OCTOBER 10, 2024

03



## GHMC arranging CCTVs at garbage vulnerable points

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

To eliminate the garbage vulnerable points (GVP) in the city, the GHMC is setting up a new technology that when a person throws garbage at those points, a siren will go off at that place.

The GHMC decided to eliminate the GVPs in the city a few years back. But still, people are throwing garbage in some areas. To pre-

vent this, CCTV cameras are being installed in collaboration with the Residential Welfare Associations in the city.

This technology is being implemented under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Anjaneyu in Uppal circle of the GHMC. The officials are hoping that this technology would give good results to eliminate GVPs in the city.

## HYDRAA focusing on nalas in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) is focusing on restoring all the nalas in the city, whose link channels connect one pond to another as a chain system.

HYDRAA Commissioner AV Ranganath on Wednesday held a review meeting at HYDRAA office on floods, its causes and relief measures (disaster management) in the city on Wednesday. Former director of Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre Dr GS Srivivasa Reddy explained about the issue. They discussed various environmental issues which are causing significant problems to the people. Due to atmospheric pollution and other reasons, unprecedented heavy rains are occurring in the city.

They explained the importance of ensuring that the rain water should not flow on the roads but water should drain at nearby places. In the review, they discussed the usefulness of sensors installed in Bengaluru for estimating the flow level of flood water channels in flood-prone areas.

## French Aerospace strengthens TG's global aerospace ties

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana's position as India's leading hub for aerospace, defence and space manufacturing received a significant boost on Wednesday with the visit of a 90-member delegation from the French Aerospace Industries Association (GIFAS). Representing 60 prominent French companies, this marks the largest such delegation to visit Telangana, showcasing the growing partnership between France and Telangana in the aerospace and space sectors.

Organised by GIFAS in collaboration with Business France, the delegation included CEOs and industry leaders from renowned firms such as Safran, Dassault, MBDA, Thales, Ariane Group, CNES, Daher and more. The reception for the delegation was held at the Taj Krishna in Hyderabad and was attended by leading industrialists and key stakeholders in the State's aviation, aerospace and space ecosystem.

Addressing the delegation, Telangana Minister for Industries Duddilla Sridhar Babu highlighted the State's emergence as a premier manufacturing destination for global Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) like Safran,



Minister for Industries Duddilla Sridhar Babu welcomes GIFAS Equipment Manufacturers Committee Chairman Didier Kayat in Hyderabad on Wednesday

Airbus, Boeing, Lockheed Martin and others. He cited major French investments, including Safran's three mega manufacturing facilities and its forthcoming Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) centre, which will be the largest in Safran's global network.

The Minister also mentioned Airbus' collaboration with Tata to produce components for the C-295

aircraft project under the 'Make in India' initiative. The Minister emphasised Telangana's progressive industrial policies, including the Mega Projects Policy and MSME Policy, which have bolstered the State's aerospace investments. He also highlighted the State's efforts in skill development, such as the establishment of the Young India Skills University to cater to the

growing manpower needs of the aerospace sector.

Equipment Manufacturers Committee chairman, Didier Kayat, praised Telangana's robust manufacturing ecosystem, following factory visits in Hyderabad. Pascal Loreau, Director of the Bureau de France and Deputy Consul in Hyderabad, also commented on the growing number of French enterprises keen to collaborate in Telangana's aerospace and space sectors.

Telangana's Aerospace Director, PA Praveen, thanked GIFAS and Business France for facilitating the largest-ever French aerospace industry delegation to Hyderabad. He emphasised that the visit marks a significant step in strengthening bilateral ties and fostering future collaborations in high-growth industries.

## Events organiser nabbed for involvement in scam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) has apprehended an events organiser from Bengaluru for his involvement in a fraudulent foreign remittance scheme that resulted in a loss of Rs 7.19 crore to a victim.

He is identified as Sunil Kumar of Corporate Events Management, Resident of Vignana Nagar Main Road, Bengaluru. The victim transferred a total amount of Rs 38,50,000 to the bank account of Sunil Kumar as directed by the accused from January to April 2024.

The complainant, a resident of Kondamallepalley in Nalgonda district, was introduced to the accused Rathod, by his real-estate business partner Giri. Together with other accomplices, they convinced the complainant to transfer Rs 7.19 crore to 80 bank accounts across 280

transactions from August 2023 to April 2024.

The funds were transferred allegedly for transaction advance tax, fees and charges associated with the release and transfer of international remittances sent as donations which were seized by the customs department at International Airport, Hyderabad. The victim has been assured a 30 per cent commission on the amount seized by the customs department once it is released.

In collaboration with Giri and Rathod, Sunil Kumar deceived the complainant into believing that foreign remittances sent as donations and the same were seized by customs officials at the airport, could be released upon payment of a processing fee and other taxes. They shared forged letters allegedly issued by foreign banks, the RBI, and other international agencies via WhatsApp to bolster their credibility.

## Multiple violations found at Konark Tea

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Food Safety Commission (TFSC) inspected the premises of Konark Tea shop at Fatehnagar and found multiple violations.

The Task Force officials discovered that loose tea powder was being adulterated, then packaged and distributed to tea stalls in and around Hyderabad. They seized large quantities of adulterants, including 300 kg of loose tea powder, 200 kg of coconut shell powder, 5

kg each of non-food-grade red and orange colours, artificial flavours of chocolate, cardamom and milk.

Officials collected tea powder samples for lab analysis and stated that action will be taken under the FSS Act, 2006.

Meanwhile, the team also inspected a canteen at Sri Sri Holistic Hospital, Kukatpally, based on a complaint. They found expired food items, rat feces and cockroach infestation. The canteen lacked pest control and medical fitness certificates and the grinding area was



unhygienic. The FSSAI licence copy wasn't displayed, but food handlers were wearing hair caps and aprons. Water and food testing reports were available.

## Cheats held for duping individuals in fake 'rice pulling' scam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Commissioner's Task Force North Zone Team along with Mahankali Police apprehended three individuals involved in duping a complainant of Rs 25 lakh under the pretence of a fraudulent rice pulling business.

They were identified as Pagidimarry Shiva Santhosh Kumar, Gulluru Manjunath Reddy and Pratap SR. The three accused conspired to deceive gullible individuals by promoting a fraudulent rice pulling business.

They fabricated a story around a copper vessel, falsely claiming it possessed supernatural powers that could double money.

Manjunath Reddy connected with the victim, Shashikanth, through a mutual friend and lured him with promises of immense wealth - claiming the copper

vessel could help him earn Rs10 crore. To make the scam appear legitimate, they conducted business under the guise of a company called Preches and Research.

Shiva Santhosh met the victim at Minerva Grand, Secunderabad, presenting himself as an employee of the company. He further claimed that the vessel needed to be tested by a special scanner available only with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and demanded Rs 25 lakh to facilitate the test.

However, after receiving the money, the accused began demanding an additional Rs 23 lakh, leading the victim to suspect foulplay. Realising that he had been conned, the victim reported the case to the authorities, who swiftly apprehended the trio.



## Bathukamma festival celebrated at Raj Bhavan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Governor of Telangana Jishnu Dev Varma, along with his spouse Sudha Dev Varma, participated in the vibrant Bathukamma celebrations with the Raj Bhavan parivar members on Wednesday at the historic Raj Bhavan in Hyderabad.

Sudha Dev Varma carried the traditional Bathukamma to the main lawns in front of the main house and took part in the festivities, embracing the spirit of Telangana's iconic floral festival. She joined the Raj Bhavan Pariwar

in celebrating the occasion, underscoring the significance of the State's unique cultural heritage.

The Governor and Sudha Dev Varma extended their heartfelt wishes to the women of Telangana, both within the State and across the globe. Traditional Bathukamma songs filled the air, and Sudha Dev Varma participated alongside the women, encircling the beautifully adorned Bathukammas while singing in praise of the festival.

In a touching conclusion to the celebrations, Sudha Dev Varma

carried the Bathukamma to the designated pond within Raj Bhavan and immersed it, adhering to the customs of the festival.

The event saw the presence of key dignitaries, including Minister for Environment & Forests and Endowments Konda Surekha; Minister for Panchayat Raj, Rural Development, Women & Child Welfare Dr D Anasuya Seethakka; Chief Secretary, A Santhi Kumari, Principal Secretary to the Governor, B Venkatesham, and other senior officials and staff members.

## Urology dept of OGH gets shockwave lithotripsy machine

A non-invasive removal of kidney stones procedure can save Rs 50,000 for poor patients

DEEPIKA PASHAM  
deepikapasham2015@gmail.com  
■ HYDERABAD

The Urology department of Osmania Gandhi Hospital (OGH) got its first Rs 2.5cr worth extracorporeal shockwave lithotripsy machine donated by a private firm. It can benefit 50 patients per month free of cost; otherwise, the patients had to pay Rs 50,000 for each sitting at private hospitals.

The machine was inaugurated by Commissioner of Health and Family welfare RV Karnan and by the Director of Medical Education Dr N Vani, the Principal of Osmania Medical College Dr Nagender Kumar, former superintendent of the hospital.

Speaking with the Pioneer, Dr Kavitha said, "The extracorporeal shockwave lithotripsy machine worth Rs 2.5 crore is now available at the Urology department is donated by Mobis India through its CSR initiative. This machine is not found in any government hospital across Telangana. The surgeries were done in an invasive



method earlier. Now with this machine it is used for non-invasive (without surgery) removal of kidney stones as a daycare procedure." The patients will be assigned sittings depending on the kidney stone size and number of stones.

The removal will be done within 15 to 30 minutes but patients will be kept under observation and discharged later in the day, she added.

The lithotripsy procedure performed with the help of ESWL machine which costs about Rs 50,000 per sitting in the private sector is done

free of cost and nearly 50 patients per month are expected to benefit with this machine.

As a part of continuous improvement of infrastructure and development of out-patients in Osmania General Hospital, there was a renovation of Cardiology, General Surgery, General Medicine, Endocrinology Ops, said former superintendent Dr Nagendar.

The Neurology out-patient ward was renovated and inaugurated by Director of Medical Education Dr N Vani.

## Traffic diversions for Bathukamma festival

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In the light of the Saddula Bathukamma celebrations on October 10, there are traffic diversions from Amaraveerula Smaraka Sthupam to Bathukamma Ghat (Rotary Children's Park) on Upper Tank Bund.

As significant traffic congestion is anticipated in the surrounding areas between 4:00 pm and 11:00 pm, to manage the flow, traffic will be halted or diverted at various locations, with restrictions implemented based on local traffic conditions, said Hyderabad City Traffic



Police. Traffic diversions are from Iqbal Minar towards Upper Tank Bund and traffic will be diverted towards Telugu Thalli flyover. From VV Statue, Khairatabad flyover towards

NTR Marg will be diverted at Necklace Rotary towards Prasad's IMAX and Mint Compound Lane. From Ranigunj towards PVNR Marg (Necklace Road) traffic will be diverted at Nallagutta X-Roads

towards Minister Road. From Minister Road towards PVNR Marg, vehicles will be diverted at Nallagutta X-Roads towards Ranigunj. From Liberty towards Upper Tank Bund, vehicles will be diverted at Old Ambekar statue towards Iqbal Minar.

From Secunderabad towards Upper Tank Bund, vehicles will be diverted at Karbala Maidan towards Bible House. From Dhobi Ghat towards Children's Park/Upper Tank Bund, vehicles will be diverted at DBR Mills towards Kawadiguda X-Roads.

From DBR Mills, vehicles will be diverted at Kawadiguda

X-Roads towards Jabbar Complex & CGO Towers. From CGO Towers to Sailing Club, vehicles will be diverted at Kawadiguda X-Roads towards DBR Mills & Jabbar Complex. Inter-district RTC buses from Secunderabad to MGBS via Tank Bund will be diverted at Sweekar-Upakar Junction towards YWCA, Sangeeth, Mettuguda, Tarnaka, Nallakunta, Fever Hospital X-Roads, Barkathpura, Tourist Hotel, Nimboli Adda, Chaderghat, Rangmahal and MGBS. City buses towards Tank Bund will be diverted at Karbala Maidan towards Bible House.



## Man exposes wife's alleged corrupt activities

A video released by husband goes viral on social media platforms

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

In a shocking turn of events, Divya Jyoti, the Deputy Executive Engineer (DEE) of the Manikonda Municipality, has been accused of corruption by her own husband. Suvarna Sreepad, her spouse, made the startling revelation by releasing a video that purported to have exposed Divya's alleged involvement in bribery.

According to Sreepad, Divya regularly brought home bribe money from her job, with hidden cash bundles totaling between Rs 20 and 30 lakh found throughout their house.

Sreepad further revealed that Divya had been receiving commissions for granting approvals to builders and contractors within the Manikonda Municipality. His efforts to dissuade her from engaging in these illegal activities went in vain. He also implicated Divya's brother, Sarath Kumar, alleging that he played a significant role in her unethical behavior by pressuring her to accept bribe money.



Divya Jyoti

Following the revelation of these accusations, Divya Jyoti has reportedly been transferred to the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC). The video, which has gone viral on social media, has sparked widespread outrage, and more information on the case is expected to surface in the coming days.

## 'Farmers will be paid within three days of paddy procurement'

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkata Reddy on Wednesday assured farmers that they would be paid within three days of paddy procurement. During the event, the Minister recalled that in the last season, payments to farmers for paddy purchased at the procurement centres were also made within three days. He advised farmers who face any issues or delays in payment related to paddy during the monsoon season to contact the control room set up at the District Civil Supplies Office at 9963407064. He also mentioned that as part of the state government's encouragement for fine paddy, a special bonus of Rs 500 is being provided, along with the support price of Rs 2,320 per quintal for Grade-A paddy and Rs 2,320 for ordinary paddy.

He noted that 53 per cent of the paddy produced in the state is fine paddy, and the government plans to distribute fine rice through fair-price shops starting in January to ensure that both wealthy and



Roads and Buildings Minister Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy inaugurating paddy procurement centre near Arjal Bavi in Nalgonda district on Wednesday

poor families can access it. He urged millers to accept coarse paddy without causing any issues. Due to the announcement of a Rs 500 bonus for fine quality paddy in Telangana, he emphasised that officials should take precautionary measures to prevent paddy from neighbouring states.

He mentioned that parts for the SLCB engine, which had malfunc-

tioned, were imported from the USA, and the tunnel work would start in December. As part of the Nagajunasagar left canal project, 12 missions have been established, and ₹80 lakhs have been allocated for desilting and tree removal in distributaries.

In the ten months since their government came to power, they have provided 70,000 jobs, and on

Wednesday, appointment letters were given to 11,000 teachers selected through the DSC. He mentioned that measures are being taken to fill the tanks by December through Brahmana Vellamula, with Rs 25 crore allocated for this purpose. The district administration was directed to work diligently for the hassle-free procurement of paddy.



MRO Jayashree being taken to court in Nalgonda on Wednesday

## MRO held for embezzlement of Rythu Bandhu funds

PNS ■ NALGONDA

The police arrested Anumula Mandal Revenue Officer (MRO) Jayashree, along with Dharnai operator Jagadish, on charge of embezzling Rythu Bandhu funds. She was produced in local court and was remanded in 14-day judicial custody.

The police charged her and Dharani operator with embezzling Rs 14,63, 004 Rythu Bandhu funds when she was Huzurnaar Tahsildar. The police accused her of masterminding the misappropriation of funds. The accused, the police said, collected passbooks of the farmers and resorted to embezzlement of funds.

They were charged under section 420, 406, 409, 120 (b), 468 and 467 IPC.

## 'Develop plans for disposal of waste at dumping yard'

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy on Wednesday directed the officials to develop a plan for waste disposal at dumping yards.

On Wednesday, the Minister visited the Khammam Municipal Corporation area and laid the foundation for the dumping yard approach and internal cement concrete road construction in the TNGOS colony at a cost of Rs 1.15 crore. The funds were provided by the Telangana Urban Finance And Infrastructure Development Corporation (TUFIDC). Khammam MP Raghuram Reddy, District Collector Mujammil Khan, Khammam Municipal Commissioner Abhishek Augustya, and Irrigation Development Corporation Chairman Muvva Vijay Babu



Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy laying the foundation for internal CC roads at the first division in Khammam on Wednesday.

acpanied the Minister. The Minister enquired about the waste management and disposal plans, the separation of wet and dry waste collection, and the establishment of a solid waste management plant. During this occasion, Minister Srinivas Reddy told

the officials that dumping a large amount of waste at one location could lead to problems, emphasising the need for timely disposal of waste. He directed the officials to train the municipal staff in the collection of wet and dry waste separately and called for rais-

ing public awareness.

He stressed that there must be a waste disposal plan at the dumping yard. Otherwise, residents would face serious difficulties.

He stressed the need to develop and implement plans to avoid inconveniencing the public. He also called proposals to ensure road access for double-bedroom houses.

The government has allocated Rs 1.15 crore for the approach road and internal roads at the dumping yard in the first division, and the Minister urged for the effective utilisation of these funds to construct quality roads within the stipulated time.

First Division Corporator Tejavath Hussain, Khammam Revenue Divisional Officer Ganesh, and Khammam Urban Tahsildar Ch Swami were among others present.

## Police perform Ayudha pooja at headquarters

PNS ■ BHADRADRI KOTHAGUDEM

The police performed Ayudha Puja and Vahana Puja at its Hemachandrapuram district police headquarters on Wednesday as part of the Dasara Navaratri celebrations.

The Superintendent of Police Rohit Raju, Additional Superintendent of Police T Sai Manohar, Kothagudem DSP Rehman, Paloncha DSP Satish Kumar, DCRB DSP Malliah Swamy, ARDSP Satyanarayana and other police officials took part in the event.

Addressing the gathering, the Superintendent of Police said that he was happy to have celebrated Ayudha Puja as part of Dasara Navaratri festival.

Later, he took part in the lunch arranged for the police officials and personnel.



White foam appearing on water in River Godavari at Basara in Nirmal district

## Alcohol factory polluting Godavari in Basara

PNS ■ NIRMAL

The alcohol factory on the outskirts of Balapur village in Dharmabad Taluk under Nanded district in the neighbouring Maharashtra state has been releasing effluents into the River Godavari, posing a health hazard to 9,000 students of the Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies (RGUKT) at Nirmal and to the residents of the temple town of Basara.

A white foam-like substance has been spotted floating on the river water. The smoke released by the liquor factory into the atmosphere is posing a threat to the health of local people. It has become customary for the factory to release its effluents into the river. Annually, at the beginning and end of the

monsoon season, the factory discharges its effluents into the river through canals.

The action of the officials to check the pollution of the river is not met with success.

The white foam is found in the water tanks supplying drinking water to the RGUKT and Basara towns. The water gets pumped through a pipeline to supply the 9,000 students of the university.

The temple town also gets a supply of drinking water through the filter bed from River Godavari. The locals express apprehensions that the polluted water may pose a threat to their health.

The locals, farmers and RGUKT officials and students have been appealing to the authorities to take steps to prevent the discharge of the effluents into the river.



Peddapalli Collector Koya sree Harsha interacting with officials at Municipal office in Peddapalli on Wednesday

## Collector makes surprise inspection at municipal office

PNS ■ PEDDAPALLI

District Collector, Koya Sree Harsha, has directed the officials concerned to ensure systematic online entry of details during the Family Digital Card Survey conducted for the issuance of family cards in the district.

On Wednesday, Sree Harsha made a surprise visit to the Peddapalli Municipal Office. He inquired about the progress of new works in the municipal limits, specifically the details of the Land Regularisation Scheme (LRS) for open plots and the online entry details for the Family Digital Survey pilot project.

During this visit, the Collector emphasised the importance of thorough examination of LRS applications. He

directed the Revenue, Irrigation, and Town Planning officials to quickly complete the regularisation process for eligible layouts and open plots, and to communicate it to the applicants either via phone or in person to expedite the LRS regularisation.

He also stressed that the online entry of survey details for the Family Digital Survey pilot project, conducted in two areas of each Assembly constituency in the district, should be carried out meticulously to avoid any errors.

Peddapalli Municipal Commissioner Akula Venkatesh, Manager Shivaprasad, Assistant Engineer Satish, Town Planning Supervisor Vinay, and other officials were present.

## Adivasis urge CM to address grievances

PNS ■ KUMRAMBHEEM ASIFABAD

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy assured the Adivasis that he would ensure that the problems being faced by them would be resolved soon.

The Adivasi association leaders called on the Chief Minister at secretariat here on Wednesday. In the backdrop of simmering tension at Jainoor in the district following a clash between the Adivasis and members of minority community, Adivasi leaders called on the Chief Minister. Minister Sitakka and Khanapur MLA Boju Patel took the initiative and ensure that the Adivasi leader met the Chief Minister.

The Adivasis appealed to the Chief Minister to ensure that the government jobs and lands in Agency areas should remain with the tribals. The Chief Minister assured the Adivasis that the feasibility of implementing such demands would be explored and a decision would be taken. The Adivasi leaders submitted a memorandum to the CM highlighting their demands.

## Vegetable prices soar due to rains in Adilabad dist

PNS ■ MANCHERIAL/WANKIDI

During the current Dasara-Diwali festival season, the vegetables like tomatoes, potatoes, onions, garlic and coriander prices are increasing, burning a hole into household budget of the poor and middle classes.

With heavy rains destroying vegetable gardens in undivided Adilabad district, the traders are importing vegetables from Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and also from neighbouring Siddipet district.

The traders blame the price escalations to the continuous festival season since the auspicious Shrawana month.

As the prices of onions have touched Rs 80 a kg mark, as against Rs 20 a kg in the last summer in the open market, the vendors of mirchi bajji have stopped using onions.

Onions are exported from Kurnool and Solapur largely. Potatoes were sold at Rs 40 a kg till a month ago. But, now it sells between Rs 50 a kg as the traders import potatoes from UP. The traders predict that the price spiral will continue for some more time.

A family has to spend at least Rs 500 per week on veg-

etables. The cost is being described as prohibitive. A small bunch of coriander is being sold at Rs 20 each since the traders import it from Nanded in Maharashtra.

The garlic which was sold at Rs 60 a kg during the pandemic situation is now sells at Rs 320 a kg.

The commodity is imported from Rajasthan and MP. Every five years, the prices of the commodity vary. The present fluid situation will continue till freshly harvested crop hits the market.

The recent heavy rains posed a problem to the cultivation of vegetable crops in Telugu states. Mancherial market receives vegetables from Siddipet, Ontimamidi, Gangapur and Kalyana durgam. Some mandals of Adilabad district produces tomatoes and brinjals, but the district has to depend on imports to get creeper vegetables.

Housewives, private employees and middle classes have been complaining of high cost of vegetable.



Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao laying foundation stone for CC roads in Khammam on Wednesday

## Tummala for improving construction of roads

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao emphasised the need for high-quality construction and timely completion of the cement concrete road works.

On Wednesday, the Minister laid the foundation stone for the cement concrete road construction works at Sai Nagar, The Telangana Urban Finance Andhra Infrastructure Development Corporation (TUFIDC) released Rs 50 lakh for laying the roads.

During this event, Nageswara Rao stated that the government has sanctioned Rs 50 lakh for the construction of three cement concrete roads in the 20th Division and he urged that this funding should be utilised

to lay quality roads.

He also mentioned that efforts are being made to enhance greenery in Khammam city by planting a large number of saplings, and directed the officials that measures be taken to ensure saplings are planted alongside the newly constructed roads.

The event was attended by Khammam City Mayor P Neeraja, Khammam Municipal Corporation Commissioner Abhishek Augustya, 20th Division corporator B Prashanth Lakshmi, corporator Karmartapu Murali, public representatives, officials, and others.

Photo Caption: Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao laying the foundation for the CC road construction works in Khammam's 20th Division on Wednesday.



IN BRIEF



Toddler among 3 injured in acid attack in Delhi

A Syrian refugee and his toddler son, as well as a Sudanese national, suffered burns when they were attacked with acid allegedly by a resident in Vikaspuri, police said on Wednesday. The incident took place on September 30 near the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees office in the west Delhi area, police said. The men were discharged the same day but child was kept under treatment as he had received 10 per cent burns in his chest, neck and eyes, they said. He was discharged today. Rakesh Kumar, a local, has been arrested in the matter, according to a police statement. The FIR, a copy of which is accessed by PTI, revealed the identity of the victims as 11-month-old Ibrahim, his father Raft Abmohimid, and Nabil Omar Akbar, both aged 28. "The boy was treated on OPD basis. He was admitted with ten per cent chemical burns around a week or so. He was treated and was shifted from the ICU on October 5 to the ward.



Delhi's tallest Ravan effigy took 40 workers, 4 months

It took 40 artisans over four months to build the city's tallest Ravan effigy which now towers over the southwest Delhi's Dwarka at 211-foot. The Rs 30-lakh effigy, constructed by artisans from Barara village of Haryana, will go up in flames on Dussehra on October 12 in an emblematic victory of good over evil. The effigy was installed on the first day of Navratri, during the 'Kalasha Sthapana', on the DDA Ground in Sector 10, according to Ramilla Committee Chairman Rajesh Gehlot. This is the tallest Ravana ever built, standing at 211 feet, decorated with velvet cloth and constructed with iron. It was built over four months by a team of 40 artisans," Gehlot told PTI. The committee has sent an invitation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the grand event, as it does every year. "As of now, we have not received a response, but we are hopeful," said the chairman of the committee, which has been hosting the Ravan-burning for 14 years.



Bellatrix to deploy orbital transfer vehicles for NSIL

Bengaluru-based space start-up Bellatrix Aerospace on Wednesday said it will supply its home-built orbital transfer vehicle - Pushpak - for integration with future launch missions of ISRO's commercial arm NewSpace India Limited. The Pushpak OTV is a versatile multi-mission spacecraft designed by Bellatrix for in-orbit manoeuvres, with the flexibility to deploy satellites into various orbits with greater precision and efficiency, a company release said. Bellatrix's partnership with the NSIL will enable more complex space missions involving multi-orbit deployment sequences, inclination change, GEO transfer missions and future deep space missions, it said.

People won't back hateful conspiracies of Cong : Modi

PNS ■ NAGPUR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the BJP's victory in the Haryana elections shows the mood in the country and the people have shown they will not fall prey to the hateful conspiracies of the Congress and "urban Naxals".

The Congress is an irresponsible party and a factory to "spread hatred" which wants to divide Hindus and pit one community against another, Modi said after virtually launching various development projects of more than Rs 7,600 crore in the Maharashtra.

The opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) wants to weaken Maharashtra to gain power, but the ruling Mahayuti (comprising BJP, Shiv Sena and NCP) is determined to strengthen the state, he said.

Elections to the 288-member Maharashtra assembly are likely to be held next month.

The prime minister said, "Never in the history of Maharashtra has development



The Congress is an irresponsible party and a factory to "spread hatred" which wants to divide Hindus and pit one community against another, Modi said after virtually launching various development projects of more than Rs 7,600 crore in the Maharashtra

taken place at such a fast pace, on such a large scale, in different sectors. During the Congress rule, such speed and scale was seen in different sectors in corruption." Further targeting the Congress, Modi cautioned against those who play divisive politics and mislead voters for personal gains.

Haryana CM Saini meets PM

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other senior BJP leaders here on Wednesday ahead of his likely swearing-in as the head of the new government in the state following the party's remarkable win in the assembly polls. The BJP had

indicated during the elections that Saini, who replaced Manohar Lal Khattar in March and hails from the Other Backward Classes, will be its choice for the top post if it wins. Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Saini credited Modi's policies for the party's success.



Congress analysing 'unexpected' results in Haryana: Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday said the party was analysing the "unexpected" results in Haryana and will apprise the Election Commission about complaints received from various constituencies of the state.

In his first reaction after the shock defeat in Haryana, the former Congress president also thanked the people of Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir for their support. "My heartfelt thanks to the people of Jammu and Kashmir - INDIA's victory in the state is a victory of the



"My heartfelt thanks to the people of Jammu and Kashmir - INDIA's victory in the state is a victory of the Constitution, a victory of democratic self-respect," he said

Constitution, a victory of democratic self-respect," he said. 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-

'LEARN TO ACCEPT DECISION OF PEOPLE'

Hitting out at the Congress for questioning the Election Commission for its Haryana poll debacle, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju said the opposition party should learn to respect and accept the decision of the people. "Now, don't blame EVM and Election Commission again," Rijiju said on X while responding to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's remarks that the opposition party will apprise the EC of the complaints from assembly constituencies. "Learn to respect and accept the decision of the people," said the parliamentary affairs minister. Congress leaders Jairam Ramesh and Pawan Kherra had termed the results of the Haryana elections as "unacceptable" as the party faced shock defeat in the state at the hands of the BJP.

Warner Bros. Discovery aims 3k hrs of fresh content

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Global entertainment firm Warner Bros. Discovery on Wednesday said it plans to deliver over 3,000 hours of fresh content by the end of this year in India across its linear channels and video streaming platform 'discovery+'.

The company plans to significantly enhance programming across discovery+ and its linear channels, including Discovery Channel, Animal Planet and TLC, with a focus on a diverse and distinctive mix of local originals and global titles in India, Warner Bros. Discovery said in a statement. By the end of this year, the factual and



lifestyle cluster would have delivered over 3,000 hours of fresh content across linear channels and discovery+, the company said. "As the category leaders in the non-fiction content genre,

forms are a testament to our commitment to creating cross-platform experiences," Warner Bros. Discovery, South Asia, Head of Factual & Lifestyle Cluster Sai Abhishek said.

Moreover, the revamped DTamil channel will showcase top global entertainment content, including Hollywood blockbuster movies and series, in Tamil language, it added.

This diverse content library not only boosts overall viewership and engagement but also underscores the brand's commitment to bringing global content to India and creating original stories that highlight historic, cultural and grassroots narratives, the company said.

Served country with 'utmost dedication': CJI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, who is set to demit office next month, turned philosophical, saying he had served the country with "utmost dedication" amid "fears and anxieties" as to how history will judge his tenure.

The 50th Chief Justice of India (CJI), his two-year tenure will end on November 10. "I find myself pondering over questions -- did I achieve everything I set out to do? How will history judge my tenure? Could I have done things differently? What legacy will I leave for future generations of judges and legal professionals?" he said.

The CJI shared his thoughts while addressing the third convocation ceremony of Jigme Singye Wangchuk School of Law in Bhutan.

"The answers to most of these questions lie beyond my control, and perhaps, I will never find answers to some of these questions. However, I do know that, over the last two years, I have woken up every morning with a commitment to give the job my fullest and gone to bed with the satisfaction that I served my country with utmost dedication," added CJI Chandrachud. During the event, the CJI sought "pardon" for being "vulnerable" at a time when he was about to demit office and said he was "heavily preoccupied" with fears and anxieties for the future and past.

"As you navigate the complexities of your own journeys, do not be afraid to take a step back, reassess, and ask yourself: 'Am I running towards a destination, or am I running towards myself? The difference is subtle, yet profound. After all, the world needs leaders who are driven by purpose and not just ambition,'" he said. According to the CJI, once



The CJI shared his thoughts while addressing the third convocation ceremony of Jigme Singye Wangchuk School of Law in Bhutan

someone has a sense of faith in his/her intentions and abilities, it is easier not to obsess over outcomes but to value the process and the journey towards those outcomes.

The CJI further reflected on an unrelenting passion to make a difference in the world, saying he often pushed himself to the extremes and worked long hours carrying a heavy load, as if the world's problems rested solely on his shoulders.

"However, over the years, I have come to realise that our ability to contribute to our community is deeply rooted in our self-perception and capacity for self-care," he said.

"The journey towards the goal should be enjoyed rather than getting caught up in the fear of reaching the destination, the CJI said.

"As someone who is a few decades older than you, I can tell you that these fears are not easy to wish away. However, the personal growth lies in being able to address them and tackling them head-on," he told a crowd also comprising law graduates in the neighbouring country.

India defeats..

Continued from page 1

biggest win against Bangladesh. Veteran Mahmudullah, who is retiring after the final match of the series, waged a lone battle with a 39-ball 41. Sanju Samson started the India innings with a couple of boundaries but failed to carry on for long, while Abhishek Sharma and skipper Suryakumar Yadav too did not last long enough as the hosts slipped to 41 for three in the sixth over.

Nitish Reddy (76 off 34 balls) and Rinku Singh (53 off 29 balls) led India's recovery with a superb partnership of 108 runs for the fourth wicket.

Hardik Pandya then smashed a 19-ball 32 to consolidate India's innings.

**Brief scores:** India: 221/9 in 20 overs (Nitish Reddy 76, Rinku Singh 53, Hardik Pandya 32) b Bangladesh 135/9 in 20 overs (Varun Chakaravarthy 2/19, Nitish Reddy 2/23) by 86 runs

Cabinet sub-panel to..

Continued from page 1

These measures are expected to streamline the paddy procurement process and ensure better coordination between various departments and stakeholders involved in the supply chain.

The Commissioner of Civil Supplies and E.O., Principal Secretary to the Government has been appointed as the Convener of the sub-committee. The committee has been directed to submit its findings and recommendations to the government after conducting its study.

People won't give power..

Continued from page 1

Telangana was "in their hands for past 10 years". The previous BRS government never thought about the unemployed and though only about their family jobs. Former chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao gave MLC seat to his daughter Kalvakuntla Kavitha, after she had lost in LS elec-

tions. "They never thought about the poor, but gave the MLC seat to his daughter within 6 months". Revanth Reddy said: "I gave a call before elections that the youth will get jobs if KCR, KTR, Harish Rao and Kavitha are removed from their jobs. The unemployed took the responsibility of bringing the Congress to power.

Govt introducing bulldozer..

Continued from page 1

KTR attacked the Congress, accusing them of betraying public trust by failing to keep key promises. He said that people, frustrated at the ways of the current administration, were now recalling the governance of KCR. "The Congress came to power by making false promises, including the assurance of 2 lakh jobs and financial stability. But today, every sector is unhappy with their 10-month rule," KTR remarked. He also criticised the Congress for not delivering on its promised loan waiver. "Rahul Gandhi had personally guaranteed Rs 2 lakh loan waiver by December 9, on Sonia Gandhi's birthday. But this has not been fulfilled, leaving farm-

ers and the public dissatisfied," KTR added.

He reiterated that the Congress had cheated farmers, youth, and women, citing unfulfilled promises such as Rs 2,500 monthly aid for women under the Mahalakshmi scheme, 2 lakh jobs for the youth, and doubling pensions to Rs 4,000. "Congress even promised one tola of gold with Shadi Mubarak and Kalyana Lakshmi schemes, but none of these assurances have been met," he pointed out. KTR criticised the Congress for prioritising large projects like the Rs 1.50 lakh crore Musi Riverfront project over fulfilling promises. "They are spending on the Musi project to earn commissions, while farmers are told to take their complaints to the Collector," he remarked.

3 scientists get Nobel Prize..

Continued from page 1

Baker designed a new protein in 2003 and his research group has since produced one imaginative protein creation after another, including proteins that can be used as pharmaceuticals, vaccines, nanomaterials and tiny sensors, the Nobel committee said.

"The number of designs that they have produced and published, and the variety, is absolutely mind blowing. It seems that you can almost construct any type of protein now with this technology," said Professor Johan Aqvist of the Nobel committee.

Hassabis and Jumper created an artificial intelligence model that has been able to

predict the structure of virtually all the 200 million proteins that researchers have identified, the committee added. "Proteins are the molecules that enable life. Proteins are building blocks that form bones, skin, hair and tissue," Linke said. "To understand how life works, we first need to understand the shape of proteins." Linke said scientists had therefore long dreamt of predicting the three-dimensional structure of proteins.

"Four years ago, in 2020, Demis Hassabis and John Jumper managed to crack the code. With skillful use of artificial intelligence, they made it possible to predict the complex structure of essentially any known protein in nature,"

Linke said. "Another dream of scientists has been to build new proteins, to learn how to use nature's multi-tool for our own purposes. This is the problem that David Baker solved," he added. "He developed computational tools that now enable scientists to design spectacular new proteins with entirely novel shapes and functions, opening endless possibilities for the greatest benefit to humankind."

Baker said Hassabis and John Jumper's artificial intelligence work gave his team a huge boost. "The breakthroughs made by Demis and John on protein structure prediction really highlighted to us the power that AI could have. And that

led us to apply these AI methods to protein design and that has greatly increased the power and accuracy," he said.

Baker told the Associated Press that the win was exciting. He found out during the early hours of the morning alongside his wife, who immediately started screaming. "So it was a little deafening, too," he said.

In an open call with the Nobel officials and journalists who attended the announcement in Stockholm, Baker was asked if he had a favorite protein.

He said he loves them all, adding: "So I don't want to pick favorites, but I can tell you about one that we designed during the pandemic that protects against the coronavirus. And I've been very excited about the idea of a nasal spray, of little designed proteins, that would protect against all possible pandemic viruses."





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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Mixed bag

The BJP retains Haryana while the regional parties gain in J and K signalling paradigm shift in the valley

The verdict is out and it is not what was predicted by the exit polls. The BJP retains Haryana and National conference resurges in Jammu and Kashmir. The results once again prove that the people of Jammu and Kashmir want development and peace while the people of Haryana, though have resentment with the farm laws still have faith in the BJP. The election results in Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir have significant implications for national politics. For the BJP, these results serve as a reminder that national leadership may get it votes but its local leaders must also perform. For Congress and other opposition parties, these results offer a glimmer of hope for future contests. At the same time, the resurgence of regional parties, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir, signals the enduring importance of local issues and identity politics in India's diverse political landscape. The outcomes not only redefined local political dynamics but also carried significant implications for national politics, especially for major players like the BJP, Congress, and regional parties. Moreover, the election results starkly contrasted with exit polls, which had predicted very different scenarios in both states.



The first post-Article 370 election in Jammu and Kashmir was keenly watched, given its symbolic importance in the region. While the BJP aimed to make significant inroads, particularly in the Jammu region, it faced stiff competition from regional parties like the National Conference (NC). The results saw a resurgence of regional parties, with the National Conference, led by Farooq Abdullah,

securing a majority of seats in the Kashmir Valley. The BJP made gains in Jammu but fell short of its ambitious targets of expanding into the Kashmir Valley. The electorate, it seemed, was more aligned with regional issues such as autonomy, identity, and economic distress rather than the BJP's nationalistic agenda. The outcome underscores the challenges the BJP faces in making a deep impact in the region, especially in the aftermath of the abrogation of Article 370. It also highlights the resilience of local political players who continue to dominate the political narrative in the Valley. While Congress failed to reach the majority mark in Haryana, the Haryana elections put it back in the game. Its vote share was almost at par with the BJP at 39.04 per cent. The BJP vote share was 39.94 per cent. Despite the overall success of the BJP, eight out of ten ministers from the Haryana Assembly lost their seats. Of late the BJP though victorious is losing its sheen and needs to put it act together to regain the voters who are drifting away from its fold. It is a good start for the BJP for the upcoming state elections. The party must maintain the momentum into upcoming critical polls in Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Delhi to remain ahead of its opponents.

### PICTALK



A pandal themed on 'Three dimension of the Universe' during Durga Puja festival, in Kolkata

## The strategic role of generative AI in transforming Industries

Generative AI is transforming industries by enhancing customer experiences, boosting productivity and automating processes across sectors



KASHYAP DALAL

Generative AI has evolved from a novelty in boardroom discussions to a transformative tool across industries. Extending the capabilities of traditional AI in automation and predictive modeling, it's reshaping business processes, customer experiences, and employee productivity. Sectors such as pharmaceuticals, airlines, healthcare, manufacturing, and banking are seeing tangible benefits, as generative AI unlocks new avenues for value creation. **Enhancing Customer Experience:** Improving customer experience is a key priority for businesses today. Companies with both physical and online touchpoints are turning to generative AI, leveraging large language models (LLMs) to provide personalised recommendations that enhance buyer satisfaction and drive revenue growth. In the airline industry, Alaska Airlines has harnessed AI to offer customised flight and travel suggestions based on customer preferences such as budget and timing, significantly elevating the booking experience. By personalising



interactions, AI is allowing businesses to delight customers in ways that were previously time-intensive and difficult to scale. **Revolutionising Creativity:** Generative AI is also making waves in content creation, democratising creativity, and improving productivity. It allows companies to generate high-quality content quickly, reducing manual input and turnaround times. For example, Belk Ecommerce utilises generative AI to craft engaging product descriptions, ensuring consistency across marketing channels. This automation not only boosts operational efficiency but also delivers a cohesive shopping experience. Customer service is another area seeing improvements through generative AI. Firms like Klarna, a fintech company, use AI-powered virtual assistants to

handle millions of customer service requests, providing quick resolutions and reducing repetitive inquiries. This AI application results in faster, more accurate service and improved customer satisfaction. **Boosting Productivity:** Generative AI's ability to enhance employee productivity is becoming increasingly evident, especially in automating routine tasks. By freeing employees from monotonous work, AI enables them to focus on higher-value tasks that require strategic input. This shift is particularly significant for industries where frontline workers are pressed for time. Home Depot's US stores provide a prime example of AI-driven employee enablement. They employ AI-powered apps to assist in decision-making, inventory management, and task prioritisation, resulting in improved store operations and employee satisfaction. Generative AI also enhances documentation processes in sectors requiring high volumes of detailed reports. For instance, Bristol-Myers Squibb has integrated AI into their documentation workflows,

enabling rapid processing of clinical trial data and transforming complex, time-consuming tasks into streamlined operations. Such innovations are revolutionising sectors where speed and accuracy are paramount. **Leveraging Data:** With the increasing digitalisation of the world, businesses are relying more on data-driven insights. Generative AI can sift through vast datasets, extracting valuable insights to support better decision-making in areas such as research and data analysis. This capability is exemplified by Spotify, which uses AI to create personalised podcast previews, improving content discovery and user engagement. As generative AI transforms industries, businesses are preparing for widespread changes in operations, AI can augment every function. However, with these advancements comes the challenge of upskilling the workforce. Organizations need to ensure their employees are adaptable and equipped to leverage AI. (The writer is co-founder & chief operating officer, Simplilearn; views are personal)

# Revival of democracy amidst calls for statehood



KALYANI SHANKAR

Following the 2019 revocation of Article 370, these elections were a landmark moment, reflecting the people's desire for normalcy and statehood

The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir conducted its first Assembly elections in a decade. It showcased the peaceful embrace of democracy by its people last week after decades of militancy. These polls were held after the bifurcation of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh on August 5, 2019, following the revocation of Article 370. The BJP claimed that the move was necessary to tackle separatism, enhance economic development and fully integrate the region into the country. Since 1989, the state has faced militancy, violence and a boycott of polls by separatist elements allegedly sponsored by Pakistan. Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said, "The peaceful and participative elections are historic, wherein democracy is taking root more profoundly than ever before, driven by the will of the people of J and K." Intense campaigning, peaceful polling and high voter turnout marked the polls. Those afraid to go to the polling booth were allowed to vote peacefully. These were significant not only for political reasons but also because of developments such as the first Legislative Assembly elections in ten years, the abrogation of Article 370, and the restoration of democracy. This time, the Hindu-dominated Jammu and Muslim-dominated Kashmir were united in the demand to restore statehood, which the Centre had promised earlier. The higher voter turnout showed people's desire for democracy.



They were tired of gun fights and wanted to live a normal life. Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar praised the people of the Union Territory, which recorded 58.46 per cent voter turnout, the highest in 35 years. The security forces ensured a violence-free election. They also stifled the free movement of separatists. These elections differed from the previous polls as the politics of this region is no longer limited to the four traditional political parties NC, PDP, and the national political parties INC and the BJP. The new addition was the participation of separatist elements in these polls, which must be addressed, as they had

chosen the ballot route rather than the bullet route. Despite many poll issues like lack of development and unemployment, the people wanted a revival of statehood and a united Jammu and Kashmir. The other key issues were Article 370, law and order, terrorism, and socio-economic stability. The delimitation panel gave Jammu six additional seats and Kashmir one. The Opposition held that the balance was tilting in favour of Hindu-majority Jammu. Scheduled castes and scheduled tribes got nine seats reserved. Kashmir has been under the international scanner. Diplomats from many countries were taken to the state to observe the polls. They got first-hand information from visiting the state. There are several reasons for the peaceful polls this time. The first was the minimal involvement of Pakistan, as it had its internal problems to sort out. India blames Pakistan for training, funding and pushing Islamist militants, targeting the Hindu-dominated Jammu area more than the Muslim-dominated Kashmir Valley. Pakistan denies the

charges. Secondly, Kashmiris were tired of living in violent and disturbed situations. Two generations of Children had lost their normal childhood. Thirdly, militants did not call for the boycott of elections this time. On the contrary, separatists themselves entered the poll fray. Many areas once known as terror hotbeds saw brisk polling. The militants probably realised they needed funds and patrons, which they lacked. So, they decided to go through the election route. BJP chief JP Nadda said people had rejected the ballots and chose the ballot route. The election in Jammu and Kashmir witnessed a multi-cornered contest for the 90 seats. The National Conference and Congress went for a coalition. At the same time, the BJP and PDP were the other two significant players. The BJP had high stakes but a weak political base in the Valley, while it's strong in Jammu. The party contested only 19 of the 47 seats in the Valley. BJP knew the realistic position in the Valley where it could not hope to get votes. So, the BJP is fighting through proxies. A BJP candidate admitted that the party would get support from Engineer Rashid, Sajad Lone, Altaf Bukhari, and Ghulam Nabi Azad - all minor players. Kashmiri pundits are still afraid of returning home. The people in both Jammu and the Valley lament the downgrading of the state to two union territories. There is still unemployment and the drug and narcotic trade menace in the state. The election results are out and the National Conference-Congress coalition has got a clear edge. The BJP, which has no presence in the Valley, propped up some independents and hopes to do well in Jammu. The Centre should take credit for completing the election process, and so should the Election Commission. But the people of Jammu and Kashmir deserve kudos for fearlessly going to the polling booth to vote. They showed the trend in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections too. There is no doubt Jammu and Kashmir want a popular government. But the only worry is that they must vote for a stable government rather than a split verdict. (The writer is a popular columnist; views are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### STRENGTHENING BILATERAL RELATIONS

Madam — Apropos to the 'Strategic Balancing Act', October 8. With Maldivian President Muizzu making his first state visit to India, New Delhi-Male ties are clearly on the mend. Contrast this with the situation in the beginning of the year when Muizzu declined to make India his first port of call after assuming the presidency, undertook a state visit to China, inked a defence cooperation pact with Beijing, and demanded that New Delhi pull out its small contingent of troops in the archipelago nation. The reality is that both countries need each other irrespective of differences of opinion on certain issues. No country can escape geography and this certainly holds true for both India and the Maldives. India will always remain the Maldives's closest, largest Indian Ocean neighbour and first responder in all crises. China simply can't be a replacement here given its physical distance from the region. Therefore, New Delhi, which also needs Male for better strategic depth in the Indian Ocean Region, and Male have no option but to enhance their cooperative relationship. Muizzu had campaigned on an 'India Out' plank during his election. But fighting elections outside the government and running a country are two different things. Plus, India has always stood by the Maldives. Also, Muizzu has asked Indian tourists to return to the Maldives, something that is vital for that country's economy. Thus, New Delhi-Male relations have once again found equilibrium. That will be a relief for India after the Bangladesh shock. N Sadhasiva Reddy | Washington

### Vegetable prices rise in festival season



The prices of vegetables are going through the roof in the market. During Dussehra and Diwali festivals, the prices of essentials and vegetables are skyrocketing. Almost all the vegetables are approaching the century mark. The common man is getting upset with the increased prices. Recently, the increased prices of essential goods have come into force in the context of the central government increasing the import duty

on foreign goods imports. Due to this effect, cooking oil prices have gone up. The prices of palm oil and sunflower oil have gone up. Till yesterday, the price of tomato was less than 50 rupees, now it has doubled. Recently, due to weather conditions, crops have been badly damaged in the states of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. The situation has changed as the tomato coming from these regions has suddenly decreased. In the absence of tomatoes, hotels and fast food centres are reducing the use of tomatoes. Due to this, the people and the hotel managers are facing severe difficulties. Onion prices also seem to be at that level. Onion price is increasing due to insufficient supply from Maharashtra. In addition to this, some groups are hoarding essential commodities informally and creating artificial scarcity and selling the commodities at high prices, doubling the hardships of the common man. Appanna Gonapa | Visakhapatnam

### ONE YEAR OF WEST ASIA CRISIS

Madam — It has been a year since Hamas attacked Israel. The way Hamas fighters were successful in attacking Israel by breaking through its entire security system on October 7 last year, it seems that if we leave aside the attacks by rockets, drones and missiles, Israel can be defeated in a ground war. Because Iran, Hamas and

Hezbollah fired thousands of rockets at Israel, it did not suffer any major damage. But as soon as Israel attacked Lebanon on the ground, more than 10 Israeli security forces were killed within a few hours. Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu said during the first anniversary that 'Israel will continue to attack its enemies as long as its security is under threat.' I think Netanyahu was probably talking about his own security, not Israel's. Because the day this war ends, Netanyahu's journey to the political pinnacle will end and the Israeli people will immediately oust him from power. Because three-fourths of Jews are extremely angry with him for the way he has handled this war. The way even today hundreds of hostages are in the custody of Hamas for which Netanyahu has done nothing. Several decisions passed by the United Nations this year and the decision given by the International Court of Justice make it clear that what Israel calls a 'terrorist' attack is actually a reaction to an action'. Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

### UPHOLDING TRUE SECULARISM

Madam — This is in response to the news report titled "India is essentially a Hindu nation: RSS chief" (October 7). Far from being a "Hindu nation," India is historically a nation of all ("None can tell, at whose beckoning, vast waves of humanity/in currents unstoppable, from the unknown here arrived/To merge into the Great Sea" - Rabindranath Tagore), and this is the very reason why "Secularism" is embedded right within the Constitution itself. If Hindus indeed "care for everyone" as their own and "embrace all" so as to live in "harmony," then what compels the RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat to advise his own religious group to unite by transcending all narrow barriers of race, language, state and caste! This directly proves that Hindus are a highly divided lot in demographic terms and this gets proved through caste-based atrocities upon Dalits and torture upon linguistic/racial minorities in different states! Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com





## FIRST COLUMN

## ACHIEVING WORK LIFE BALANCE

A healthy work-life dynamic not only benefits individuals but also strengthens communities



SAKSHI SETHI

In recent years, the world has faced unprecedented challenges, from the COVID-19 pandemic to ongoing socio-economic disruptions. These crises have not only claimed lives but have also altered the very fabric of our daily routines and working environments. Amidst these tumultuous times, the concept of work-life balance has emerged as a crucial necessity, emphasising the importance of maintaining mental and physical well-being while fulfilling professional responsibilities. The rising death tolls and widespread fear associated with global crises have taken a toll on mental health. Today, grief, anxiety and uncertainty have become commonplace as people grapple with loss and disruption. There is no denying the fact that fast-paced technological advancements require constant adaptation and learning, which can be overwhelming and contribute to stress. In many Indian companies, there is a culture of overwork, where taking time off is frowned upon. Many executives even end up working extended hours, sacrificing their time and health, which contributes to physical as well as mental exhaustion. Moreover, this can even lead to a toxic environment where employees not only feel they have to prove their worth constantly, but the stigma associated with failure may even drive them to push themselves to unhealthy limits to succeed. Poor diet, lack of exercise and high-stress levels have led to lifestyle-related health issues such as heart disease, diabetes and hypertension, which are prevalent among high-level executives.



Economic downturns and market volatility add pressure on executives to perform, leading to increased stress and associated health risks. In such a climate, achieving a balance between work and personal life has become essential for fostering resilience and promoting overall well-being. A healthy work-life balance allows an individual to dedicate time towards self-care, family and community, which are vital for emotional recovery and stability. The shift to remote work and flexible schedules, prompted by the pandemic, has underscored the need for a re-evaluation of traditional work structures. If remote work offers flexibility, at the same time it has also blurred the lines between personal as well as professional life, leading to longer hours and increased stress. It's the need of the hour for organisations to recognise this and promote policies that encourage employees to set boundaries, take breaks and prioritise personal time. Addressing the high death toll among executives in Indian companies for instance the Pune CA death followed by a reputed Indian working for NBFC and committing suicide on a similar ground- i.e. work pressure and mental distress from the seniors necessitates a multi-faceted approach. Organisations must prioritise mental health support, promote a healthier work-life balance, and create a culture that values employee well-being. By taking these steps, companies can not only help mitigate the risks associated with high-stress environments but also foster a healthier and more sustainable workplace. By fostering an environment that values work-life balance, employees can enhance productivity and employee satisfaction, thereby leading to lower turnover rates and a more engaged workforce. Achieving work-life balance is not solely a personal endeavour but it also has broader implications for society. When individuals can manage their work and personal lives effectively, they are more likely to engage in their communities, volunteer and support local initiatives. This communal engagement will foster social connections and strengthen the fabric of society, thereby making it more resilient in the face of adversity. By prioritising work-life balance, we as citizens of the nation will contribute not only to our well-being but also to the health of our communities. (The writer is a motivator; views are personal)

## The key to a sustainable and low-carbon future



ASHOK KUMAR

By adopting energy-efficient practices, the country not only cuts emissions but also saves millions of tonnes of oil equivalent, leading to a more sustainable future

Energy efficiency refers to the practice of using less energy to achieve the same level of output or perform the same task. It is one of the most impactful strategies for reducing energy consumption, cutting costs, and mitigating environmental harm. As global energy demand continues to rise, enhancing energy efficiency has become critical in the fight against climate change, resource conservation, and ensuring a sustainable future. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), the global rate of energy efficiency improvement has averaged around 2 per cent per year, with some variations during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2023, global energy consumption reached approximately 15,000 million tons of oil equivalent (MTOE), as reported in the Enerdata Yearbook 2024. A 2 per cent improvement in efficiency would save about 300 MTOE—an amount greater than India's entire industrial energy consumption, which stands at around 270 MTOE in 2022-23. In 2022-23, sectors such as industry, buildings, and transport consumed 552 MTOE out of India's total primary energy consumption of 850 MTOE. The industrial sector accounted for 49 per cent of this total, while transport and buildings (residential and commercial) contributed 12 per cent and 13 per cent, respectively. India is one of the few nations with a comprehensive legal and institutional framework for energy conservation.

The Energy Conservation Act of 2001 and the Bureau of Energy Efficiency under the Ministry of Power are pivotal in driving energy efficiency programmes across various sectors. India's flagship programmes include the Perform, Achieve, and Trade (PAT) Scheme for energy-intensive industries, initiatives for energy-efficient buildings, vehicle fuel efficiency standards, and the star rating and labelling scheme for household appliances and industrial equipment. In 2022-23, these programmes collectively saved around 51 MTOE, equivalent to reducing carbon emissions by approximately 306 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>. This energy efficiency contribution accounts for about 10 per cent of India's annual emissions, which stands at around 3 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub>. Energy efficiency is projected to play a crucial role in global climate action.

It is estimated that nearly 40 per cent of the emissions reductions needed to reach net zero by 2050 must come from energy efficiency measures, many of which offer short payback periods ranging from 3-5 years. Often dubbed the "first fuel," energy efficiency is seen as a vital tool in maintaining a sustainable, low-carbon future. Given the constrained carbon budget outlined in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment, energy efficiency is more important than ever in controlling global temperature rise.

**The Importance of Energy Efficiency:** It is a cornerstone of sustainable development, offering multiple advantages such as cost savings, environmental protection, energy security and resource conservation.

Energy-efficient technologies reduce consumption, which, in turn, cuts utility bills for individuals, businesses, and governments. Reduced energy use decreases greenhouse gas emissions and helps combat global warming. It also diminishes pollutants that harm air and water quality. Additionally, energy efficiency decreases overall demand, reducing dependence on fossil fuels and



IT IS ESTIMATED THAT NEARLY 40 PER CENT OF THE EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS NEEDED TO REACH NET ZERO BY 2050 MUST COME FROM ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES, MANY OF WHICH OFFER SHORT PAYBACK PERIODS RANGING FROM 3-5 YEARS

strengthening energy security, especially for countries heavily reliant on imports. It also reduces the need for new power plants and industrial facilities, conserving natural resources and limiting environmental impact.

**Key Sectors and Strategies Industry:** The industrial sector is the largest global energy consumer, driven by processes such as manufacturing, mining and machinery use. Enhancing energy efficiency in this sector involves optimising processes, recovering waste energy, and implementing energy management systems. Upgrading equipment, improving production methods, and utilising efficient motors and pumps can significantly reduce energy consumption. The National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE), launched in 2011, targets energy-intensive industries.

Under its PAT Scheme, industries are assigned specific energy-saving targets (energy use per unit of product), and the market-based approach allows trading of excess energy savings. This initiative has resulted in substantial energy savings, leading to a reduction of approximately 110 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. As of August 2024, the PAT scheme covers 1,333 energy-intensive industries and establishments across 13 sectors, including steel, cement, aluminium, fertilizer, petroleum refineries, thermal power plants, and others. As India develops its carbon market mechanism, many of these sectors will participate as "obligated entities" with specific greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets.

The carbon market will facilitate this transition by implementing a market-based approach to pricing GHG emissions. This mechanism encourages both public and private entities to engage in decarbonisation efforts across various sectors. Entities that reduce emissions below their targets can earn Carbon Credit Certificates, while those that do not must purchase credits to comply.

Additionally, the mechanism will have a voluntary component, allowing non-obligated entities to register projects focused on reducing, removing, or avoiding GHG emissions to obtain carbon credits.

**The Standards & Labeling (S&L) Programme:** launched in 2006, rates appliances based on their energy efficiency, from 1 to 5 stars. This program covers 38 appliances, with 16 falling under mandatory regulations. As of August 2024, the programme has saved 82 billion units of energy, equivalent to cutting 58 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

The UJALA Scheme and the Street Light National Program (SLNP) have also been successful in replacing inefficient lighting with LED solutions, leading to significant energy savings and emission reductions. As of September 2024, approximately 370 million LED bulbs and 7.2 million LED tube lights have been distributed through the UJALA scheme. This has resulted in an annual reduction of 39 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. **Buildings:** Buildings are another major energy consumer, particularly through heating, cooling, and lighting. Energy-efficient building design, proper insulation, and smart energy management systems can dramatically reduce energy use.

The Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC), introduced in 2007, mandates minimum energy performance standards for commercial and residential buildings. Recent updates, such as the Energy Conservation and Sustainable Building Code (ECSBC) and the Eco Niwas Samhita (ENS) for residential buildings, aim to further reduce energy consumption in large buildings by up to 18 per cent.

**Transportation:** It is a major contributor to global energy use, primarily from fossil fuels. Improving fuel efficiency in vehicles and promoting electric and hybrid vehicles are key strategies.

The Indian government has implemented fuel efficiency standards for

passenger cars and heavy-duty vehicles and aims to expand the electric vehicle ecosystem including charging infrastructure. As of 2024, India's charging stations are expected to increase to 100,000 by 2030, supporting the growing number of electric vehicles. To create awareness of the benefits of Electric Vehicles (EVs), the "Go Electric" Campaign was launched in Feb 2021. This involves radio jingles, poster/leaflets distribution, awareness through social media platforms, street plays, etc.

**Electricity Generation and Transmission:** Upgrading power plants and incorporating renewable energy sources such as solar and wind are vital for reducing emissions in electricity generation. Under the PAT Scheme, India's thermal power plants have improved their efficiency, contributing to a reduction of 30 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>. As of August 2024, 46 per cent of India's installed power capacity comes from non-fossil fuel sources, surpassing the commitment made at the Paris COP 21 summit.

**Challenges:** Despite its benefits, the adoption of energy efficiency measures faces challenges like high upfront costs, limited awareness, and policy gaps. These barriers can be addressed through financial support mechanisms, capacity-building initiatives, and the development of comprehensive, flexible policies. Conclusion Energy efficiency is an essential driver of sustainable development, offering significant economic, environmental, and social benefits.

As technology improves and policies strengthen, energy efficiency will remain crucial in reducing energy demand and mitigating climate change. By adopting energy-efficient practices in our homes, industries, and transportation systems, we can contribute to a cleaner, more sustainable future.

(The writer is DDG, Bureau of Energy Efficiency; views are personal)

## Surya Ghar Yojana: A sustainable alternative to free electricity politics

Unlike conventional freebies, this scheme boosts long-term savings, infrastructure investment and promotes sustainable energy production

In response to the growing trend of political parties offering free electricity to secure votes, the Narendra Modi government has introduced the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Yojana. This initiative aims to promote solar energy adoption by providing homeowners with a subsidy ranging from Rs 30,000 to Rs 78,000 for installing one to three kW solar panels. The scheme is designed to reduce dependence on government subsidies while offering households the benefit of free electricity for up to 25 years. **Solar Power for Households** Under this scheme, a consumer will spend around Rs 40,000 to Rs 70,000 to install a two to three kW solar panel. This investment allows households to generate up to 300



ASHWANI MAHAJAN

units of electricity per month, covering a significant portion of their energy needs. At the current rate of Rs 8 per unit, this translates to a monthly saving of Rs 2,400. Over 25 years, the total savings per household would amount to approximately Rs 7.20 lakh, ensuring that the initial cost of installation is recovered within one to two years. The government has also made provisions for consumers to finance

the remaining amount at a concessional interest rate of 7 per cent.

**Addressing the Politics of Free Electricity**

In recent years, several political parties have leveraged the promise of free electricity as a means to gain political support. States like Delhi, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh have implemented such schemes, offering free or subsidised electricity to a significant portion of their populations.

In Delhi, for instance, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government provides up to 200 units of electricity for free and a 50 per cent subsidy for those consuming between 201 and 400 units. However, the cost of these schemes has placed a significant burden on state budgets. In Delhi, Rs

3,250 crore was allocated for electricity subsidies in the 2023-24 budget, out of a total budget of Rs 78,800 crore. Under AAP's rule, the capital expenditure growth rate has declined from 19.6 per cent during the previous Congress government's tenure to 9.2 per cent. Consequently, infrastructure development in Delhi has slowed, with fewer new projects being launched. The situation is similar in other states where free electricity has been promised. Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, and Himachal Pradesh are all grappling with mounting debts, making it increasingly difficult to sustain free electricity schemes. In some cases, states have had to scale back or abandon these initiatives due to financial constraints.

**A Viable Alternative**

The Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Yojana offers a more sustainable solution. By encouraging households to generate their own electricity through rooftop solar panels, the scheme reduces the long-term burden on government finances. The total investment required by households under the scheme is Rs 1.5 lakh,

including the government subsidy. With one crore households expected to participate, this would result in an additional capacity of 30 GW of solar power, significantly boosting India's renewable energy output.

Unlike traditional free electricity schemes, which are funded by annual government subsidies, the Surya Ghar Yojana provides long-term benefits without placing a strain on the budget. By generating their own electricity, households will no longer be dependent on yearly subsidies and will contribute to reducing the country's carbon footprint. This aligns with India's broader goals of increasing renewable energy production and achieving net-zero emissions.

**Economic and****Environmental Impact**

The Surya Ghar Yojana has far-reaching economic and environmental benefits. First, it provides households with a reliable source of free electricity for 25 years, ensuring significant savings on energy bills. This also reduces the government's reliance on costly subsidies, freeing up funds for essential infrastructure development.

Second, the scheme is expected to generate large-scale employment, with over one lakh people required to be trained to install and maintain solar panels. This will not only create new jobs but also develop a skilled workforce in the renewable energy sector.

Third, by increasing solar energy production, the scheme will help India reduce its

dependence on fossil fuels, contributing to the country's efforts to combat climate change. Rooftop solar panels are an environmentally friendly alternative to coal-based power plants, and their widespread adoption will significantly reduce carbon emissions. By encouraging households to invest in solar energy, the scheme not only reduces the burden on state budgets but also contributes to India's renewable energy goals. The widespread adoption of rooftop solar panels has the potential to transform the energy landscape, providing households while helping India move closer to achieving its environmental objectives.

(The writer is Professor, PGDAV College, University of Delhi; views are personal)



IN BRIEF



Gold prices fall to Rs 77,700; silver tumbles Rs 2,800

Gold prices depreciated for the second straight day by Rs 600 to Rs 77,700 per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday amid muted domestic demand. On Tuesday, the precious metal closed at Rs 78,300 per 10 grams. Silver also tumbled Rs 2,800 to Rs 91,200 per kg against Rs 94,000 per kg in the previous close, according to the All India Sarafa Association. Meanwhile, gold of 99.5 per cent purity plunged Rs 600 to Rs 77,300 per 10 grams. Traders said muted demand in the domestic market led to the fall in prices of the yellow metal. In futures trade on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold contracts for December delivery rose Rs 29 or 0.04 per cent to Rs 75,190 per 10 grams. Silver contracts for December delivery also soared Rs 754 or 0.85 per cent to Rs 89,483 per kg on the exchange.



Bizman loses Rs 1.25 crore to stock market fraud

A city-based businessman has lost Rs 1.25 crore to an online stock market investment fraud, police said on Wednesday. A case of cheating was registered but the fraudsters were yet to be identified, said an official of the North Region Cyber police station. The complainant, a Kandivali resident who runs an event management company, came across an advertisement on Instagram promising high returns in the share market in July, and joined a WhatsApp group run by one 'Raman Verma', he told cyber police. A few days later 'Verma' encouraged the businessman to invest through his firm and sent him a link to a website, the complainant said. After the businessman provided his personal details and uploaded some documents, he was induced to invest Rs 1.25 crore in various IPOs.



HDFC Life Insurance to raise Rs 1,000 cr via NCDs

HDFC Life Insurance on Wednesday said the insurer plans to raise Rs 1,000 crore through non convertible debentures to fund business growth. The decision to this effect was taken by the Capital Raising Committee (CRC) of the HDFC Life Insurance Board, the insurer said in a regulatory filing. The fund would be raised through unsecured, rated, listed, subordinated, redeemable, fully paid up, non cumulative, non convertible debentures (NCDs) for an aggregate nominal value of Rs 1,000 crore on a private placement basis, it said. The debenture of tenure 10 years would carry a coupon rate of 8.05 per cent per annum, it said. "The debentures proposed to be issued shall neither be secured nor covered by a guarantee of the company or other arrangements that legally or economically enhance the seniority of the claims as against the claims of the company's policyholders and all other creditors," it said.

Carbon tax proposed by EU unilateral, arbitrary: FM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism or CBAM is unilateral and arbitrary and will hurt India's exports after its implementation by the European Union. CBAM are tariffs that will apply on energy-intensive goods imported into the European Union (EU). The EU has decided to impose carbon tax CBAM from January 1, 2026, on seven carbon-intensive sectors, including steel, cement, and fertiliser. Engineering goods will come under the purview of this import duty.

It is a border tax introduced by the EU, and such moves are going to create a trade barrier, she said while speaking at the Energy Transition Summit organised by Financial Times. Against this, she said, India has voiced its concern several times to the EU, and the government is also looking at ways to reduce the cost of transactions. The decision by the EU



It is a border tax introduced by the EU, and such moves are going to create a trade barrier, she said while speaking at the Energy Transition Summit organised by Financial Times

may affect the profitability of Indian exporters, as Europe is among the top export destinations for the country. India's total trade with the EU was \$137.41 billion in 2023-24, with imports at \$61.48 billion and exports at \$75.93 billion.

She, however, said it was unlikely that India's opposition to the CBAM would be a barrier to finalising the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the EU. "I am sure it won't be escalated to the level of hurting

the (FTA) talks," she said. She exuded the confidence that India would achieve net Zero by 2070.

"Yes, we are on track to achieve 2030 carbon emission reduction goals," she said, adding that the Budget has allocated made huge allocation for battery storage.

To another query on India's green initiatives, Sitharaman said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has led from the front in setting the agenda for the country, and the commitments given in the UN cli-

mate change conference COP 21 were fulfilled by India well ahead of time, with its own resources.

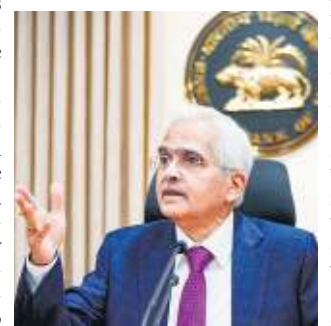
On the decarbonisation of India's economy, she said the government has brought in the PLI (production-linked incentive) scheme for 13 sunrise sectors, which included green energy.

"We also have PLI for automobiles and electric vehicles. So, budget has never been a constraint in promoting the green sectors," Sitharaman said.

RBI changes stance to open window for a rate cut

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) kept its key interest rate unchanged on Wednesday for the tenth straight time, but took the first step towards a rate



from 6.25 per cent. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said the committee changed the stance but will remain unambiguously focused on the durable alignment of inflation to target while supporting growth. Food inflation, he said, may ease in coming months, while the core inflation, which excludes the volatile food and energy costs, appears to have bottomed out.

India's economic growth outlook remained intact, with private consumption and investment growing in tandem. The change of stance signals a possible move to cut interest rates in forthcoming MPC meetings, the next being due in early December.

RBI will join other central banks in a policy pivot that was led by the US Federal Reserve easing rates last month.

Interest rates were last changed in February 2023 when they were hiked to 6.5 per cent

EMPOWERING STARTUPS THROUGH E-COMM

Amazon India ties up with Startup India, DPIIT

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amazon India has partnered with Startup India, under the aegis of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), to help startups scale growth through e-commerce.

Through a dedicated page on the Startup India portal, the e-commerce firm and Startup India will work together to allow eligible startups to make use of e-commerce opportunities by registering on Amazon India's marketplace.

The startups will gain access to the domestic market, mentorship from Amazon leaders, go-to-market support and logistics guidance, according to a company statement.

"By combining Amazon's e-commerce expertise with

Startup India's role as the Government of India's flagship initiative for the development of the startup ecosystem, we will provide a robust platform for Indian startups and businesses to scale domestically," Sanjiv, Joint Secretary, DPIIT, said.

Furthermore, Amazon will work to empower select women entrepreneurs through its Saheli programme.

Amazon's suite of services, including Amazon Pay, Amazon Incentives, Amazon Business, Amazon Transport, AWS, Amazon Advertising, and Mini TV will be available to women-led startups.

Further, the partnership aims to create awareness about the Bharat Startup Knowledge Access Registry (BHASKAR) initiative.



IRB Infra to raise up to \$200 mn in debt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

IRB Infrastructure Developers on Wednesday said its board has approved a proposal to raise up to \$200 million by issuing foreign currency-denominated notes, including US dollar-denominated bonds or other debt securities.

The company, in a regulatory filing, said it intends to avail term loans from various sources, including financial institutions, to meet its financial requirements to create security, as deemed necessary by the board, to secure the debt securities and enter into hedging contracts when required, as permitted by the Reserve Bank of India.

The company's board of directors approved the proposal at a meeting held on Wednesday.

Over 82% of rural youth can use internet, says govt survey

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Over 82 per cent of youth in rural areas between 15 and 25 years of age can use the internet while the figure is nearly 92 per cent in urban cities, showed a government survey. It also found that 95.7 per cent of persons aged 15-24 years in rural areas can use mobile phones, slightly lower than 97 per cent in urban areas.

On Wednesday, the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation released key findings of a Comprehensive Annual Modular Survey (CAMS) conducted from July 2022 to June 2023. This is part of the 79th round of the National Sample Survey (NSS).

"82.1 per cent of rural youth aged 15-24 years can use the internet, compared to 91.8 per cent in urban areas," an official



statement said. The survey findings suggest that 78.4 per cent of youth aged 15-24 years can send messages with attached files, while 71.2 per cent can use copy-and-paste tools. Moreover, 26.8 per cent can perform more advanced tasks like searching for information, sending emails, and conducting online banking.

As per the survey, the percentage of households possessing a telephone/ mobile phone stood at 95.1 per cent (94.2 per

cent in rural and 97.1 per cent for urban).

The percentage of households possessing a computer (desktop PC, laptop etc) is 9.9 per cent (4.2 per cent in rural and 21.6 per cent in urban areas).

Among other key findings, the survey revealed that 96.9 per cent of persons aged 15-24 years are able to read and write simple statements with understanding and also able to perform simple arithmetic calculations.

Sensex reverses gains on fag-end selling

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark Sensex reversed its gains and closed lower by 167 points on Wednesday due to profit-taking in select blue-chips in the last hour even as the RBI took the first step towards a rate cut in its monetary policy review.

Erasing its early gains, the 30-share BSE Sensex fell 167.71 points or 0.21 per cent to close at 81,467.1. The index opened higher and later surged 684.4 points to hit an intraday high of 82,319.21 as RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das left the interest rate unchanged but changed the stance to neutral. However, sharp gains in blue-chips attracted profit taking by cautious investors ahead of the start of earnings season on Thursday.

The NSE Nifty dropped 31.20 points or 0.12 per cent



to end at 24,981.95. In the intraday trade, it jumped 220.9 points or 0.88 per cent to hit a high of 25,234.05.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) kept its key interest rate unchanged on Wednesday but took the first step towards a rate cut as it eased its relatively hawkish policy stance to 'neutral'.

The monetary policy committee, which included three

and HDFC Bank were among the major laggards.

On the contrary, Tata Motors, Tech Mahindra, State Bank of India, Maruti Suzuki India, Bajaj Finance, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finserv and Bharti Airtel were among the gainers. "An upward revision in Q3FY25 inflation reiterates that the sticky inflation continues to remain a concern for the RBI and led investors to book profit towards the close. The volatility in input prices and the impact on margin dragged the FMCG stocks," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services said.

The change in RBI's stance to neutral was favourable and expected, but the commentary is not pointing to a rate cut in the near term, Nair added.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge jumped 1.06 per cent and smallcap index climbed 1.21 per cent.

Over 34.84 lakh IT audit reports filed on e-filing portal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The finance ministry on Wednesday said more than 34.84 lakh audit reports, including about 34.09 lakh Tax Audit Reports (TARs), have been filed for assessment year 2024-25 on the e-filing portal till October 7.

The income tax department had extended the date for filing the audit report from September 30 to October 7.

There is an increase in the filing of TARs for the AY 2024-25 by around 4.8 per cent compared to the filings of TARs on the due date for AY 2023-24. "To assist taxpayers, the department conducted extensive outreach programmes through emails,

SMSS, webinars, social media campaigns and messages on the Income Tax portal to create and raise awareness among the taxpayers about filing TARs and other audit forms by the due date. Various user awareness videos were uploaded on the Income Tax portal to provide guidance," the ministry said in a release.

It further said that these concerted efforts have been helpful to taxpayers and tax professionals in timely compliance in filing TARs.

According to the finance ministry, the e-filing Helpdesk team handled around 1.23 lakh queries from taxpayers during September and October 2024, proactively supporting them throughout the filing period.

Infosys, Microsoft to boost Cloud, GenAI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

IT giant Infosys on Wednesday announced expansion of its partnership with Microsoft to help drive global customer adoption of generative AI and Microsoft's cloud platform Azure.

Additionally, Infosys will also act as a strategic supplier to support cloud and AI workloads for Microsoft's enterprise customers.

It will infuse Microsoft's generative AI suite of offerings across its Solution IP portfolio to bring unique capabilities to market, helping clients achieve cost-efficiency, scalability, and agility, according to a regulatory filing.

"Our expanded collaboration with Infosys will trans-



form industries, enhance business operations, elevate employee experiences, and deliver new value for customers. Together, we will harness the power of generative AI to deliver innovative solutions, drive AI adoption and enable unprecedented innovation for customers," Nicole Dezen, Chief Partner Officer at Microsoft, said.

The collaboration aims to provide innovative solutions that enhance customer experiences and drive enterprise AI adoption. This includes integrating Microsoft's generative AI offerings with Infosys' existing solutions like Infosys Topaz, Cobalt, and Aster.

The alliance will also work on sharing best practices for Responsible AI.

Anand Swaminathan, EVP and Global Industry Leader--Communications, Media and Technology, Infosys, said the collaboration addresses various business problems through a customer-centric approach, providing scalability, agility, and cost-efficiency across key sectors like finance, healthcare, supply chain, and telecommunications.

The partnership dates back to when Infosys adopted GitHub Copilot, leading to significant improvements in code modernisation and completion.

Currently, Infosys is recognized as a leading user of GitHub Copilot, with over 18,000 developers generating more than 7 million lines of code through this tool.

Pralhad Joshi, German VC discuss opportunities, cooperation in RE sector

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi and Germany's Vice-Chancellor Robert Habeck have discussed opportunities and areas of cooperation in renewable energy, an official statement said on Wednesday.

The minister met Habeck, who is also the Federal

Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, on the sidelines of the Hamburg Sustainability Conference (HSC) in Berlin, Germany, on Tuesday, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy said.

"Held a bilateral meeting with Dr Robert Habeck on the sidelines of HSC2024. Had a fruitful discussion on strengthening cooperation in renewable energy. Deliberation on opportunities in green hydrogen, offshore wind, biogas, and recycling of solar waste was also held during the meeting. We were happy to note that India and Germany's cooperation on energy transition is progressing well," Joshi said.



GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA  
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEER  
TENDER NOTICE  
No. NIT No. 101/CDP-2023-24, SDF-2023-24 & SDRF-2024-25/2024; Date: 09-10-2024  
Tenders are being invited from registered contractors for execution of 10 works: No. of works: 10 works (first call), Estimated cost: Approx Rs. 84.10 lakh, Commencement of Tenders: At 10.30 am on 14-10-2024, Closing of the Tenders: Up to 3.00 pm on 31-10-2024. For details, contact the website www.tender.telangana.gov.in or see the tender notice displayed in the above said office's notice-board or call the concerned officer on mobile 78428 11354. Sd/- District Panchayat Engineer, P.O. No. 5702/PPLAJAY/1024-25, Dt. 09-10-2024

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION  
"E" PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE  
NIT No. 20/EE-7/46/CRZ/GHMC/2024-25; Date: 07-10-2024  
Name of the Work: Single side laminate partition of Aluminium paneling, Qty: Rmt. Bid Submission Start date & Time / Bid Submission of Closing Date & Time: 08-10-2024 @ 11.30 AM / 11-10-2024 @ 11.30 AM. Name & Address officer Cell No.: Executive Engineer, 9154796465 & 7331189186. For further details can be sent at e-procurement @ http://www.tender.telangana.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Division No. 28, GHMC, P.O.No. 5171/PPLAJAY/1024-25, Dt. 09-10-2024

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION  
"E" PROCUREMENT NOTICE MAINTENANCE WORKS  
NIT No. 20/EE-7/46/CRZ/GHMC/2024-25; Date: 09-10-2024  
Name of the Work: SI No 1 to 9, Estt. Cost: Rs. 96.88 Lakhs, Download Start Date: 09-10-2024 at 10.30 A.M., Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids: 11-10-2024 at 02.15 P.M. Name & Address Officer, Cell No.: Sd/- G. Ekambaram, EE (FAC), Santosh Nagar Circle-7, Chaminar Zone, Masqail Ground, Darab Jung Colony, Santosh Nagar, Hyderabad, Ph. No. 7673951166. For further details can be seen at e-procurement @ www.tender.telangana.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Division No. 28, GHMC, P.O.No. 5171/PPLAJAY/1024-25, Dt. 09-10-2024





## UDUPA FOUNDATION MAKING SURE THAT MUSICAL HERITAGE OF INDIA IS CONTINUED...

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In 2015, Giridhar Udupa established the Udupa Foundation at Bengaluru, a registered charitable trust, with a mission to promote music, performing arts and culture. Born out of a deep passion for India's artistic heritage, the foundation seeks to ensure that the country's rich musical traditions continue to inspire and shape future generations. As a venture driven by internationally acclaimed artists, the foundation aims to weave together a movement called *Kala Payana*, a journey that brings art, artists and art connoisseurs into a shared space of creativity and appreciation.

At the heart of the foundation's mission are its passionate trustees: Giridhar Udupa, Sandhya Udupa and Bhargava Halambi. Together, they have woven a vision that extends the reach of classical music and performing arts to communities. Their collective efforts ensure that the foundation's outreach strikes a harmonious chord, bringing the joy of music to those who need it most.

Inspired by Vidwan Ullur Nagendra Udupa, a renowned Mrudanga artiste and Ghatam Giridhar Udupa's father, the foundation emphasises inclusivity and accessibility. Vidwan Udupa, who began his artistic journey as a Yakshagana performer in Karavali region, went on to become a key figure in the world of Carnatic classical percussion. His life was marked by perseverance and an unwavering commitment to music, even when starting with limited resources. His dedication to nurturing young talent led him to establish an institution for training students in 1975, sharing his knowledge generously with anyone eager to learn, regardless of their background.

Now, Ghatam Giridhar Udupa continues this legacy. He envisions an artistic platform that not only preserves India's musical traditions but also fosters creative collaborations across diverse musical cultures. Through teaching, supporting and promoting the arts, the foundation aims to bridge the gap between rural and urban youth, connecting them to the essence of India's cultural wealth.

The journey began with a simple yet profound realisation: many people, especially those in old age homes or with physical challenges, rarely had the chance to experience the beauty of live music. It was a realisation that stirred him deeply, reminding him of how essential music is—not just as entertainment but as a source of joy and solace.

His motivation to bring the rhythms of life to those who couldn't easily access them became the foundation's core mission. Reflecting on this, he says, "When we perform in an old age home, there are moments when I see tears in their eyes. It's not just about the music; it's about touching a part of their heart that hasn't been reached in a long time." This sentiment, shared by both Giridhar and the musicians who join him, has been the heartbeat of the foundation.

From its inception, the foundation has been supported by a constellation of classical music legends. His vision drew in artists like Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, Bombay Jayashree, and Shiv Kumar Sharma, who became part of the foundation's fabric, performing for its cause. Yet, the foundation's work extends beyond star-studded concerts. With nearly two concerts a month, often held in rural schools, orphanages and remote villages, the foundation is dedicated to making classical music accessible to those who might otherwise never encounter it. The performances are not just about showcasing talent; they are about creating connections, educating and spreading the joy of India's rich classical heritage.

One of the foundation's main efforts focuses on music education! He emphasises the need to demystify the art form, stating, "It's not about making everyone a musician; it's about letting them



We go on an adventure that goes beyond the bounds of music and community in an exclusive conversation with Ghatam Giridhar Udupa, the visionary founder of the Udupa Foundation. The foundation was founded in 2015 and is committed to ensuring that the rich legacy of classical music and performing arts in India continues to inspire upcoming generations. It is motivated by a profound love for India's cultural past

know what our instruments represent and what our art stands for." This philosophy is woven into every interaction—whether it's explaining the history of the ghatam to curious school children or engaging entire villages in the rhyth-

mic dance of classical music. For Giridhar, these are more than just lessons in music; they are lessons in cultural pride and self-expression.

The foundation's reach has grown through a blend of passion and grassroots involvement. Volunteers, many of whom are his students, play a crucial role. They scout locations, coordinate logistics and bring concerts to life in places where musical performances are rare treasures. He is quick to acknowledge their importance, saying, "Without our volunteers, this wouldn't be possible. They are the backbone of what we do."

As the foundation nears its tenth anniversary, the focus is on expanding its scope. His dreams of a future where even busy pro-

## GAMING AND HEARING LOSS: An overlooked risk for players

In an era where video gaming has become a popular pastime globally, health risks related to excessive gaming have been forgotten. The focus usually is on strained eye muscles and inactive lifestyles, but more attention should be paid to the effects of high-intensity music exposure on players' auditory systems.

### Perils of sound

The gaming experience is enhanced through high-quality sound that makes virtual worlds come alive. Nonetheless, these may cost one's hearing capability dearly. Continuous exposure to loud sounds like those coming from gaming speakers, headphones, or earphones can lead to irreversible damage to tiny hair cells found within the cochlea responsible for hearing. Once destroyed, these hair cells cannot be regenerated, leading to permanent hearing loss.

Gamesters who play for extended periods are at particularly high risk. For example, sudden blasts of noise in games, such as gunshots, can reach up to 119 decibels, well beyond safe levels. OSHA standards indicate that noise levels above 85 decibels can be hazardous if exposure exceeds eight hours a day. For every 5-decibel increase in noise level, the safe exposure time is cut in half. This means

that even brief, intense sounds from gaming can pose a serious risk to hearing health.

### Growing gaming boom

In recent years, India's gaming business has witnessed tremendous growth in the population of millions of young gamers who spend their days playing their favourite video games. However, this development is not without its risks. Many Indian gamers use headphones or earphones to become completely engrossed in the game they are playing, which sometimes they play at full blast.

In reality, the 60/60 rule, which says that you should listen to music with a sound below 60% and for only 60 minutes, is rarely followed by gamers. This is because most players don't know how to listen safely. As a result, many gamers hurt their ears while loving the feeling of being immersed in the virtual world.

### Vulnerability of children and adolescents

A significant number of kids and teenagers are part of a gaming community and thus have an even higher risk of hearing loss. Research says that children are more vulnerable to hearing impairment from lower noise levels over short durations compared to adults. For example, while adults can safely listen to sounds near 83 decibels for up to twenty hours per week, children should limit their exposure to approximately six and a half hours at this level.

### Public awareness and prevention measures necessary

Even though gaming and hearing loss risks have been well established, little is known about this. Noise pollution has received more attention from public health programs in India, leaving hearing health almost unattended to. However, as the gaming industry continues to grow, there is a need for a shift in perspective.

Educational campaigns that target gamers, especially the young ones, are very crucial. Gamers should be advised to avoid high volume levels and take frequent breaks to rest their ears. Regular hearing tests are also recommended for those who play video games frequently. An annual auditory test is an effective method of early discovery of the signs of hearing impairment so that

treatment can be administered at the right time. Gaming headphones with built-in volume limits or noise-cancelling features can also reduce the risk of hearing damage. In India's fast-rising gaming community, noise-induced hearing loss becomes increasingly important each passing day. As such, through increasing awareness of safe listening habits among gamers, e.g., taking regular breaks, following the 60/60 rule, or investing in noise cancelling headphones, they will continue enjoying their favourite hobby without losing their sense of listening.

(The author, Raja S., is an audiologist and founder of Hearzap.)

## SOURCING LOCAL, SERVING GLOBAL

The Pioneer shares with you an international chef Nitten's inspirational culinary journey, dedication to sustainability and creative take on traditional cuisine—from classic meals to fusion inventions!

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Being from the highly culturally diverse cities, Chef Nitten offers a plethora of varied experiences for his culinary exploration. Interestingly, what he discovered is that he quickly absorbed the virtues of discipline, which are evident in his culinary career, having been raised in a family that embodies a strong work ethic and dedication. His travels around the world have given him a unique viewpoint, which is reflected in his philosophy based on what he overheard during our phone conversation with him, which places a strong emphasis on taste and aesthetic appeal! "My experience working under German executive chefs and Austrian chefs has had a significant and enduring influence. Their fuss-free culinary approach aims to create dishes that are pleasing. Oh, I have to share this with you: fresh ingredients, preferably from nearby farms, was back then my cooking style," he tells us.

Beginning in 1992 with the Royal clan's Classic Lakhnavi chefs, who focused on making the best use of *khova*, cream, and rich cashew paste, he saw the culinary profession evolving to include English cooks on board where international cuisine took center stage! "Initially, the lack of elements and copying made adaptation difficult to assimilate, as was discovered. *Polenta cake* made comparisons between itself and the *Upma-based Gnoochi a'la Romana*, demonstrating how the tricks eventually

ingrained themselves into the DNA and could be learned through the deconstruction of classics." This is how he explained to us the evolution he personally witnessed.

Chef Nitten has over 29 years of experience, signature dishes like *Galinha Caffreal Quiche* and *Jalebi Chaat*, which combine tradition and creativity, are examples of his culinary prowess! In actuality, his story is not over yet—"Goan cuisine's classic *Roasted Dry Prawns Powder Coated Sea-Bass Fillet* is adapted in *Kismur to Rissoles to Choriz Empanadas*. This is my workplace at the moment. Caravela Beach Resort and the "forgotten recipes," have been preserved in large part because of the efforts of numerous local women and volunteer groups! A weekly event where women from various culinary establishments have taken part in the effort to preserve the recipes for future generations and create a special experience." That was a really fascinating discovery!

Later in the conversation, we discover that he now has several projects in the works. His "Local Is Focal" devotion is more than a motto; it's a dynamic connection with the community. By actively fostering local talent and giving

cooks opportunities, he preserves traditional culinary techniques. He works closely with farmers to source local ingredients, emphasising sustainability and freshness. He provides some insight into the Goan cuisine too, saying, "Known for its vibrant flavours and distinctive spice blend, it has evolved quite a bit in modern times while still honouring its rich heritage. It incorporates traditional Indian ingredients with European techniques and materials, with a history inspired by Portuguese colonisation. The times have changed and diners now know the best parts of the country and the distinctive flavours of the food. All things considered, contemporary cuisine is a dynamic and changing culinary scene since it embraces new ideas and trends while simultaneously holding fast to its traditional origins."

He is known for giving out recipe cards so that people can try local flavours at home while promoting regional recipes! Sharing his interest with the community, he preserves and teaches traditional cooking techniques through local dish demonstrations. His creative style also extends to specialties like *Chicken Caffreal Omelette Poi Sandwich* and *Balchao Parantha*, which offer a novel take on age-old favourites. What this exceptional cook tells us further is, "A



great example of culinary fusion is the blending of Goan cuisine with flavours from around the world, wherein traditional dishes are improved by using ingredients and preparation methods from other countries. This combination gives rise to creative dishes that pay homage to the fundamentals of this cuisine while adding fresh perspectives. Making use of scientific tools and methods, such as liquid nitrogen, sous vide machines and spherification kits, which enable cooks to break down and reassemble flavours and textures to create inventive dishes that astonish and are pleasing, by evaluating vast databases of flavour profiles and component combinations, AI-driven recipe generators and flavour pairing algorithms assist in the production of new recipes that result in inventive culinary creations. Chefs can create complex food designs and customise textures and shapes with 3D food printers and smart kitchen gadgets, pushing the frontiers of presentation and experience! These days, interactive culinary classes and virtual tastings are available through VR and AR apps, enabling you to explore international cuisines and skills from the comfort of your own homes"

A different dine-in pool experience that is popular right now is something else we mentioned. About that, he says, "A swimming pool that is intended to let people enjoy meals while submerged in or near water is called a dine-in pool. Moreover, I can honestly say that my background in working with master chefs, in the UK on land and in the world's best luxury hotels has given me the necessary knowledge to combine modern culinary techniques with the flavours of the

### CURRENT TRENDS

**Fusion and innovation:** Modern chefs are experimenting with fusion cuisine, blending local ingredients and cooking methods with foreign ones in classic recipes. For instance, quinoa or avocado might be added to Goan curries to give them a contemporary touch.

**Health consciousness:** A movement toward more nutritious takes on classic recipes is becoming more and more popular. This entails using less oil, grilling as opposed to frying and adding more veggies.

**Artisanal and organic ingredients:** Using organic, locally sourced ingredients is prioritised. Chefs are emphasising artisanal goods like freshly ground spices and vinegar prepared at home.





● Naziya Khan



● Sindhu



● Nishati



● Monika

Manepally Jewellers unveiled Suvarnapura Bridal Jewellery Collection & Splendid Sparkle Diamond Jewellery Collection on 9 Oct 2024. They also launched its anniversary & festival on gold jewellery and presented their most incredibly curated festive & wedding jewellery collection. Actress Nishat, model Mounika, model Amulya and other models also showcased the splendid collection.



● Amulya

In a powerful stride towards breaking the stigma around women's health and well-being, actress and fitness advocate Neha Dhupia, who serves as the Director of GoFlo is teaming up with visionary Anita Lobo, Director and brains behind this incredible initiative, to host the inaugural GoFlo Run. This event is more than just a fitness initiative; it's part of the larger #HerRunHerRules movement, dedicated to breaking barriers, sparking meaningful conversations and driving lasting change for women across India.



● Meghana



● Mohini



● Radhika

Jaypore, from the house of Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Ltd., on October 10, launched an exclusive, limited-edition collection of precious jewellery and sarees at a bespoke event hosted at its Jubilee Hills store, Hyderabad. This much-anticipated showcase featured an array of exquisite jewellery designs alongside a curated selection of handcrafted sarees, offering a modern interpretation of India's rich textile and jewellery heritage.



● Hasini



● Vandana



● Lakshmi



● Kanika

PARTY  
Photos by- SV Chary



In a pioneering move that sets a new benchmark in cancer treatment, Aster DM Healthcare has become the first healthcare facility in the country to implement Intra-Operative Electron Radiation Therapy (IOERT), marking a seminal shift in cancer care. The new state-of-the-art medical facility is available at the Aster International Institute of Oncology (AIIO), Aster Whitefield Hospital.

## FUN

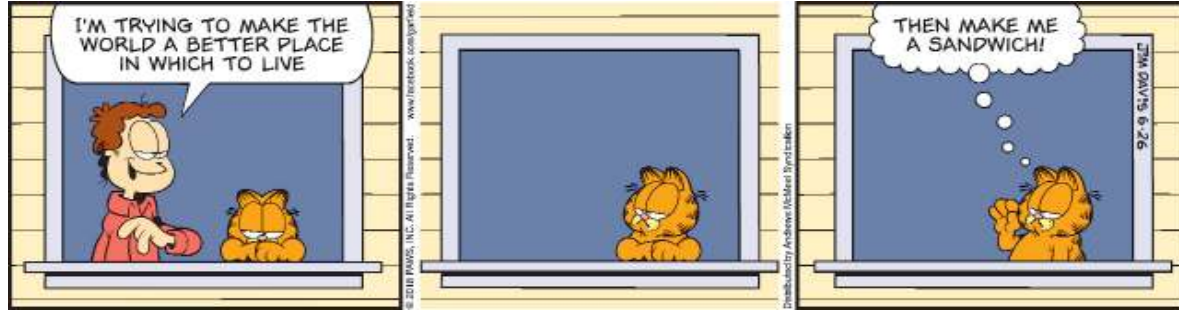
### ARCHIE



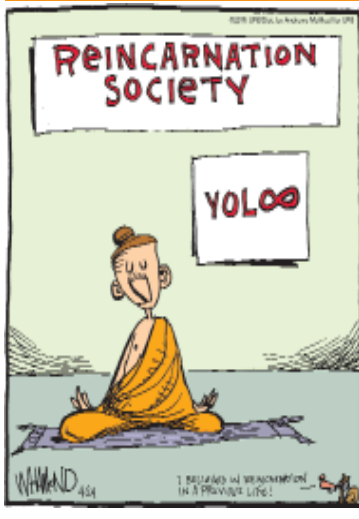
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### GARFIELD



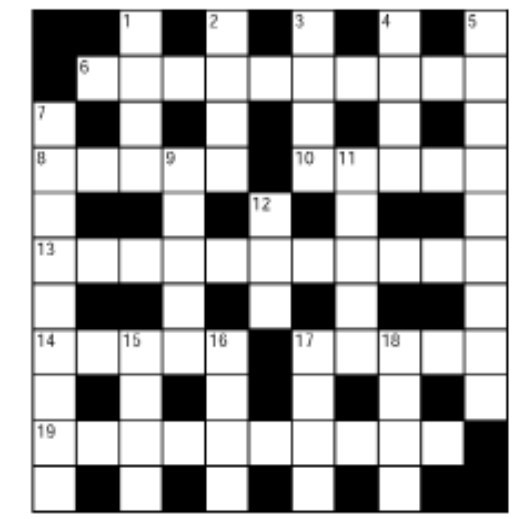
### REALITY CHECK



### SPEED BUMP



### CROSSWORD



### NANCY



### SUDOKU

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

**Yesterday's solution**

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

- ACROSS**
- 6 The total number of people in a city or country
  - 8 The starboard side
  - 10 The head of a city council
  - 13 People who don't eat meat
  - 14 Baggly
  - 17 Depart
  - 19 A sudden shaking of the ground
- DOWN**
- 1 Lengthy
  - 2 Resign from a job
  - 3 Peaceful
  - 4 Very small
  - 5 Took one's clothes off
  - 7 Went on a journey
  - 9 The back part of the feet
  - 11 Living
  - 12 Candle substance
  - 15 Belonging to us
  - 16 Sound rebound
  - 17 Very noisy
  - 18 Enquires
- SOLUTION**
- |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| W | A | S | H | E | D | B | O | M |
| T | H | E | P | H | E | R | E |   |
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### GINGER MEGGS



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★



# ACTOR GOPICHAND OPENS UP ABOUT VISWAM AND RETURN OF SRINU VAITLA

Actor Gopichand discusses his upcoming film *Viswam*, sharing insights about the director, his judgment and his unique approach to communicating a story to a director

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Actor Gopichand has been in need of a good break for a long time and now he is set to make his mark with the film *Viswam*, directed by Srinu Vaitla. This film holds significant importance for both Gopichand and Srinu Vaitla, as they are confident it will signal their comeback. "When Srinu Vaitla first came up with an idea, I expressed my doubt that the story suits a younger actor and he too agreed about it. Then he took his time and came up with this *Viswam* script, which I liked," Gopichand shared regarding the film.

He expressed a long-standing desire to collaborate with Srinu Vaitla and now that the opportunity has arisen, he is excited. Discussing Srinu Vaitla's earlier films that didn't perform well at the box office, Gopichand mentioned that the director had experimented with a few projects. "This is definitely a comeback film for Srinu Vaitla because his trademark comedy is present in this film," Gopichand stated.

The actor noted that the director possesses a unique timing in dialogue delivery. "In the first few days, I couldn't catch his kind of time-

line. Then I wanted to copy him, so I asked him to show it, and I completely followed him," he explained.

There is a train episode in the film that has prompted comparisons to Srinu Vaitla's earlier work, *Venky*. "Both films are different genres, but they can still be compared. In this film, the comedy track is different and while I was shooting those scenes, I laughed on set. We had to take another shot, but later I said 'sorry' to the artists and completed those scenes. What I want to convey is that the film is hilarious, and I am confident that Srinu Vaitla is back with his trademark entertainment in this film," Gopichand emphasized.

The actor acknowledged that ups and downs are common in life and career. "We have to go through both of them equally," he said. When asked about his experience working with Srinu Vaitla, he shared that he didn't feel much pressure. "He is a senior director, and I follow him while shooting. If it's a new director, then I feel a bit of tension," Gopichand revealed.

Shooting in Manali posed a significant challenge for the actor. "There isn't much that was challenging while shooting this film, except for Manali. The temperature was in the minus degrees at that time, which made it a big chal-

lenge for us to act in that cold. The location is beautiful, so we shot there, but it was tough for us," he noted.

Reflecting on his past films, Gopichand remarked that some scripts appear promising on paper. "When they told me the story, it looked good, but when I went for the shooting, I knew the execution was going wrong. We can't do anything at that time to complete the film, but I know the film may not do well. That's the reason I said that I can predict the results of some of my films before they are released," he commented.

He explained that a film's judgment is determined by its fate. "It's very simple: if the film is successful, the judgment is correct; if the film fails, then it is wrong. But I am also part of the successes and failures. The outcome of a film doesn't depend on one person; many people are working on it and I am also part of it, so I can't deny it," Gopichand added.

When it comes to expressing his feelings about a script he doesn't favor, Gopichand has a distinctive style. "After the narration, I simply tell the person that I will meet him the next day. That means I wasn't impressed with the story," he shared, adding that this approach is well known in the industry.

## Samyuktha attributes her success to manager!



Samyuktha is currently busy with five films in Telugu and has signed yet another project. This time, she will play the protagonist in a film that was launched on Wednesday. Yokesh KMC is the director and Ramesh Danda is the producer. The actress describes signing this film as a miracle.

"For the last couple of months, I have been occupied with shootings and I wanted to listen to this story on a relaxing day.

So, on October 6, director Yogesh narrated the story to me and it was spectacular. I immediately decided to take on the role," she said about her new project. She added that she could recall every detail of the script as the narration unfolded. "I don't want to label it as a female-centric film because most female-centric films showcase blood and gore, empowerment, or focus on female politics. I always thought, Why can't we have

a normal story? Why can't we present a conventional commercial film with a female lead? This story could also work with a male protagonist," she stated.

Samyuktha has experienced continuous success in Telugu cinema and credits her manager, Karthik, for it. "I have a team, especially my manager and friend Karthik, and I give him all the credit. I am currently shooting five films and signed this new project without hesitation because of Karthik," she shared.

She is also proud of the film because she is passionate about the story.

"When I heard this script, I knew I had to say yes. I couldn't resist. It felt like destiny to find such a project with a producer who believes in it. As I listened to the story, vivid scenes played out in my mind. I can't wait to start this project. We have about two to three months before filming begins, and I'm eager for the preparations and production work ahead," Samyuktha expressed.

The actress emphasised the importance of the script for any actor. "I feel overwhelmed to play this character on screen. The script contains a lot of social and female politics. When you want to combat negativity, you don't always have to rely on physical strength. A woman has her own way of addressing the situation. The story explores how she does it," Samyuktha explained.

The producer and director stated that they will reveal more details about the film in the

coming days and the remaining cast and technical crew will be announced soon.

Samyuktha, one of the most sought-after actresses in Tollywood, is on a roll with a string of blockbusters under her belt, each film further cementing her rising stardom. Now, she is stepping into a lead role in a gritty, new-age action thriller, directed by Yogesh. This time, she takes on the challenging portrayal of a cop in a story grounded in realism, showcasing her versatility as an actress.

In addition to starring, Samyuktha is presenting the film, which is being produced by Rajesh Danda under the Hasya Movies banner. The project had a grand launch event in Hyderabad, drawing an impressive lineup of Tollywood's finest. Producers Dil Raju and Suresh Babu, hero Rana Daggubati, directors Vashishta, Venky Kudumula and Ram Abbaraju, along with writer Kona Venkat, were among the notable attendees at the pooja ceremony, adding to the buzz surrounding the project.

This film is expected to mark a new high in Samyuktha's already flourishing career, as she takes center stage in a genre she has yet to fully explore.



## SAMANTHA STANDS TALL WITH ALIA BHATT: A BLOCKBUSTER JOURNEY BEGINS WITH JIGRA!

Alia Bhatt's much-anticipated action-drama *Jigra* is gearing up to hit theaters on October 11, and the excitement in Tollywood is palpable. With Telugu fans having embraced Alia ever since *RRR* and *Brahmastra*, the stakes are high for this intense thriller directed by Vasana Bala. The pre-release event, graced by Alia Bhatt, Tollywood heavyweights like Trivikram, Rana Daggubati, and Samantha, celebrated the film's upcoming release with electrifying energy in Hyderabad. *Jigra* promises to be an action-packed rollercoaster, featuring Alia and Vedang Raina in leading roles and its Telugu version is generating plenty of buzz, especially after the trailer launch by SS Rajamouli and Ram Charan. Rana Daggubati is distributing the film in Telugu through Asian Suresh Entertainment. The Telugu trailer, launched by renowned director SS Rajamouli and global star Ram Charan, has garnered significant attention.

A grand pre-release event took place recently, featuring special guests Trivikram, Rana Daggubati and Samantha. During the event, Trivikram and Samantha unveiled the Big Ticket! Alia expressed her gratitude, stating, "Thanks to Trivikram for responding so quickly to my message. Every word you spoke touched my heart. Samantha is a true hero both on and off screen and her talent has distinguished her in the industry. I believe Trivikram will craft a story that suits both Samantha and me. This film comes after my experience with *RRR*, which created a bond with the Telugu audience. My daughter Raha loves the *Naatu Naatu* song. The Telugu audience has always been ahead in appreciating and supporting good cinema, which is why we released *Gangubai* and *Brahmastra* in Telugu. Working with Vasana Bala on *Jigra* was a pleasure and I hope he creates many more great films. I have a strong feeling Vedang will emerge as a star through this film; he has become like a brother and friend to me in real life. Rahul Ravindran has a significant role in the film and is passionate about cinema. Both Rahul and Vasana would often discuss the film

on set. Thanks to Rana for bringing our movie to the Telugu audience," Trivikram added. "My two favourite actresses, Alia and Samantha, are here. Rajinikanth has fans in every language, but after him, it feels like Samantha has that kind of fanbase in every language. *Jigra* showcases the hard work Alia put into this film and you can sense it's going to be a super hit just from the trailer. My elder son is a big fan of Vasana Bala's work; he has the courage to make films without worrying about the outcome. I recently worked with Rahul on *Guntur Kaaram* and I believe that success should happen naturally. Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose, but the journey should flow like a river. Samantha is a dynamo on set and Alia looked equally impressive at this event."

Samantha expressed, "I really admire Alia's acting. As actresses, we have a responsibility to tell stories that empower girls, reminding them that they are the heroes of their own lives. Alia is not only acting but also producing films. I have a 15-year relationship with Rahul and have worked on three films with Trivikram. I've received great opportunities from Suresh Productions; they are my idols. I want this film to be a big hit. Vasana Bala has done a brilliant job. Vedang deserves success as well. I am present in every step of Rahul's journey. Rana recently produced a female-oriented film and now he's giving us *Jigra*. Every girl should have a brother like Rana! Through *Jigra*, Alia will see just how much the Telugu audience loves her. I am at this level today because of Telugu audience support."

With powerhouse performances, heart-stopping action, and emotional depth, *Jigra* has all the makings of a hit. As Alia Bhatt and Samantha emphasise the importance of telling empowering stories for women, Telugu audiences are ready to embrace *Jigra* with open arms. The film is poised to leave an indelible mark and as Rana Daggubati urged, it's time for everyone to watch *Jigra* take flight on October 11. Don't miss out on this cinematic storm!

## "Janhvi is a daughter of the South," praises *Devara* director Koratala Siva

Koratala Siva, the director of *Devara*, shares his admiration for Janhvi Kapoor, stating, "People see Janhvi as their own daughter."

Janhvi Kapoor is emerging as one of the most talented actresses, impressing audiences with her remarkable performances. Continuously exploring diverse roles, she showcases her versatility. While she has made a mark in Bollywood with outstanding performances, her Telugu debut in *Devara: Part 1* allowed her to explore new facets of her tal-

ent. Despite her popularity in Hindi cinema, she has garnered a loyal fan base in the South, as highlighted by director Koratala Siva.

Having collaborated with Janhvi on *Devara: Part 1*, Siva expressed his admiration for her acting skills and noted her rising stardom in the South. He mentioned, "I don't subscribe to the idea of North and South divisions. Here, we believe Janhvi is part of the South. The audience here has a deep affection for Sridevi ma'am, who is considered one of our own. In our villages, people regard Janhvi as their daughter and we have eagerly awaited her arrival. We genuinely believe that Jr NTR and Janhvi make an excellent pair."

Janhvi captivated audiences with her stunning appearance in *Devara: Part 1*, marking her successful entry into the commercial film space. Following the film's success, she continues to display her versatility on screen.

Looking ahead, Janhvi has an exciting slate of projects lined up, including *Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari*, *RC16*, and several others!



## Chandoo Mondeti soars to National glory

Acclaimed director Chandoo Mondeti has added another feather to his cap by winning the prestigious National Award for Best Telugu Film at the 70th National Film Awards for his hit movie *Karthikeya 2*. The award was presented to Chandoo Mondeti and producer Abhishek Agarwal by President Draupadi Murmu during a ceremony held in Delhi, marking a proud moment for the Telugu film industry. Many in the industry have extended their heartfelt congratulations to the team on this significant achievement.

*Karthikeya 2*, an adventure thriller starring Nikhil Siddhartha in the lead, celebrates the legacy of Lord Krishna. The film's immense success has further solidified Chandoo Mondeti's reputation as a blockbuster filmmaker. With the announcement of a sequel, *Karthikeya 3*, there is growing anticipation for what he has in store next.

In addition to this, Chandoo Mondeti is currently directing *Thandel*, featuring Naga Chaitanya and Sai Pallavi. With several pan-India projects in the pipeline, his future in the industry looks incredibly promising.

## HOMBALE FILMS CELEBRATES A TRIUMPHANT NIGHT AT THE 70TH NATIONAL FILM AWARDS!

Hombale Films, helmed by visionary founders Vijay Kiragandur and Chaluve Gowda, has made significant strides in the Indian film landscape, broadening its horizons to include music and digital marketing alongside production and distribution. This year was no exception, as they shone brightly at the 70th National Film Awards for 2022, securing four prestigious awards.

The accolades included Rishab Shetty's win for Best Actor, the recognition of *Kantara* as the Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment, and *KGF: Chapter 2* clinching awards for Best Action Direction and Best Kannada Film.

The atmosphere was electric as Vijay Kiragandur, Rishab Shetty, Prashanth Neel and Chaluve Gowda expressed their elation over this remarkable achievement.

Director Prashanth Neel shared his thoughts on the honour: "Receiving a National Award for *KGF* is incredibly humbling. This journey has been both thrilling and rewarding. Our initial goal was to create a film that resonates with audiences, and with the tremendous support from Yash. Hombale and our talented crew, *KGF* transcended boundaries, gaining global recognition. This success inspires us to reach for the stars with *KGF 3*."

Rishab Shetty, star of *Kantara*, described the film as a deeply personal endeavour: "*Kantara* is a passion project that stems from my roots. Winning this National Award reinforces our belief in creating authentic stories. The support from audiences has been a divine blessing, illustrating that regional narratives can resonate universally. I'm grateful to Hombale for their unwavering support throughout this journey, especially with a film that was my most ambitious project yet." With such an incredible year behind them, Hombale Films is gearing up to deliver more cinematic treasures, including *Kantara: Chapter 1*, *Salaar: Part 2—Shouryaanga Parvam* and the eagerly anticipated *KGF 3*.





# ROOT SURPASSES COOK AS LEADING ENGLAND RUN-SCORER IN TEST CRICKET

AP ■ MULTAN (PAKISTAN)

With an exquisite straight drive for four, Joe Root took another of Alastair Cook's records by becoming England's highest run-scorer in test cricket.

Root surpassed the retired Cook's total of 12,472 runs by reaching 71 during England's first innings on Day 3 of the first test against Pakistan on Wednesday.

The 33-year-old Root moved to fifth place on the all-time list of test run-scorers, behind India's Sachin Tendulkar (15,921), Australia's Ricky Ponting (13,378), South Africa's Jacques Kallis (13,289) and India's Rahul Dravid (13,288). All four above Root are retired and within reach of a batter who said ahead of the tour to Pakistan that he had plenty left in the tank.

"The only reason it (Cook's record) is on my mind is because people keep asking me about it, to be honest," Root said. "I see myself playing test cricket for a lot longer. It's not

like I'm going to get to a certain mark or a number and say, Right, I'm done now! I just want to keep enjoying the game, keep playing."

Root, who is technically excellent and owns pretty much all the shots, overtook Cook's record of 33 test centuries by an England batter last month when he made hundreds in both innings against Sri Lanka at Lord's.

Ben Stokes, the England test captain who is sitting out the first match of the series because of injury, praised Root's character and achievement in a video released by the England and Wales Cricket Board.

"The selflessness that he has is an incredible attribute for him," Stokes said. "He always puts the team first, and the fact that he's got so many runs is just a bonus for us. He's an incredible player. It's going to take a long, long time for someone to come in and break that record. Just a great bloke. And an unbelievable feat to score that many runs. But the non-selfishness that

## HIS NEXT BIG TARGET IS TENDULKAR



he possesses is one thing I think sets him above or sets him apart from anybody else who is going to play for England for a long time."

Root waved to his teammates soon after reaching the milestone before he raised his bat in acknowledgement. He shook hands with Stokes and bowling mentor James Anderson as he walked off the field at the lunch break, with a 35th test century - and a first in Pakistan - in his sights.

Root is playing in his 147th test and came into the Pakistan series averaging more than 50, whereas Cook made 161 test appearances and batted in 291 innings, averaging 45.35.

They are England's third and fourth most-capped players, behind now-retired fast bowlers Anderson and Stuart Broad.

Root has more runs against India than any other opposition - 2,846 in 30 tests. Next is Australia, against whom he has 2,428 in 34 tests, while his best average is against Sri Lanka at 62.54. Root was England captain

from 2017-22. He averaged 52.80 before the captaincy, 46.45 during it, and he is back to his prior level since standing down.

The most prolific year of his test career was in 2021, when he scored 1,708 runs. He has passed 1,000 runs in a year five times.

He has settled at No. 4 in England's batting order and demonstrated during the recent summer tests against the West Indies and Sri Lanka that he has slightly reined in the bold and occasionally reckless approach he and his England teammates adopted early in the so-called "Bazball" era under coach Brendon McCullum and captain Ben Stokes. Those risky ramp shots are mostly gone — though he still got himself out attempting one against the Sri Lankans at Lord's — and he is harder to dismiss for it.

Root's next big target is displacing Tendulkar — the "Little Master" — atop the all-time list and, injury permitting, he has a good chance of doing so.



## NZ batter Williamson to miss initial part of Test series against India

PTI ■ AUCKLAND

Senior batter Kane Williamson is set to miss the initial part of the upcoming three-Test series in India starting on October 16 due to a groin strain, with New Zealand naming Mark Chapman as his cover in the 17-man squad here on Wednesday.

Williamson, who is dealing with a groin strain, will delay his departure to India where New Zealand will play three Tests at Bengaluru, Pune and Mumbai.

While senior batting all-rounder Michael Bracewell has been roped in only for the first Test in Bengaluru, spinner Ish Sodhi will be available only for the second and third Tests.

Tom Latham will be leading the Kiwis after Tim Southee stepped aside from the leadership role a few days ago. "Williamson experienced groin discomfort during the second Test against Sri Lanka in Galle and will require a period of rehabilitation before joining the Blackcaps Test squad in India," New Zealand

Cricket said on their website. New Zealand selector Sam Wells said the decision to delay Williamson's departure to India was to give the former skipper more time to rest.

"The advice we've received is that the best course of action is for Kane to rest and rehabilitate now rather than risk aggravating the injury," said Wells.

"We're hopeful that if the rehabilitation goes to plan Kane will be available for the latter part of the tour. While it's obviously disappointing to not have Kane available from the start of the tour, it provides an opportunity for someone else to play a role in an important series," he added.

Chapman averages above 42 in first-class cricket in 44 matches but is yet to make his Test debut. "We believe Mark (Chapman) is one of our best players of spin and has a proven track-record in the sub-continent," said Wells.

"Mark has displayed an ability to play spin proactively in the international arena, and

combined with his excellent first-class record, we see him as someone who can succeed in the type of conditions we expect to encounter in India," he added.

Bracewell will return home after the first Test for the birth of his second child and will be replaced by Sodhi. While the opening Test will be played at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium from October 16-20, the second will be held at the Maharashtra Cricket Association (MCA) Stadium in Gahunje, Pune from October 24-28.

The third and final Test will be held at the iconic Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai from November 1-5.

**New Zealand squad for Test series in India:** Tom Latham (c), Tom Blundell (wk), Michael Bracewell (1st Test only), Mark Chapman, Devon Conway, Matt Henry, Daryl Mitchell, Will O'Rourke, Ajaz Patel, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Mitchell Santner, Ben Sears, Ish Sodhi (2nd & 3rd Test only), Tim Southee, Kane Williamson, Will Young.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Two-time Olympic gold-winning American discus thrower Valerie Allman was on Wednesday named the international event ambassador of the Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon to be held here on October 20.

Allman threw 69.50 meters in the Paris Games this year to set a new American record and win the gold medal. In the previous Tokyo Games, she had finished at the top of the podium with a throw of 68.98 meters.

Her feat ended USA's wait for a gold in discus throw which they had last won in 2008.

Allman, whose personal best is of 71.46 meters, is also a two-

## Valarie Allman named Delhi Half Marathon's international event ambassador

time World Championship medallist, clinching the silver in 2023 and a bronze in 2022.

"The start line is not just a race; it's a celebration of camaraderie, determination, and resilience, and a showcase of our ability to push limits and achieve new personal milestones," she said in a release issued by the organisers. Paris Olympic 10,000m champion Uganda's Joshua Cheptegai and Kenya's former world record holder Peres Jepchirchir will headline



a strong elite field in the men's and women's events of the Delhi Half Marathon, which is into its 19th year.

Cheptegai is the reigning world record holder in 5000m and 10,000m events. He also holds the world's best time over the 15km distance.

A three-time world champion in 10,000m, he made his international debut in India at the TCS World 10K Bengaluru 2014, finishing second. The event carries a prize purse of USD 260,000.

## Tennis star France's Tiafoe aims tirade of expletives at umpire after loss at Shanghai Masters

AP ■ SHANGHAI

US Open semifinalist Frances Tiafoe aimed a torrent of expletives at the chair umpire after losing a match at the Shanghai Masters. Tiafoe targeted umpire Jimmy Pinoargote with about 10 expletives in a minute-long tirade after his 5-7 7-5 7-6(5) loss against 61st-ranked Roman Safiullin in a third-round match.

The ATP rule book calls for fines of \$60,000 at Masters 1000 tournaments. A tour spokesman said no decision has yet been made on the matter.

The 17th-ranked Tiafoe was angered by being docked his first serve for a time violation at 5-5 in the decisive tiebreaker. Pinoargote judged that Tiafoe was not making a genuine attempt to serve when he tossed the ball in the air at the baseline. Tiafoe at first protested before continuing to play.

Two points later, the match was over and he congratulated Safiullin at the net before turning toward the umpire's chair and shouting the first expletives.

Tiafoe passed to the other side of the net toward his chair and shouted that the umpire had messed up the match.

The 26-year-old American said he had been battling on court for three hours for his livelihood, peppering his words with more expletives.

Before leaving the court, Tiafoe added: "Never again."

Tiafoe could face fines for verbal abuse of an official and for using obscenities. The tournament can take away some of his prize



money, and the case could also be sent to the ATP Member Fines Committee for further investigation.

Safiullin advanced to face Novak Djokovic in the round of 16. Tiafoe had a stellar run of form in the summer reaching the final of the Cincinnati Open, where he lost to Jannick Sinner, then reaching the semifinals at the US Open where he lost in five sets to fellow American Taylor Fritz.

## Arshdeep Singh enters top 10 among bowlers in ICC T20I rankings

PTI ■ DUBAI

Riding on a string of impressive performances, Indian seamer Arshdeep Singh entered the top 10 among bowlers and was placed eighth in the ICC T20I rankings issued here on Wednesday.

The left-arm seamer, who returned 3/14 in the opening T20I against Bangladesh in Gwalior last Sunday, jumped eight spots with 642 rating points to reach the eighth position. He is the only Indian bowler in the top 10. England's Adil Rashid continues as the top-ranked bowler in the shortest format followed by Akeal Hossain of the West Indies and Afghanistan's Rashid Khan at the second and third spots respectively.

"Arshdeep is also a big winner in the latest rankings update, with the left-arm pacer rising eight places to equal eighth on the updated list for T20I bowlers and reaching a new career-high rating following his three-wicket haul against Bangladesh," the ICC said on its website.

Hardik Pandya, who blasted a 16-ball 39 with five fours and two sixes, moved up seven



places to reach the 60th spot among batters.

The ace Indian all-rounder also returned 4-0-26-1 and moved to the third spot as he rose four positions in the list of top all-rounders, which is headed by England's Liam Livingstone with Nepal's Dipendra Singh Airee at the second position.

Yashvi Jaiswal, who is not a part of the India squad for the three T20Is against Bangladesh, dropped one position to fifth and was leapfrogged by Pakistan's Babar Azam. Washington Sundar also improved his ranking as he got to 35th among T20I bowlers, moving up four positions.

## Ishan Kishan returns as Jharkhand captain after controversial pullout last season

PTI ■ RANCHI

India batter Ishan Kishan on Wednesday returned to the Jharkhand Ranji team as its captain, following his controversial pullout last season that led to his exclusion from the BCCI central contract.

The explosive left-hander, who became a regular in India's white-ball squad after Rishabh Pant's road accident in December 2022, took a break during India's tour of South Africa last year.

Post break, he did not participate in any official BCCI matches, which raised a few eyebrows as the board stressed on players prioritising domestic cricket when not on national duty.

The 26-year-old resurfaced this February, playing in the privately organised DY Patil T20 Cup ahead of the IPL and sparking a debate over balance between franchise cricket and state commitments.



His absence from domestic cricket during this period contributed to his omission from the BCCI's 2023-24 central contracts.

However, Kishan has since worked his way back into the BCCI's good books with strong performances in domestic

cricket, including a century for India C on his return in the Duleep Trophy last month. He also represented the Rest of India in the Irani Cup, scoring 38 in his only innings.

Now, as captain of Jharkhand's 16-member squad, Kishan is set to lead a young squad with

last season's designated skipper Virat Singh as his deputy and Kumar Kushagra as the wicketkeeper.

Jharkhand begin their Ranji Trophy campaign against Assam in Guwahati in Elite Group D. Last season, Jharkhand

finished third from the bottom in Group A, winning two, losing two, and drawing three of their seven matches.

"Ishan is an experienced player and he has international experience," chairman of Jharkhand's selection committee Subroto Das was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo. "We have picked a very young team. Saurabh Tiwary, Shahbaz Nadeem and Varun Aaron had all retired after last season so we had to rethink our strategy. Ishan is capable of leading this young side and we're confident of doing well this Ranji season."

**SQUAD:** Ishan Kishan (c), Virat Singh (vc), Kumar Kushagra (wk), Nazim Siddique, Aryaman Sen, Sharandeep Singh, Kumar Suraj, Anukul Roy, Utkarsh Singh, Supriyo Chakraborty, Saurabh Shekhar, Vikas Kumar, Vivekanand Tiwary, Manishi, Ravi Kumar Yadav and Raunak Kumar.



## Anmoljeet takes 9 on 'debut' as India U19 complete clean sweep vs Australia

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Debutant off-spinner Anmoljeet Singh and leg-spinner Mohamed Eanaan picked 16 out of 20 Australian wickets as India U-19 comfortably won by an innings and 120 runs in the second Youth Test to complete a 2-0 series sweep here on Wednesday.

Australia colts lost as many as 17 wickets on the third day after commencing on their overnight score of 142 for 3 in reply to India's massive first-innings total of 492. The visitors were all out for 277

in their first essay with skipper Oliver Peake (117 off 143 balls) and keeper Alex Lee Young (66) adding 166 for the fourth wicket. After Lee Young was dismissed, the last six wickets fell for 59 runs.

Kerala boy Eanaan (4/60 in 22.2 overs), who had once attended Saqlain Mushtaq's clinic in Dubai and Ludhiana's Anmoljeet (4/72 in 24 overs), who hero worships Harbhajan Singh, were the wreckers-in-chief.

In four-day cricket, the follow-on can be enforced if the team batting second is trailing by

more than 150 runs. India U-19 had a lead of 115 runs.

After being enforced to follow-on, Anmoljeet, who had taken an astounding 65 wickets in the Vijay Merchant (U-16) Trophy in the 2023 season, came back to get 5 for 32 in 13.3 overs as Australia were skittled out for 95 in 31.3 overs. Eight Aussie players failed to reach double digits and four of them didn't bother to trouble the scorers.

While Anmoljeet had match figures of 9/104, Eanaan wasn't left far behind with 7/97 to show for his efforts.