



HAPPY DUSSEHRA!!

HISTORIC DECISION by Praja Prabhuthvam

YOUNG INDIA INTEGRATED RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS in every assembly constituency

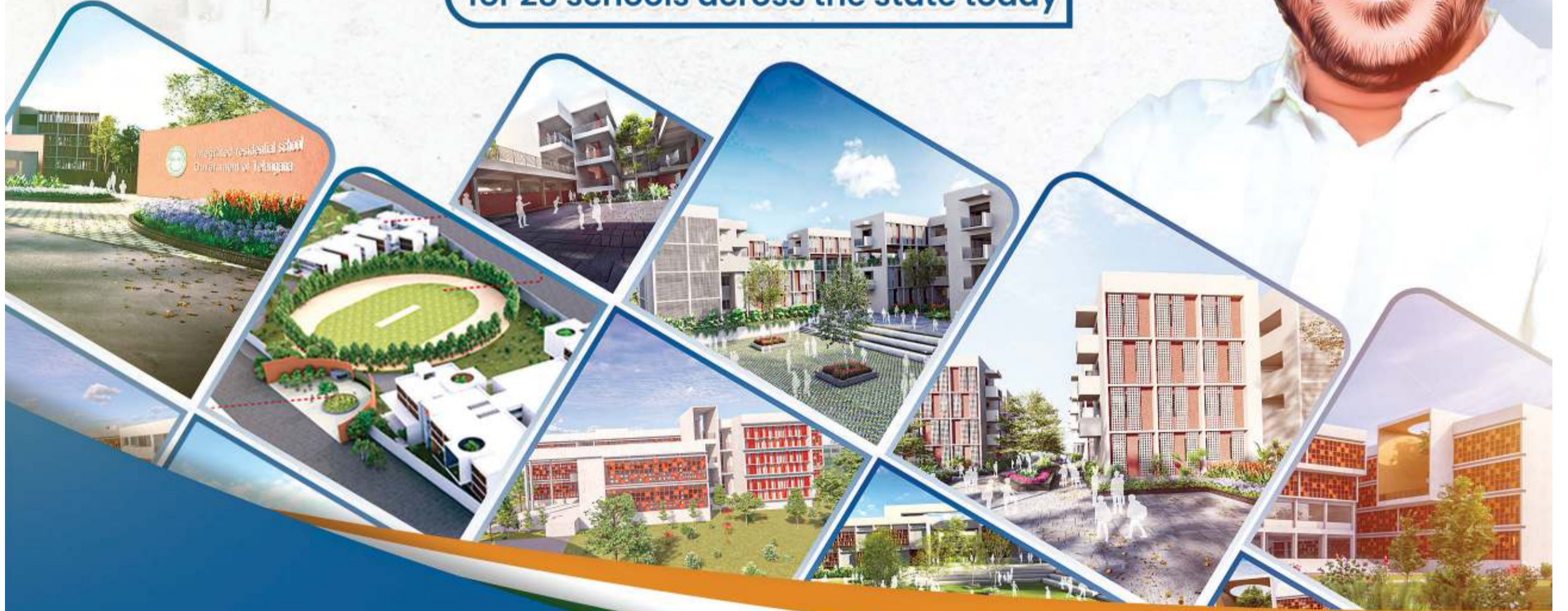
Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony

on **11 Oct, 2024**

@ Kondurg, Shadnagar Constituency
by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Telangana

SRI A. REVANTH REDDY GARU

Foundation ceremonies
for 28 schools across the state today



Highlights..



International standards of education from 4th to 12th grades



Ultra modern, well equipped school campuses in 25 acres



Digital libraries, smart boards & computer labs



Schools that transcend caste, religion, and class boundaries



Dedicated cricket, football grounds & basketball, tennis courts

Mana Praja Prabhuthvam: Path to Progress and Welfare for All



Pathological bias, naive ideas rule India's water sector

BY M. DINESH KUMAR & KAMANA JHA

If someone asks a person who knows India's water sector well, "What characterizes the country's water sector debate today?" the answer will be simple: 'naive ideas'. While scarcity of water starts hurting economic activities and affecting every walk of life in large parts of the developing world, there are a whole range of naive ideas being promoted by pseudo-intellectuals, though globally-renowned academicians like Prof Asit K Biswas warn of serious water crises affecting large regions due to paucity of 'water management' in most developing countries. Prof Biswas argues that the political leadership of those countries lacks the will to take hard decisions when it comes to dealing with water management challenges.

In a recent article titled 'India's Water Management

Debate: Is the Civil Society Making it Everlasting?, Dinesh Kumar and Chetan Pandit wrote about the diametrically opposite views that exist in water management sector which create hindrance to using the best of modern science and technology for dealing with the problems. They note: "What makes the present scenario different from the past is the emergence of Civil Society (CS) advocates. The CS strongly campaigns for or against various policies related to water, energy, and the environment which have a huge impact on the nation's social fabric and the economy and therefore on its place in the international arena". Some scholars even argue that the real objective of the CS advocates is to influence the economic agenda, and water, energy, and environment policies are only tools to achieve this goal. In any case, these CS

groups are political entities as they try to influence the social and economic agenda.

Civil society and water management

A water sector professional has to take cognizance of the political overtones of CS advocacies. A close examination of the current debate on water management in India amongst scholars and practitioners clearly reveals a 'pathological bias' of this class towards certain ideas. It often takes 'aggressive' forms, though interestingly the perpetrators voice their concern about 'destructive forms' of development, pursued by modern governments. The concern becomes genuine when we see that they dominate even drafting committees of important policy documents and use such opportunities to vehemently argue against infrastructure development in the sector. The recent flood damages in AP, Telangana, and to an extent in Delhi are out-

The recent flood damages in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and to an extent in Delhi are outcomes of negligence of such issues in the past by a few.

comes of negligence of such issues in the past by a few.

The civil society groups are largely against 'imported water supplied through household taps' to quench the thirst of millions living in water-scarce regions, and aggressively promote traditional water bodies as drinking water sources. They are against large dams for the 'negative social and environmental impacts' they create; and support decentralized water harvesting and are against building permanent water infrastructure in rural areas. They are against modern irrigation systems involving reservoirs and large conveyance systems, and believe

that only traditional ponds and tanks are sustainable; most of them hate irrigation and promote rain-fed crops, arguing that the latter do not consume water! They fight fiercely against hydropower dams which produce 'dirty power' and want only 'clean energy' from solar and wind power. **CSOs' water management alternatives**

A new solution for rejuvenating India's rivers being advocated by some 'water crusaders', which has received immense public attention, is 'tree plantation'. Often hype is created about its contribution to increasing groundwater recharge and enhancing the

conditions, weather, length of the growing season and 'method of growing', and much higher than many other cereals like wheat, jowar, and pearl millet. But the hydrology and water balance of paddy irrigated is hardly understood by the policy makers and practitioners.

Studies from different parts of the world, including Pakistan Punjab, Haryana in India and South Korea show that percolation of water from irrigated water to shallow groundwater is a major component of the total water applied to the paddy field, and it will be wrong to consider this water as consumed. While paddy is grown mostly during the monsoon season in many parts of Asia, paddy fields act as spreading basin for rainwater to infiltrate and help improve the groundwater balance. So, the solution to Punjab's groundwater depletion lies in reducing the cropping intensity, thereby cutting down the

evapo-transpirative demand for water in aggregate terms. So, the real concern is not that we are unable to find solutions for our water problems very quickly. Obviously, the government at the Centre has long-term vision for water management sector in the country and appears to be working towards realizing that. The concern is about the way we end up implementing certain solutions that are not part of such long-term plans, without having any scientific evidence about their effectiveness. To avoid this, technocrats should be on board while such solutions are planned and implemented.

It is certain that India will face acute water scarcity, and many areas in central, peninsular and western India are already experiencing it in different manifestations. There is no 'if' about future water scarcity. The question is: What are we doing about it?

YOUNG INDIA INTEGRATED RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

28 world-class educational institutions on anvil in TG

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a step towards providing world-class education facilities to students from the underprivileged sections of society, foundation stones for 28 Young India Integrated Residential Schools will be laid across the state on Friday, as per the orders of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.



Kondurg in Shadnagar in Ranga Reddy district, while Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka will do the same in Madhira.

The Chief Secretary emphasized the importance of conducting the event grandly and asked collectors to invite public representatives from the respective districts to the foundation stone laying function.

The construction of these schools, aimed at providing international standard education, will be overseen by the Roads and Buildings Department.

The government has identified 28 locations where the first phase of the schools will be established, with more places to be

identified in the second phase depending on land availability.

The places where foundation stones will be laid for the schools are Kodangal, Madhira, Husnabad, Naigonda, Huzurnagar, Manthani, Mulugu, Palair, Khammam, Warangal, Kollapur, Andole Chandrayangutta, Mancheril, Bhopalpally, Achampet, Station Ghanpur, Tungaturthi, Munugode, Chennur, Shadnagar, Parkal, Narayankhed, Devarakadra, Nagarkurnool, Manakondur, and Narsampet.

Modi must make categorisation of SC reservations legal: Jeevan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Congress MLC T. Jeevan Reddy appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make the categorisation of SC reservations legal.

Making it clear that the Telangana government is sticking to the verdict of the Supreme Court regarding the categorisation of SC reservations, Jeevan said the Centre has the responsibility to make the categorisation of SC reservations legal.

Speaking to the media at the Congress Legislature Party

(CLP) Media Hall on Thursday, Kishan said that Telangana is the only state in India which decided to categorise SC reservations.

The government also set up a one-member committee consisting of a retired High Court judge. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy also directed the committee to submit its report within 60 days.

Jeevan said the Supreme Court gave a verdict in tune with the report of the Usha Mehra Commission, which was appointed by the UPA government.

Jeevan said the government will implement new reservation norms in all the appointments conducted in future. He suggested MRPS founder president Manda Krishna Madiga to launch a national movement for the categorisation of SC reservations in all states.

Jeevan asked Modi to issue an ordinance to provide reservations for BCs in local body elections. There is a need to amend the Constitution to provide rights on the basis of population to socially Backward Classes, he said.

'Fill up posts only after categorising SC quotas'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

MRPS Founder President Manda Krishna Madiga asked Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to conduct job recruitments only after the categorization of SC reservations.

He said that Madigas would not believe Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's words and statements anymore. He said the Congress government had filled around 11,000 teacher jobs without categorising SC reservations.

Speaking to the media on Thursday, Kishan said that the CM had assured Madigas in the Assembly that categorisation of SC reservations would be implemented in the notifications already issued.

When will govt issue Vidya Bharosa Card?

Sabitha lashes out at CM for frequently criticising KCR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLA Sabitha Indra Reddy criticised Chief Minister Revanth Reddy in a post on X and accused him of frequently targeting KCR in his speeches.

She questioned the CM's approach, particularly his habit of criticising the former Chief Minister in front of students and teachers, asking, "Is criticising KCR in front of students and teachers your modus operandi, Mr Chief Minister?"

She pointed out that in the last 10 months, the CM has failed to deliver even a single speech without mentioning KCR's name.

Sabitha also asked why the Congress admin had stopped the breakfast scheme in government schools and failed to deliver on the promise to issue Vidya Bharosa cards worth Rs

5 lakh to every student.

She also expressed concern about Revanth Reddy confusing government programmes with party events.

"Are the teacher posts you're boasting about not the same ones sanctioned by KCR? Didn't the KCR admin approve 3,202 posts in the higher education department and 1,081 university posts?" Sabitha asked in her post on X.

She said that 3,896 contractual posts in the Intermediate, Technical and Collegiate Education Department were regularised by the KCR administration.

Sabitha also questioned the CM's failure to fulfil his election promise to sanction 25,000 teaching posts and his claim that 6,000 schools were closed. She asked him to release the list if that was true.

'Bathukamma not an event but a festival'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Criticising BRS Working President KT Rama Rao for terming Bathukamma as an event, the Congress's Deverakadra MLA, G. Madhusudhan Reddy, said, "KTR... Bathukamma is not an event but a festival."

Speaking to the media at the CLP Media Hall on Thursday, Madhusudhan said the BRS thinks Bathukamma means Kavitha, however, where is Kavitha as the Bathukamma festival is going on in a big way.

He said that women are celebrating Bathukamma grandly under the Congress government.

Asking the BRS to reveal where opposition leader K. Chandrasekhar Rao is, Madhusudhan took serious exception to KTR saying that there was corruption of Rs 1 lakh crore in the Musi River Front Development Project even before the DPR was pre-

pared.

He warned the BRS that it would not get even three seats in the next elections if it spread lies.

Madhusudhan said that KTR's words stink more than the Musi River. He said that KTR celebrated Congress defeat in Haryana and the victory of the BJP. He said that the "irregularities" in EVMs will come out soon and asked KTR why he did not mention the defeat of the BJP in Kashmir.

He said that KTR and Harish Rao have been criticizing Rahul Gandhi, however, barking dogs will not bite. So there is no need to care about KTR's words. Madhusudhan made it clear that nothing would happen to the Congress even if KTR's grandparents came. The KTR family engaged in scams in the last 10 years. They are spreading lies as scams are not taking place under the Congress government, he pointed out.

Lawyers must play opposition role: Singhvi

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Rajya Sabha member from Telangana, Abhishek Manu Singhvi, who is also a Supreme Court lawyer, said that 'all are equal' before the judicial system.

Addressing the gathering after a felicitation of him by the Telangana Congress Legal Cell on Thursday at Haritha Plaza, Singhvi said that the arrest of BRS MLC Kavitha took place only after a hearing. He said that former Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal's case was different from that of Kavitha.

Singhvi said that lawyers should play the opposition's role and then only they would become popular among people.

Demolish commercial buildings first in Musi catchment: Kishan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress Government should demolish commercial buildings first in the Musi River's catchment area, Union Minister of Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy said.

"It is not proper for the government to demolish the houses of the poor for Musi beautification. The government should convince the poor about this and only then vacate them. It is not proper to remove them forcibly. Thousands of poor people have been thrown on the road due to the Congress government's decision," he said.

Kishan held a meeting with the BJP presidents of eight districts located around the GHMC area and GHMC councillors on Thursday at the

State BJP office and discussed with them the Musi cleaning project, HYDRAA and RRR issues.

Speaking on the occasion, Kishan said that the BJP would stand by the Musi victims and that there is no need to fear. He said the BJP is going to implement its action plan of standing by Musi victims from Friday onwards. BRS MLA Ch. Malla Reddy met Kishan along with his son-in-law MLA Marri Rajashekar Reddy and invited him for the marriage of his granddaughter. Malla Reddy said that he did not discuss politics and had just come to invite Kishan to his granddaughter's marriage. He said that he became an MP because of Chandrababu Naidu, but did not reply when asked whether he is going to join the TDP.

Pseudo Naxal gang held for Rs 5 cr ransom demand

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Commissioner's Task Force, East Zone, along with Osmania University Police, apprehended four members of a pseudo Naxalite gang who threatened a railway contractor and demanded Rs 5 crore in ransom.

The arrested individuals are Prasad Salonka, Rathlavath Ravi Naik, Mandugula Sathiah and Kammari Sheshappa.

Prasad, the mastermind, had worked for the contractor from 2010 to 2012 and used his knowledge to plan the extortion. The gang used fake identities and SIM cards to send threatening messages.

TODAY
ALMANAC

Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha
Tithi: Ashtami: Oct 10 12:32 PM to Oct 11 12:07 PM
Navami: Oct 11 12:07 PM to Oct 12 10:58 AM

Nakshatram:
Uttara Ashadha: Oct 11 05:41 AM to Oct 12 05:25 AM
Shravana: Oct 12 05:25 AM to Oct 13 04:27 AM

Rahukalam: 10:35 AM to 12:02 PM
Yamagandam: 2:58 PM to 4:25 PM
Varjyam: 09:15 AM to 10:47 AM
Gulika: 7:39 AM to 9:07 AM
Amritakalam: 11:05 PM to 12:40 AM
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:39 AM to 12:26 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER
Forecast: Showers
Temp: 29°
Humidity: 79%
Sunrise: 6:08 AM
Sunset: 5:57 PM
Updated: October 10, 2024 5:00 PM

Four sisters join MBBS with Harish's help

PNS ■ SIDDIPT

Four daughters of a family secured MBBS seats in government medical colleges fulfilling their dream to become doctors. BRS MLA Harish Rao had helped the family as it was facing financial problems.

Konk Ramachandram and Sarada, the proud parents of the four sisters, met Harish at his Siddipet camp office to share their joy. Their eldest daughter, Mamatha, completed her MBBS after joining the course in 2018, while the second daughter, Madhavi, began her MBBS in 2020.

This year, their younger daughters, Rohini and Roshini, also secured MBBS seats.

Expressing happiness, Harish said, "It is a joy to see these daughters fulfil their parents' dream through sheer perseverance."

Parsi rituals ...

Continued from page 1

The body is washed and dressed in traditional Parsi attire by the Nassesalars, who are specialised pallbearers responsible for handling the remains. The body is then wrapped in a white shroud, known as the 'sudreh' (cotton vest) and 'kusti', a sacred cord that is worn round the waist.

Before the body is taken to the final resting place, prayers and blessings are performed by the Parsi priests. These rituals are designed to help the soul of the deceased transition smoothly into the afterlife.

The family and close relatives gather to pay their respects and participate in these prayers.

Traditionally, the body would be taken to the Tower of Silence, or 'Dakhma', a structure specifically designed for Parsi funerals. The body is placed atop the 'Dakhma', where it is exposed to the elements and scavenger birds, typically vultures.

Court issues notice ...

Continued from page 1

The court heard the case on Thursday and posted the case to October 23. The court had recorded the statements of petitioner Akkineni Nagarjuna and witness Yarlagadda Supriya on October 8. However, the court did not record the statement of the second witness M. Venkateshwarlu saying that the Yarlagadda Supriya version is enough.

The court heard the remaining arguments and issued notices to Surekha. Lawyers said the court served notices to Konda Surekha as it was satisfied with the witness' statement.

However, Surekha's lawyers have to file a reply in court regarding the notices on October 23. The court will conduct the next hearing if it is satisfied with the reply given by Konda Surekha's lawyers or else Surekha will have to appear in court and give her statement. It may be recalled that Surekha mentioned the names of Nagarjuna, Naga Chaitanya and Samantha during her criticism against BRS Working President KT Rama Rao.

KTR files ...

Continued from page 1

However, as Surekha failed to withdraw her comments, KTR escalated the matter by filing a criminal case.

In his plea, KTR emphasised that such defamatory statements cannot be left unaddressed, as they cause personal harm and undermine public confidence in him. He pointed out that this is not the first time Surekha has engaged in defamatory behaviour.

He reminded the court that she had earlier faced reprimands from the Election Commission for making similar baseless statements.

KTR said this pattern of conduct reflects a deliberate attempt to malign his reputation through malicious behaviour.

Nation bids ...

Continued from page 1

Union Home Minister Amit Shah attended the last rites of Ratan Tata on behalf of the Centre. Amit Shah, Union Minister Piyush Goyal and other ministers and top businessmen like Ambanis were present at the site.

The Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said the tricolour on government offices in Maharashtra would be flown at half-mast as a sign of mourning.

There will be no entertainment events as well. In a post on X, Eknath Shinde called Tata, who spearheaded the salt-to-software conglomerate for several decades, a living legend who successfully helmed the 150-year-old Tata Group.

"Ratanji Tata was a living legend who successfully led the Tata Group with a tradition of excellence and integrity spanning nearly 150 years. The decisiveness and mental toughness he displayed time after time took the Tata Group to different industrial heights," Shinde tweeted.

Telugu film ...

Continued from page 1

Shri Ratan Tata's contributions not only built the illustrious TATA brand into a global powerhouse but also stupendously contributed to our Nation building," he said on X.

Describing Ratan Tata as a giant of industry and a beacon of humanity, actor Mahesh Babu said the departed industrialist's generosity, wisdom, and unwavering commitment for the greater good has left an indelible mark on the world.

In his message, Junior NTR said Ratan Tata's selfless philanthropy and visionary leadership have transformed countless lives. "India owes him a debt of gratitude."

Actor Ram Charan termed Ratan Tata's demise as a huge loss to the nation.

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QUOTE OF THE DAY
 The pioneer

KTR celebrated the Congress defeat in Haryana and the BJP's victory. The irregularities in EVMs will come out soon. Why didn't KTR speak about the BJP's defeat in Kashmir? KTR and MLA Harish Rao have been criticising Rahul Gandhi. However, barking dogs seldom bite. So there is no need to mind KTR's words



-G Madhusudhan Reddy, Cong MLA

Seethakka calls for respect and support for women in every home



MALDIVES PREZ THANKS INDIA FOR FINANCIAL AID, CONSISTENT SUPPORT



Vettaiyan tackles tough issues but loses FOCUS



DON'T MISS...

A team to visit Bengaluru to...

Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) Commissioner AV Ranganath conducted a video conference with Lakeman of India Anand Malligavada and discussed the restoration of the lakes. A decision is being taken to consider sending a team to Bengaluru for a ground-level study of the restored lakes. They also plan to invite Anand Malligavada to Hyderabad for collaboration on the restoration...

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Villagers shocked over woman...

Poignant scenes were witnessed when a woman Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) attempted suicide by consuming pesticide on the premises of a police station at Chilipched village under Kowdipalli mandal in Medak district. The woman ASI accused a sub-inspector, identified as Yadagiri, of harassing her out of vendetta. The woman ASI has been posted to the Chilipched...

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Ratan Tata my role model: Narayana..

Losing "dear friend" Tata Sons Chairman Emeritus Ratan Tata is "very painful", IT industry veteran and Infosys co-founder N R Narayana Murthy on Thursday said as he acknowledged that he was a role model for him in value-based leadership. "He (Tata) was indeed a moral compass for me whenever I had some ambiguity and confusion in ethical issues," the 78-year-old said. After conferring an honour on Tata in 2020, the software icon...

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Nitish Kumar Reddy credits...

India all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy said the idea was to take on the Bangladeshi spinners and credited head coach Gautam Gambhir for boosting his confidence after his all-round effort powered the hosts to an 86-run win in the second T20I here. India, who had lost to Bangladesh the last time these two teams clashed here, landed in trouble with their top order blown away inside the powerplay but Reddy and Rinku Singh joined forces to turn the tables on Bangladesh...

-SPORTS

'Go to Andhra Pradesh'

- DOPT rejects IAS, IPS officers' requests to remain in TG
- Major administrative shake-up likely in Telangana

NAVEENA GHANATE
 ■ HYDERABAD

The Centre has rejected the objections of some IAS and IPS officers who had requested permission to remain in Telangana after the bifurcation of United AP.

The officers, including prominent ones like Vakati Karuna, Ronald Rose, Amrapali Kata, Vaniprasad, Mallela Prashanthi, and IPS officers Anjani Kumar, Abhilasha Bisht and Abhishek Mohanty had asked the Centre to allot them to Telangana. However, their requests have been turned down, and they have now been ordered to report in Andhra Pradesh by October 16.

The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) issued orders relieving these officers from Telangana and directing them to take charge in Andhra Pradesh.

In a simultaneous move, some Telangana cadre IAS officers serving in Andhra Pradesh like SS Rawat, Ananth Ramu, Srujana and Sivashankar have been relieved by the DoPT and will now return to Telangana.

After the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh the Centre allotted officials to both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Many officers objected to these transfers and tried to remain in Telangana due to personal or profes-

The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) issued orders relieving these officers from Telangana and directing them to take charge in Andhra Pradesh

sional reasons. They approached the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) and it ruled in their favour and allowed them to stay in Telangana.

However, the Centre filed a petition against the CAT ruling in the Telangana High Court. Earlier, in March, the Telangana High Court ordered the Centre to re-examine the officers' requests. Retired IAS officer Deepak Khandekar was appointed to review the objections. After his report, the Centre decided to reject the officers' requests and transfer them to AP.

The development comes after the rejection of a similar appeal by former Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar who failed to get any relief after challeng-

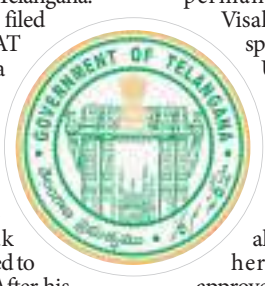
ing the Pratyush Sinha Committee's recommendations allotting him to AP. Somesh subsequently resigned and took VRS. The development has sparked discussions around cadre allocation and the challenges officials face after bifurcation, as many of these officers had expressed a strong preference to stay in Telangana.

The Khandekar Committee noted that the officer had challenged the approved guidelines for the allocation of IAS officers after the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh in 2014.

In a detailed report, the committee said that Amrapali Kata had cited her "permanent address" as

Visakhapatnam for correspondence purposes in her UPSC form and had requested to be treated as an insider of Telangana. However, the Pratyush Sinha Committee which was responsible for the initial allocation had ruled out her request based on approved guidelines.

The Ministry accepted the Khandekar Committee's recommendation to reject her claim emphasising that the allocation of officers from the undivided cadre of Andhra Pradesh was done uniformly and in accordance with facts.



Nation bids tata to Ratan

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Ratan Tata, a towering icon of industry and philanthropy who died on Wednesday, was cremated after he was accorded a state funeral by the Maharashtra government. His funeral took place according to the rituals followed by the Parsi community. He was cremated in an electric crematorium.

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, who called Tata a "unique blend of morality and entrepreneurship", also declared a day of mourning in the state on Thursday to pay tribute to the industrialist.

The body of Tata was kept at the National Centre for Performing Arts (NCPA) in south Mumbai's Nariman Point from 10.30 am to 4 pm on Thursday for people to pay their respects. His body was then taken to the Worli crematorium for last rites.

Continued on Page 2



Parsi rituals adapted

Since Ratan Tata was Parsi, his funeral took place according to the rituals followed by the community. He was later cremated in an electric crematorium.

Parsis do not cremate or bury their loved ones, unlike Hindus and Muslims, and they consider a human

body as a gift of nature, which has to be returned. According to Zoroastrian beliefs, cremating or burying would contaminate the elements of nature - water, air and fire. In the early hours of the day, the body is prepared for the funeral rites.

Continued on Page 2

Maha cabinet seeks 'Bharat Ratna' for Tata

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra cabinet on Thursday passed a resolution urging the central government to confer 'Bharat Ratna', the country's highest civilian award, on legendary industrialist late Ratan Tata.

The cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde paid homage to the industry icon, who died in a Mumbai hospital on Wednesday night. A motion of condolence was passed during the meeting, a statement from the Chief Minister's Office said.

The cabinet also passed a resolution urging the Centre to confer the Bharat Ratna on the late industrialist. Tata has been feted with the country's second highest civilian honour Padma

Vibhushan. The resolution said entrepreneurship is an effective way for growth of the society. The country can be taken on the path of progress and development by setting up new businesses, it said.

"It also requires love for the country and honest feelings for society upliftment. We have lost a visionary leader who was committed to the country and the society. Tata's role in the industrial sector and upliftment of the society was unparalleled. He tackled all challenges by adhering to high morals, transparent and clean business administration with discipline," it said. He carved a niche for the Tata Group and the country on global stage, the resolution said.

Continued on Page 2



Telugu film personalities pay tribute to 'legend'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telugu film personalities, including Chiranjeevi, Mahesh Babu, Junior NTR and others on Thursday mourned the demise of veteran industrialist Ratan Tata, hailing his philanthropy and contributions to the country's industrial progress.

Ratan Tata's demise is a sad day for all Indians. For generations together, there is not a single Indian whose life has not been touched by his services one way or the other, Chiranjeevi said.

"One of the greatest visionaries our country has ever seen, a truly legendary industrialist, a philanthropist extraordinaire and a human being par excellence,

Continued on Page 2

Centre gives TG Rs 3,745 cr

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Centre has released Rs 1,78,173 crore to state governments as part of the October 2024 tax devolution, with Telangana receiving Rs 3,745 crore and Andhra Pradesh getting Rs 7,211 crore.

This release, which includes an advance instalment in addition to the regular monthly devolution, is nearly double the usual amount of Rs 89,086.50 crore.

The decision to release the advance instalment comes in view of the festive season, allowing states to accelerate capital spending and meet development and

welfare-related expenditures. This infusion of funds will help Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, among other states, ramp up their infrastructure projects and welfare schemes in the coming months.

Uttar Pradesh topped the allocation with Rs 31,962 crore, followed by Madhya Pradesh with Rs 13,987 crore and West Bengal with Rs 13,404 crore. Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Rajasthan also received substantial allocations.

This timely release of funds underscores the Centre's efforts to ensure that state governments have the necessary financial resources to continue their capital projects and welfare programme.

Revanth takes stock of annual revenue targets

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy held a meeting with officials of various departments to review the progress in revenue collection in line with the state's annual targets.

The meeting, aimed at strategizing for enhanced income generation, was attended by Minister Ponguleti and Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari, along with senior officials.

The meeting was held at the CM's residence in Jubilee Hills on Thursday.

Continued on Page 2

KTR files criminal case against Surekha

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS Working President KT Rama Rao (KTR) filed a criminal defamation case against Minister Konda Surekha at the Nampally court.

The case was filed following Surekha's allegedly baseless defamatory remarks aimed at damaging KTR's personal and professional image.

KTR had earlier issued a legal notice to Surekha, demanding a public apology for her statements.

Continued on Page 2

Court issues notice in Nagarjuna's case

HYDERABAD: The Nampally court issued a notice to Forests, Environment and Endowments Minister Konda Surekha in connection with the film Akkineni Nagarjuna's criminal defamation petition alleging that Surekha's comments against his family were defamatory.

Continued on Page 2

BRS challenges Revanth's recruitment claims

Seeks clarification on 'BRS admin's failure' to fill 1.6 lakh posts

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former BRS MP B. Vinod Kumar issued a challenge to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Finance Minister Bhatti Vikramarka demanding that they clarify their stand on job recruitment in the state.

Addressing a press conference at the Telangana Bhavan, he questioned the claims made by Revanth Reddy and his ministers regarding the KCR admin's failure to fill 1.6 lakh vacancies in TG government service and said that



actually, this target was not only met but exceeded.

Vinod criticised Revanth for using teacher recruitment as a political tool and responded to the Chief Minister's remarks, stating

that many posts were filled by KCR's administration.

"We provided a record number of jobs during KCR's rule, but we didn't blow the trumpet about it. Now, ministers like Bhatti and Ponnam are questioning the number of posts filled. If they don't know, they are unfit to serve as ministers," he remarked.

He also threw light on Revanth Reddy's recent notification for 6,000 jobs, calling it an extension of the notification issued by the KCR government in September 2023.

'Cong destroyed thousands of tanks'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS leaders launched a sharp attack on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and said the Congress is responsible for the disappearance of thousands of tanks across Telangana.

Addressing a press conference at the Telangana Bhavan, BRS leader Doodimetla Balaraj Yadav said that during Nizam's rule, there were 70,000 tanks in the region, but now only 46,000 remain, with most lost during Congress rule.

When Tata came close to marriage four times!

Business tycoon, philanthropist and former Tata Sons Chairman Ratan Tata breathed his last in Breach Candy Hospital, Mumbai, at the age of 86. While his professional and social life is known worldwide, his private life largely remained under wraps. In an interview with CNN, Tata once revealed that he came close to marrying four times but opted out each time due to "fear". "I came seriously close to getting married four times and each time I backed off in fear or for one reason or another. Each occasion was different, but in hindsight when I look at the people involved; it wasn't a bad thing what I did. I think it may have been more complex had the marriage taken place," Ratan Tata said.

"Deeply" in love with an American woman The business tycoon went on to reveal that he fell "deeply" in love with an American woman while he was working in Los Angeles. In 1962, he had to return to India as his grandmother had fallen sick. Meanwhile, the girl's parents were opposed to her moving to India, given the then-Indo-China conflict. "I was probably the most serious when I was working in the US and the only reason we didn't get married was that I came back to India and she was to follow me. That was the year of the Indo-Chinese conflict. This conflict in the snowy, uninhabited part of the Himalayas was seen in the United States as a major war between India and China and so, she didn't come and finally got married in the US thereafter," he said.

On his bachelor life...

In an old interview with Simi Grewal, Ratan Tata opened up on his bachelor life and said that there were times when he had felt lonely about not having a wife or children. "I don't know what motivates me but let me just stay with that for a minute. There are many times I feel lonely at not having a wife or family and sometimes, I long for it. But sometimes, I enjoy the freedom of not having to worry about the feelings of someone else or the concerns of someone else," he said.



RATAN NAVAL TATA
Born: 1937
Died: 2024

'INTENSE POETIC PROSE'

Nobel Prize in literature awarded to South Korean author Han Kang

PNS ■ STOCKHOLM

The Nobel Prize in literature was awarded Thursday to South Korean author Han Kang for what the Nobel committee called "her intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life." Mats Malm, permanent secretary of the Swedish Academy's Nobel Committee, announced the prize in Stockholm.



Han, 53, won the International Booker Prize in 2016 for "The Vegetarian," an unsettling novel in which a woman's decision to stop eating meat has devastating consequences. Her novel "Human Acts" was an International Booker Prize finalist in 2018. The literature prize has long faced criticism that it is too focused on European and North American writers of style-heavy, story-light prose. It has also been male-dominated, with just 17 women among its 119 laureates so far.

CITY EVENTS

Gallery Dotwalk

The exhibition is curated by ace curator Premish Achari. The preview and walkthrough will display the works that are a mix of old and new thoughts by prominent artists.

Venue

Chitramayee State Art Gallery, Kavuri Hills, Jubilee Hills, Near Madhapur, Hyderabad October 11, 2024, 5.30 pm onwards. Show on view till October 16, 11 am to 6 pm.

The blacklist

Faria Abdullah live Brodha 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 residence, 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 unforgettable evening of color, rhythm, and joy! Our Dandiya Night promises to be a dazzling celebration filled with traditional music, energetic dance, and the enchanting spirit of community.

Venue

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

Toxic

By Abhishek Upmanyu

Venue

Shilpakala Vedita November 2

Yellow alert across State for moderate rains

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The city experienced a cloudy day on Thursday, with sudden scattered heavy rains in the evening and a cool breeze, bringing relief to residents. Intense rainfall was also reported in Siddipet, Sircilla, Hanamkonda, Jangaon and Karimnagar, and spread towards Kamareddy, Medak, Sangareddy, Vikarabad and parts of Nizamabad, according to Telangana Weatherman.

The IMD has issued a yellow alert until October 13 for moderate thunderstorms with lightning and gusty winds of 30-40 kmph. These conditions are likely in isolated areas of Adilabad, Komaram Bheem Asifabad, Mancherial, Nirmal, Jayashankar Bhupalpally, Mulugu, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Khammam, Nalgonda, Suryapet, Mahabubabad, Warangal, Hanamkonda, Jangaon, Vikarabad, Sangareddy, Mahabubnagar, Nagarkurnool, Wanaparthy and Narayanpet districts of Telangana.

City Pioneer



HYDERABAD FRIDAY | OCTOBER 11, 2024

04

HYDRAA PLANS TO RESTORE CITY LAKES

A team to visit Bengaluru to study restored lakes: Ranganath

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) Commissioner AV Ranganath conducted a video conference with Lakeman of India Anand Malligavad and discussed the restoration of the lakes.

A decision is being taken to consider sending a team to Bengaluru for a ground-level study of the restored lakes. They also plan to invite Anand Malligavad to Hyderabad for collaboration on the restoration.

Lakes are the lifeblood of the environment, providing essential resources like irrigation and drinking water. However, urbanisation has severely impacted these water bodies, with many disappearing and others turning into sewage pits. Lakes' conservation is everyone's responsibility.

HYDRAA plans to restore them with the involvement of local residents, voluntary organisations, corporate entities and government departments, said Ranganath in a video conference with Anand Malligavad, known as the Lakeman of India.

Anand explained how 35 severely polluted lakes were transformed into freshwater bodies in Bengaluru. The Commissioner reviewed these cost-effective methods for possible implementation in Hyderabad.

The plan includes clearing accumulated waste and ensuring clean water flows



into the lakes. To purify sewage water before it enters lakes, a multi-stage filtration process will be initiated, drawing inspiration from Bengaluru's methods. Vegetation will be planted along sewage channels to naturally filter the water before it reaches the lakes.

HYDRA is considering sending a team

to Bengaluru for a ground-level study of the restored lakes. They also plan to invite Anand Malligavad to Hyderabad for collaboration on the restoration efforts.

The initial focus will be on rejuvenating Sunnam Cheruvu, Appa Cheruvu, Errakunta near Pragathi Nagar and Kukatpally lakes by clearing construction

debris. Clean water in these lakes will enhance the surrounding environment, promoting a cool, green atmosphere with lush vegetation. HYDRAA aims to involve the local community in the conservation process, encouraging them to take voluntary responsibility for maintaining the lakes, said Ranganath.

Cockroach infestation high in city restaurants

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Task Force team of Telangana's Commissioner of Food Safety inspected restaurants in Bahadurpura and found live cockroach infestation along with multiple violations. The cockroach infestation continues to rise in the restaurants of the city, raising concerns among the public.

The Task Force team conducted inspections at Sukha Sagar Udupi Veg, Bahadurpura, and found live cockroach infestation in the storeroom. The FSSAI licence expired and not renewed. Medical fitness and pest control records were missing. The false ceiling was damaged due to water seepage.

The cellar kitchen was open to the outside without insect-proof screens. Drain water



stagnation was found near the washing area, with the drain left open. Food articles were not properly labelled and temperature records for the refrigerator were missing. Some food handlers were not wearing hair caps and aprons.

Later on, the Task Force team also inspected Hotel Fiza and Bakers and found cockroach infestation in the

kitchen. Medical fitness certificates, pest control records and water analysis reports were missing. Tiles were broken and the refrigerator was unhygienic. Food was not covered or labeled and suspected synthetic food colours were discarded. Doors and windows lacked insect-proof screens and temperature records were not maintained.

Finally, the Task Force team inspected Shaheen Mandi, near the Bahadurpura zoo premises and found that FSSAI licence copy was not displayed. Medical fitness and pest control records were missing. Water stagnation was observed and veg and non-veg food were stored together.

The Task Force team stated that a notice will be issued, and further action will be taken accordingly.

Complaint lodged for morphing Priyanka Gandhi's photos

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A complaint was lodged for morphing Priyanka Gandhi's photo and disseminating content. In a letter to the Cyber Crime wing of Hyderabad City Police, Chatari Dasherath, BRSV State general secretary, said that legal action must be taken on strangers who were involved in Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi's photo morphing on social media platforms. On X, three accounts were associated with the dissemination of this content.

He also mentioned the accounts of individuals Karunakar Kommareddy (@karunakarkomrddy), Vivekanand ReddyINC (@VANand_INC and Pulse of Telangana (@sreeredi77).

However, despite having no connection to the incident, the account UttamBRS was unfairly defamed and linked to this matter. It is crucial that a thorough investigation is conducted to identify the individuals responsible for creating and posting these manipulated images. Additionally, those who falsely accused and maligned the BRS party by wrongly implicating UttamBRS should face appropriate legal action, Dasherath said in a letter.

TG's tourist spots shine at IMEX America 2024

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana's tourism showcased its attractions at IMEX America 2024 in Las Vegas, with a stall inaugurated by Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao.

The Minister met with local media, representatives from Travel Solutions and members of the Telugu Association. He highlighted Telangana's rich culture, heritage and natural beauty, especially focusing on Hyderabad as India's 'Convention Capital'. He emphasised that the city is an ideal destination for both leisure and business, mentioning the State's policies aimed

at boosting investment and partnerships in tourism.

During his speech, the Minister invited the global audience to visit Telangana and explore its unique offerings.

He also toured other country stalls at the event and expressed pride that Telangana was one of the few Indian participants.

Prakash Reddy, Managing Director of Telangana Tourism; DS Omprakash, Assistant Director of Tourism; K Anji Reddy, GM of TSTD; Gary Khan, CEO of HCVB; and co-exhibitors from HITEC, Meety and Namdhari Events were present at the inauguration.



HC notices to State govt on MG Trust lands

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The High Court served notices to the State government, CCLA, Siddipet collector, RDO and Siddipet mandal tahsildar on Thursday seeking explanation on doing mutation of lands of Mahatma Gandhi Smaraka Nidhi Trust, Koti, Hyderabad in the names of private persons.

The persons named Balarangam, Venkaiah, Srinivas Reddy, Eddu Raju, Arun Kumar and others from Siddipet urban mandal filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) alleging

that some are handing over the lands of Mahatma Gandhi Smaraka Nidhi Trust, which teaches Gandhian ideals and Bhagavadgita, to private persons.

They appealed to the court to dismiss the decision of tahasildar and sub-registrar making it clear that the mutation of 5.34 acres of land located in Survey numbers-241, 241AA in Ponnala village of Siddipet urban mandal, in the name of private persons.

The petitioners appealed to the court to cancel the registration of lands in the name of private persons saying it is against law and appealed to the court to protect those lands.

Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice J Srinivas Rao's Bench heard the case. The Bench recorded the arguments and served notices to the State government, revenue officials seeking an explanation and adjourned the case for four weeks.



Ratan Tata envisioned 'New India' driven by young entrepreneurs

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

are today. Despite coming from a traditional business family, Ratan Tata had always been forward-thinking, a quality evident from his speech at the inauguration of T-Hub nine years ago in which he emphasised the importance of encouraging young minds with brilliant ideas, stating that they represent the new face of India.

Addressing the gathering at the T-Hub, India's largest incubation centre, Tata had said he grew up in an environment where if one had an idea, the boss or the manager would not be willing to listen to that and politely would say that one has to gain experience on a floor shop before coming up with ideas.

"You need to roll up your sleeves and spend five years on the shop floor. Then you can talk. That's not what enterprises

are today. Enterprises today are an ability of someone who may be in his 20s who has a good idea and he needs to find a way to implement it," he had said.

According to him, the country had an environment of venture capitalists who would listen to the person and facilities like T-Hub which would enable that person to try out his ideas to turn it into reality.

He described the T-hub as the nucleus of what could be a new big thing in the country.

BRS leader and former minister KT Rama Rao, recalling Tata's presence during the inauguration of T-Hub, said the departed business tycoon lives in everyone's heart and that he will be a source of inspiration for everyone who wishes to make this world a better place.

"Every time we look at T-Hub, we will remember you sir," KTR said in a post on X.



Seethakka calls for respect and support for women in every home

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Emphasising the significance of Bathukamma as a festival of life, Minister of Women and Child Welfare Seethakka participated in the Saddula Bathukamma celebration at Tank Bund on Thursday.

On this occasion, Seethakka highlighted that Telangana is rich in ponds, rivers, lakes, forests and hills, and its people depend on water for agriculture. She said that Bathukamma celebrates new crops and the girl child, symbolizing growth and renewal.

Seethakka also mentioned the medicinal benefits of turmeric, ginger and cumin, which help purify water when added to ponds, reflecting the scientific wisdom in traditional customs. She urged the protection of Bathukamma's associated ponds for future generations and stressed the importance of preserving the dignity of women.

Seethakka, along with Karnataka officials, Hyderabad Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi, and others participated in the festivities. Thousands of women paraded from the Amaraveera Memorial Center to Tank Bund, with art performances and a laser and cracker show entertaining the attendees.

Seethakka wished everyone a happy Dussehra and called for respect and support for women in every home.





Villagers shocked over woman ASI's suicide bid

PNS ■ MEDAK

Poignant scenes were witnessed when a woman Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) attempted suicide by consuming pesticide on the premises of a police station at Chilpched village under Kowdipalli mandal in Medak district. The woman ASI accused a sub-inspector, identified as Yadagiri, of harassing her out of vendetta.

The woman ASI has been posted to the Chilpched police station long back. She said she has been discharging her duties with diligence. However, the Sub-Inspector has been harassing her by accusing her of dereliction of duty and not attending to duties regularly. She also accused the Sub-Inspector of abus-

ing her and mentally harassing her. She left a suicide note also.

The woman ASI's colleagues rushed her to the Government Hospital at Jogipet after she consumed pesticide. The doctors declared her out of danger. The incident created a stir in the village.

If a woman ASI lacks security, how can it be expected that the police can provide security to common people, people are asking. "Protectors are turning predators," people wondered. The woman ASI claimed that three sub-inspectors had tried to "blackmail" her in the past.

Meanwhile, the District Superintendent of Police ordered the problem. It is reported that the sub-inspector has been placed under suspension.

Postman's delay cost youngster a govt job

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

People work hard for years for a government job, believing that their lives will change when they finally get it. They have many hopes and dreams. In this world, if there is anything more valuable than money, it is time. No matter what you do, you cannot bring back lost time. That's why elders say every moment is precious and not to waste time. Just a moment can change lives. This is particularly understood during exams, where students feel immense regret if they miss an exam by even a minute.

In this particular case, a young man lost his government job by a whisker, not because he was late, but because the letter informing him of the interview reached him late. The negligence on the part of postal workers was the reason for the delay.

On September 4, a letter was sent by speed post to Nagaraju, asking him to attend the interview in Hyderabad on September 27 with original certificates. The letter stated that if he did not attend the interview on time or did not have the necessary certificates, he would be disqualified for the job.



However, the letter did not reach Nagaraju until October 4, long after the interview deadline had passed.

Upon receiving the letter and realizing the interview date had already passed, Nagaraju was devastated. He immediately called the number listed in the letter, only to be told that the position had already been filled by someone else. This shattered his hopes and dreams, leaving him heartbroken over the job he had been so close to securing.

Understanding that the fault lay not with him but with the postal officials, Nagaraju confronted the Assistant Superintendent of the post office in Jachherla in Mahabubnagar district. The Assistant Superintendent explained that the person respon-

sible for delivering mail to Gangapur village had resigned on September 24 and that they had appointed someone else to take over the duties.

Although the staff claimed the letter was delivered on September 18, Nagaraju found that to be false. The Assistant Superintendent promised to take action against those responsible for the negligence.

Ultimately, however, Nagaraju's lost job would not return. Despite advances in technology, the continued reliance on postal services by government departments raises questions.

If they had communicated via email, text message, or phone call instead of relying solely on a letter, this issue could have been avoided.

CM invited for foundation laying function of Navy Radhar Project

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Parigi MLA Rammohan Reddy, along with Navy Project Director Raj Bir Singh and other Navy officials, met with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy at his Jubilee Hills residence to extend an invitation to the foundation stone-laying ceremony of the Navy Radar Project. The event is scheduled to take place on October 15 in Damagundam, located in the Pudur mandal of Parigi constituency. The Navy Radar



Chief Minister Revanth Reddy receiving invitation from Parigi MLA Rammohan Reddy and Navy officers in Hyderabad on Thursday

Project, a significant initiative for the region, is expected to boost defense capabilities and bring development to the area.

NEW DISTRICTS

Transferred staff approach Minister for relocation

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In an appeal to reverse the transfers made after the district reorganisation, members of the '317 GO Dislocated Employees Union' submitted a memorandum to Information Technology and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu on Thursday at the Secretariat. The union is requesting him to ensure that employees transferred to new districts be relocated back to their original

postings. The delegation, led by union president Padakanti Ajay Kumar, included honorary president Madhu Reddy, treasurer Rathod Prakash, Adilabad district president M. Sairam, and honorary president K. Vaman Rao. They urged the minister to take their concerns into consideration and facilitate the necessary changes to their postings.

The meeting highlighted the challenges faced by the employees who were transferred following the creation of new districts.

Be punctual to duties: Collector to doctors

PNS ■ YADADRI BHUVANAGIRI/CHOTUPPAL

District Collector Hanumanth K Zendage on Thursday directed officials to ensure the availability of quality medical services to people. He asked the doctors to be punctual to duties.

On Thursday, the Collector made a surprise inspection at the Community Health Centre in Choutuppal. He stressed that medical staff should be accessible to patients. He visited the wards and spoke with patients.

The Collector emphasised the importance of staff being alert to avoid any inconveniences for the public visiting the hospital and to provide timely medical services. He also instructed that the hospital premises should be kept clean. He reviewed the stock register for medicines and directed that there should be no shortage of medications, requiring immediate action to ensure availability if any short-



Yadadri Bhuvanagiri Collector Hanumanth K Zendage inspecting Community Health Centre at Choutuppal on Thursday

ages were identified.

He asked the doctors to encourage normal deliveries and ordered the swift completion of construction work for the 100-bed facility at the hospital. The Collector also visit-

ed the dialysis unit and suggested that the waterplant be moved outside.

Hospital Superintendent Rajagopal, Alivelu, Devender, DC H.S. Chinna Nayak, and other officials were present.

Officials told to complete repairs of causeways speedily

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao has directed the district officials to complete the repair works of the low-level causeway diversion road works, near the road bridge at Prakashnagar by October 11 evening and open the causeway for the traffic from Dasara.

He was visiting the Prakashnagar in the 28th Division of the city and laid the foundation stone for the stormwater drain works to be developed at a cost of Rs 1.90 crore of the Telangana Urban Finance and Infrastructure Development Corporation funds. He asked the officials to complete the works as early as possible executing them qualitatively.

Later, he inspected the road bridge restoration works at Prakash Nagar. Addressing the gathering, the Minister asked the officials to complete the restoration of the road bridge, dam-



Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao at a junction to lay foundation stone for storm drain in Khammam on Thursday

aged due to the recent heavy floods, within the stipulated deadline of 100 days. In view of the problems being faced by the people in commuting, the Minister wanted the officials to complete the repair works of the low-level causeway works near the road bridge in Prakashnagar by October 11 evening and ensure that the vehicle use the causeway from Dasara.

ELECTIONS TO WARANGAL-KHAMMAM-NALGONDA TEACHERS' CONSTITUENCY

TSUTF renominates Narsireddy as candidate

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Telangana State United Teachers Federation (TSUTF) decided to field Alugubelli Narsireddy as its candidate for the Legislative Council elections to the Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda Teachers' constituency.

At a press conference here, TSUTF State unit president Jangayya and general secretary Chava Ravi announced the decision. They highlighted Narsireddy's commendable efforts for the past five and a half years as a member of the Legislative Council, focusing on the development of the education sector and the welfare of teachers.

Narsireddy has consistently raised issues concerning teachers. The state

committee recognised his service and decided to give him another opportunity to contest as an MLC candidate. Narsireddy expressed his commitment to safeguarding government educational institutions and resolving teachers' issues. He reiterated that he has consistently raised the concerns of educators in the Legislative Council and would continue to advocate for solutions regarding the problems faced by government schools, model schools, Gurukuls, KGBVs, and contract junior lecturers.

Various educational associations, including the Junior Lecturers Association of Nalgonda Government Junior College, Polytechnic Lecturers Association, pledged their full support.

Ponnam distributes Katamayya Safety Kits in Karimnagar

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

In a step towards ensuring the safety of toddy tappers, the Minister for Transport and BC Welfare, Ponnam Prabhakar, launched the distribution of Katamayya Safety Kits (mokus) in Karimnagar.

The event was organised at the Renuka Yellamma Temple Function Hall on Ramagundam Bypass Road by the BC Welfare Department.

Ponnam Prabhakar who was the chief guest, distributed the Katamayya Safety Kits to toddy tappers, emphasising the government's commitment to their safety.

The safety kit, technically approved by experts including Mount Everest climbers and NIT professionals, is designed to bear up to 1500 kg, providing essential protection to workers as they climb palm trees.

Demonstrating the effectiveness of the safety kit, a trainer displayed its use to workers by climbing a tree, giving them practical insights into

its function.

The initiative launched as part of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's vision for worker welfare, is aimed at preventing accidents and ensuring the safety of workers.

Former MLA Koduri Satyanarayana, Collector Pamela Satpathy, RDO Mahesh and other officials from the Excise and BC welfare departments, along with representatives from the Gouda community, were present at the event.

Speaking at the gathering, Ponnam Prabhakar stressed, "Under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, we are distributing Katamayya Kits to protect the lives of toddy tappers. This is a significant step toward preventing accidents, and we aim to ensure that not a single worker loses his life by falling from palm trees."

He said that 10,000 kits will be distributed in 100 constituencies, including Hyderabad, in the first phase, and eventually, all two lakh

registered gita workers will get the kits.

He urged community leaders and social media platforms to spread awareness about the safety kits and their importance for protecting workers.

Ponnam also emphasised the government's focus on the welfare of Backward Classes, by announcing initiatives like corporations and employment opportunities for certain castes, and the inclusion of their concerns in MSME policies.

He also requested the Collector to relocate the local dump yard and try to develop tourism around the Manair region.

He expressed the hope that the district would witness development with projects like the Young India Integrated Residential Complexes and said that foundations would be laid for integrated residential schools being established with an outlay of Rs 180 crore each in Husnabad, Manakondur and Manthani.



Shadnagar MLA V Shankar, along with RR Collector K Shashanka, reviewing security for Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's visit to RR district

Chief Minister to visit Kondurgu mandal today

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy will visit Kondurgu mandal center in the Shadnagar constituency in Rangareddy district on Friday to lay the foundation stone for an integrated school building. The visit is part of a larger initiative to enhance educational infrastructure in the region.

Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar is actively involved in making elaborate arrangements for the Chief Minister's visit and the foundation laying ceremony. The event

will also feature a public meeting, which is expected to draw significant local participation.

In preparation for the visit, Rangareddy District Collector K Shashanka and Shamsabad Deputy Commissioner of Police Rajesh, along with MLA Veerlapalli Shankar and other party leaders, inspected the venue where the public meeting and ceremony will take place.

Officials from the police and revenue departments have reviewed the security and logistical arrangements to ensure a smooth and successful event.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT FORM-VI
(See-Sub-rule (1) of rule-19 and Section-11(1) of the Act-30/2013)
PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Lr. No. G1/1584/2024 Date: 30.09.2024
No. C/16/2023 Date: 09.09.2024

Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana that a total of Ac. 1.10 gts pata land is required in the Buddaram Village of Nalgonda Mandal, Nalgonda District for public purpose namely Udaya Samudram Lift Irrigation Scheme acquisition of lands for excavation of 16R Minor of D-1 of Left Main Canal from Km. 0.800 to 0.317. Hence, below mentioned lands are notified under Section 11 (1) of the Act 30/2013 (RFCT/LARR Act-2013).

The Government of Telangana has issued G.O. Ms. No. 54, Irrigation & CAD(CA/R&R/A2) Department dated: 25.07.2017 exempting the AMRSLBC Project from the application of the Provisions of Chapter-II & III of the RFCT/LARR Act-2013.

Therefore, it is notified that for the above said project in Buddaram Village of Nalgonda Mandal Nalgonda District a piece of land measuring more or less Ac. 1.10 gts of standard measurement, whose detailed description is as mentioned below, is under acquisition.

SCHEDULE

Village: Buddaram; Mandal: Nalgonda; District: Nalgonda		Sl. No. of the land		Area		Name of the Enjoynr. S/o. or W/o.		Details of Structures, trees	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	241/23a	Dry	1.10		Yerrabothu Vamsidhar Reddy S/o. Shekar Reddy				Toddy trees-6
					Yerrabothu Venkateshwar Reddy S/o. Shekar Reddy				
					Yerrabothu Mohan Reddy S/o. Shekar Reddy				
Total			1.10						

This notification is made under the provisions of Section-11(1) of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Central Act No. 30/2013), to all whom it may concern.

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the District Collector, Nalgonda, Special Deputy Collector, R&R & LA, Unit - II, Nalgonda and Tahsildar, Nalgonda on any working day during the working hours. The Government of Telangana Collector-cum-Appropriate Government is pleased to authorize Officer/Special Deputy Collector, R&R & LA, Unit-II, Nalgonda and his staff to enter upon and survey land, take levels of any land, dig or bore into the sub-soil & do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in Section-12 of the said Act.

Under section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land (i.e. sale/purchase etc.), or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the Collector.

Objections to the acquisition if any, and claims from all the persons interested/affected for settlement by negotiation of the compensation, may be filed by the person interested in the land within 60 (sixty days) from the date of publication of this notification as provided under section 15 of the Act before the District Collector, Nalgonda / Special Deputy Collector, R&R & LA, Unit-II, Nalgonda.

Sd/- Special Deputy Sd/- Additional Sd/- Dist. Collector
Collector, R&R & LA, Collector, Nalgonda, Nalgonda.
Unit - II, Nalgonda. DPR No. 294/LA/PP-Pub/2024-25

Integrated Residential Schools to raise educational standards

PNS ■ NALGONDA

The foundation stones for the construction of Young India Integrated Residential Schools in the Nalgonda and Munugodu constituencies will be laid on Friday. This initiative has been taken on the directions of e Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy.

On Thursday, District Collector C Narayana Reddy held a video conference with District Superintendent of Police Sharath

Chandra Pawar, Additional Collectors, and officials to finalise the arrangements for the foundation-laying ceremony of the Integrated Residential Schools.

The Telangana State Government is setting up these schools with the objective of providing international standard of education to students from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes, and Minority communities.

As part of this initiative, the



foundation stone for the schools will be laid at 10 am on Friday. Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, will lay the foundation in Gandhamvari Gudem in Nalgonda constituency, while Munugodu MLA Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy will lay the foundation at Kalvakunta village in Munugodu constituency.

The Collector directed that the foundation-laying event should be conducted in a festive

and grand manner. He instructed that all elected representatives must be invited to the ceremony. Parents, teachers, Anganwadi workers, and representatives from women's organizations connected to the SC, ST, BC, and Minority Residential Schools should be encouraged to attend the event, he said.

He further emphasized that all arrangements at the venue, including the stage, public address system, drinking water, LED

screens, and other infrastructure, should be made without any shortcomings. The construction of these schools will be carried out under the supervision of the Roads and Buildings Department, the Collector confirmed.

Additional Collector J. Srinivas, Additional Collector of Local Bodies T. Poornachandra, R&B SE S. Satyanarayana Reddy, and other officials from relevant departments also participated in the meeting.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

India loses its 'Ratan'

Ratan Tata not only redefined Indian business practices but also set new standards for ethical leadership and corporate responsibility

The passing of Ratan Tata, one of India's most influential and revered business leaders, marks the end of an era for Indian industry and philanthropy. A visionary who transformed the Tata Group into a global powerhouse, Ratan Tata not only redefined Indian business practices but also set new standards for ethical leadership and corporate responsibility. His demise has left an indelible void in the Indian business landscape and his contributions will continue to shape India's socio-economic fabric for generations to come. Ratan Tata's leadership of the Tata Group from 1991 to 2012 is widely recognised as a period of extraordinary innovation and growth. He was instrumental in leading the conglomerate's diversification, moving it beyond its traditional industries like steel and textiles into sectors such as information technology, automotive, telecommunications and hospitality. Under his stewardship, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) became a global leader in IT services. Tata Motors expanded its reach with the acquisitions of British automotive giants Jaguar and Land Rover in 2008. Tata's vision of making India a global player was rooted in a deep sense of nationalism, combined with a keen awareness of global business trends. Ratan Tata's most cherished moment came when Tata Motors launched the Nano in 2008 despite all odds. Though the Nano did not achieve commercial success, the boldness of the vision highlighted Tata's commitment to solving Indian problems with innovative solutions and realising the aspirations of Indian middle class. Known for his humility and discretion, he always emphasised that businesses should serve society at large. "We have to touch the lives of people in ways



that matter," Tata often said. Nearly two-thirds of Tata Group's profits are directed to social work through Tata Trusts, a remarkable legacy in Indian philanthropy. The Tata Trusts, under his guidance, funded several initiatives in healthcare, education and rural development. Tata maintained a reputation for being soft-spoken and modest, rarely allowing his personal life to take centre stage in the public eye. His leadership during the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, where the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel was one of the primary targets, showed his resilience. Tata visited the families of affected staff members, providing support and ensuring that the hotel was rebuilt, symbolising the spirit of survival and recovery. Despite numerous achievements, Tata faced failures with grace. His decisions, such as the Nano, received criticism, but he handled setbacks with the dignity that defined him. His resilience and forward-thinking approach is his legacy that would inspire many. Ratan Tata's life was not just about business. His love for architecture, aviation and cars was well known. Despite his status as one of India's richest individuals, he led a simple life, often seen without an entourage, and known for driving himself. With Ratan Tata's passing, India has lost a visionary and a kind hearted leader who would be remembered for his achievements and resilience. Rest in peace!

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PICTALK



People purchase decorative items from a shop ahead of 'Ayudha Pooja' festival, in Bengaluru

Why technology can't ease people's suffering



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

While advancements in technology have improved lives in many areas, the failure to mitigate the destruction caused by recurring floods exposes a glaring disconnect

The rains were here. They were here for a long time—if one goes by the weeks and months, the news channels were reporting their havoc from one end of the country to the other. From streets in Surat to fields in Biraol of Darbhanga, water was found everywhere. From the hills of Himachal to the banks of Kavery, water was found in all the wrong places. Physical devastation and human tragedy were writ large. Rains are not new, and equally clearly, technology is progressing by leaps and bounds.

One wonders when 'the train shall meet'. One would have thought that repeated experiences, such as what Kosi has caused in north Bihar, would have changed the contours of its effects. It would not be the same in terms of embankments breaking in the same style, and it would not be the same manner of misery caused by the devastation of fragile huts and repeated breaking of embankments over and over again. Surely the country that boasts the landing on the moon and explorations of the planet can better respond to the devastations of nature.

There is a missing link somewhere which is so close to all that it's not even visible to the affected people. In some other countries, people are talking and doing as it were. They are changing the course of rivers and planning habitation in a manner that makes life less vulnerable and the potential for tragedy more manageable. To get back to the example of Bihar, whether it be the neighbourhood of the Budhi Gandak River or Kosi, habitations have been built to keep them away from the reach of floods.

However, the devastations have their ways of surprising. Consider the recent claim of the UGC Chairman in the printed world about the citations of Indian research in international forums. Consider the pronouncement of the political elite on the scientific breakthroughs of leading centres of science and



technology in the world of research.

All of them are legitimate claims duly annotated and evidence tested. The question remains how much of this technology has altered the quality of life of the people? It is not all a dreary story. Technology has changed the lives of several crores of people, especially in matters which have to do with the supply of clean water. This is as true as the story of the fury of floods.

However, somewhere the coexistence of such opposite experiences remains an enigma and difficult to explain. Science and technology cannot be bereft of responsibilities to society at large. Equally clear is the fact that death and destruction experiences would serve as the bottom line of the outcomes of devastation.

Somehow a bottom connection between technological progress and its tangible effects needs to be established. Somewhere the definition of progress and growth



THEY ARE CHANGING THE COURSE OF RIVERS AND PLANNING HABITATION IN A MANNER THAT MAKES LIFE LESS VULNERABLE AND THE POTENTIAL FOR TRAGEDY MORE MANAGEABLE

has to cover elimination of the same stories of destruction and death in the same regions over and over again. So long as the devastation of Kosi remains an annual affair with the same results most of the time, there is something in the developmental agenda that needs to be addressed. It is not an easy question to answer, especially after decades of application of the prescriptions whether it be a Planning Commission or the Niti Ayog. These questions need to be flagged and repeated till answers are found. In a country filled with bright people like India, there must be actionable solutions to mitigate human misery. Perhaps the part answer would lie in empowering local people with skills, resources, and more to handle local problems. Higher levels of administration, like the district at the state level, have to deal with issues of connectivity, coordination, mobilisation of resources, and using the skills of the people with commitment in

that part of the country to work for the welfare of the local context and the local circumstances. Far too much have rewards been focused on recognition gained abroad and talking of the big and the grand.

While there may be nothing wrong with that recognition and solutions to local problems should be picked up by the decision making system, the influential clientele, and the political elite. A culture has to be built to identify the local problems and use means of technology and resources to handle them at a local level. Interventions of this variety should recognise the same approval and celebration as an invitation from abroad or for that matter making of the great in a foreign institution. Somewhere a paradigm change would help the mitigation of local problems. It can be done and needs to be done.

(The writer is an internationally acclaimed management consultant; The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RATAN TATA IS NO MORE

Madam—A true gem can only be distinguished by its value and brightness. However, if a gem is hidden within a person, its value and sparkle are not visible to recognise it. Ratan Tata, India's famous industrialist, was another such figure whose contributions will be remembered for centuries to come. Everyone knows about his outstanding social efforts and affection for pets. Ratan Tata had a heart that beat for dogs till his last breath. Ratan Tata was nothing short of a deity to the stray dogs roaming the streets, which others looked down on or ignored. The doors of his Taj Hotel were always open to dogs. Ratan Tata asked for aid by posting a photo of a dog on his Instagram account on June 26, 2024.

He posted a lengthy post requesting a blood transfusion for the seven-month-old dog. After that, several people brought their dogs to give blood transfusions. Ratan Tata founded the Small Animal Hospital Mumbai (SAHM), the first of its kind in the country, equipped with state-of-the-art facilities for 24/7 care, inspired by his struggle to find advanced treatment for his dog abroad. He encouraged people to adopt stray dogs rather than buying pets, promoting animal welfare.

Amrapali Roy | Jamshedpur

KASHMIR REJECTS BJP

Madam—This is in response to the report titled 'Victory for Democracy'. It is strange why one and only the 'reverberations' of the Haryana mandate would travel 'far and wide,' but not that handed out by the Jammu and Kashmir electorate! Despite so zealous chest-thumping revolving around the 'peace' in Kashmir Valley following the "historic" saga of 5th August 2019, the BJP simply gets thwarted in the region. However, the result is far from surprising, as no self-respecting Kashmiri Muslim will ever vote for a party swearing in the name of Hindutva in this

Press freedom is sacrosanct



The Supreme Court's recent ruling affirming the right of journalists to criticise the government without retaliatory action comes as a breather for the media's honest warriors—journalists—who do not want to join the bandwagon in sucking up to those in power. However, doubts remain as to how far this momentous judgement will

hold water. The "one man show" that we have witnessed over the past decade offers very little hope that the SC's verdict will be honoured (remember how the SC's dictate that bail, not jail ought to be the rule is being flouted almost to the point of being ignored).

If the PM has a grudge against a "colonial mindset," ordinary Indians have a lot to complain about a "post-colonial mindset," as displayed by not only the present dispensation but the Congress before it. Even before Modi took over in the year 2014, the media was not as independent as expected in a nation that is supposedly rooted in democratic principles. Modi has only picked up from where the Congress left, as far as freedom of the press is concerned.

Avinash Godbole | Dewas

multi-religious secular nation and also would never forgive such elements who had made a mockery of federalism not only by unilaterally abrogating special provisions and rights guaranteed by the Constitution itself but also dividing the state and relegating it to a mere Union Territory. Kashmiri electorate have transmitted a clear message that communal forces should be thwarted not only by protesting against it but also through wise tactical voting so that secular votes get polled in favour of the strongest party/coalition by preventing division of votes. And surely if the victory of the BJP in Haryana is "Triumph of democracy," that of the National Conference-Congress alliance in Jammu and Kashmir also demands the same epithet! Let the mandate of the Union Territory (especially Kashmir Valley) reverberate and travel far and wide, giving the secular force renewed vigour and hope that the Idea of India can still be saved by standing in a united way way.

Kajal Chatterjee | Chennai

EXIT POLLS FAIL

Madam—It is not for the first time that the exit polls have proven wrong and detailed methodologies for the recent election surveys were not used. In the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, exit polls overestimated the BJP-led NDA performance, projecting over 400 seats when the alliance actually secured 293. A large number of pollsters in India now failed to accurately predict election outcomes in Haryana and J and K. In Haryana, most agencies had forecast fewer than 30 seats for the BJP, but official results showed the party winning 48 out of 90 seats. Pollsters had predicted 10-year anti-incumbency but proved altogether wrong.

Voters in J and K kept parties guessing till the very end. For all the speculative intrigue ahead of J and K's much awaited election, J and K (NC 42, BJP 29, Cong 6) spoke as one—no-hung verdict. Pollsters got it wrong.

SK Khosla | Chandigarh

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

MSMEs and food processing: A path to economic growth

Revitalising the MSME and food processing sectors in Bihar and Andhra Pradesh, can boost economic growth, raise farmers' incomes and strengthen food security

Both Bihar and Andhra Pradesh have been advocating for special government packages, emphasising the importance of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) as a key driver for development. The governments of these states, as well as the central government, recognise the significant potential in the MSME sector, particularly in food processing, and have prioritised it accordingly. Chief Ministers N Chandrababu Naidu and Nitish Kumar share concerns over the stagnation of the MSME sector in recent years, and both are committed to reviving it through various initiatives.

In Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister Naidu has acknowledged the struggles faced by MSMEs over the past five years, emphasising the need to revitalise the sector. He highlighted the slow progress of MSME parks and raised concerns over pending government incentives, which have hampered the sector's growth. His administration aims to address these challenges by ensuring the release of overdue incentives and enhancing the participation of



farmers in MSME parks. By linking farmers directly to these parks, Naidu envisions a system where agricultural stakeholders can benefit directly from business opportunities. Similarly, Bihar's Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has voiced concerns about MSMEs and infrastructure development in his state. Kumar has aligned with Naidu in recognising the critical role of MSMEs in driving economic growth and ensuring regional prosperity. The coincidence of Bihar's representation in the central government, with ministers like Jitan Ram Manjhi and Chirag Paswan, has further fueled efforts to secure the necessary support for these initiatives. Prime Minister Narendra

Modi has encouraged these ministers to focus on fostering connections between DWCR groups and MSMEs to enhance economic opportunities for small enterprises. A significant allocation of Rs 100 crore as a credit guarantee for MSMEs has been announced, underscoring the importance of ensuring financial support for these small businesses. However, meaningful progress in the MSME sector is unlikely unless strong linkages are created between MSMEs and the food processing industry, as these sectors are highly interdependent.

The food processing industry, in particular, has been recognised as a powerful engine for economic growth. India is one of the largest producers of various food items, including milk, fruits, vegetables, millet, tea and fish. This creates a robust foundation for the growth of the food processing sector. India's position as one of the largest and fastest-growing economies in the world is bolstered by the significant role played by the food processing industry in ensuring food security and driving economic expansion.

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries reported that by the end of FY 2022-23, the sector contributed 7.66 per cent of the gross value added (GVA) in manufacturing and 8.45 per cent of the GVA in agriculture. Foreign direct investment (FDI) in the sector has been strong, with Rs 5,290.27 crore in 2021-22 and Rs 2,934.12 crore in 2020-21. However, challenges remain, as processed food exports saw a 17 per cent decline in FY24, dropping from \$13,078.3 million in the previous fiscal to \$10,881.81 million.

To address these challenges and promote growth, the government has implemented several initiatives, including the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY), Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industries (PLISFPI), and Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME). By increasing processing levels and creating employment, these programs also aim to raise farmers' incomes.

(The writer is a senior journalist; views are personal)



RAJESH KUMAR SINGH





FIRST COLUMN

SOLVE YOUR PROBLEMS

We must focus on solving our own problems objectively without going into cyclic thinking



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

This is very wise to do. Because we must be the prime movers for this. But we are in denial or wish to make a good impression on others. Mostly, we don't. We go into cyclic thinking; and get obsessed with our problems. This is not solving our problems. On the contrary, we are making them worse. Surprisingly, we have solutions to the problems of others, societies, nations, etc. Some of them may be good because we are likely to be objective about them. This is great except that we are not being asked. Then, there are other limitations. When it is our problem, we see mostly the dark side and do not think about how solving it will benefit us.

Regarding issues of others, we are also not seeing the nature of the person. We assume that they will be perfect without any faults like being ignorant, egoist, etc. Their circumstances may be very different from ours. In short, it is a complete waste of time to think of the problems of others. I have realised this, and now I try to focus on my problems; I have plenty. Out of them, I have chosen the six most important ones. As in my habit, I seek solutions from the Bhagavad-Geeta – the book of eternal wisdom. I will begin with the most pressing, which is being fearful. What has Lord Krishna instructed about this fundamental matter? (Verse # 2.40) In simple language, it means that one should take shelter from God to reduce fears.

I have done this and my fearful tendencies have reduced appreciably. Whenever I become fearful, I pray for guidance and help from



my Lord. Believe it; He guides and helps. My next serious problem is getting sexual thoughts and feelings. Lord Krishna has given its solution too. (3.43) I have realised that I cannot reason my way out of it. For example, I use lots of internet for useful information. What does pop out in between? I am getting good practice to press the Back – button. For the younger lot, the Lord has a solution too. He has allowed 'kama' (passion) in beings according to 'dharma' (religious principles). The third problem I seriously face is not being sincere about taking shelter from God. The tapasya (austerity) required defeats me.

The reason of course is the nature of my body. The mind, the senses and the intelligence all are material, and the tapasya required is spiritual. What is the solution? Pray for help and keep praying. That itself is a spiritual act. You will succeed as I am getting better. The fourth problem, which is a serious challenge for me is my 'ahankar' (ego). With success comes Shankar, i.e. I am superior. What is the solution according to the Geeta? What did Lord Krishna tell Arjuna, "If you don't heed my instructions due to your ahankar, you will perish." (18.58) I try to remind myself whenever I get too puffed up; that I don't wish to perish. The fifth giver of trouble to me is my weakness to gain attention, fame, etc.

I have realised that whatever I have achieved is due to the 'kripa' (mercy) of my Lord. By myself, I am close to zero as a small soul. What did Lord Krishna tell Arjuna? (11.33) I give credit for my successes to my Lord. The last one is interpersonal relationships. I have tried to reform my near and dear ones and surely failed miserably. They will improve when they desire to. It is working especially with my grandchildren. So, I am trying to improve my behaviour. This fits with my original requirement of solving my problems. (The writer is a spiritual teacher; views are personal)

Celebrating unity and reconciliation through art



RAJDEEP PATHAK

In a world fraught with divisions, art transcends barriers, builds bridges. "Weaving Life to Weave Peace," underscores this profound connection



In a world often marked by discord and division, art emerges as a powerful medium that transcends barriers and speaks to our shared humanity. It serves as a universal language that unites people in their collective longing for peace, healing, and reconciliation. Against this backdrop, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, in collaboration with the Embassy of Colombia in India, recently hosted a poignant exhibition titled "Weaving Life to Weave Peace," an initiative of 'Tejidos Chakana'. This significant event, held shortly after the celebrations of October 2nd – Gandhi Jayanti, and the International Day of Nonviolence – underscores the deep connection between art and the pursuit of harmony in our world. The exhibition vividly highlights the transformative power of creativity as it honours the countless lives lost to conflict in Colombia – and the world per se – a nation that has weathered its share of internal strife and lost countless innocent citizens.

The Colombian artisans, Mateo Perea Bernal and Nancy Gomez presented an extraordinary array of stunning creations crafted with fine stone beads. Each meticulously designed portrait serves as a heartfelt homage to politicians, journalists, humourists, social thinkers, and others whose lives were tragically cut short by violence. Another defining moment of the exhibition was the unveiling of a remarkable portrait of Mahatma Gandhi, crafted out of an astounding, over 1.4 million stone beads by Ambassador H.E. Mr. Victor Echeverri of Colombia in India, with flags of both the Nations imprinted through the beads.

This unique piece stands as a testament to the ideals of peace and reconciliation that Mahatma Gandhi tirelessly championed throughout his life. In a touching gesture, it was generously donated to the Gandhi Smriti, serving as a fitting tribute to the legacy of a leader who devoted himself to the principles of nonviolence, till the last breath of his life. 'Tejidos Chakana' is a transformative Colombian initiative rooted in ancestral traditions, using the art of weaving to promote peace and reconciliation. Founded by artisans, it honours indigenous techniques and



THE ARTISANS OF 'TEJIDOS CHAKANA' ARE NOT JUST CREATING OBJECTS OF BEAUTY; THEY ARE WEAVING THE VERY FABRIC OF A PEACEFUL AND UNITED FUTURE FOR THEIR NATION

local materials, preserving traditional craftsmanship while providing a platform for artisans to express their stories of struggle and resilience. Each handcrafted piece reflects the creativity and strength of a nation recovering from conflict, weaving narratives of hope and unity for a brighter future. At the heart of 'Tejidos Chakana' is the belief that art can bridge divides and foster understanding. The initiative engages diverse communities through workshops and collaborative projects, empowering individuals to reclaim their voices and share their experiences. This cultural exchange promotes dialogue, enabling people to confront their past and imagine peaceful coexistence. Moreover, through vibrant exhibitions, 'Tejidos Chakana' celebrates the artistry and resilience of Colombian artisans, underscoring their vital role in the larger narrative of peace-building. The initiative is a testament to the power of creativity in healing communities and fostering social impact.

By promoting dialogue and cultural exchange, the aim is to foster an environment where healing can occur, allowing people to confront their past while envisioning a peaceful coexistence. The story of 'Tejidos Chakana' resonates deeply with Mahatma Gandhi's beliefs, particularly his emphasis on the use of hands, creativity, and self-reliance as essential elements of individual and societal transformation. Gandhi often spoke of the profound connection between manual labour and the soul, advocating for the dignity and significance of work that involves the hands.

He would say, "If I were a poet, I would write poetry on the possibilities of my five fingers". In his vision of education, known as 'Nai Talim' or "Basic Education," Mahatma Gandhi stressed the

importance of learning through productive activity, where creativity and craftsmanship were not merely tools for economic independence but essential means for cultivating inner peace, self-reliance, and a deeper connection with one's community. Much like 'Tejidos Chakana,' Mahatma Gandhi viewed the act of creating with one's hands as a form of empowerment, healing, and self-expression. For him, the spinning wheel, or 'charkha,' became a symbol of India's struggle for independence – more than just a tool for producing cloth, it represented self-sufficiency, unity, and the rejection of exploitative systems. By encouraging Indians to spin their yarn and weave their cloth, Gandhi promoted the idea that true freedom came from within, not only political or economic autonomy but also spiritual and cultural self-reliance. In both the Gandhian framework and the 'Tejidos Chakana' initiative, the act of weaving transcends its material purpose to become a metaphor for life itself. Just as threads are intricately woven to form a piece of fabric, so too are communities brought together by shared experiences, challenges, and hopes. Mahatma Gandhi believed that individual self-reliance was a precursor to true collective harmony – only when people could stand on their own feet would they be able to contribute meaningfully to the welfare of society.

Similarly, the artisans of 'Tejidos Chakana' are not just creating objects of beauty; they are weaving the very fabric of a peaceful and united future for their nation. Echoing Gandhi's ideas of community empowerment and education, as not merely a process of acquiring academic knowledge, but as a holistic development of the individual within a community setting, where the aim is to foster dialogue and cultural exchange, 'Tejidos Chakana' nur-

tures an environment of collective learning, where people confront their past traumas and work together towards reconciliation and in the process healing. This reflects Gandhi's belief in the power of community and the idea that true education is incomplete without the cultivation of moral and social values. Moreover, "Weaving Life to Weave Peace" also aligns with Gandhi's vision of nonviolence, or 'ahimsa,' as an active force for peace-building. Mahatma Gandhi believed that nonviolence was not just the absence of physical conflict but the presence of love, compassion, and understanding. In conclusion, it can be said without exaggeration that such powerful initiatives invite the world to witness the power of art as a catalyst for change, encouraging humankind to appreciate the beauty that arises from the collective journeys toward reconciliation and understanding. Moreover, through the lens of art, "Weaving Life to Weave Peace" commemorates the past and inspires hope for a future without conflicts, thereby promoting collective responsibility in weaving a tapestry of peace for generations to come.

As we engage with these artistic expressions, we are reminded that every bead, every creation, and every story contribute to a larger narrative of healing and unity in our world. In celebrating these artistic expressions, we honour the timeless message that true peace begins with the work we do ourselves – both in our hearts and with our hands. This is evident as Ambassador Victor points out that if one bead breaks, the entire frame collapses, signifying the unifying strength of community and peace-building. They are what can be called, "Peace Beads".

(The writer is Programme Executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti; views are personal)

India's nutrition paradox: Tackling hidden hunger amid food sufficiency

The Global Hunger Index 2023 ranks India 111th out of 125 countries, highlighting that malnutrition, stunting and micronutrient deficiencies remain widespread

While India is not a country of widespread starvation, it does face significant challenges related to undernutrition and hidden hunger, particularly in rural areas. India has achieved self-sufficiency in food production and implemented programs to improve food access, such as the National Food Security Act and the National Nutrition Mission. However, issues like micronutrient deficiencies and income disparities exacerbate food insecurity in certain regions.

India's Nutrition Paradox: The Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2023 ranks India 111th out of 125 countries, highlighting significant challenges with undernutrition, particularly among children. Though India



SHRIRUPA SENGUPTA

produces enough food to meet caloric needs, ensuring nutritional adequacy remains a challenge. The National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5, 2019-2021) shows that while caloric intake is generally adequate, undernutrition persists—35.5 per cent of children under five are stunted, and 19.3 per cent suffer from wasting. Micronutrient deficiencies, such as anaemia due to iron deficiency among women and

vitamin deficiencies among children, further contribute to hidden hunger. Economic disparities and social inequities, including gender inequality and limited healthcare access, play significant roles in perpetuating undernutrition. Poorer segments of the population often lack access to a diverse, nutritious diet and rely heavily on staples like rice and wheat, with inadequate consumption of fruits, vegetables, and proteins.

Community-Led Nutrition Hubs: A Promising Solution Community-led nutrition hubs provide a grassroots approach to addressing food insecurity. Unlike top-down methods, these hubs leverage local knowledge and leadership to create sustainable, con-

text-specific solutions. They focus on balanced, nutritious diets rather than just caloric intake, helping to build community resilience against undernutrition.

Promoting Dietary Diversity: Nutrition hubs encourage the consumption of diverse foods, including fruits, vegetables, legumes, and animal products, essential for a balanced diet. By promoting dietary diversity, these hubs address micronutrient deficiencies and hidden hunger.

Supporting Vulnerable Groups: These hubs effectively reach vulnerable populations like children, pregnant women, and the elderly. They provide tailored nutritional support, fortified foods, supplements, and education on specific nutritional needs.



Leveraging Local Agriculture: Nutrition hubs support local food production and sustainable agricultural practices, increasing access to fresh, nutritious foods. This approach reduces dependence on external food supplies, which can be affected by price fluctuations and supply chain disruptions, particularly amid climate change.

Impact of Community-Led Nutrition Hubs: Data from various studies highlight the effectiveness of community-led initiatives in improving nutritional outcomes and resilience. For example, a 2022 report by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) noted a 20 per cent reduction in stunting rates among children under five in regions of Uttar Pradesh following the introduction of nutrition hubs. The Global Nutrition Report 2023 showed that such hubs have improved micronutrient intake, with a 30 per cent increase in iron-rich food consumption among women in Maharashtra, significantly reducing anaemia. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) also found that communities practising

sustainable agriculture supported by nutrition hubs had a 20 per cent increase in crop yields during droughts compared to traditional methods. **A Whole-of-Society Approach:** Achieving the vision of a "Viksit Bharat" hinges on ensuring food security and building resilience through community-led initiatives. However, these goals require a whole-of-society approach that involves all community members, not just women. Men as Partners: Encouraging men to participate in nutrition hubs, whether through farming, cooking, or community organising, helps distribute responsibility more equitably and promotes gender equity. **Youth Engagement:** Involving young people in these efforts

ensures the continuation of community-led initiatives and brings fresh ideas and energy to the table.

Local Govt Support: Local governments can support and scale these initiatives by providing funding, policy support, and infrastructure, making nutrition hubs integral parts of community development.

Gender Equity and Shared Responsibility: While women are often on the frontlines of nutrition and food security, the burden should not fall solely on them. Engaging men, youth, and local governance helps create more equitable and sustainable solutions.

(The writer is Director - Centre for Strategic Communications for Public Health at Swasti; views are personal)

IN BRIEF



TCS Q2 net profit up 4.99 pc to Rs 11,909 cr

Country's largest IT services firm TCS on Thursday reported a 4.99 per cent increase in its September quarter net profit at Rs 11,909 crore. The Tata Group company had reported a net profit of Rs 11,342 crore in the year-ago period, while in the preceding quarter, it had a post tax net of Rs 12,040 crore, a company filing said. Tata Consultancy Services' revenues rose 7.06 per cent to Rs 64,988 crore from Rs 60,698 crore in the year-ago period, and were marginally higher compared to Rs 63,575 crore in the preceding quarter. Its profit before tax came at Rs 16,032 crore, as against Rs 15,330 crore in the year-ago period. The TCS scrip closed 0.56 per cent down at Rs 4,228.40 a piece on the BSE on Thursday, as against gains of 0.18 per cent on the benchmark.



Ireda Q2 net profit grows 36 pc to Rs 388 cr

State-owned Ireda on Thursday reported a 36 per cent rise in its profit after tax to Rs 387.75 crore in the September quarter on higher revenues. The company had posted a profit after tax (PAT) of Rs 284.73 crore in the July-September period of the preceding 2023-24 fiscal, it said in an exchange filing. Its total revenue from operations rose 38.52 per cent year-on-year to Rs 1,630.38 crore from Rs 1,176.96 crore. Ireda's loan book increased by 35.88 per cent to Rs 64,564.36 crore from Rs 47,514.48 crore in the same quarter a year. Loan sanctions jumped around four-fold to Rs 8,723.78 crore against Rs 2,852.05 crore in the second quarter last fiscal. The company disbursed Rs 4,461.87 crore worth of loans, up 43.93 per cent from Rs 3,099.98 crore in the year-ago quarter.



RBI keeps policy rate unchanged for 10th time

The Reserve Bank of India on Wednesday decided to keep the policy rate unchanged for the tenth time in a row but changed its stance to 'neutral' that may lead to a cut in the forthcoming policies. RBI maintained status quo despite the US Federal Reserve lowering the benchmark rates by 50 basis points last month. The central banks of some developed nations have also reduced their interest rates. Announcing the fourth bi-monthly monetary policy for the current financial year, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent. The RBI has maintained status quo on benchmark interest rate since February 2023. Das said RBI will remain watchful of elevated food inflation even when India GDP growth remains strong. This was the first meeting of the reconstituted MPC. The three newly appointed external members are Ram Singh, Saugata Bhattacharya and Nagesh Kumar.

Ratan Tata my role model: Narayana Murthy

Losing "dear friend" Tata Sons Chairman Emeritus Ratan Tata is "very painful", IT industry veteran and Infosys co-founder N R Narayana Murthy on Thursday said as he acknowledged that he was a role model for him in value-based leadership. "He (Tata) was indeed a moral compass for me whenever I had some ambiguity and confusion in ethical issues," the 78-year-old said. After conferring an honour on Tata in 2020, the software icon had bent down to touch his feet and sought his blessings. "Losing a dear friend like Ratan is very painful. Ratan was a role model for me in value-based leadership," Murthy said in his condolence message.

Tata (86) passed away late Wednesday evening in Mumbai due to age-related medical conditions. Tata (86) passed away late Wednesday evening in Mumbai due to age-related medical conditions.

Insulted, Ratan Tata bought Jaguar, Land Rover

The story of two iconic brands Jaguar and Land Rover entering the Tata stable began with an insult Ratan Tata couldn't bear. Back in 1998, the legendary industrialist launched his dream project, Tata Indica -- India's first hatchback with a diesel engine. But sales initially were slow and Tata Motors decided to sell off its fledgling car business within a year of its debut.

US auto giant Ford was seen as an ideal candidate. The company acced-

ed to a meeting requirement from Ford Motors. Officials of the US firm came to Bombay House for talks sometime in 1999. During the meeting at the Tata headquarters, the American company evinced interest in buying out the business. To take the deal forward, Ratan Tata and his team flew to Detroit to meet Bill Ford, then the chairman of Ford. The meeting lasted about three hours but did not go well. The American businessman was condescending and "humiliated" the Indian businessman, according to a person who attended the meeting. The deal fell.

Nine years later, Ford was on the verge of bankruptcy following the Great Recession of 2008. Tata offered to buy two iconic brands in the Ford portfolio -- Jaguar and Land Rover. The \$2.3 billion all-cash deal was completed in June 2008 and Ford chairman Bill Ford thanked Tata, saying, "You are doing us a big favour by buying JLR," Pravin Kadle, who was part of the team that travelled with Ratan Tata to the US in 1999, had recounted during a public event in 2015.

Post-acquisition, the Tata Group has scripted one of the most fabulous turnarounds in the auto industry and has been able to position the marquee British brands as formidable entities in the fiercely competitive global car market.

Even as Tata Motors has come a long way and gained market share in India, it continues to earn a significant part of revenues from the JLR.



'Gave new heights to Indian industry'

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Thursday condoled the passing away of Ratan Tata and said that he gave new heights to the Indian industry with his tireless efforts and progressive approach. Tata Sons Chairman Emeritus Ratan Tata, who played a key role in transforming the group into a global conglomerate, passed away on Wednesday night in Mumbai. He was 86.

"Ratan Tata ji gave new heights to the Indian industry with his tireless efforts and progressive approach. The unprecedented example set by Ratan Tata ji in the field of public welfare and service to humanity will continue to inspire for centuries," Priyanka Gandhi said in a post in Hindi on X.

The Congress on Wednesday con-

doled the death of Ratan Tata, with Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi saying he was a man with a vision who has left a lasting mark on both business and philanthropy.

His visionary leadership made India proud: SJM

The Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) on Thursday condoled the demise of veteran industrialist Ratan Tata and said his visionary leadership always made India proud.

He had been the torch bearer of the 'swadeshi' movement of self-employment and entrepreneurship to brighten the path for young entrepreneurs, SJM national co-convenor Ashwani Mahajan said.

"Continuing the legacy of the first 'swadeshi' large steel industry, from the days of pre-independent India, the life of Ratan Tata has been a

source of inspiration for the budding entrepreneurs, not only in our country but across the world," he said.

AI, AI Express, Vistara make inflight announcements

Air India, Air India Express and Vistara are making inflight announcements on Thursday in remembrance of Tata Group patriarch Ratan Tata for whom aviation was especially close to his heart.

Officials on Thursday said the three airlines, part of the Tata Group, will be making announcements in remembrance of Tata in their flights during the day.

The demise of Tata also comes at a time when the conglomerate is in the process of completing the consolidation of its airline business -- the integration of Air India Express and AIIX Connect was completed on October 1 while the merger of Vistara with Air India is set for November 12.

Vistara is a joint venture between the Tata Group and Singapore Airlines.

Air India CEO and MD Campbell Wilson told the staff that Air Indians especially acknowledge and are grateful for Tata's immense contribution to Indian aviation and to the Tata airlines.

In his message to employees, Air India Express MD Aloke Singh said Tata's passion and immense contribution to aviation and his guidance in the shaping the group and organisation makes the loss deeper.

RBI asks banks to use info from all relevant sources for risk assessment

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India on Thursday asked banks, NBFCs, and other entities regulated by it to use information obtained from all relevant internal and external sources for their risk assessment exercise.

Reserve Bank's Regulated entities (REs) have to carry out 'Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Risk Assessment' exercise periodically to identify, assess and take effective measures to mitigate their Money Laundering (ML), Terrorist Financing (TF) and Proliferation Financing (PF) risks for clients, countries or geographic areas, products, services, and transactions or delivery channels.

In this regard, the central bank has issued 'The Internal Risk Assessment Guidance for Money Laundering/Terrorist Financing' for the REs, particularly for the dealing staff and the Anti-Money Laundering (AML)/ Countering Financing of Terrorism (CFT)/ Counter Proliferation Financing (CPF) practitioners of the REs.

It specifies key principles for an internal risk

assessment (IRA) exercise.

"The enterprise-level risk assessment forms the bedrock of RBA (Risk-Based Approach). It enables the REs to understand how and to what extent they are vulnerable to ML/TF/PF risks which help REs in determining the allocation of attention and AML/CFT resources necessary to mitigate that risk," the RBI said.

REs should use information obtained from all relevant internal and external sources for the IRA exercise, it said.

Internal sources include data/information from specific business relevant information from other related verticals of REs (such as fraud/cyber/IT risk management verticals).

"To properly understand the products/services and the associated ML/TF risks, the IRA team may include officials, for instance, from the product/service owner department, internal audit function, compliance function, etc," it said.

The central bank also emphasised that a siloed approach wherein only the AML team is involved in the IRA exercise should be avoided.



Sensex, Nifty close higher amid buying in heavyweight stocks

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty settled higher on Thursday due to gains in banking, power and industrial stocks amid a firm trend in global markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rose 144.31 points, or 0.18 per cent, to settle at 81,611.41. During the day, it soared 535.74 points, or 0.65 per cent, to hit an intra-day high of 82,002.84.

The NSE Nifty increased 16.50 points, or 0.07 per cent, to close at 24,998.45. In the intra-day trade, it rose 152.1 points, or 0.60 per cent, to hit a high of 25,134.05.

"The market traded on a range bound trend with a negative bias ahead of the start of Q2 result. The Asian market started well but could not hold on to the gains as European markets waded on a negative trend in anticipation of the key US inflation data, global bond



yields are rising," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

From the 30 Sensex companies, Kotak Mahindra Bank, JSW Steel, HDFC Bank, Power Grid, IndusInd Bank, Maruti Suzuki India, NTPC, Axis Bank and Mahindra & Mahindra were among the gainers. Tech Mahindra, Sun Pharmaceuticals, Infosys, Titan, Tata Motors, Larsen & Toubro and Tata Consultancy Services were among the lag-

gards.

Domestic broader market momentum was mixed with caution as the initial expectation of Q2FY25 results is subdued due to a subpar momentum in the global and rural demand, Nair added.

Shares of Tata Group companies on Thursday rose up to 15 per cent, with Tata Investment Corporation, Tata Chemicals, and Tata Teleservices among the major gainers.

Maldives Prez thanks India for financial aid, consistent support

PNS ■ MALE

Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu on Thursday expressed gratitude for India's financial assistance and its consistent support, especially during challenging times, as he and his wife Sajidha Mohamed returned after concluding their five-day state visit to the country.

In a press statement, Muizzu expressed gratitude for India's financial assistance, including the rollover of a USD 50 million Treasury Bill for another year.

The 46-year-old, who was sworn-in as Maldives president in November last year, also thanked India for additional support of INR 30 billion to USD 400 million under a bilateral currency swap agreement.

This was Muizzu's first state visit to India since taking office



at the invitation of President Droupadi Murmu.

During the visit, Muizzu held high-level meetings with President Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and several other senior Indian government officials. These discussions centred on strengthening the friendship and development partnership between the Maldives and India, the release said. India and the Maldives on Monday inked a currency swap

pact and agreed to extend development cooperation to build ports, road networks, schools and housing projects in the archipelago nation grappling with a financial crisis. Prime Minister Modi and Maldivian President Muizzu also launched the Rupy card in the Maldives, inaugurated the new runway at the Hanimadhoo International airport and agreed to further strengthen bilateral relations that had hit a rocky patch last year.

UPI transactions volume rises 52% to 78.97 b in Jan-Jun: Report

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indian instant payment system Unified Payment Interface (UPI) transaction volumes recorded a 52 per cent year-on-year surge to 78.97 billion in the first six months of 2024, according to a report.

In its India Digital Payments Report for the first half of 2024 (January to June), payment technology service provider Worldline said on Thursday that UPI continues to rule the payment market and is rapidly expanding its reach.

"The number of UPI transactions rose significantly from 8.03 billion in January 2023 to 13.9 billion by June 2024.

SC asks CBI to file response on bizman Ajay Nawandar's bail plea

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has directed the CBI to file its response on the bail plea filed by businessman Ajay Ramesh Nawandar in a Rs 34,615-crore bank fraud case involving Dewan Housing Finance Limited (DHFL).

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Prasanna B Varale has extended the interim protection granted to Nawandar to remain in hospital till October 14.

"In the meantime, the respondent is directed to get the petitioner's eyes tested from a senior consultant at the Dr Rajendra Prasad Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences, AIIMS, New Delhi, and submit a report before the court on the said date. The respondent (CBI) will also file its counter-affidavit or obtain instructions as it may feel appropriate on the main petition seeking bail," the bench has said. The top court was hearing Nawandar's plea challenging a May 31 order of the Delhi High Court that dismissed his bail petition.

The high court had noted that the CBI has taken a serious and consistent stand that the applicant is an influential person with a considerable clout in Mumbai and other parts of Maharashtra, and there is every possibility that he will influence witnesses if released on bail as most of the witnesses are private witnesses.

"The conduct of the applicant on interim bail reflects his tendency to misuse the concessions granted by the courts and a propensity to manipulate. The trial court has rendered a finding that the applicant was time and again seeking extension of medical bail by exaggerating his medical ailments by manipulating records with the help of doctors in private hospitals," the high court had noted.

Equity mutual funds inflow drops 10% in Sep; SIPs hit fresh high

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Equity mutual funds attracted Rs 34,419 crore in September, marking a decline of 10 per cent from the preceding month, on a sharp slump in inflow in thematic and large-cap funds.

This was also the lowest level of inflow since April when equity schemes saw investments of Rs 18,917 crore.

Despite the drop in net inflows, this was still the 43rd consecutive month of net inflow in the equity-oriented funds highlighting the ever-increasing appeal of mutual funds among investors, data with the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) showed on Thursday.

Moreover, monthly contri-

butions from the Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) rose to an all-time high of Rs 24,509 crore in September, as against Rs 23,547 in August.

This highlights the shifting investor sentiment towards disciplined and long-term wealth accumulation, Venkat Chalasani, Chief Executive, AMFI, said.

Overall, the mutual fund industry witnessed an outflow of Rs 71,114 crore in the month under review, after an investment of Rs 1.08 lakh crore in August, largely due to withdrawal to the tune of Rs 1.14 lakh crore from debt schemes.

Undertended by the outflow, the industry's net assets under management rose to Rs 67 lakh crore last month from Rs 66.7



lakh crore in August.

"The mutual fund industry is proud to reach a milestone of 5.01 crore unique investors. This, along with the folio count surpassing 21 crore, underscores the efforts taken by the AMC's (asset management companies) and distributors to spread financial awareness. The 'Mutual Funds Sahi

Hai campaign' has helped build investor confidence which is indicated by the growing appreciation for mutual funds as a preferred investment avenue," Chalasani said.

Hitesh Thakkar, Acting CEO, IITI Mutual Fund, said investors are now able to understand that short-term volatility in the market is part

of a long-term wealth creation journey. That is the reason shares of financial assets have been increasing rapidly & within financial assets, MF shares are increasing gradually. As per the data, equity-oriented schemes witnessed an inflow of Rs 34,419 crore in September, way lower than Rs 38,239 crore attracted in August and Rs 37,113 crore in July.

Further, equity schemes saw inflows of Rs 40,608 crore and Rs 34,697 crore in June and May, respectively.

There were a plethora of new scheme launches in September, a trend which has been consistent of late. Cumulatively, these 27 new schemes managed to garner Rs 14,575 crore during the new

fund offering (NFO) period, Melvyn Santarita, Analyst - Manager Research, Morningstar Investment Research India, said.

The highest number of schemes were launched in the Index fund category -13 which cumulatively mobilised Rs 3,656 crore followed by the sectoral/thematic segment which saw the launch of 4 new schemes collecting Rs 7,842 crore during the month, he added.

Within the equity schemes, sector or thematic funds attracted investors with the highest net inflows of Rs 13,255 crore during the month under review. However, the flow in the segment was less compared to Rs 18,117 crore in August.

HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
4th Floor, Srinagarapalli Commercial Complex, Ameerpet, Hyderabad

PUBLIC NOTICE
File No. 007723BPHMDA/1744SK/P2524

Planning Department
Sri. Mitesh Majitha & Smt. Binitha Anandappa previously applied for approval of Residential Multi Storied Building permission for consisting of 2 Blocks with 2 Cellars + 1 SBI + 8 Upper floors in Sy.No. 312/Part situated at Kolar village, Ramachandrapuram Mandal, Sangareddy District to an extent of 5,428.83 Sq Mtrs and same was approved by this office vide File No. 000469BPHMDA/104SK/P2023, Dated. 03.06.2023.

Vide application dt. 24.05.2024 Sri. Mitesh Majitha & Smt. Binitha Anandappa applied for proposal of Revised Multi storied Building permission for 2 Blocks consisting of 1 SBI + 35 Upper floors and Club House consisting of 1 Ground + 8 Upper floors with Common 4 Cellars in Sy.No. 312/Part of Kolar Village, Ramachandrapuram Mandal, Sangareddy District to an extent of 6980.31 Sq Mtrs.

Therefore, the Flat owners / Purchasers / Agreement Holders of said Building in Sy.No. 312/ Part situated at Kolar village, Ramachandrapuram Mandal, Sangareddy District may file their objections/suggestions in writing if any within (15) days to this office from the date of publication of this notice. If no objections/suggestions were received within the above period the request of the application for approval of Residential Multi Storied Building in Sy.No. 312/Part situated at Kolar Village, Ramachandrapuram Mandal, Sangareddy District to an extent of 6980.31 Sq Mtrs will be considered being on the material papers available with this office.

DPR No. No. : 514-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/11/024-26
Sd/- Metropolitan Commissioner, Director, Planning-I, HMDA

AARTI SREENATH
aarti.sreenath9@gmail.com

In the heart of Europe, where the azure Adriatic Sea kisses ancient stone, Jashan Bhumkar embarked on an adventure that would resonate long after he returned home. A renowned singer and entrepreneur, Jashan's travels are a harmonious blend of culture, creativity and personal reflection. His latest sojourn in Croatia unfolded like a beautifully composed symphony, each moment a note in a larger composition of experiences that sang to his soul.

As he stepped off the plane, the warm Croatian sun enveloped him like an embrace. His first stop was Dubrovnik, often dubbed the "Pearl of the Adriatic." Here, he was captivated by the ancient city walls that stood like sentinels over the bustling streets below. "Walking along those walls felt like stepping back in time. The limestone streets amplify the sounds of the sea, creating an acoustic experience that is nothing short of magical," he shared, his voice rich with enthusiasm in this chat with *The Pioneer*.

Each step he took on the weathered stones echoed the city's storied past and Jashan couldn't help but feel a deep connection to its rich history. With every corner he turned, he uncovered a new "note" of Dubrovnik's narrative, from tales of ancient battles to the whispers of love and loss carried by the winds.

As a true connoisseur of style, he approached his Croatian adventure with an eye for fashion. His outfits were not just clothes; they were a reflection of the landscapes around him. "I wanted to harmonise with my environment," he explained. He chose earthy tones—terracotta, sienna and soft sand—to blend in with the rustic charm of Dubrovnik's stone walls.

By the azure waters of Hvar Island, he donned vibrant green co-ord sets, reminiscent of the lush foliage that surrounded him. At the majestic Plitvice Lakes, his soothing greens and blues mirrored the breathtaking natural beauty of cascading waterfalls and serene lakes. "Dressing in harmony with my surroundings allowed me to feel fully immersed in the experience," he reflected, akin to a musician synchronising with the rhythm of a captivating piece.

His journey through Croatia was marked by serendipitous encounters that enriched his experience. He, however, found himself enchanted by traditional Dalmatian folk music and dance performances in the old town. The energetic

The renowned singer and entrepreneur Jashan Bhumkar, who embarked on an adventurous trip to Europe, takes *The Pioneer* through his travel diaries of his latest trip

rhythms and vibrant costumes resonated deeply with his own roots in Indian classical music. "It was a beautiful reminder of how music transcends cultures," he said, swaying to the infectious beat as he joined the lively crowd. One unforgettable moment occurred in Rovinj, where he met a local artisan who passionately shared the stories behind her handmade ceramics. As they sat sipping coffee together, she introduced him to the hauntingly beautiful Croatian folk song, *Dalmatinska Sansa*. The melodies and lyrics echoed the themes of longing and love found in Indian classical ragas, forging a connection that spanned thousands of miles.

While the famous sights of Croatia dazzled him, it was the hidden gems that truly stole his heart. A detour to Kravice Waterfalls in Bosnia revealed a breathtaking paradise of turquoise pools and cascading water. "It felt like stepping into a painting. The beauty of this place was so profound that it left me spellbound," he described, the serene atmosphere resonating with his musical soul. In addition to natural wonders, he was captivated by the luxurious accommodations that complemented his journey. At Sun Gardens Dubrovnik, he reveled in the stunning views of the coastline, where the soothing sounds of the sea became the backdrop for his reflections. Similarly, Le Meridien Split offered him a taste of elegance, with breathtaking sunsets that turned the sky into a canvas of vibrant colors. "Both properties turned my stay into a mini-vacation," he remarked, his eyes twinkling with delight. As a self-proclaimed foodie, his palate was treated to the finest offerings of the Adriatic. From succulent grilled fish in Dubrovnik's old town to rich seafood risotto in Split's charming harbour, every meal was a celebration of local flavours. "I indulged in fresh oysters and I must say, they were the essence



TRAVELOGUE

of the Adriatic," he exclaimed, recalling the experience with a twinkle in his eye.

Each dish was an invitation to savor the stories of the land, prepared with love and tradition. "Dining here felt like partaking in a beautiful performance, where each course played its role in the overall experience," he mused. As his adventure came to a close, he took a moment to reflect on the experiences that had enriched his spirit. Croatia had gifted him serenity from its turquoise seas, inspiration from its ancient stones, and gratitude for

becomes a part of the journey, enriching every moment with its beauty.

While his recent escape to the enchanting landscapes of Croatia provided him with invaluable quality time with his family, he often finds solace in the vibrant chaos of city life when the demands of his multifaceted career weigh heavy. Quick city breaks to dynamic destinations like Dubai and London offer him a refreshing change of pace without disrupting his rhythm. Each of these bustling metropolises serves as a rejuvenating retreat, allowing him to return to his routine with renewed clarity and enthusiasm, striking a harmonious balance between his demanding schedule and personal well-being.

Reflecting on his most treasured travel memories, Jashan recalls the adventures shared with his grandfather, who ignited the spark of wanderlust in him. Together, they journeyed through Greece's ancient ruins, where history intertwined with the breathtaking turquoise isles. They strolled through the vibrant bazaars of Turkey, captivated by the rich tapestry of colours and the majestic mosques that rose against the sky. The mysteries of Egypt's pyramids stood tall as they navigated the timeless currents of the mystical Nile River, while the lush temples and pristine beaches of Bali beckoned them to explore paradise. With each journey, Jashan developed a love for collecting local art, capturing the essence of each destination in vibrant strokes and intricate designs. Initially, he would meticulously plan visits to galleries, eager to discover the creative expressions of the places he explored. Yet, he found that some of his most extraordinary finds came from serendipitous encounters—those hidden gems that caught his eye while wandering without an agenda. Each piece he brought home was not just a souvenir but a narrative, a slice of culture and creativity that resonated with his experiences, creating a personal gallery that celebrates the world's beauty.

In the end, Jashan Bhumkar's Croatian adventure was more than just a trip; it was a harmonious blend of culture, nature and self-discovery. As he continues to traverse the globe, he carries with him the echoes of Croatia—an unforgettable melody that will linger in his heart for years to come.



the warm hospitality of its people. "These emotions hum in my mind like a beautiful musical tune," he said, encapsulating the essence of his travels. Looking ahead, he dreams of traversing the landscapes of South America and the breathtaking vistas of Australia and New Zealand, eager to add new notes to his life's symphony. "Travel is a melody composed of experiences, and I can't wait to see what comes next," he declared, his eyes alight with excitement.

As a musician, he curates a unique soundtrack for his travels. "I often find myself spontaneously singing ghazals and other Indian melodies at scenic spots," he revealed, sharing a memorable moment where he serenaded his parents with *Dil Mein Ek Leher Si Uthi Hai Abhi* while on a boat in the middle of the sea. "Music

REVIEW

LIFE JUST GETS SO REAL WITH RAAT JAWAAN HAI

PLOT

When the responsibilities of being an adult collide with the challenges of parenthood, anything goes! Sony LIV's latest original show, *Raat Jawaan Hai*, delves into the exciting lives of three close friends—Radhika (played by Anjali Anand), Avinash (played by Barun Sobti) and Suman (played by Priya Bapat)—as they take on the thrilling challenge of parenting.

HIGHLIGHTS

The story kicks off with how Suman and her husband Sattu (played by Vikram Singh Chauhan) are having a conversation via texts to avoid their little one waking up from his sleep. A sound and boom the baby wakes up saying, 'Mumma...Milk'. Well, this is just the beginning of the parenthood chaos portrayed in *Raat Jawaan Hai*. As the story progresses, you are hooked on the relatability each character brings in. For all the new mummies and the dads, each event mirrors how you deal with things so well, of course for the love of your baby. The film's gradual shift from planning to watching an *Avenger* film to chilling out at your BFF's house and later their own struggles is so interesting to watch—a fun ride at its best. The story highlights some thought-provoking concepts that do not much go well with society.

DRAWBACKS

Beyond a doubt, the plot does feel relatable, but there are times when there are scenes that just make you feel, 'Why even?' *Raat Jawaan Hai* has its own flaws, particularly somewhat as the first half comes to an end.

PERFORMANCES

Watching Barun is always a delight and so has it been in *Raat Jawaan Hai*. His character Avinash is such an understanding husband who chooses to take care of his baby and promptly be a house husband. He is this dashing hubby, who is a gem of a person and knows his priorities right. He delivers a compelling performance, layered with a subtle innocence that adds depth to his character.

Anjali Anand, as Radhika, aka Rads, is a cutie. She is a savage mom, but the cuteness she brings together is a cherry on the cake. She's the typical wife, who asks you to decide whether you want to enjoy yourself with your friends or stay with your wife. If you decide to go out with friends, then you know what's going to happen. Priya Bapat as Suman is this friend in the trio, who is always jokingly bullied but is the love of the group. The way she brings in her emotions, fear and a lot more other aspects shines in her character. Her character is pretty convincing and exhilarating. Apart from the trio, the supporting cast has done a great job in making *Raat Jawaan Hai* a fun-watch. They deliver strong performances that bolster the film's emotional and narrative core.

VERDICT

Raat Jawaan Hai is a blend of laughs and cries, fun banter and chaos, all of them together. Maybe not a binge-watch obsession, but it is certainly a series to watch every time your heart gets heavy with your life's chaos. The relatability aspect of the cast keeps you hooked throughout the 8 episodes. Well, if not anything else, it's a good watch for a chilling weekend.

Directed by: Sumeet Vyas
Produced by: Vicky Vijay
Written and created by: Khyati Anand-Puthran
Cast: Barun Sobti, Anjali Anand, Priya Bapat, Vikram Singh Chauhan, Hasleen Kaur, Priyansh Jora, Raayan Nikhil Kanchan, Jia Aman Yagnik and Khushvik Sharma
Streaming on: Sony LIV
Rating: 3.2/5



DITCH THE PILLS

Non-hormonal options for a healthier you

PNS|HYDERABAD

Diaphragm and Cervical Cup

The diaphragm is a dome-shaped latex barrier that is inserted vaginally to cover the cervix and prevent sperm from entering the uterus. Diaphragms come in different sizes. A diaphragm is inserted prior to intercourse and must be left in place for a minimum of six hours afterward. It can be left in place for a total of 24 hours. After use, the diaphragm should be removed, washed well, and stored for future use.

Contraceptive sponge

The contraceptive sponge is a small, pillow shaped polyurethane sponge containing a spermicide. It is moistened with water prior

na prior to ejaculation to prevent the deposit of sperm in or near the vagina. Fertility awareness methods, also called the "rhythm method," involve tracking a woman's menstrual cycle in order to predict her fertile period (around ovulation) when she is at a higher risk of getting pregnant, as well as the "safe period" when they can have unprotected sex.

Surgical sterilisation

For those who desire permanent contraception, surgery in the form of tubectomy in females or vasectomy in males can be performed. Lactational Amenorrhoea Nonpenetrative Sex and abstinence from sexual intercourse are some of the other methods used as non-hormonal contraception.

Approximately 1 billion individuals use some form of contraception. The right and ability to control one's reproductive health help individuals plan their lives. The growing use of contraceptive methods has also contributed to reducing infant and maternal mortality rates. By reducing rates of unintended pregnancies, it also reduces the need for unsafe abortion and benefits the higher education of girls; it creates opportunities for women, thus helping in economic prospects for users.

Dr. Rubby Das, Consultant, Gynecologist/Obstetrician at Parivar seva Sanstha and Max Super Specialty Hospital, Vaishali further highlights, "The choice of contraception method varies depending on the individual's need, preference, and duration for which they need protection. Some of the commonly used short-term contraceptive methods are condoms and pills. Although contraceptive pills are effective, many women are skeptical of using them as they experience side effects like weight gain, headaches, bloating, mood changes and menstrual changes. They also demand strict adherence to a daily regimen and may be inconvenient to many women. Long-acting reversible contraceptive (LARC) methods are an excellent strategy to avoid pregnancy, as they provide high contraceptive effectiveness with a single intervention and can be used for a long time. LARCs include various intrauterine devices (IUD), contraceptive injections and subdermal implants. Injectable last for three months, whereas IUDs can last three to five years, giving protection."

Subdermal implants are 99% effective and protect for 3 years. With a fast return to fertility, implants are among the most preferred contraceptive methods in many countries. Unlike other methods, its effectiveness is not decreased by vomiting or forgetfulness and is safe during breastfeeding. Subdermal implants can be removed easily with the restoration of normal ovarian function once an implant is removed. These reasons make implants an attractive option for women who require a good, long-lasting form of contraception. Thus, easy access to these contraceptives can have a positive impact, leading to better maternal and child health outcomes.

Some people find it difficult to use hormonal birth control. They might seek a different choice to steer clear of hormones, desire to encounter side effects, have health worries, or are nursing. Certain forms of birth control have hormones like estrogen and progesterone. Although these forms of birth control are generally very successful, multiple factors may prevent or deter someone from using them.

Nonhormonal birth control options include barrier methods, sterilisation and natural family planning. The efficiency of these techniques varies depending on the technique and its application.

To prevent unwanted pregnancies, there are many options available for the couple, which can be divided into hormonal and non-hormonal methods of contraception. Dr. Ila Jalote, Consultant, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Manipal Hospital, shares, "A couple may opt for non-hormonal methods of contraception to avoid any hormone-related side effects or to avoid the regular intake of contraceptives. These non-hormonal methods of contraception can be temporary or permanent methods of contraception."

Meanwhile, Dr Nidhi Shah, Consultant, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Jaslok Hospital Mumbai shares that a non-hormonal method of birth control protects against pregnancy without influencing natural hormones.

You may wish to consider a non-hormonal method of birth control if you:

- ◆ Want to "back up" your hormonal method
- ◆ Experience undesirable side effects from, or have medical contraindications to, hormones
- ◆ Have infrequent intercourse and do not feel you need ongoing contraception
- ◆ Do not want to alter your body's natural rhythms (i.e., menstrual cycle) for religious or other reasons

Some of the available non-hormonal methods of contraception are:

Condoms

Condoms are one of the most popular nonhormonal methods of contraception because they are easily obtained and relatively easy to use. Apart from abstinence, condoms are the only other method to provide protection against STIs. There are two types of condoms: external (male) condoms worn over the penis and internal (female) condoms worn inside the vagina.



to use and then inserted far up into the vagina so that the concave side covers the cervix. It can be used only once but works for 24 hours and, hence, can be used during multiple episodes of sex within 24 hours.

Spermicides

Vaginal spermicides are widely available as gels, foams, jelly, vaginal contraceptive film (VCF), creams and suppositories. However, they are the least effective form of contraception available

Copper IUD

A non-hormonal copper intrauterine device (IUD) can be placed inside the uterus as an OPD procedure. It is one of the most effective contraceptive methods (99%) at preventing pregnancy and can be left in place for up to 5 years without affecting future fertility.

Contraceptive gel

It is used in the vagina before sex and works by lowering the vaginal pH and preventing the sperm from reaching the egg.

Other methods:

Withdrawal, or the "pulling out," method refers to removing the penis from the vagi-

what's brewing?



Balakrishna and Meenakshi Chowdhary



Manideep and Spandana



Meenakshi

The legendary actor Nandamuri Balakrishna and actress Meenakshi Chowdhary, inaugurated the newly opened Varahi Silks in Jubilee Hills on Thursday. As part of the inauguration, the brand has been offering exclusive offers.



SanthiSree



HiranMayee



Tulasi



Suma

The Sri Prathama Ayurveda Panchakarma Hospital, located at KPHB, Hyderabad, was grandly inaugurated by renowned Telugu anchor Suma. The 10-bedded inpatient facility is specially designed to treat neurological disorders in children, including Autism, ADHD, Speech Delay and Global Developmental Delay.

PARTY



Photos by- SV Chary



Women in Kukatpally, Hyderabad were seen joyously celebrating Bathukamma, adorning the city with vibrant flowers and traditional songs, marking the spirit of Telangana's cultural heritage.



Dr.Nithasha



Priyakumar

Premiethon-2024 The hope run is coming up with its third edition on 17 November 2024, which will start from T works and go on till HiTEC city. This initiative by Extra mile foundation aims to aiding premature babies



Archalakumar



Krishna Teja



Disha



The six day grand celebrations and the Sri Sri Durga Puja 2024, being hosted by the Bengalee Cultural Association, Masab Tank, Hyderabad; was formally inaugurated by Chief Guest Sabyasachi Ghosh, Special Chief Secretary Govt. of Telangana at Banjara Function Hall, Banjara Hills. To mark the occasion, the pandal was decorated in the traditional Bengal style by specialist craftsmen from Kolkata.

FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



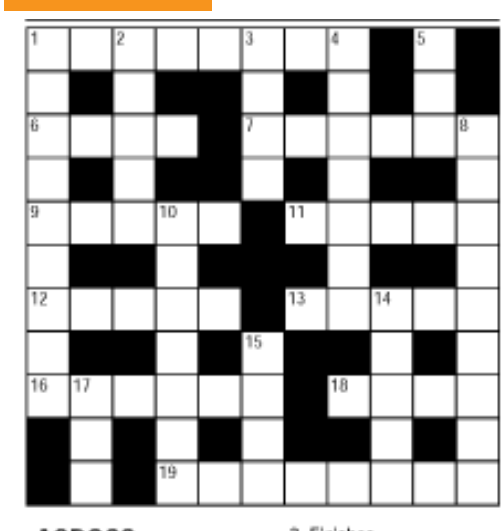
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



NANCY



SUDOKU



Yesterday's solution

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

Rules

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

ACROSS

- Easiest to do
- Soldiers belong to this
- Images in your mind while you are asleep
- Cairo is the capital of this country
- Postage sticker
- A house for a pet rabbit
- A unit of length
- Money made by selling something for more than it cost
- An arm or leg
- Round in shape



DOWN

- A vehicle for travelling to another planet
- A word for mother

GINGER MEGGS



Vettaiyan tackles tough issues but loses focus

SURESH KAVIRAYANI
sureshkavirayani@gmail.com

Superstar Rajinikanth teams up with T J Gnanavel of *Jai Bhim* fame for the film *Vettaiyan*. With Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan, Malayalam superstar Fahadh Faasil, Telugu actor Rana Daggubati, Manju Warrier and Ritika Singh in key roles, the movie has generated significant attention. Anirudh Ravichander composed the music and Lyca Productions produced it. Given Rajinikanth's massive global fanbase, his films always garner immense interest.

STORY

The plot takes place in Tamil Nadu, where Superintendent of Police Athiyan (played by Rajinikanth), an encounter specialist, eliminates criminals in shootouts. He is aided by a former thief-turned-police-informant, Patrick (played by Fahadh Faasil). Athiyan justifies these killings in court, arguing that the criminals tried to flee and posed a threat to the police. However, Satyadev (played by Amitabh Bachchan), a Human Rights Commission judge, opposes such extrajudicial killings, insisting on legal punishment for all. Saranya (played by Dushara Vijayan), a schoolteacher, informs SP Athiyan about illegal marijuana trafficking in her school. Acting on her tip, Athiyan catches the offenders in the act. However, days later, Saranya is found raped and murdered, sparking a sensational case. A special investigation team, led by Harish (played by Kishore) and Roopa (played by Ritika Singh), is formed, and they arrest a suspect whom Athiyan later kills in an encounter. Soon, Athiyan realises that the person he killed was innocent. Who is responsible for Saranya's murder? What was the motive? And how does Athiyan deal with the consequences of his mistake? The answers lie in watching the film.

ANALYSIS

Director T J Gnanavel, known for the socially conscious and critically acclaimed *Jai Bhim*, returns with *Vettaiyan*, tackling the issue of police encounters and the collateral damage of innocent lives lost. He also explores the impact of corporate education and how it corrupts the system. The film begins by portraying Rajinikanth's character, SP Athiyan, as an encounter specialist who quickly gains a heroic reputation. However, Satyadev, played by Amitabh Bachchan, stands



REVIEW

as a moral counterpoint, questioning the legality of Athiyan's actions. The story shifts focus to a schoolteacher who takes a stand against wrongdoing but tragically becomes a victim of a heinous crime. The first half of the film is engaging, with a compelling narrative centered on the police investigation and the consequences of encounters. Director Gnanavel stays true to the core story and maintains the audience's interest throughout the first half.

The second half, however, falters as the director shifts focus to corporate education malpractices, losing the tight grip established earlier. The introduction of Rana Daggubati's character is underdeveloped and the narrative struggles to balance both the encounter storyline and the education system angle. The result is a disjointed second half that feels like two different films. The climax, too, feels rushed and lacks the impact the story deserves. Despite these shortcomings,

Gnanavel's effort to address two significant social issues is commendable.

PERFORMANCE

Rajinikanth once again shines with his charisma as the encounter specialist Athiyan. Though the film avoids his usual mannerisms, his performance is still stellar and in some scenes, he is outstanding. Amitabh Bachchan's presence adds gravitas to the film and though his screen time is limited, he leaves a strong impression with his role as a human rights advocate. Fahadh Faasil provides comic relief, and his performance is designed to appeal to the Malayalam audience. Manju Warrier delivers a solid performance as Rajinikanth's wife. Ritika Singh and Kishore, playing police officers, do justice to their roles, while Rana Daggubati, though appearing only in the second half, is fitting for the role but could have been given more depth. Dushara Vijayan shines as the schoolteacher, delivering an emotional performance. Supporting actors like Rao Ramesh, Rohini and Abhirami also contribute effectively.

VERDICT

Vettaiyan addresses two critical social issues. The first half is engaging and gripping, but the second half loses its way due to inconsistent storytelling. Nevertheless, the film is worth watching, especially for Rajinikanth's superb performance as an encounter specialist. His screen presence and acting elevate the movie, making it a compelling watch.

Director and writer: T J Gnanavel

Producer: Subaskaran Allirajah

Cast: Rajinikanth, Amitabh Bachchan, Fahadh Faasil, Rana Daggubati, Ritika Singh, Manju Warrier, Kishore, Rao Ramesh, Dushara Vijayan, Abhirami and others

Music: Anirudh Ravichander

Cinematography: SR Kathir

Rating: 2.5/5



Thiruveer turns photographer for *The Great Pre Wedding Show*

Thiruveer, known for movies such as *Mallesham*, *Palasa*, *Masooda* and *Pareshan*, is set to release a new film called *The Great Pre Wedding Show*.

The movie was officially released on Thursday at a private studio in Hyderabad. Thiruveer is starring as the main actor and Rahul Srinivas is directing the film. The producers are Sandeep Agaram and Ashmita Reddy.

The first look poster of the film was released and Thiruveer will be seen playing the character

of a photographer in it. The story's backdrop is a village and the makers announced that the regular shooting of this film will start soon.

Teena Sravya will be seen playing the female lead.

Thiruveer acted as a character artist and also took on the role of the lead actor in *Masooda*, which was a major success. He later starred in the movie *Pareshan* and it was also a hit. Currently, the actor is being cast as the main actor in the upcoming film *The Great Pre-Wedding Show*.

STANDALONE

Actor Uday Rajveer Singh, along with actresses Aisha, Diwanishi and Shayana, director Manzoor and the team of *Daas*, released the trailer of this upcoming film on Thursday. The film centers around a young man, who is torn between true love and commercial relationship.



Rahul Vijay shifts his gear to comedy

Young actor Rahul Vijay is busy with regular films and also web series. He is now coming up with a different kind of film and the title is also a funny one, *Khel Khatam Darwajaa Bandh*. Neha Panday is playing the female lead. The first look was released on Thursday. The title *Khel Khatam Darwajaa Bandh* hints at a fun-filled comedy, with debut director Ashok Reddy Kadadori at the helm. This film is being produced by Arjan Dasyan. Rahul Vijay's previous movie *Vidya Vasula Aham* was directly released on Aha, earning him praise after his performance in *Kota Bommali PS*. The actor is hoping for a good break with his new project *Khel Khatam Darwajaa Bandh* now. In contrast to his previous movies, he has opted for a comedy setting this time.



PRASHANTH VARMA PRESENTS THE RISE OF MAHAKALI

Prashanth Varma, known for the hit film *HanuMan* released during this year's Sankranti festival, gained immense popularity post-release. The movie quickly became a buzz not just in Telugu but also in other languages, including Hindi. The filmmaker has since then been in demand. Following the massive success of the movie, he also initiated the

formation of Prashanth Varma's Cinematic Universe, known as PVCU. The director is currently overseeing the debut film of Nandamuri Mokshyagna.

Apart from that, he is also working on different stories and making films with different production companies. As a part of his next project, on Thursday, he announced a movie titled *Mahakali* which is helmed by Pooja Aparna Kolluru. Rivaz Ramesh Duggal serves as the producer. Prashanth Varma will be providing the story and screenplay.

The narrative takes place in Bengal, renowned for the well-known Mahankali temple. The people of Bengal celebrate the Dasara festival along with Navaratri days in grand style. Prashanth Varma is drawing inspiration from it and is currently capturing the age-old customs of this Bengal tradition in his narrative.

In this promotional poster, a girl is affectionately placing her head against a tiger's. A circus is also visible in the background and people are running away as the large wheel is lit on fire. Similar to the presence of a special object in the title logo of *HanuMan*, there is also one in the logo of *Mahakali*.

Announcing the film Prashanth Varma said, "Excited to join hands with @RKDStudios to bring a powerful new force to the universe. Presenting the rise of #MAHAKALI - an embodiment of Goddess Kali, the fiercest destroyer of evil. This Navratri, we're breaking the mold and redefining what a superhero can be."

Matka team recreates iconic Poorna Market

Within the realm of storytelling, the settings have the ability to enrich the emotional intensity and genuineness of a narrative. In Varun Tej's *Matka*, directed by Karuna Kumar, Poorna Market plays a key role by enhancing the narrative with its lively culture.

The production team built a striking set at RFC spanning 10 acres to represent Poorna Market, overseen by production designer Kiran Kumar Manne. The Poorna Market, with its 1500 shops bustling with activity, plays a crucial role in the movie. Every aspect, from classic cars to old-fashioned rickshaws, vintage photo studio and Poorna Theatre, is carefully crafted to take viewers back in time.

Varun Tej's evolution from a worker to a dominant force is connected to Poorna Market. *Matka* is scheduled to come out on November 14.

NITISH KUMAR REDDY CREDITS GAUTAM GAMBHIR FOR ALL-ROUND SHOW IN 2ND T20I

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy said the idea was to take on the Bangladeshi spinners and credited head coach Gautam Gambhir for boosting his confidence after his all-round effort powered the hosts to an 86-run win in the second T20I here.

India, who had lost to Bangladesh the last time these two teams clashed here, landed in trouble with their top order blown away inside the powerplay but Reddy and Rinku Singh joined forces to turn the tables on Bangladesh. The pair put on 108 runs for the fourth wicket from 49 balls to take the game away from Bangladesh, with Reddy clobbering seven sixes and four fours to make 74 from a mere 34 balls.

"The conversation that we were having (was) a smooth conversation, we were not taking any pressure. We did not plan anything about the score. We saw the spinner coming on to bowl, and we thought that this was the main over and we should take him on," he said in a video shared by BCCI.

"To be honest, I should thank Gautam sir for this. He gave a lot of confidence in me. He told me to believe in my bowling."

"(He said) 'when you are bowling, you should think like a bowler and not as a batsman who can bowl'. That is what he kept telling me and that somehow boosted me," he added.

Reddy said he was grateful for being adjudged the Player of



the Match. "Playing for India is in itself a proud moment and getting the man of the match (award), I feel so grateful for this and I just want to live in this moment," he said. "Once I got to know that from here you should take on. I just knew that I will take on the bowlers. I was backing myself saying 'you can do this,' added Reddy, who returned 4-0-23-2.

"The conversation between us was like, he was telling me that maybe it is God's plan. We were just believing (in) it and we were just hitting the balls," Reddy said in a video shared by BCCI. Rinku, who scored 53 off 29 balls with five fours and three sixes, said the pair decided to take the attack to the opposition.

"We were enjoying our batting. I just said it is God's plan, just keep hitting and leave it to the one above. Nitesh bhai also batted well," said Rinku. "It was only his second international match and it felt really good watching him," he added. Rinku looked at his record with pride saying he has won each series that he has played

for India and expressed his wish to continue doing that. "This was my third century in T20Is and all three have come in situations where India have lost early wickets have been lost and I got the chance to bat and I made a fifty," he said. "I have won all the series with the Indian team since I started playing, so I would want to

remain with the team and the key keep winning," added Rinku, who also has 'God' plan tattooed on his arm. Rinku said India skipper Suryakumar Yadav urges his players to remain aggressive and play their natural game. "Surya bhai has asked us to be aggressive and play our natural game, just back our shots and show our energy," he said.



IAMGAME Conclave for the Future of Indian Sports

RISHABH MALIK ■ NEW DELHI

The IAMGAME Conclave took place on Wednesday to put together key leaders, athletes, and industry experts to share their valuable insights on the evolution and global potential of Indian sports.

The conclave addressed the most pressing challenges and opportunities within the Indian sports ecosystem, from infrastructure development and athlete nurturing to the growing influence of technology and the critical role of inclusivity and diversity.

The conclave was inaugurated by Mr Sudhanshu Mittal, President of Kho Kho federation. "This more than just an event; it is a call to action. By facilitating open dialogue and knowledge sharing, the conclave aims to empower participants to drive positive change in the sports sector. The conclave had prominent speakers such as Harmanpreet Singh, Ronjan Sodhi, Udit Sheth, Jaspal Rana, Nikhat Zareen, Namrata Parekh, Aparna Papat, and Rathindra Basu. Who shared their insights about how they can make the game better for athletes.

"The conclave was not just about conversations, but

about fostering collaboration and setting the foundation for action that will shape the future of sports in India," said Karan Chettri, IAMGAME Founder.

IAMGAME inspired innovation, tackled inclusivity, and empowered the next generation of athletes by fostering a collaborative environment for meaningful discussions. The insights generated at the event will serve as a roadmap for India's continued progress as a global sports powerhouse.

Mandeep Malhotra added, "Through IAMGAME, we have built a platform for collaboration and growth, positioning Indian sports for a brighter future."

The event concluded on a high note, with a renewed focus on empowering the next generation of athletes, promoting inclusivity, and fostering innovation. The insights and ideas generated at IAMGAME 2024 are expected to serve as a roadmap for India's continued progress as a global sports powerhouse. As the momentum from the conclave carries forward, it is expected to drive meaningful changes within the Indian sports ecosystem, pushing it to new heights.

Iyer-Kishan on a "mission" as half of season to be held without top 60 players

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shreyas Iyer would like to sit back on a 'Time Machine' to revive his start-stop international career while Ishan Kishan would aim to clear the popular perception about his allegedly "misplaced priorities", when the 90th edition of Ranji Trophy starts across the country with hundreds of players ready to slog it out for different ambitions and varied goals.

The Indian cricket board's powerful rap on the knuckles to the 'IPL happy duo' was a message loud and clear to anyone who would care to listen - to earn mega bucks in IPL auction, learn to give respect to the foundation of country's cricket - India's very own national championship. Iyer wouldn't mind having a 1,321-run reason like he had in the 2015-16 Ranji edition which brought him into national reckoning. He is at the cross-roads where it may not take long to slip off the selector's radar as his favourite ODI format is slowly losing relevance. Similarly, Kishan, who has fallen off the pecking order among national 'keepers', has accepted the responsibility to captain Jharkhand which would also be a signal of his intent for Ajit Agarkar and his colleagues.

Like every edition, Ranji Trophy will be devoid of star power with none of country's top 17-18 players likely to be available throughout the season due to eight Test



matches scheduled between October 16 to January 7. The next 18 will only be available for a single round before they embark on India 'A' tour to Australia while another 15 among the younger crop of top T20 stars also unavailable for a couple of weeks owing to a four-match T20I series in South Africa. If that is not enough, another 15 will be in Muscat for the Emerging Asia Cup tournament, where BCCI wouldn't send its U-23 team like previous years as other Asian nations don't have robust age-group programme. Like every year, the national selectors would be out there to unearth hidden diamonds and give them wings to fly in coming years. The Indian Test team's philosophy has undergone sea-change over the years and it will no longer just be about volume of runs scored and quantum of wickets. "If runs and wickets alone

would have been a marker then Milind Kumar or Jalaj Saxena would have played for India," a former national selector, who has a deep understanding of the process said. "If a batter has scored only 500 runs in a season but there is hundred on a green-top against good domestic attack and 60-odd on a proverbial akhaada (rank turner), his name would find a place in selector's notebook for India A and pathways programme. "Similarly, if a fast bowler is running in and making things happen on a batting belt with sun beating down, he will automatically grab eyeballs. It is all about adaptability and challenging yourself to get out of your comfort zone. If its a flat deck, then show your stamina and score a triple even when you are suffering from cramps." "To play for India, show that you are different. All selectors have specific names in mind

when they go for an assignment. Yes, they look at all players but focus would be on what national team requirements are," the selector, a former India Test player said. Among the teams, Mumbai once again would be a team to beat with Ajinkya Rahane, Prithvi Shaw, Shreyas Iyer in its ranks although the Khan brothers — Sarfaraz and Musheer — will be missing; elder one due to national duty and younger one because of a recent road accident. Rajat Patidar, who blew away his chances later grabbed by Sarfaraz, would like to show that he is still around even as Madhya Pradesh are likely to miss their star off-spinner all-rounder Saransh Jain after first round, since he might make it to India A for Australia tour. For Karnataka, Vidwath Kaverappa and Vyshak Vijaykumar would like to put their best foot forward to remain among the fringe pacers.

Mukesh Kumar might get to play a match for Bengal before he also leaves for India A tour while Yash Dhull, who has been panned by one and all for technique and temperament, would like to redeem himself. But in another corner of the country, one would like to see Cheteshwar Pujara quietly go about his day job of scoring runs, frustrating bowlers with dead defence while his one-time colleagues in the deepest core of their hearts knowing that they will miss him Down Under.

Not going in with pre-determined mindset has helped Smriti and me, says Shafali

PTI ■ DUBAI

Indian batter Shafali Verma said she and her opening partner Smriti Mandhana have moved away from the mindset of entering matches with "pre-determined" ideas about targeting any particular type of bowling, which has helped them achieve greater success.

The duo put up a 98-run opening stand to lay the foundation of India's emphatic 82-run win over Sri Lanka on Wednesday. In her 38-ball 50, Mandhana attacked the spinners, which is noteworthy since she typically relies on Shafali to handle tweekers.

"Yes, we have a very good combination now, as you said. That's because now we don't go being pre-determined. Whoever is connecting well with the bat and ball on that day, we try to give singles and let her play more balls," Shafali said at the post-match press conference.

"She's hitting the spinners very well. So, it's a good thing. And we both just try to give as good a start as we can then it'd be good for the team to build a good inning and hit



a good target," she added. Under the pump after the heavy loss to New Zealand and an underwhelming win over Pakistan, India's hammering of Sri Lanka massively boosted their net run rate, elevating them to the second spot in Group A. The Indian women have, however,

struggled to hit the maximums at the Dubai Cricket Stadium, where they have played all of their matches till now.

Shafali and Mandhana also copped criticism for their running between the wickets, which improved drastically against Sri Lanka.

"We missed a lot of runs in the starting. I know about that. I think we're used to the condition. Maybe because of that, we're running well in between wickets. But we're trying to get the first run fast. Because the ground is very big, 70 meters, if I'm not wrong."

"So, we try to take the first run fast. It's very difficult to hit the sixes but we're thinking of taking the first run fast," Shafali said.

India next take on group leaders Australia in Sharjah on Sunday. It will be a change of venue for Harmanpreet Kaur and Co.

"For Sharjah, we will have three days off, if I am not wrong. So, we will work on the process and we will focus on what we can do to be confident. And hopefully, if we give our 100% individually then of course, we will win."

India men's team settles for bronze in Asian Table Tennis C'ships

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian men's team bowed out in the semifinals and settled for the bronze medal following a 0-3 loss to Chinese Taipei in the semifinal of the Asian Table Tennis Championships in Kazakhstan's Astana, on Thursday.

Indian women's team had also won the bronze medal in the competition on Wednesday, which is the country's first medal in the category since the beginning of the event in 1972.

The legendary Achant Sharath Kamal, world No 42, found the going tough against his world No 7 opponent Lin Yun-Ju, whose reflexes and precision made the contest tougher for the Indian to settle into his own game. Sharath Kamal lost the contest 11-7, 12-10, 11-9.

In the following contest, Manav Thakkar lost to world No 22 Kao Cheng-Jui in a hard-fought contest whose outcome was 11-9, 8-11, 11-3, 13-11 in the favour of the Chinese Taipei's player and a 2-0 lead. In the third game, Harmeet Desai also had

to deal with disappointment as the Indian paddler lost to Huang Yan-Cheng 6-11, 9-11, 7-11.

"Despite the loss, the Indian men's team has much to be proud of. A bronze medal at the prestigious Asian Championships is no small feat, especially in the elite continental championships," said the Table Tennis Federation of India in a release.

"The men's and women's squads showed incredible grit and determination, proving that India continues to rise in the ranks of international table tennis," it added.

Major Dhyan Chand Stadium gets a facelift to ahead of India-Germany hockey series

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Once it chronicled Mir Ranjan Negi's epic fall from grace, Dhanraj Pillay's artistic stick-work and Sandeep Singh's muscular drag-flicks but in the past decade or so, Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium seemed resigned to the fact that its glory days as epicentre of Indian hockey were a thing of past.

The two-match Test series against Germany on October 23 and 24 seems like the revival of Delhi's hockey spirit which has gone dormant in the past 10 years.

Odisha government's seminal decision to help Indian hockey find its home in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela was a major

factor in the shift of momentum, which can swing once again if the fans show up. Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey is hoping for a good turnout considering the growing popularity of hockey after two consecutive Olympic bronze medals.

"Earlier domestic tournaments used to be held in Delhi in a very spectacular manner. I too made my international debut in Delhi through Indira Gandhi Gold Cup 1995. A large number of spectators used to come here and we also want that the glory of hockey to return to Delhi," Tirkey told PTI Bhasha.

"After the Tokyo and Paris Olympics, the popularity of hockey has increased manifold and now the stadium will be

waiting for the spectators," said the legendary former defender. The last international match played here was the 2014 Hero World League Final. Inter-departmental hockey of institutions has also been held here occasionally.

"I was an official here during the 2010 World Cup and people from all over the country came here to watch the match. It was a different atmosphere," said Ajay Kumar Bansal, former coach of the Indian junior and women's hockey team and ex administrator of the National Stadium.

"Hockey was being played in Odisha for the last few years, due to which the graph of the game went up there and on the contrary, due to the absence of



hockey in Delhi, it went down. The youth did not see any big hockey tournament here, so automatically their interest decreased," he said. "Apart from this, due to lack of tournaments, the maintenance of the stadium is also affected. I want that from next time,

four or five more venues including Delhi, Punjab, Haryana should be included in the Hockey India League."

India's World Cup winning former captain Ajitpal Singh believes that matches with big teams should be played in all the pockets of hockey in India.

"An international match is happening in Delhi after many years. Earlier, many 'Test' matches used to be held at the Shivaji Stadium. I think it is important to have matches and tournaments across the country, rather centralising them," the former skipper said.

"There are many pockets of hockey in India, like many excellent players have emerged from Punjab, Haryana, UP, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu. Hockey is very popular in Odisha and Jharkhand, but it is important to organise big matches in other states as well," he added.

Giving details of the preparations, officials said the cleaning of astro turf on the main pitch and practice pitches was going on with

German machines for a week and the process has been completed. Every year Rs 30 lakh is spent on the maintenance of both turfs.

They said that the spectator galleries, change rooms, dressing rooms, and the entire complex have been cleaned. They also said that there is no need for an upgrade because this is a world-class stadium in which World Cup and Commonwealth Games have been organised.

The stadium also houses a Hockey Academy of the National Centre of Excellence of the Sports Authority of India in which regular practice takes place.

Apart from this, under the 'Come and Play' scheme of SAI, some children come and

play hockey, who are very excited about these matches. When India defeated arch-rivals Pakistan in the World Cup and the Commonwealth Games in 2010 year on this ground, a flood of emotions had overflowed in the packed stadium.

The National Stadium (formerly known as Irwin Amphitheatre), gifted to Delhi by the Maharaja of Bhavnagar, witnessed the first Asian Games in 1951 and the players shed tears after losing to Pakistan in the hockey final of the 1982 Asian Games.

On this same ground, Australia hammered the host India in the final of the 2010 Commonwealth Games by 8-0, one of the worst ever defeats.