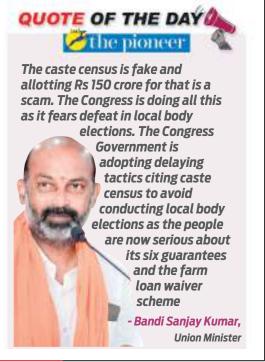
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INITIATIVE AIMED AT REVOLUTIONISING INFRA

Manchu Lakshmi on her fiery comeback in



Unhygienic conditions...

The Task Force team of Telangana's Commissioner of Food Safety inspected food courts in Secunderabad and found unhygienic conditions with rats and cockroaches along with multiple violations. The Task Force team inspected Blue Sea Tea & Snacks in Regimental Bazar, Secunderabad, and found rats and cockroaches roaming in the kitchen. The FSSAI licence was not displayed, and the kitchen lacked space, making cleaning difficult. The walls were dirty with spillage and there was no proper ...

Clash between Cong activists ...

Tension gripped Dharmaram village following a clash between the supporters of Minister for Endowments Konda Surekha and Parkal Congress MLA Revuri Prakash Reddy on Sunday. Clash between the two groups of Congress activists broke out when the followers of Prakash Reddy objected to the supporters of Surekha erected flexi banners in Dharmaram town without MLA's photo on the banners. As the police took a few followers of the Minister into custody, Surekha rushed



ONGC looks at mini plants to evacuate...

State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is looking to set up mini-l NG plants to evacuate natural gas from wells located in areas that are not connected with ninelines. The firm has identified Jharkhand and Gujarat for setting up mini plants at wellhead that will convert the gas pumped out from under the ground into liquefied natural gas (LNG) by supercooling it to minus 160 degrees celsius. This LNG will be loaded on cryogenic trucks and transported to the nearest pipeline... -PAGE: 8



Historic women's doubles bronze...

India wrapped up their campaign at the Asian Table Tennis Championships with three medals, including a historic bronze in the women's doubles, after Ayhika Mukherjee and Sutirtha Mukheriee's dream run ended in the semifinals here on Sunday. The world No. 15 pair who stunned the reigning world champions from China en route to a bronze at the Asian Games last year, fell to Japan's Miwa Harimoto and Mivuu Kihara. 4-11 9-11 8-11 in under 30 minutes in their last-four clash. Prior to that, the ...

In engineering feat, mechanical SpaceX arms catch Starship rocket booster



PNS WASHINGTON

SpaceX pulled off the boldest test flight yet of its enormous Starship rocket on Sunday, catching the returning booster back at the launch pad with mechanical arms.

A jubilant Elon Musk called it "science fiction without the fiction part". Towering almost 400 feet (121 metres), the empty Starship blasted off at sunrise from the

southern tip of Texas near the Mexican border. It arced over the Gulf of Mexico like the four Starships before it that ended up being destroyed, either soon after liftoff or while ditching into the sea. The previous one in June had been the most successful until Sunday's demo, completing its flight without exploding.

Continued on Page 5

BRS MLAS DISQUALIFICATION ISSUE

Will there be by-polls or merger?

PNS HYDERABAD

The disqualification petition issue is in court and BRS leaders are confidently saying that there will certainly be by-polls in the state.

However, BRS leaders are saying that the Congress is violating the Constitution by giving posts to BRS MLAs (MLA Arekapudi Gandhi and MLC Patnam Mahender Reddy) who joined the Congress.

Replying to BRS's allegations, Congress leaders have been asking BRS leaders to reveal whether the

The High Court issued notice to the Telangana Assembly Secretary on September 8 asking the Secretary to place the petitions before the Speaker within four weeks. The Secretary must communicate the schedule of hearings to the High Court's Registrar

constitution had not been violated when the BRS inducted 12 Congress MLAs into it during their rule.

Meanwhile, TPCC President B.

Mahesh Kumar Goud said last Friday that some more BRS MLAs and 16 more BRS MLAs are need-

Chief Whip appointed as

per Constitution: Sridhar

Countering the criticism of BRS MLA T.

Harish Rao regarding the appointment of Legislative Council Chief Whip Patnam

Mahender Reddy, Legislative Affairs Minister

Duddilla Sridhar Babu said that the Congress

government appointed him as the Chief

Whip as per the constitution. He said that

Harish is habituated to politicizing every-

thing. Sridhar asked Harish to reveal

Sridhar said.

how he when he was Legislative

Affairs Minister inducted

Congress MLAs into the BRS. Harish did not

remember the constitution

then, he said. The Council

Chairman and Assembly

Speaker take decisions only

after considering all facts,

He said the government

gave the PAČ Chairman

post to opposition

members as per con-

vention and that the

disqualification peti-

tion is now in court.

PNS HYDERABAD

are likely to join the Congress soon. However, it is certain that either

the BRSLP will merge with the CLP or by-polls will be held. Already 10 BRS MLAs have joined the Congress

Harish: How can

Congress appoint BRS

MLC as Chief Whip?

BRS MLA Harish Rao

slammed the Congress

Government's decision to

appoint BRS MLC Patnam

Mahender Reddy as the Chief

Whip and asked how the

Congress can appoint a BRS MLC as its Chief

He

Whip.

firming

expressed sur-

prise over the

official records, highlighting that despite an official bulletin

on March 15 con-

Continued on Page 5

discrepancy in

ed to merge the BRSLP with the

Meanwhile, the High Court issued notice to the Telangana Assembly Secretary on September 8 asking the Secretary to place the petitions before the Speaker within four weeks. The Secretary must communicate the schedule of hearings to the High Court's Registrar (Judicial). The Secretary must also submit a status report on the Speaker's schedule to the Judicial Registry within four weeks.

Continued on Page 5

'Degree colleges not giving provisional memos to students'



'Alai Balai inspired political JAC: CM

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said that the Alai-Balai programme inspired the formation of the political JAC when the creation of Telangana state was delayed. Alai Balai played a vital role in activating all sections of society during the Telangana Movement, the CM said.

Participating in the Alai-Balai programme held at the Nampally Exhibition Grounds on Sunday,

Exhibition Grounds on Sunday, the CM said that Bandaru Dattatreya has been organising the Alai Balai programme for the last 19 years during Dussehra regardless of politics. Dattatreya is trying his best to revive Telangana culture through Alai Balai, he added.

The Alai Balai programme also propagated the importance of the organised here on Sunday on the preservation of Telangana culture, occasion of Dussehra.

The CM said that Dussehra is the biggest festival in Telangana. Bandaru Dattatreya is synonymous with Alai Balai. Thanking Bandaru Vijayalakshmi for contin-uing Dattatreya's legacy, the CM said, "I Am confident that Bandaru Vijayalakshmi will continue the tradition of conducting Alai Balai. I have already told the government and the Congress leadership to participate in Alai Balai and preserve Telangana's culture. Leaders gave a message that 'we are all one' by attending Alai Balai.

Governors from five states, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Union Ministers G. Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay Kumar were among those who attended 'Alai Balai, an annual cultural event,

Publish KCR's Samagra Kutumba Survey report: Sanjay



PNS HYDERABAD

Alleging that the Congress has no sincerity regarding caste census, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar said that it is part of the Congress's diversion politics.

Congress thoughts are wicked regarding caste census and it is not putting in any effort regarding that, he said and added that the Congress is trying to delay local body elec-

KTR: Who is protecting Minister from ED?

PNS HYDERABAD

Without naming Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, the BRS Working President, KT Rama Rao, asked who is protecting the rich Congress Minister of Telangana from the Enforcement Directorate (ED) although the ED raided him two weeks ago and the Rs 100 crore cash that was seized is being counted.

KTR posted regarding this on Sunday night on his X account saying, "They say that reality is sometimes stranger than fiction and I am compelled to believe it now. A filthy rich congress minister in Telangana gets raided by the Enforcement Directorate two weeks

ago. Media reported that cash worth 100s of crores is being counted. Yet, till now not even a word from the Congress, the BJP or the ED. The ED said in Karnataka that Rs 40 plus crore (proceeds of crime) from the Valmiki scam was used by the Congress in TG in the recent parliament elections. Yet, no arrests, nothing!! Now, the question is, who is the big brother who is mak-

ing sure that the Congress fellows in Telangana are immune



Ex-DU professor Saibaba's body to be donated to hospital, says family

PNS ■ HYDERABAD/NEW DELHI

The body of former Delhi University professor and rights activist GN Saibaba who passed away in Hyderabad, will be donated to a hospital as he wished, said a statement issued by his family on Sunday.

Saibaba, 58, was released from the Nagpur Central Jail after 10 years of incarceration after the Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court set aside the life sentence given to him by a trial court, in an alleged Maoist links case in which the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) was

invoked. Saibaba's body will be kept at his brother's house in Jawahar Nagar, Hyderabad, for his relatives, friends and well-wishers to pay homage, on



Monday. Afterwards, his body will be donated to state-run Gandhi Medical College. His eyes have already been donated to LV Prasad Eye Hospital, the family said in a

Continued on Page 5

'200 MW solar power for TG from Gujarat'

PNS HYDERABAD

A 500 MW solar electricity project is going to be completed soon in the Kutch area of Gujarat and 200 MW of that will be supplied to Telangana, Union Minister of Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy said. He said that Rs 2000 crore can be saved due to this in the next 20 years.

Participating in the Geological Survey India Training Institute (GSITI) rooftop solar power plant installation function held on Sunday, Kishan said that the world should use technology to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

He said that to attain sustainable development goals, the use of



solar power is very important and that there is a need to concentrate on generating power using solar energy to maintain environmental

He said that nations like Russia, China and the US are producing 9 to 14 tons of carbon dioxide per individual on average. However, it is just 1.89 tons in India.

Meinhardt issues legal notice to BRS leader Manne Krishank

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Singapore-based firm, Meinhardt, issued a legal notice to BRS social media convenor Manne Krishank regarding his allegations concerning the Musi River Development Corporation Project contract of the company and asked him to withdraw his statements on social media. The notice said that Krishank made several false, malicious, politically-motivated, vindic-

tive statements against the company. Musi Riverfront Development Project contract was awarded through competitive bidding and the consortium of our client, M/s Cushman & Wakefield (India) Private Limited and Rios Design Studios Pvt. Ltd. was successful on all fronts due to their techni-

cal and financial capabilities. The tender award process was carried out transparently leaving no room for manipulation," the legal notice said.

The company in its legal notice said that no case has been filed by the Government of Singapore against Meinhardt. The red warrant referred to was wrongly issued and has been revoked. No such warrant is pending against officials of Meinhardt. There is no debarment of Meinhardt by the Airport Authority of India and that can be verified through their website, it said. Meinhardt asked Krishnk to withdraw the defamatory, unfounded and baseless allegation made against Meinhardt on social media, the press and on web portals and issue a written public apology to Meinhardt for damaging its reputation.

Monday Mirchi

The other day, when the Union Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) asked restive babus to go to the respective Telugu states to which they had been initially allotted upon bifurcation; few would have thought that they would be left to their own devices with hardly any support from their current, or rather, preferred political masters. In Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu's silence on the cadre issue has irked bureaucrats who had counted on him to intervene and halt the cadre change orders. A little bird told us that the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister is not keen on entertaining the discussion. This being so, it seems Telangana cadre bureaucrats tried their luck with Union Ministers to stop DoPT in their tracks. But their efforts fell flat with no traction at the central level. The buzz is that, given larger bifurcation issues that are still lingering, Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy too may just follow DoPT orders so as to refrain from upsetting the apple-cart. Many politicians do feel that these bureaucrats should simply return to their allotted cadres and be done with it. Yet the whispers in the corridors of power suggest that, as things stand, some of the most efficient bureaucrats might find themselves back in Andhra Pradesh, with Telangana left holding the baby, instead of reciprocal cadre change. Amidst all this, some of these bureaucrats are determined to stay put where they are, particularly those in TG, and they might take the legal route to have their way, whether it means approaching the Supreme Court for a stay order or otherwise.

VOID IN LEADERSHIP ERODES

CREDIBILITY IN MUSI PROJECT The operations of HYDRAA (The Hyderabad Disaster Response & Asset Protection Agency) are hydra-headed considering the multiple wings involved in the Musi rejuvenation project, which has become a prestige issue for the Congress government. Despite facing severe backlash, the state government is professedly committed to take forward the project to its logical conclusion. However, the Musi River Development Corporation Limited (MRDCL), tasked with overseeing the ambitious project, does not have a full-time Managing Director to helm its affairs. Instead, Principal Secretary MAUD Dana Kishore, a seasoned officer from the 1996 batch, holds the full additional charge with P Gowthami from the 2021 batch serving as the Joint Secretary, leaving a yawning two-decade plus gap between the two. Given the scale and importance of the project, many are questioning why there is no other senior officer to act as a bridge between the two. Since such a crucial position has been left vacant, concerns are being raised over the project's execution and even credibility. The Opposition's

MRDCL apart, it is amply clear that, for a project of this magnitude, a robust leadership team is non-negotiable to ensure smooth coordination and timely implementation. A full-time MD can and must do a lot more than one with FAC.

MORE THAN A CLICHÉ IN BABUDOM

Some phrases become predictable and sound déjà vu through overuse and fall by the wayside as clichés. But when administrative policies are wrapped with clichés, there is the larger threat of those policies becoming the butt of babus' jokes. In July, the Chief Secretary of Telangana issued a note to Collectors urging them to conduct field visits, with a rider that their performance weekly to mance would be evaluated using the 'carrot and stick' policy. Yes, you read that right-who would use 'carrot and stick' in an official note? Still, last week photos of Collectors out in the field were sent around like evidence of their new-found diligence. But in bureaucratic circles, the real gossip isn't about the fieldwork under close watch, but the agebeaten phrase! Those on field had a field day cracking jokes on the poor phrase that may never be discarded in official lingo. All told, those who appeared diligent on the field are awaiting results with bated breath.

KATA'S CUT SHORT TENURE **SPARKS MEDIA BUZZ**

Some people -- no-nonsense dudes and dames to be precise -- are known to carry a resignation letter in their pocket. Some others know in the heart of their hearts that they are not meant for the long haul, given their own abbreviated timelines for self-directed tasks against odds. At a press meet exactly a month ago, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Commissioner Amrapali Kata insinuated at the uncertainty of her tenure. When asked why GHMC was spending Rs 22 crore on a GIS survey amid the civic body's mounting debts, staff demands for higher salaries, and other growing expenses, she said matter-offactly: "Yes, the survey was originally slated to be completed in eighteen months, but I'm not confident I'll still be in the department by then. Before I leave, I want to ensure the project is completed and deliver a neverbefore-seen initiative for the betterment of Hyderabad". To put things in perspective, she added that many initiatives had been left unfinished, with the GIS survey being one of them. She is perhaps destined to do other things in Andhra Pradesh. The strange coincidence is that Visakhapatnam is listed as her 'permanent address', as per her own entry in UPSC form, though for correspondence purposes. Although she had dug in her heels in Telangana, her plea to be allowed to remain in the state has just been rejected by DoPT. So, on hindsight, was her remark about her "uncertain future" in GHMC premonition or just wishful thinking?

--Yours truly

ment begins, all free of cost.'

Special student cell is available

for campus students. It has been

a year and this cell is a boon for

the students who are feeling low.

In one such case a graduate who

was suicidal approached the

cell and immediately the student

was counselled and though the

student insisted that nobody

understands the situation, his

parents were called and accomo-

dation was given to them. Then

the student saw the affection and

understanding of the parents

and is doing better. The

Psychiatry department is also

managing MLC cases which

are mostly alcoholic harassment

The de-addiction centres is

part of the State government

helping to treat the addictions

and schizophrenia.

of individuals.

Stop Adani Ambuja group's plan to establish cement factory

PNS HYDERABAD

Local people submitted a petition to Bhongir MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy to prevent the Adani Ambuja group from establishing its cement factory in Ramannapet mandal and to protect the environment and public health.

public health.

Two years ago after telling farmers that a logistic park was going to be set up and after purchasing around 350 acres for that in Kommaigudem in the Ramannapet mandal of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district, a notification was issued regarding a public meeting on October 23 on the Adani



Ambuja cement industry. The people of Ramannapet mandal submitted a petition to MP Chamala Kiran Kumar

Reddy in the presence of Nakirekal MLA Vemula Veeresham to stop the construction of the Adani Ambuja

Company Ramannapet mandal.

Kiran promised to bring it to the attention of higher officials and the government.

The people said that the villages of Kommaigudem, Ramannapet, Siripuram,

Dubbaka, Tummalagudem, Peddakaparthi etc would be

affected by the cement factory. They said that dust and fumes from the cement factory would spread around 10 km and the huge noise would also be a constant inconvenience to the public.

The cement plant's waste products like fly ash, slag, gypsum, clinker, coal, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxide etc would be released into the atmosphere causing lung diseases, skin diseases, miscarriage, stunted children, eyesight problems etc, they said.

Political parties relevant only till elections: Mahesh

PNS HYDERABAD

The Alai Balai programme became famous across the nation as it is being held irrespective of politics, castes and religions, TPCC chief B. Mahesh Kumar Goud said.

He said that political parties are relevant till elections and there is a need to come together for the development of the state and for preserving traditions.

Participating in Haryana Governor Bandaru Governor Dattatreya's Alai-Balai programme on Sunday at the Nampally Exhibition Grounds, Mahesh said that political leaders have to develop the state and cooperate with each other.

Sudhakar congratulates Kishan Reddy

PNS HYDERABAD

The BJP co-in-charge of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, Dr Ponguleti Sudhakar Reddy, felicitated Jammu and Kashmir election in-charge and the BJP's Telangana State President and Union Cabinet Minister Kishan Reddy, for securing the highest vote share in the Jammu & Kashmir Assembly elections and winning in Haryana under the leadership of leaders.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The felicitation was held during the BJP's senior Telangana leaders' meeting held at Hyderabad on Sunday in the presence of Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar, BJP OBC Morcha President Dr Laxman, MP Eatala Rajender, BJP leaders N. Ramchander Rao, National Executive Member G. Mohan Rao, and other senior BJP

Avoid offensive language in politics, says Kishan

PNS HYDERABAD

Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya organised the Alai Balai programme irrespective of political affiliations, however, politicians showed their true colours by criticising each other indirectly.
Criticising the use of foul

language in politics, the Union Minister of Coal and Mines, G. Kishan Reddy, said there is no problem if they criticise each other. However, that criticism should not make people hate their language. He hoped that politicians would change their speaking style as well as their

language. Leaders may fight each other during elections but they should forget that and work for public welfare

Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said that some politicians are inciting communal hatred and that they should control themselves. He appealed to



Bandaru Dattatreya to without inciting communal ensure that leaders spoke feelings.

BJP leader Gudur felicitated at *Alai Balai*

al 'Alai Balai' program organized by Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya.

Gudur was felicitated for producing a movie on the atrocities of the Razakars in erstwhile Hyderabad State from August 1947 to September 1948. It may be recalled that Gudur Narayana

Senior BJP leader Gudur Narayana Reddy was felici-tated on Sunday at the annu-Genocide of Hyderabad.' The movie was released this year all over the country in Telugu, Hindi, Marathi and other Indian languages.

Gudur came forward to make a movie on the atrocities of Razakars in Hyderabad when no one from Telangana or other parts of the country dared to take up the task.

Mallu Ravi calls Revanth a Gandhi Hospital Psychiatry Dept

revolutionary leader

PNS HYDERABAD

Declaring that the BIP wants to kill Nehru's ideas, the Congress's Nagarkurnool MP, Mallu Ravi, termed Chief Minister Revanth Reddy as the leader of a silent revolution.

Mallu Ravi said in Tamil Nadu, Karunanidhi and Jayalalitha are considered revolutionary leaders and similarly, Revanth Reddy should be called a 'revolutionary leader'

Addressing the media on Sunday at the Gandhi Bhavan along with leaders Nuthi Srikanth Goud and N. Preetham, Mallu Ravi said that Musi beautification is not possible without cleaning the river and rehabilitating the affected

He said that there is no need to learn lessons from the opposition. Leaders of BRS should

reveal what they have done to Telangana with the loan of Rs is working hard for the devel opment of Telangana, he said. He said that the CM is

determined to place Hyderabad on the world map and that for youth he established the Skill and Sports universities. "Revanth has defended constitutional values. The BJP and

the BRS want to water down constitutional rights. HYDRAA will cause temporary problems to the people but lakhs of people in Hyderabad will benefit from that, he said. He said that the education system was weakened during

BRS rule. 5,000 schools were closed in 10 years. "The government has launched the construction of integrated residential schools of international standards in 28 constituencies.

No spot booking at Sabarimala: Minister



PNS THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Devaswom Minister V N Vasavan on Sunday made it clear that there will be no spot booking at Sabarimala, but assured that no devotee who comes to the Lord Ayyappa temple during the annual Mandalam-Makaravilakku pilgrimage season will miss out on

darshan'. The assurance came a day after the BJP threatened to carry out agitations if the government goes ahead with its plan to not allow spot booking and permit darshan only

through the virtual queue sys-

In the virtual queue system, pilgrims can book their darshan tickets and prasadam online through the official website of the Sabarimala temple.

In spot booking, pilgrims can book slots for their darshan at designated centres identified by the Devaswom Board.

The opposition Congressled UDF too has been urging the government to retain spot booking along with the virtual queue booking as it cannot expect all the devotees to be familiar with the technology.

BJP to strongly oppose Fourth City PNS HYDERABAD

The BJP decided to fight the Congress Government for using lands acquired for constructing the Pharma City to The party decided to ask the government to give back the lands to farmers if it wanted to use them for Fourth City. The BJP decided to oppose Fourth City strongly.
On Sunday, the BJP's top

leaders in TG had a meeting at the Dilkusha Guest House under the leadership of Telangana BJP President G. Kishan Reddy.

The leaders discussed the HYDRAA, the Musi project and the stand the party would take at the all-party meeting on HYDRAA and Musi cleansing.

Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar, Rajya Sabha MP Dr K. Laxman, Malkajgiri MP Eatala Rajender and others attended the meeting.

TODAY **ALMANAC**

Nakshatram

■ HYDERABAD

The Psychiatry department of

the government Gandhi

Hospital is lacking a full-time

Psychologist. The department

has written to senior doctors,

including supritendent of the

Gandhi Hospital for sanction-

patients visiting the Psychiatry

department of Gandhi Hospital

for sometime now and there

are nearly 40 clients walking in

for in-patients as the depart-

Professor, Incharge Head of the

department, Department of

Psychiatry, speaking to The

for outpatient every day.

ment has 30 beds.

There has been a rise in

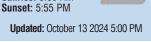
ing and to fill the position.

Ekadashi: Oct 13 09:09 AM to Oct 14 06:41 AM Dwadashi: Oct 14 06:41 AM

Shatabhisha: Purva Bhadrapada Oct 15 12:42 AM to Oct 15 10:08 PM 7:53 AM to 9:20 AM 10:46 AM to 12:12 PM Yamaqandam: 08:25 AM to 10:08 AM Varjyam: 1:39 PM to 3:05 PM

06:08 PM to 07:36 PM Abhiiit Muhurtham: 11:49 AM to 12:35 PM **HYDERABAD WEATHER**

Forecast: Mostly Cloudy **Temp:** 31[∞] Humidity: 71% Sunrise: 6:09 AM



Karnataka BJP MPs betrayed people of the state: CM

PNS MYSURE (KATNATAKA)

seeks full-time psychologist

Hospital. We are requesting the

officials and have also written

programmes such as drama,

awareness walks and talks most-

ly in front of the out-patient

to understand various aspects of

depression, anxiety and suicidal

Explaining the inflow of

patients, Dr Anupama said,

Most of our patients are com-

"We have been doing many

to fill in the position.'

There are nearly 15 patients department for the individuals

Pioneer said, "There is more ing with personality disorders

Dr K Anupama, Assistant tendencies," she added.

stress on appointing a and we assess/investigate their Psychologist for the Gandhi personality and them to

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday hit out at the BJP MPs from Karnataka for not raising their voice against the injustice to the state in tax

He appealed to people to rise against the 'injustice' to the state. Addressing reporters, Siddaramaiah said the state has received Rs 6,498 crore while Uttar Pradesh got Rs 31,987 crore, marking

a huge difference in the tax devolu-

tion between the two states. "People need to raise their voice against the injustice to Karnataka. The BJP leaders supporting the Centre are betraying the people of the state, be it Pralhad Joshi or anyone

else," he said.
"So many MPs have gone from



Karnataka. They need to raise their voice, which they have not done."

According to the CM, the state has incurred a loss of Rs 60,000 crore in tax devolution in five years.

Asked about the next move of the government on this, Siddaramaiah said he would discuss it with his cabinet colleagues.

In a statement on this issue on

Saturday, Siddaramaiah questioned, "Uttar Pradesh, infamous for its poor governance, has been allocated Rs 31,962 crore; Bihar, Rs 17,921 crore; Madhya Pradesh, Rs 13,987 crore; and Rajasthan, Rs 10,737 crore. Why should the sweat and toil of Karnataka fuel the growth of states that have lagged behind due to maladministration?"

On the cabinet's decision to grant clemency to Hubballi rioters belonging to minority community, Siddaramaiah said several RSS leaders were also released when the BJP was in power.

The Congress government in Karnataka on Thursday decided to withdraw a criminal case registered against a mob which had attacked policemen with stones on April 16, 2022 in Hubballi town.

Baba Siddique's murder sparks political storm

Oppn alleges collapse of law and order in Maharashtra

PNS NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

The murder of NCP leader Baba Siddique in Mumbai kicked off a political storm, with the opposition parties, including the Congress, on Sunday alleging "complete collapse" of law and order in Maharashtra where assembly polls are due next month. The BJP and the NCP, the

ruling parties in the state, asserted that those involved in the killing of Siddique will not be spared, and slammed the Opposition for indulging in "petty politics" on the crime.

Sixty-six-year-old Siddique, a former Maharashtra minis-



ter who joined the Ajit Pawarled NCP in February this year after quitting the Congress, was waylaid by three men at Kher Nagar in Mumbai's Bandra area just outside his MLA son Zeeshan Siddique's office and shot dead on

Saturday night.

Police have arrested two of the alleged assailants, identified as Haryana resident Gurmail Baljit Singh (23) and Uttar Pradesh native Dharmaraj Rajesh Kashyap (19), while third accused is on the run.

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Taj Mahal Hotel, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad October 16, From 10 am to 1 pm

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 Show on view till October 16, 11 am to 6 pm.

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 October 16. 6:30 pm

Toxic

By Abhishek Upmanyu

Venue Shilpakala Vedika

November 2

Prateek Kuhad Slhouettes tour.

Venue

Hyderabad international convention centre November 8

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

> **Trailing Ivy Cafe** till November 17

Private employee loses Rs 1.12 lakh to cyber fraudster

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Cyber fraudsters cheated Re 1.12 lakh from a 22-year-old employee in Hyderabad. In the guise of bank officials, the fraudsters got information of the credit card details and cheated her.

She said that in September a person called her as an ICICI Bank executive and asked for the credit card details. After that he sent an apk file to her WhatsApp number, he asked her to download the apk file. He spoke in Hindi and asked her to set the limit for the credit card and update few settings for credit card.

On believing him, the victim updated the settings and limit of her credit card. On that, she received debited amount messages of total Rs 1,12,720,74 in a total of 13 transactions. Later, she realised that it was a fraud and he cheated her in the name of updating her ICICI Bank cred-

City Pioneer



HYDERABAD MONDAY | OCTOBER 14, 2024

Unhygienic conditions found in Secunderabad food courts

The Task Force team of Telangana's Commissioner of Food Safety inspected food courts in Secunderabad and found unhygienic conditions with rats and cockroaches along with multiple viola-

The Task Force team inspected Blue Sea Tea & Snacks in Regimental Bazar, Secunderabad, and found rats and cockroaches roaming in the kitchen. The FSSAI licence was not displayed, and the kitchen lacked space, making cleaning difficult. The walls were dirty with spillage and there was no proper ventilation or lighting. Dustbins were inadequate and no medical fitness or FOSTAC training certificates were available.

Later on, the State-level Task Force team also inspected Sree Sai Balaji Foods on SD Road and found the kitchen floor was littered with food waste and both veg and non-veg items were stored together. Rotten lemons were found and some refrigerators were dirty. Food articles were improperly labelled and stagnant water was observed in a clogged wash basin.

Meanwhile, the Task Force team also conducted inspec-

Congress party member

Lubna Sarvat alleged that due

to non-reimbursement of bal-

ance fee under scholarship

from the government to the

colleges, colleges are with-

holding the marks memo and provisional certificate that the

students have to submit at PG

college for admissions under

convenor quota for the acad-

leges in withholding certifi-

cates of students is in contempt

of recent High Court order

dated June 3, 2024, as well as

against the UGC guidelines.

She said that the act of col-

PNS HYDERABAD

tions at Mithaiwala Sweet House in Karimnagar and found the FSSAI licence was not prominently displayed along with expired yellow sugar paste in pastries. Excess food colouring was used and label defects were seen.

Medical fitness certificates,

She said that both the court

and the University Grants

NON-REIMBURSEMENT OF FEE

'Degree colleges not giving

provisional memos to students'

original.'

pest control records and water analysis reports were

missing. Finally, the State-level Task Force team inspected Maitri Hotel in Karimnagar and found open dustbins were too close to the cooking area. The roof had spider webs and oil buildup, and food was exposed to flies. Synthetic food colours were used and hygiene was not maintained

in the kitchen. The Task Force team stated that a notice will be issued and further action will be ■ The Task Force team inspected Blue Sea Tea & Snacks in Regimental Bazar, Secunderabad, and found rats and cockroaches roaming in the kitchen. The FSSAI licence was not displayed, and the kitchen lacked space, making cleaning difficult. The walls were dirty with spillage and there was no proper ventilation or lighting

Consumer court orders an eatery to pay

The Nalgonda District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission ordered Chiguru Restaurant at Jubilee Hills to pay Rs 3,000 for charging Rs 274 in the name of Service Tax optional' (ST OPT). The court also ordered the restaurant to refund Rs 274 of ST OPT and Rs 1,000 for costs of the complainant.

B Harish Kumar Goud is a businessman. He went to the Chiguru Restaurant on October 28, 2023 along with his clients. After having lunch, the restaurant brought a bill of Rs 3,116. The complainant noticed an additional 10 per cent of ST OPT tax of Rs 274.90. The complainant called the waitress and informed her that collecting ST OPT is an illegal practice which is not supposed to be added in the bill and requested her to remove and furnish another bill deducting that amount. But the restaurant denied the request and the complainant was compelled to pay the bill including that tax. After receiving the legal notice from Harish Kumar, the restaurant paid Rs 274 to him. But they did not stop

Considering all these facts, the court ordered

Rs 3,000 to a customer

PNS HYDERABAD

collecting the money illegally.

compensation to the complainant.

Erragadda at Begum Bazaar for Ramesh Kumar. their livelihood. Don't fall prey to misinfo: Hyd City Police

Shops selling fake

products in Begum

Bazaar raided

indulging in illegal

procuring, selling of

duplicate

GoodNight liquid, Gold Flash Combi

Pack, Lizol liquid

surface cleaner,

Fevikwik one drop

instant by violating

Copyright Act and selling through their

known sources

thereby misleading

the innocent cus-

tomers and making

them believe that

they are original

products of the

branded companies.

The police seized

duplicate general

material worth Rs 2

from Rajasthan and

a few years back

Hyderabad, run-

ning general trading

migrated

The accused hail

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The sleuths of

Commissioner's

Task Force, Central

Zone, along with copyright field agents have raided

shops near Begum Bazar for violating

copyright and sell-ing fake products of

brands to cus-

They were dupli-

cate general con-

sumer goods sales

shops in the limits

of Begum Bazaar,

Erragadda and three

persons were appre-

hended. They are

identified as RM

General Store pro-

prietor Ramesh

. Kumar Parmar, Sri

Saroj Agency pro-

Pawar and

Hitesh

prietor

Traders

tomers.

PNS HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad City Police has warned individuals not to spread misinformation on a recent incident of finding meat in front of a temple near Masab Tank in Hyderabad.

On Sunday, in a release the Hyderabad City Police said that there was misinformation in the form of pictures and videos circulating that meat had been found in front of the temple and they investigated the details.

"Last night, in the Masab Tank area, police officials received information that animal meat was found on the road in front of a temple. Upon reaching the spot and investigating, CCTV footage revealed that a stray dog was carrying a piece of meat in its mouth and the dog accidentally dropped it on the road near the temple before leaving the area," said

The Police have urged that legal action will be taken against those who spread misinfor-

Experts seek release of study on gender bias in film industry

PNS HYDERABAD

Commission (UGC) are clear Experts wrote to Chief Minister A that 'it would not be permis-Revanth Reddy, Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari, Minister Seethakka, sible for institutions and universities to retain the school among others, seeking urgency for the release of 2019-2022 report by and institution, leaving certificate, marks sheet, caste certifia High-Level Sub Committee on cate and other documents in study of gender bias and sexual She said that even if stuharassment in the film industry, with

dents do not have reimburseno further delay. In a recent tele-meeting, a senior ment facility, no certificate can be withheld for want of fees dues to the college or uni-The High Court has clearly stated that educational insti-

stating that once artists gain some visibility in films or television, it becomes difficult for them to transition to other professions. This tutions do not hold lien on the forces them to continuously seek work within the industry. The artist students' certificates

also mentioned that non-locals, particularly from Karnataka, are being given both artistic and technical roles, making it harder for local talent in the Telugu film and television industry to find opportunities.

Meanwhile, the Kannada industry does not provide similar chances to Telugu individuals, even when they are fluent in Kannada, said the

"At this point, we would also like ducers to create responsible content, as was aptly noted by three women IPS officers on duty. We urge a serious discussion on the issues raised, which resonates with society at large," added Dr Lubna Sarwath,

Member, Congress, Hyderabad, Engineer Prameela Kumari, Member, Congress, Hyderabad, Advocate Qudsia Tabassum, Human Rights and Waqf Activist,

Iyderabad. The artist further emphasised the struggles faced by women in the

industry, noting that many are pressured to comply with demands that go beyond their acting or technical

tionally talented women who, despite these challenges, continue to support their families through other means, such as selling idlis, while waiting for opportunities based on merit in the Telugu film industry.

EESL struggles as GHMC holds back Rs.144.48 cr

PNS HYDERABAD

The Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture under the Ministry of Power, is facing financial struggles as the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has failed to clear outstanding payments of Rs 144.48 crore. Despite this, EEŚL continues to maintain 5.48 lakh LED streetlights in Hyderabad.

According to T Ramesh, State Head, EESL, the GHMC recently issued a tender for 15,000 new streetlights at Rs 3 crore, though it has not paid the EESL. This delay is not due to poor performance, as EESL has maintained the streetlights and addressed 98.9% of complaints. It has also replaced 44,753 faulty lights and installed 3,600 new ones in the past two months.

Since 2018, 10,655 streetlights have been damaged in GHMC areas due to external factors like lightning and accidents, which are not covered by EESL's contract.

Ramesh also said that the EESL has installed 1.723 million streetlights across Telangana, saving 193 MW of power annually. However, Telangana owes EESL Rs 314 crore, delaying payments by up to 24 months, impacting the project's sustainability.

TGGENCO promotes engineers

The Telangana Generation Corporation Limited (TGGENCO) has issued promotion orders for various engineering services on an adhoc The promotions were issued

to the assistant divisional engineers (Mechanical): 12 engineers have been promoted as divisional engineers (Mechanical) under Regulation-14(a)(1) of Service TGGENCO Regulations Part-II. Their promotion is temporary and sub-

ject to review or termination without notice. Posting orders will be issued separately and seniority will be determined

Superintending engineers (Electrical): Two superintending engineers have been promoted to chief engineers (Electrical) on a temporary basis. Similar conditions apply regarding review, termination, and seniority. Divisional

engineers (Electrical): Seven engineers have been promoted to Superintending Engineers (Electrical) temporarily.

Assistant engineers (AEs) and additional assistant engineers (AAEs): 170 AE's and 33 AAE's from various disciplines, including Electrical, Mechanical and Telecom, have been promoted as assistant divisional engineers. Divisional engineers (Mechanical): Three engineers have been promoted as superintending engi-

All promotions are ad-hoc and subject to review and the outcome of court cases. TGGENCO stated that posting orders and seniority decisions will be made later.

neers (Mechanical).

Hyd Collectorate to bring 'Land Bank app' to save government lands

PNS HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad collectorate is going to launch a 'Land Bank app' soon to prevent the encroachment of government lands. Initially, the government planned to launch this app on or before August 15 but due to some reasons, that could not happen.

A source from the revenue department said that this App will have all the information about the government lands, which are parks, unoccupied lands and other lands. The information will be placed in government web-

sites for the public. "Even some of the officials do not know about government lands in the city. If this technology starts, even officials could come to an understanding of the lands. For example, if the government asks to provide 5 acres of land in a certain area, we will provide the information instantly about the land and area. Not only that, it will prevent encroachments also," said the revenue official.

The official said that even the revenue officials at mandal level would visit the government lands and update the app every two months.

Metamorphosis of a city

dhe metamorphosis of Hyderabad, originally founded in 1591 to ease the congestion and water scarcity in the existing Qutub Shahi capital of Golconda, into a global hub of technology and industry is a fascinating journey that recently published book "Beyond Biryani" by Dinesh C. Sharma (Westland), tries to capture with absorbing details. For the author who is a Hyderabadi himself (now settled in Delhi) Hyderabad must be a place in his heart and hence, he tries to recount its story with all the affection and sensitivity, it deserves.

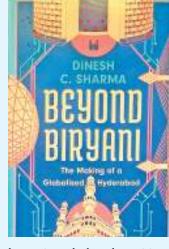
As the author recounts in the introductory chapter:

"This book is an attempt to capture the remarkable story of the rapid transformation of Hyderabad from what was, at best a proto colonial city in a quasi-Mughal princely State until 1940s, to a modern to almost the entire journey, either directly or through collective fam-

This is paradoxically the strength and weakness of the book, that is the result of painstaking research sponsored by Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Fund. While it affords a ring side view to the author, at times it is vulnerable to personal predilections and prejudices which he tries to avoid diligently, of course. There is also the tendency to miss the woods for the trees and references to persons and their roles in shaping the destiny of the City over the centuries, which was undeniably significant in this case. Hyderabad was lucky to have successive ruling elite from the Qutub Shahi, Asaf Jahis and post independence period that were forward looking and ably assisted by competent

Fortunately, I have been a witness able to execute their visions into

In this regard, one cannot overemphasise the contributions of Hussain Shah Wali (who made Hussain Sagar as a man made water source in 1562, which became a trigger for Hyderabad 30 years later), Mir Momin Astrabadi, the Persian Architect who designed Hyderabad, inspired by Isfahan in Iran, Salar Jungs I,II, III, Sir M Vishweshwariah who introduced modern town planning after the devastating Musi floods in 1908, Edward Lawrie, Ronald Ross and Sherwani who introduced modern scientific temper and education system prodded by British Residents to address the needs of the place during World War I and subsequent period. Similarly, in the 1990s, coinciding with the liberalisation of Indian economy and advent of IT/ ITES boom that vibrant metropolis. Ministers/bureaucrats who were pitchforked Hyderabad to the big



league, it was lucky to have visionary political leadership that wanted to take advantage of the circumstances, ably assisted by a number of competent bureaucrats viz, R Chandrasekhar, Randeep Sudan, J Satyanarayana, Sheela Bhide, Jayesh Ranjan and Arvind Kumar. Yours truly was also fortunate to contribute a bit in Cyberabad, Knowledge city at Raidurg, Financial Dist, HICC and Life science cluster at Genome valley, which has been a labour of love over two decades. What is important about this

book, is that it faithfully and meticulously records these mile-stones in the evolution of Hyderabad, laced with interesting sidelights and anecdotes, not widely known, which makes it eminently readable. It is not a cumbersome and boring account of events and dates but lively narrative of the concomitant processes that are analysed with the academic rigour, that makes it unique. A case in point is the chapter on Osmania University, originally based on the Japanese model of vernacular edu-

cation, which subsequently spawned several research institutions in its proximity, such as, IICT, NIN, CCMB, CDFD, NGRI, IDPL which made it the epicentre of a modern science cluster, which promoted Pharma and Biotech industry around Hyderabad in later years.

It was almost a catalytic process that led one thing to another, or "chain reaction" as the author calls it and Hyderabad was fortunate to be part of this unique unfolding of cascading eco system.

The author also tries to allude to the cost of development in terms of its effects on heritage and ecology and devotes the penultimate chapter entitled "the price of development" and highlights the need to address these concerns, shared by many old Hyderabadis like himself who bemoan the decline of the syncretic Ganga Jamuni tehzeeb of the place and its old world, laid

back charm. Luckily, all is not lost and Hyderabad, at least some part of it, continue to exude the aura of a traditional city with a modern face, which prompted the famous National Geographic journal to name the city as one of 10 most attractive tourist destinations in

All in all, this book is indeed a unique effort to document the recent history of Hyderabad and trace its evolution over the last 4 centuries, which faithfully records the milestone and processes that

make it what it is today. A must read for lovers of urban development and modern history and of course, those who cherish Hyderabad and its cultural heritage. Kudos to the author for this remarkable endeavour.

> (Review by BP Acharya, IAS retd, former Special Chief Secretary)





HYDERABAD | MONDAY | OCTOBER 14, 2024

'Contaminated' water claims two lives, 30 fall ill

At a time the when Dasara was celebrated, tragedy struck Sanjeevarao Pet village under Narayanakhed dmandal in Sangareddy district on Saturday as two persons died and 30 fell ill after drinking due to suspected water contamination.

The village of Sanjeevarao Peta is getting potable water under Mission Bhagiradha water for the past three days, forcing the villagers to consume water from the a well in the village.

Upon drinking the well water, the villagers developed dehydration. At least, persons suffered from vomiting and diarrohea. They were admitted to gov-

PNS BHADRADRI

A constable committed sui-

cide alleging harassment by

two sub-inspectors of police.

In a selfie video, the constable,

identified Bhukya Sagar,

accused the sub-inspector of

Burgampadu police station

in the district of implicating in

a case related to the disappear-

ance of seized marijuana from

A big haul of marijuana was

seized in various cases by the

Burgampadu police. It, how-

ever, went missing. Bhukya

Sagar expressed his anguish,

stating he was blamed for it.

He alleged that the Sub-

Inspector Santosh, and anoth-

er officer Nani sold contra-

band to some youngster and

that he was implicated simply

the police station.

KOTHAGUDEM



hospitalised has been stated

to be critical. police rushed to the village, along with officials concerned and collected the samples of water from the well and sent them to the

him to the hospital. He died

while undergoing treatment in

Bhukya Sagar recorded a

selfie video on his mobile phone holding two police

sub-inspectors and another

individual responsible for his

act and the video went viral

In the video, Sagar

addressed his wife Ashwini

telling her that he consumed

pesticide to end his life and

asked her to take care of their

anguish, saying that the sub-inspector should have been

held responsible if sized con-

traband went missing from

the police station. But, in this

case, he was held responsible for the disappearance of the contraband, he pointed out.

The constable expressed

on social media.

children.

laboratory for chemical analysis.

Meanwhile, the officials set up a health camp in the village. The police registered

The police have been probing the case why Mission Bhagiradha water supply was stopped to the village for the past three The villagers lamented that they were forced to drink the well water which is apparently polluted as there is no alternative to them.

Under the project, Krishna and Godavari river waters are purified and supplied to the whole State. He asked the government to take steps to prevent recurrence of such incidents elsewhere in Telangana in future.

Man throw kids into well, ends life

A pall of gloom descended on Nandiwada village of Tadwai mandal in Nizamabad district district as a man committed suicide after throwing his two minor children in

According to police, the 35-year-old Srinivas Reddy and his wife Aparna had two sons, named Vignesh (6) and Anirudh (4). He took his children, saying that they were going to immerse an idol on Saturday night. But he failed to return home.

When his wife called home at 10 pm, there was no response. The police were

The bodies of two children were found in an agricultural well on Sunday. Though srinivas Reddy footwear was found near the well, his whereabouts were not immediately known. Later, body of Srinvias Reddy was also found in the well.

The bodies were sent for post-mortem to the Government Hospital. Investigation is underway.

bridge to lean dangerously. Villagers and travelers fear the bridge could

collapse at any moment, putting countless lives at risk. The issue has

been raised with the authorities mul-

tiple times, yet no corrective mea-

This road is the primary route for

collapsed and

the remaining

section is on the

verge of falling.

Nighttime travel

sures have been taken.

Bitcoin scam in Nirmal? What is the status of the investigation into Bitcoin and cryptocurrency? Nearly 500 people in the district

PNS KAMAREDDY

reportedly invested in Bitcoin. Were the actual masterminds behind the scam identified? Are there any details about how many bigwigs are involved?

All the questions cropped up now with the report that the Enforcement Directorate has turned its attention to The Enforcement Directorate offi-

cials are understood to have made

enquiries from local police.

played a key role. There are also allegations that the police failed to investigate the role of a few prominent per-The police so far arrested eight people. Have the police uncovered evidence related to bank transactions? The question of why the investigation

seems to have come to a standstill.

teachers are allegedly involved in this illegal Bitcoin business. There

have been reports that some promi-

nent teachers, who have received

awards as the best teachers in the State

and leaders of teachers' associations



ED turns its attention to

Laksha Pushparchana performed at Yadadri temple

PNS YADAGIRIGUTTA

In a grand celebration of the Ekadashi festival, the Yadadri Lakshminarasimha Temple conducted a special Laksha Pushparchana on the occasion. This ritual, which involved the offering of one lakh flowers to Lord Lakshminarasimha, was held with immense reverence and devotion at the temple's main hall, attracting a large gathering of devotees.

The event was graced by Beerla laiah, MLA and Government Whin and Mall Reddy, MLA from Ibrahimpatnam, who visited the temple to seek the blessings of Lord Lakshminarasimha. The dignitaries were given a special darshan (viewing) of the deity and were also part of the

religious proceedings.
Under the leadership of Bhaskar Rao, the Chief Executive Officer of the temple, meticulous arrangements were made for the darshan and Vedic rituals. The temple staff organised the ceremony with great attention to detail, ensuring that the devotees and the visiting dignitaries had a seamless spiritual experience. In a gesture of devotion and support

for the temple, Malllela Narsing Rao, Renuka, and Nacchara Vastavyulu presented five silver kalashas (sacred vessels) to the temple, which were handed over through the Chief Executive Officer. This contribution added to the temple's rich tradition of receiving offerings from devoted patrons.

well-known philanthropist, made a significant donation of Rs 77,985.00 for the golden plating of the temple's gopuram (spire).

This donation was handed over to the temple's Donor Cell, highlighting the continuous support the temple receives from the community.

The event was a blend of devotion and cultural significance, with participants coming together to celebrate Lord Lakshminarasimha's blessings on the auspicious day of Ekadashi.



PNS YADADRI BHUVANAGIRI

In a move to protect the environment and public health, local residents from Ramannapet Mandal in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district submitted a petition to Bhongir MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, urging him to ensure that licence granted to Adani Ambuja Cement Factory at Kommaigudem is cancelled.

Two years ago, local farmers were promised that a logistics park would be set up in the area, leading to the purchase of over 350 acres of land. However, recently, a notification seeking public opinion for the establishment of the cement factory was issued. The officials will seek public opinion on October 23.

Residents of Ramannapet Mandal have been living peacefully without any pollution, but the proposed factory is now threatening to disrupt the tranquillity. The plant will be located in close proximity to several villages, including Kommaigudem, Ramannapet, Siripuram, Bogaram, Neernemal, Janampalli, Nidhanpalli, Vellanki, Dubbaka, Tummalagudem, and Peddakaparthi, all within a 1

to 5 km radius.

Congress MLA V Shankar taking part in Dasara celebrations in Shadnagar on Saturday

Vijayadashmi celebrated with grandeur in Shadnagar

PNS RANGAREDDY

Vijayadashami celebration were held at the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Shadnagar town with grandeur. Several leaders from various political parties participated.

MLA Veerlapalli Shankar and MLC Naveen Kumar Reddy took part in the celebrations, emphasising the importance of the festival.

They said that when suffering in the world increases and sins reach their peak, the god would punish wrongdoers and protect the righteous. Prominent figures who attended the celebrations included Vishwa Hindu Parishad president Bandari Ramesh, Congress leaders Chennaiah, Chendi Tirupati Reddy, Dangu Srinivas, and Vishwam. BRS leaders Municipal Chairman Narendra, Chetla Narsimha, Pilli Shekhar, Jupalli Shankar, and Aijaz (Addu), along with BJP leaders Srivardhan Reddy, Ande Babaiah, Vishnuvardhan Reddy, Chetla Venkatesh, and Rishikesh, were also present at the event.

A grand fireworks display, organised by MLC Naveen Kumar Reddy and Advocate Jagan Mohan Reddy, was a highlight of the celebrations, which culminated in the traditional burning of Ravana.

The event saw significant participation from the local townspeople, making it a memorable Vijayadashami celebration for the entire community



ernment and private hospitals in Narayanakhed for treatment. However, two of them died. They were identified as a young man called Malleesh (22) and a 70-yearold woman Sayamma. The condition of many of the

CLAIMS HE WAS IMPLICATED IN CONTRABAND CASE

Constable commits suicide in

Bhadradri Kothagudem dist

Bhukya Sagar

because they called those indi-

viduals using his mobile

After being unjustly assigned blame while the actu-

al culprits escaped, Sagar was suspended by higher author-ities. This led to his mental

distress, and on the day of the

Dasara festival, he attempted

suicide. His family rushed

On being informed, the

Bridge in decrepit condition at Burgula village poses grave danger to commuters

PNS RANGAREDDY

A bridge in decrepit condition at Burgula village under Farooqnagar mandal in Rangareddydistrict has become a major source of concern for commuters.

The officials of the Roads and Buildings department have, howev-

er, yet to take any action to repair the structure which is dilapidated condition. The bridge, a crucial

i n k between Shadnagar



Bridge in decrepit at Burgula village in

Hemajipur village, heavy flow traffic movement is witnessed on it. Heavy vehicles, cards and two-wheelers use

has become particularly perilous,

with accidents frequently occurring due to the hazardous condition of the bridge. Local residents are urging Recent heavy rains have worsened the situation, causing one side of the emphasizing the urgent immediate attention to the issue,

Police officials inspecting the scene where AR constable committed suicide in Mahabubabad on Sunday

AR constable shoots himself dead

PNS MAHABUBABAD

A constable working with the Armed Reserved wing committed suicide by shooting himself with his service rifle while on duty at Mahabubabad town on Sunday. He was identified as G Srinivas.

Srinivas resorted to the extreme step at the strongroom. He was psoted at the

strongroom in Mahabubabad. He shot himself his service rifle in the morning. When the police constables nearby rushed to the scene on hearing the gunshot, Srinvias was found lying in a pool of blood, according to police.

Police officials visited the

scene of the incident. The body was shifted to government hospital for post-

Centipede found in idli served in restaurant

PNS JAGTIAL

At a hotel located at Tahasildar Chowrastha, a woman found a centipede on Sunday. This incident caused alarm among

A woman went to the hotel with her family members on Sunday morning and ordered idlis. While trying to feed her young children, she found a centipede in one of the idlis. Shocked by this incident, she shouted at the hotel management, alleging that their negligence posed a risk to her family's health. She questioned the hotel owner, asking, "What

if my young children ate this?" As a result of the controversy, the hotel owner attempted to respond to her. Initially, he claimed it was not a insect but just a black thread. He even said that he would eat the same idli and then realised that it



was indeed a centipede. The customers at the hotel protested at the hotel owners trying to cover up the unpleasant incident.

In light of the incident, the woman protested in front of the hotel. Local residents also expressed their anger, demanding action against the hotel management. The woman sat on the road, challenging the hotel management demanding action against the hotel man-

The hotel management tried to throw away the idlis and shift them by a tractor to the dump yard. The local people blocked the tractor until the police arrives on the scene.

Based on the complaint by the woman, the police registered a case and investigation is underway.

This incident has become a topic of discussion in the town. People are expressing serious concerns over hygiene hazards

Clash between Cong activists fuels tension

Followers of Minister for Endowments Konda Sureka and Parkal MLA Revuri Prakash Reddy exchanged fisticuffs in Dharmaram town

PNS WARANGAL

Tension gripped Dharmaram village following a clash between the supporters of Minister for Endowments Konda Surekha and Parkal Congress MLA

Revuri Prakash Reddy on Sunday. Clash between the two groups of Congress activists broke out when the followers of Prakash Reddy objected to the supporters of Surekha erected flexi banners in Dharmaram town without

MLA's photo on the banners. As the police took a few followers of the Minister into custody, Surekha rushed to a police station demanding their release. The Minister sat in the chair meant for Station House officer.

The incident fueled tension in the Dharmaram town. The followers of



Minister for Endowments sitting in the chair meant for Station House Officer in a police station in Warangal district on Sunday

Prakash Reddy tore down the banner congress activists took umbrage over erected by Surekha's followers. The the Minister's followers erecting the flexi

banners which did not have the picture of Prakash Reddy. According to reports, some followers of Prakash Reddy suffered injuries

in the clash. Based on the complaint by those Congress workers who were injured, the police registered a case. The police took some followers of the Minister into custody for questioning.

On learning that the police took her supporters into custody, the Minister went to the police station and demanded the release of her followers.

The video of Sureka sitting on the chair meant for the Station House Officer went viral on social media plat-

Prakash Reddy was elected to the Assembly from the Parkal constituency in the same district.



ACROSS THE STATES



Professor duped of Rs 75 L in 'digital arrest' fraud

retired Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) professor was allegedly duped of more than Rs 75 lakhs by fraudsters An Analysis Andrews An under 'digital arrest' for 10 days, police said on Sunday. An FIR was lodged on Friday by Qamar Jahan and the police immediately issued an alert to the banks concerned. Police found that the money had been routed through 21 different bank accounts, they said. Transactions worth Rs 13 lakh were blocked due to police intervention, they said. Cyber police station inspector VD Panday, who is investigating the case told PTI that the victim was kept under "digital arrest for more than 10 days" during which the accused pressured Jahan to pay money to avoid arrest. 'Digital arrest' is a new cyber fraud, where the accused poses as law enforcement agency officials, like CBI or customs officials or ED, and threatens people of arrest by making video calls in the name of fake international parcels of banned drugs or money



Report of Puri temple's Ratna Bhandar likely soon

he technical survey report of the Ratna Bhandar in Puri's Jagannath temple is likely to be released soon, Odisha Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan said on Sunday. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) had in September conducted the exercise, including the Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey of the Ratna Bhandar (chambers of Lord Jagannth's treasury). "The state government will get the GPR survey report in the next three to four days... If any hidden storage of some valuables is found, we will take necessary action. Otherwise, the ASI will start the repair and restoration work of the Ratna Bhandar," he told reporters here. The Ratna Bhandar was opened after a gap of 46 years in July to take stock of the inventory of valuables and repair of the structure. Ornaments and other valuable items from the inner and outer chambers of the treasury have been stored in a temporary strongroom inside the temple for the repair work.



Kullu Dussehra festival starts with 'Shobha Yatra'

week-long international Kullu Dussehra festival began on Sunday with traditional 'Shobha Yatra' of presiding deity Lord Raghunath, who was brought from the Sultanpur temple to the Dhalpur Maidan in Kullu in a chariot. Thousands of devotees joined the 'yatra' and vied for pulling the ropes, which is considered auspicious. Himachal Pradesh Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla, who inaugurated the festival, also participated in the 'yatra'. Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri and Supreme Court Judge Justice Sanjay Karol were also present on the occasion, a statement issued here said. "It is the good fortune of the people of the state that Lord Raghunath ji resides in Kullu. May his blessings remain on us and we continue to carry forward our 'dev' culture in this manner," the governor said and stressed on making Himachal a drug-free state. Later, the governor inaugurated the exhibitions put up by various government departments, boards, corporations and other nongovernment organisations. Kullu Dussehra is unique as there is no Ramleela or burning of the effigies of Ravan, Kumbhakaran and Meghnath and concludes with 'Lanka Dahan' on the last day.

Poll setbacks made Congress ideologically bankrupt: Nadda

Continuous electoral setbacks for the Congress have left its chief Mallikarjun Kharge ideologically bankrupt, BJP President J P Nadda said on Sunday, claiming that the opposition party's "terrorists" barb at the ruling dispensation was born out of its desperation to protect its "failed product", a jibe at Rahul Gandhi.

India's oldest party has come to such a sorry state that one feels pained, Nadda said in a statement, adding that Kharge should rather introspect people's falling trust in the Congress and why it loses

(polls) so frequently.

People know which party supports anti-national forces, urban Naxals and those trying to defame the country, Nadda

The BJP president's rebuttal came a day after Kharge called it a "party of terrorists" in an apparent counter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent characterisation of the Congress as an organisation run by "urban Naxals".

"The Congress is unable to pose a ground challenge to Modi's pro-people and pro-



"The Congress is unable to pose a ground challenge to Modi's pro-people and pro-poor policies which put the nation first. Its entire leadership has instead turned to abusing the BJP and Modi and defaming the country," Nadda said.

nation first. Its entire leadership has instead turned to abusing the BJP and Modi and defaming the country," Nadda said.

Kharge's comments reflect frustration and ideological bankruptcy, he added.

The BJP and the Congress have been engaged in a war of words after the former surpoor policies which put the prised the opposition by pulling

off a stunning victory in the Haryana Assembly polls, a prospect deemed unlikely by most political experts and exit poll projections.

Nadda said the Congress leadership was in extreme shock following the poll defeat and that Kharge's comments were not only ridiculous but also exposed his party's charac-

ter. Firing a volley of questions at the Congress, Nadda asked who all were involved in moving the Supreme Court at midnight to stay the conviction of Parliament attack convict Afzal Guru and who cried profusely at the Batla House encounter in which Indian Mujahideen operatives were killed while a police officer also lost his life.

"Who extended support to those raising slogans in favour of Guru in JNU? Which government used the term saffron terror," the BJP chief asked. Nadda also took a swipe at

the Congress over its MoU with the Chinese Communist Party when it was in power at the Centre, and Rahul Gandhi's meeting Congresswoman Ilhan Omar, who drew flak in India for her criticism of the government's handling of Jammu and Kashmir, and her visit to PoK, among other issues.

Slamming the Congress for allegedly seeking evi-dence for the surgical and air strikes aimed at destroying terror camps across the border, Nadda said the entire party leadership has suffered intellectual degradation in its bid to protect and shine a "failed product".

EC must clarify on questions raised by Cong about EVMs: Sibal

PNS NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal on Sunday said the Election Commission must clarify on the questions raised by the Congress about EVMs in the recently-concluded Haryana Assembly polls.
Sibal asserted he is of the opinion that misuse of EVMs

does take place in the elections. The Congress had on Friday submitted more complaints to the Election Commission alleging discrepancies in the electronic voting machines during counting of votes for the Haryana Assembly elections. The Congress candidates from 20 assembly constituencies, in their written complaints to the Election Commission (EC), have alleged that the batteries in some of the EVMs were charged at 99 per cent during counting on October 8.

The complaints follow the Congress' shock defeat in the assembly elections after the party failed to win a simple majority even after 10 years of the BJP rule in Haryana.

Asked about the allegations, Sibal said, "The questions that the Congress has raised about EVMs, it is providing proof to the Election Commission on it.



So, I do not know much about it but the EC must give a clarification on it. I think misuse of EVMs does happen, to what extent it happens, I cannot say." "From the beginning I am against this. I have given many statements in the past. What is opaque must not be accepted," the former Congress leader and Independent Rajya Sabha MP added. The Congress has said the assembly polls results were "unexpected" and have alleged discrepancies in the EVMs in some seats.

"In furtherance of the issues raised and the representation submitted to the Election Commission of India on 9th October, we have now submitted an updated memo highlighting serious and glaring irregularities in the election process in 20 assembly constituencies in Haryana.

Public-spirited youth welcome to join AAP: Kejriwal

PNS DODA (J&K)

AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday said the public-spirited youth should come forward to join his party, asserting the people of the country had given a clear message to the BJP during the Lok Sabha polls that "your way of functioning is not acceptable to us".

The former Delhi chief minister accused the BJP of making every attempt to destabilize his government, which worked for the betterment of people for the past 10

"I will go around the country to invite the public-spirit-ed youth to join the party for the betterment of the country. We have to give answers to the rulers that government does corruption but service to the people to improve their lives," Kejriwal said addressing a public rally in this hilly district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Accompanied by Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant



I will go around the country to invite the public-spirited youth to join the party for the betterment of the country. We have to give answers to the rulers that government does not mean hooliganism and corruption but service to the people to improve their lives

Mann and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener was in Doda to thank people for electing his party leader Mehraj Malik as a member of the legislative assembly.

tion is a message to the political leadership in the country.

"During parliamentary elections, the people gave the BJP 240 seats despite (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi's 400 seat target. The message to the BJP was that your way of governance is not acceptable to us and change your way otherwise get ready to see your seats coming down to 140 next time," he said.

Kejriwal said the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is the outfit country which is seeking votes from people on the assurance of providing their children better education. employment opportunities, free treatment to patients and

TAMIL NADU TRAIN SMASH

Three-member technical team suspects sabotage

PNS NEW DELHI

A three-member technical team of senior railway officials from the Signal & Telecom, Engineering and Operations department raised serious apprehension of sabotage after inspecting the accident site at Kavaraippettai Railway Station in Tamil Nadu, railway sources

On October 11, train No12578 Mysuru - Darbhanga Bagmati Express collided with a stationary goods train at around 8.30 pm at Kavaraippettai Railway Station in Chennai Rail Division, Tamil Nadu, causing injuries to nine passengers.

"The team of senior officials have found that the mechanical were opened. Normally, these parts get broken after an accident due to the heavy impact of the locomotive and coaches," a source, close to the inspection team, said.

"It looks like the miscreants,

who interfered with the interlocking system, gained knowledge from some well-trained person and tried doing it elsewhere earlier for experience," he

The Railway officials said that some cases were reported ear-Kavaraippettai Railway Station where the miscreants tried to subvert the interlocking safety system but couldn't do it. "Perhaps they gained experi-

ence by doing that elsewhere and finally implemented their

successfully Kavaraippettai. The interlocking system was subverted within a few minutes as the previous train which crossed the said interlocking point was four minutes before the Mysuru-Darbhanga Express," the source

The Railway officials said that after examining the condition of the site, it seemed that there was no defect in the signalling system or any error on the part of the signalling department.

In engineering feat, mechanical SpaceX...

Continued from page 1

This time, Musk, SpaceX's CEO and founder, upped the challenge for the rocket that he plans to use to send people back to the moon and on to Mars.

At the flight director's command, the first-stage booster flew back to the launch pad where it had blasted off seven minutes earlier. The launch tower's monstrous metal arms. dubbed chopsticks, caught the descending 232-foot (71-metre) booster and gripped it tightly, dangling it well above the

ground. "The tower has caught the rocket!!" Musk announced via X. "Big step towards making life multiplanetary was made today." Company employees screamed in joy, jumping and pumping their fists into the air as the

stainless steel booster slowly lowered itself into the launch tower's arms. NASA joined in celebration, with Administrator Bill Nelson sending congratulations.

Even in this day and age, what we just saw is magic," SpaceX spokesman Dan Huot observed from near the launch site. "I am shaking right now."

"Folks, this is a day for the engineering history books," added engineering manager Kate Tice from SpaceX head-quarters in Hawthorne, California. An hour later, the empty

spacecraft that was launched atop the booster made a controlled landing in the Indian Ocean as planned, adding to the day's achievement. It was up to the flight direc-

said both the booster and launch tower had to be in good, stable condition. Otherwise, it was going to end up in the gulf like the previous ones. Everything was judged to be ready for the catch. The retro-looking stainless steel spacecraft on top continued around the world once it was free of the booster. Cameras on a buoy in the Indian Ocean showed flames shooting up from the water as the booster impacted precisely at the targeted spot and sank, as planned. "What a day," Huot said. "Let's

a manual control, whether to

attempt the landing. SpaceX

get ready for the next one." The June flight came up short at the end after pieces came off. SpaceX upgraded the software and reworked the heat shield, improving the tor to decide, in real time with thermal tiles.

200 MW solar...

Continued from page 1

India's position is better compared to other countries, he said. However, there is a need to protect the environment for future generations. Indian lifestyle is living in harmony with nature and so the Indian government has launched the Mission Life programme to make everyone protect the environment, he said.

PM Modi launched the Surya Ghar Muft Bijlee program on February 15. It is intended to provide free power supply to houses and make government offices use solar energy, Kishan said. He said that 200 GW of renewable power is produced in India and that we should make it 500 GW by 2030. He said that the use of solar power has increased due to GSITI and Rs 30 lakh is being saved in GSITI every year due to the use of solar power.

Ex-DU professor Saibaba's...

Continued from page 1

quently.

His daughter Manjeera told

PTI Videos that he had COVID twice, his health was in abysmal condition while he was in jail and he recovered every time. Hence, she said that family was hoping that he would come back nor family members expected this death, she said adding, that he expressed hope during the last conversation she had with him. Expressing sadness for what he went through in his life, Manjeera said, "His body had borne too much all these years."

She said they were aware that his condition was severe since Saturday afternoon, but at around 8 PM, doctors told the family that his heart had stopped beating and they were trying to perform CPR on him. They pronounced

from service by the DU and

his official accommodation was taken away after he was arrested in 2014.

The former professor who taught English at Ram Lal Anand College of Delhi University (DU) passed away on Saturday due to post-operative complications, seven months after he was acquitted. Saibaba was suffering from

gall bladder infection and was operated on two weeks ago in Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS), but developed complications subse-

this time too. Neither Saibaba

"I miss him. I still cannot believe he is not with us. I still feel that I will go and open the door and he will be there sitting on his wheelchair telling me to do this and that. I still feel that way. I still feel that he

is still with us," she said. him dead at 8.30 last night,

Saibaba's daughter added. Saibaba was terminated

Saibaba's death will continue to weigh heavily on public conscience, said Prof Saikat Ghosh, one of the few DU teachers who raised his voice against his imprisonment and the way he was treated in the jail. "The sad thing is that nobody will be held accountable for pushing him and his family to such a

catastrophic end," he said. Saibaba was a popular colleague in the Literature fraternity of Delhi University. The popularity stemmed from his dedication as a teacher and his devotion to the issues of democratic rights and civil liberties, Ghosh said.

It took Saibaba 10 years to prove that he was not guilty. He inspired many and his demise is a "big loss," said DU Professor Abha Dev. "One can only try to imag-

ine his hardships with 90 per cent disability. The country does not know how to celebrate these stories to inspire others but they fear the truth that he was speaking," said Dev. Another DU Prof Monami said Saibaba's friends and well-wishers were disheartened by the news of his demise. "He just came out a few months ago and left so soon. But he was mentally a strong person," she said.

Saibaba was lodged in the Nagpur Central Jail since 2017 after his conviction by a trial court in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli district. Before that, he was in prison from 2014 to 2016 and was subsequently granted bail.

ing his role as Chief Whip. ment orders for key events August The same oversight (Independence Day) and occurred in the order (GO September 17 (Public Rt. No: 1213) issued on Governance Day) referred September 11 on Public to Mahender Reddy only as Governance Day, he said. Harish pointed out that an MLC

How can Congress appoint BRS MLC..

regarding Independence

Day celebrations described

him as only an MLC, ignor-

According to the Gazette on both August 15 and September 17, Mahender Notification (No. 160-I), issued by Chief Secretary Reddy raised the national Shanti Kumari on March notification appointing him as Chief Whip months ear-15, 2024, Mahender Reddy was appointed as Chief Whip. However, the government order (GO Rt. No: Whip post wasn't acknowl-mining the Constitution,"

Continued from page 1

the appointment, govern-

Citing parliamentary procedure, Harish referred

to MN Kaul and SL Shakdher's Practice and Procedure of Parliament (page 158), which clearly states that Whips must be selected from members of their own party. "How can the Congress appoint a BRS MLC as their Chief Whip? This clearly violates parliaflag as an MLC, despite the mentary norms and is yet another example of the Congress under Rahul 1075) issued on August 13 edged in the official orders he stated.

Will there be...

Continued from page 1

If the Speaker does not act, the court will reopen the cases and issue further orders. However, the High Court division bench refused to grant a stay on the single bench's directions when the Assembly Secretary approached the division bench and said that it would not issue interim directions and that it would hear the case on October 24.

Amidst these developments, the Congress has to induct 16 BRS MLAs to avoid disqualification of the 10 BRS MLAs who have already joined the Congress. If the induction of 16 BRS MLAs into the Congress is not possible, then the 10 BRS MLAs will have to face bypolls, according to BRS leaders.

Continued from page 1

Publish KCR's Samagra Kutumba..

Sanjay asked the Congress whether it had forgotten KCR's

Samagra Kutumba Survey (Comprehensive Family Survey). Where are KCR's survey reports? KCR had not published those survey reports and the Congress government is also not making it public, Sanjay said. He demanded that the Congress government should make the KCR's Comprehensive Family Survey details public if it had any sin-

Sanjay said the Congress and the BRS have a secret deal and there is a need to expose it. What did the people gain changed. Speaking to the media after attending Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya's Alai-Balai program on Sunday, Sanjay demanded that the Congress government should reveal the objective behind

from KCR's survey and why

did the Congress government

allot Rs 150 crore for the

caste census, he asked, adding

whether the castes of the peo-

ple had changed or whether

their family members had

conducting the caste census. 'The caste census is fake and allotting Rs 150 crore is another scam. The Congress is doing all this fearing defeat in local elections.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Peacekeepers' peril

India joins 34 other countries contributing troops to the UNIFIL in condemning Israeli military actions that threaten peacekeepers

he ongoing hostilities in the West Asia have drawn global concern, with recent escalations along the Israel-Lebanon border highlighting the risks faced by United Nations peacekeepers. As Israeli airstrikes target Gaza and tensions spill over to southern Lebanon, the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) finds itself in the line of fire. India, along with 34 other countries that contribute troops to UNIFIL, has endorsed a joint statement condemning actions that jeopardise the safety of peacekeepers and calling for the protection of UN personnel as per existing United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions. The situation along the Israel-Lebanon border has become increasingly volatile, with Israeli military operations intensifying in Lebanon. On October 11, two Sri Lankan UN peacekeepers were wounded in an Israeli airstrike near their watchtower in Naqoura, south Lebanon. This was second attack in 48 hours where UNIFIL's main base in the region was subjected to blasts amid the cross-border conflict. UNIFIL is a peacekeep-

ing mission established in 1978 to monitor the cessation of hostilities in the area. It is the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

In the wake of the attack, India has condemned the threat to peacekeepers' safety. The Indian Permanent Mission to the United Nations reaffirmed that the "safety and security of peacekeepers are of paramount importance and must be ensured in accordance with extant UNSC Resolutions." India's stance underscores its long-standing commitment to UN peacekeeping operations, where it has historically been one of the largest contributors of troops. Of the 9532 troops deployed, 895 happen to be Indian. In fact, India hap-

pens to be the second largest contributor to the peacekeeping mission next to Indonesia. So far UNIFIL has endured 334 casualties. The UN's efforts aim to bring a halt to hostilities that have resulted in significant casualties and infrastructure damage, exacerbating an already dire situation in the region. The UN Security Council has called for restraint from all parties involved and emphasised the importance of allowing humanitarian aid to reach civilians in Gaza. However, the complexity of the conflict, with multiple factions and external players influencing the dynamics, has made the path to a ceasefire fraught with obstacles. India's response to the recent escalation along the Israel-Lebanon border reflects a pragmatic approach. While it has avoided direct condemnation of either side in the broader conflict, its alignment with the UNIFIL countries signals support for international peacekeeping standards. By calling for the protection of peacekeepers and adherence to UNSC resolutions, India is positioning itself as a responsible stakeholder in upholding international law and maintaining regional stability. The path to a sustainable ceasefire remains uncertain, but with global powers like India endorsing diplomatic initiatives and supporting the UN's peacekeeping mandate, there is a stronger impetus for pursuing non-violent solutions to the ongoing crisis.



The steadfast diplomat who crafted India's foreign policy_

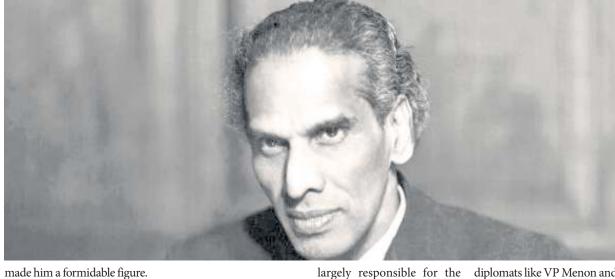


As India marks the 50th anniversary of V K Krishna Menon's passing, it is a fitting moment to remember a man whose brilliance shaped the nation's global diplomacy

ifty years since Vengalil Krishnan Krishna Menon's passing, the significance of his contributions to Indian diplomacy and global politics remains evident. Hailed as one of India's most brilliant yet controversial statesmen, Menon's legacy is inextricably linked with the evolution of the country's foreign policy. Born in Kozhikode, Kerala, his journey from a young boy in South India to a pivotal figure on the world stage was marked by intellectual rigor, steadfastness, and an unyielding commitment to India's sovereignty and values. When he passed away on October 6, 1974, then-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi described his departure as "a volcano has been extinguished," aptly capturing the intensity he brought to every role he undertook. His contributions, despite the passage of time, continue to influence India's diplomatic posture.

Menon's early life in Kerala and subsequent education in the United Kingdom set the stage for his distinguished career. His association with Jawaharlal Nehru, whom he befriended while in London, was instrumental in shaping his path. Quickly emerging as a prominent voice in the Indian independence movement abroad, Menon's articulate speeches and sharp intellect earned him recognition. During his time in the UK, he co-founded Penguin Books, which revolutionised the publishing industry by making literature affordable and accessible. However, his foray into publishing was merely the precursor to his true calling: crafting India's foreign policy. It was Menon who proposed the term "Non-Aligned Movement" (NAM), a cornerstone of India's

Cold War-era diplomatic stance. He championed neutrality, ensuring that India, as a newly independent nation, did not align itself with either the United States or the Soviet Union. For Menon, on-alignment was more than just a diplomatic position; it was an assertion of India's sovereignty and self-respect. He fiercely defended this stance on various international platforms, particularly at the United Nations, where his eloquence and conviction



the UN, Menon achieved global recognition, notably delivering the longest speech in the forum's history—a marathon eight-hour defence of India's position on Kashmir during the 1957 General Assembly. His unwavering defence of India's claim to Kashmir earned him the title "Hero of Kashmir." Yet, his confrontational style also attracted criticism, especially from Western media, which often portrayed MENON'S EARLY LIFE him as the "Indian Rasputin," suggesting he exerted undue influence over Nehru's policies. Menon's relationship with Nehru was undoubtedly sig-EDUCATION IN THE nificant, with the Prime Minister recognising his bril-UNITED KINGDOM liance and appointing him to SET THE STAGE FOR government roles, first as a minister without portfolio and HIS DISTINGUISHED later, in 1957, as Defence Minister. Together, they steered India's post-indepen-ASSOCIATION WITH dence strategies in both foreign relations and defence. The 1962 Sino-Indian War marked a turning point for Menon. As NEHRU, WHOM HE Defence Minister, he was BEFRIENDED WHILE widely blamed for India's crushing defeat by China, with IN LONDON, WAS critics accusing him of failing to adequately prepare the mil-INSTRUMENTAL IN itary. Western media, particu-SHAPING HIS PATH larly 'Time' magazine, infamously depicted him on its cover as a "snake charmer," manipulating Nehru into a dis-

As India's representative at

IN KERALA AND

SUBSEQUENT

CAREER. HIS

JAWAHARLAL

forced his image as a dedicat-Despite the setback after the Sino-Indian War, Menon's career was not over. In 1971, supported by the left-leaning EMS Namboodiripad, Menon made a comeback to Parliament, representing Thiruvananthapuram. His return was a testament to the enduring respect he commanded among certain segments of Indian society. Even in his later years, Menon remained a formidable presence in politics, unafraid to challenge prevailing norms. Menon's personal life remained relatively private, though his wit and often abrasive style earned him both admirers and detractors. He was viewed by contemporaries such as Bertrand Russell as a man of profound intellect and integrity. Yet, his sharp tongue and uncompromising nature also alienated many, leading to well-publicised rivalries, (The write

including with fellow Malayali

day. Furthermore, his role in

the Goa Liberation movement

of 1961, which ended

Portuguese colonial rule, rein-

diplomats like VP Menon and KPS Menon. These tensions debacle, such an assessment does not acknowledge his added an element of intrigue broader contributions to to his already controversial defence and foreign policy. Menon was a proponent of Reflecting on the 50th anniverself-reliance in defense, laying the groundwork for indigenising military production—a policy India pursues to this

sary of Menon's passing invites a reevaluation of his towering legacy. His contributions to Indian foreign policy, particularly his advocacy for nonalignment and his defense of India's stance on Kashmir, remain integral to the country's diplomatic strategies. The fact that his UN speech still holds the record as the longest ever delivered underscores his place in the annals of global diplo-

Menon's influence extended beyond India's borders; his advocacy for global disarmament and his warning, "Either man will abolish war, or war will abolish man," still resonates in international forums. At a time when diplomacy often takes place behind closed doors, Menon's readiness to speak truth to power, regardless of personal cost, set him apart. His passing marked the end of an era, but his ideas particularly his fierce commitment to İndian sovereignty and global justice—continue to shape the country's foreign policy. The "volcano" that Indira Gandhi referred to still casts a long shadow over Indian diplomacy—a shadow

(The writer is an associate professor; views are personal)

Gandhi's philosophy in the age of Al



As we forge ahead into this digital age, embracing Gandhi's philosophy could pave the way for a more humane and equitable future

rtificial intelligence (AI) is increasingly shaping our world, making the relevance of many ancient philosophies seem distant. People may find it difficult to comprehend the hardships our predecessors endured during their lifetimes.

Even people may find it difficult to believe that great philosophers, who have provided us with a wealth of knowledge, once lived on this planet. We will accept only those incidents and individuals whose photographs or videos are accessible. As of now, we are fortunate to have documentary evidence of our nation's father, Mahatma Gandhi. Otherwise, people would have forgotten him. But even in this digital world where AI rules humanity, Gandhiji's philosophy remains profoundly relevant.

The core values that Gandhi stood for-such as nonviolence, truth, selfreliance, simplicity and social justice—offer timeless guidance for managing the challenges humanity faces even today. We can behaviour for gain, which nations, especially third-

(Ahimsa) in this digital era as ensuring the ethical and responsible use of AI technologies. Gandhian principles have high relevance today as we start integrating AI into aspects of human life, be it healthcare, economy, agriculture, or warehousing. As we indulge in digital warfare Gandhi's non-violence principle prompts us to develop technologies that prioritise

Cyberbullying is on the Cyberbullying fundamentally involves the use of words, images, or exclusion

human welfare and min-

imise harm.

on the internet as a means of violence. Unfortunately, even political parties sometimes encourage such

fosters enmity between world countries, to build

By embracing ahimsa, indi-Promoting non-violence in more supportive online emphasis on truth serves as a powerful antidote to the often fuel cyberbullying. Many online bullies hide behind anonymous pro-

files, spreading rumours, lies, or misinformation. Truthfulness can also empower victims to speak out against bullying, creating a culture of transparency and accountability. In the digital age, where people rise, and many people are can react instantly and falling victim. can react instantly and sometimes impulsively, sometimes impulsively, applying self-discipline is crucial. In a world where major tech companies dompiness in the world. inate AI development, Gandhi's philosophy of selfreliance (swadeshi) is highly applicable. It encourages

communities—a divide that their own AI capabilities can be challenging to and not rely solely on foreign technology. Fostering digital independence and viduals can practice empa-thy and kindness online, ways that benefit local refraining from harmful or economies and cultures is derogatory comments. crucial. One of Gandhi's most enduring legacies was digital spaces could lead to reduced aggression and a ginalised. In the AI-dominated world, we must environment. Gandhi's ensure that these technologies do not exacerbate inequalities. We should use deceit and falsehoods that AI to promote inclusivity, reduce the digital divide, and provide technology access for all, which is in line with Gandhi's vision of social justice. In essence, Gandhian philosophy, with its moral clarity and human-centred approach, serves as a vital guide for shaping the AI-driven future. Even in a world where technology seems to dominate, Gandhi's philosophy has high relevance (The author is a Dean at

Garden City University and an adjunct faculty member at NIAS, Bangalore; views are personal)

BABA SIDDIQUE ASSASSINATED

astrous conflict. While

Menon's detractors held him

Madam — The city of Mumbai has recorded another high-profile targeted killing of NCP leader Baba Siddique. The assassination of Siddique by two shooters at the time he is leaving his son's office and sitting in the car is purely calibrated killing attempts. Despite the fact that his son Zeeshan was an elected MLA from Bandra, Mumbai, it is a bit surprising that

killing took place in the same areas. However, it's too early to claim the killing was politically motivated before a proper investigation is to be done by the Mumbai police. He is known in the entire of India for the glam glitz Iftar Parties, which attract Bollywood celebrities every year. The investigation will shed light on the actual motive of the killer for his targeted killing. Meanwhile, it is extremely sad to note that killing is such an easy task in our country. If politicians and renowned personalities like Baba Siddique are not safe in our country, how could we expect the safety of the

The policing mechanism has to be active all the time to avoid such uncertainties. Also, there must be a rigorous punishment mechanism for the shooters, and harsh penalities to be put in place so that no such miscreants will dare to take such actions on the charm of few money from the actual culprits.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

TACKLE HUNGER CRISIS

Madam— This refers to the article on the paradox of nutritional status. Though the contour of nutritional status has too many curves based on too many factors like urban, rural, poor, rich, middle class, gender and so on, the overall condition is definitely not encouraging. The rank given by the Global Hunger Index needs no suspicion. The country's nutrition-related programmes organised by the Union and State governments need an uprisal to review the improvement or the otherwise.

A national programme with area-specific contents needs to be taken up, involving the youth who can contribute nutrition-

Tennis legend retires



greatest tennis players, Rafael Nadal, has announced his retirement as a professional tennis player. Nadal remains one of the most decorated sportspersons of all time of the 22 Grand Slam titles he has won, the Spaniard clinched a record 14 French Opens. Nadal also has 36 masters titles as well as an Olympic gold medal. Beyond his clay

related knowledge and implement the program with periodical study on the study. There was news in the media about the lack of quality of the distributed stuff also. In slums, poor eating and non-access to nutritional items are issues, and among the rich, overeating of avoidable items is the issue. Unless nutrition is taken up as a priority to implement with all seriousness and with adequate allocation of funds, there may not be a tangible improvement in the status. Expenditure on improving nutritional status is a productive investment as it helps improve the productivity of the individuals as well as the nation, which is immi-

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

MASTERING POLITICAL GAMES

Madam — There is no specific Noble Prize for politics. However, many politicians received the Noble Peace Prize for their efforts in promoting peace, resolving conflicts and advancing human rights; examples are Nelson Mandela, Barack Obama,

and Mikhail Gorbachev. Political manoeuvring and politics are relatcourt mastery, Nadal has won US Open titles four times and the Australian Open two times. On the grass of Wimbledon, a surface considered challenging for him, he secured two championships. Who could forget the 2008 Wimbledon final between Nadal and Federer? Or 2013 Australian Open final between Nadal and Dijkovic?

Surely Nadal should have inspired millions of children to start playing tennis across the globe. Nadal remained the world's top player for 209 weeks during his peak years, 2005-2023. After Nadal's retirement, will men's tennis ever have another trio, "Federer, Nadal and Dijokvic," who dominated tennis for 20 years? Certainly Nadal's retirement from tennis is the end of an era.

P Victor Selvaraj | Tirunelveli

ed but distinct. The former involves a variety of tactics aimed at maintaining or gaining power such as politicians changing parties (turn coats), building pre or post poll alliances with other political parties, contesting elections as independent candidate if ticket is denied and after winning getting favours by supporting government forming party or parties, using the fundamental right of freedom of speech to the fullest extent in criticizing the opponents at will, turning from foes to friends and vice versa with ease by being immune to guilt or shame, directing resources for garnering and maintaining vote banks through freebies & unproductive welfare schemes, toppling governments, poaching elected members from opposition parties and defaming own country's government & its policies abroad etc. Indian politicians are Mahirs' in the above activities. So, if a Noble Prize is instituted for "political maneuvering," India will always get it.

O Prasada Rao | Hyderabad

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FIRST COLUMN

EMOJIS SPEAK WHERE TEXTING FALLS SHORT

Emojis transform otherwise bland exchanges into vibrant and meaningful interactions



ASHA IYER KUMAR

am a huge fan of emoticons, or emojis, as I prefer to call them. In a new, technically robust world that chooses to conduct most of its private and professional business digitally, the existence of emojis is a lot more valuable than what they seems primary. Emojis fill the gap between one's feelings [thoughts] and words; they arch over the space where misunderstandings breed unintentionally. The trouble with texting is it, more often than not, conveys meanings not meant. The true import of the statements is often dispensed with an unsavoury blandness. Words, for all the power they have, are restricted in their ability to convey true emotions. There is no tone or tenor in a conversation that happens over a typed chat. It is here that the emojis take charge to let people know the precise sentiment behind the words. It's fascinating how something as simple as a tiny, colourful image can carry the weight of an entire conversation.

Emojis have become the silent saviours of our digital dialogues, transforming what could be a dry exchange into something vibrant, relatable and meaningful. I have always believed that words, despite their richness, sometimes falter in delivering the exact shade of sentiment we wish to express. How many times have we sent a message and then wondered; Will they get what I mean? Will they feel my warmth, my concern, or my light-heartedness? Emojis step in at this point, like little emotional cue cards, guiding the recipient towards the intended feeling behind our words.

A simple smiley can transform a blunt response into a kind reassurance. It acts as a gentle nudge, hinting to the reader, "Take it easy; this is friendly." Emojis allow us to soften the blows of formality, sprinkle humour on otherwise serious subjects, or underline the gravity of



what would otherwise seem trivial. Consider this: You've sent a message that says, "Let's talk later." Now, depending on the mood of the person on the other side, it could be read as indifferent, abrupt, or even ominous. But if you add a little smiley at the end, the vibe changes entirely. Suddenly, it sounds casual, almost warm. This is the magic of emojis — they are the unseen bridges in our communication, preventing misunderstandings. They fill in the emotional blanks that text leaves behind. In this world where we don't always get the luxury of hearing someone's voice or seeing their expressions, emojis have quietly become the body language of our conversations. They provide a way to infuse our cold, typed words with a cozy connection. That's where their real value lies, and why I, as someone deeply in love with words and their power, have come to appreciate the humble emoji. Moreover, in a globally connected world where language barriers can stand between intent and interpretation, emojis offer a universal code. A thumbs-up or a heart means the same whether you're in Dubai or Delhi, making them incredibly effective in fostering inclusivity and under-

As I continue my writing journey, both in traditional and digital spaces, I find myself more often turning to emojis to complement my words, especially when texting or communicating over social media. They are the small, unspoken allies in my digital interactions, helping me stay connected, relatable, and, most importantly, understood. In a time when misunderstandings are as quick as a keystroke, I've come to appreciate emojis as more than just playful symbols. They are, in many ways, the unsung heroes of modern communication, making sure that what we feel and what we say are in sync. And that's a role too important

(The author is a columnist and writing coach based in Dubai; Views are personal)

The booklet that redefines Mayawati



Mayawati is launching a revival effort to reclaim lost ground; she released a 59-page booklet outlining the party's roadmap, while emphasising her 'Iron Lady' image

acing a steep decline in electoral performance, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), under the leadership of Mayawati, is now pivoting with a new strategy aimed at regaining its lost political ground. The once-formidable party, which made significant strides in the late 1990s and early 2000s by mobilistic Delition of the provincial control of the strategy and the strategy are strategy and the strategy and the strategy are strategy as the strategy as the strategy as the strategy are strategy as the strategy are strategy as th ing Dalit and marginalised communities, has been on the back foot in recent elections. With an eye on the upcoming assembly by-elections and the 2027 general elections, the BSP has taken an important step by releasing a 59-page booklet, designed not only to recount its past achievements but also to chart a new course for the future. The release of this booklet is a key part of the BSP's revitalisation plan. It features several statements from Mayawati, emphasising her leadership and vision for the party's future. One of the key aspects of the booklet is Mayawati's self-identification as the "Iron Lady," a term that echoes the strong and uncompromising leadership style often associated with female leaders in global pol-itics, such as former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

By using this title, Mayawati seeks to project an image of resilience, firmness and determination, drawing on her previous tenure as the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, where she exercised considerable political influence. Mayawati's attempt to invoke historical symbolism is another notable feature of the booklet. She compares herself to Emperor Ashoka, an ancient Indian ruler known for his governance and promotion of social justice. The parallel is clear: like Ashoka, Mayawati aspires to usher in a new era of social welfare and justice for the marginalised sections of society, particularly Dalits. Through this comparison, she hopes to solidify her image as a leader capable of bringing about meaningful social change, positioning herself as a saviour of the oppressed and aligning her leadership with India's rich historical tradition of justice. The use of such symbolic language is not merely rhetorical; it is a calculated effort to energise the party's traditional voter base, which largely consists of Dalits, while also appealing to other communities. The invocation of Emperor Ashoka, a figure revered for his contributions to governance, inclusiveness and justice, allows Mayawati to appeal to a wider electorate that values strong leadership based on social equity and

By aligning her vision with that of Ashoka, she is reminding voters that her leadership stands for inclusiveness, fair governance and BSP, WHICH ONCE social justice-values that resonate deeply with her core constituency. One of the most significant components of Mayawati's new political strategy is a renewed focus on social engineering, an electoral strategy that had previously yielded considerable success for the BSP. This approach, which played a crucial role in Mayawati's rise to power in 2007, involves forging electoral alliances across caste lines—specifically between Dalits and Brahmins. By uniting these groups, the BSP was able to create a winning formula that resulted in sweeping electoral victories in the mid-2000s.

The booklet highlights the party's intention to revive this strategy, indicating that the BSP aims to once again bring together a broad-based coalition to strengthen its political position. In the booklet, Mayawati makes a strong appeal to Brahmin voters, asserting that their economic and social upliftment can only be achieved under BSP rule. She takes the opportunity to criticise



ONE OF THE **PRIMARY** OBSTACLES IS THE EROSION OF ITS TRADITIONAL VOTE BANK. THE COMMANDED A SUBSTANTIAL BASE AMONG DALIT VOTERS, HAS SEEN A **SIGNIFICANT** PORTION OF THESE VOTES SHIFT TOWARD THE BJP IN RECENT **ELECTIONS**

rival political parties, including the Samajwadi Party (SP), Congress, and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), for neglecting the Brahmin community and failing to address their concerns. By making this overture to Brahmins, Mayawati hopes to recreate the Brahmin-Dalit electoral coalition that had been so successful in the past, particularly in 2007, when this formula helped her ascend to the Chief Minister's office in Uttar Pradesh. This strategy signals that Mayawati is determined to reconstruct a

broad-based support structure, aiming to gain a foothold among both upper and lower castes. The outreach to Brahmins is not an entirely new tactic for the BSP. The party had previously established strong support among Brahmin voters, particularly in the mid-2000s, by emphasising the importance of social cohesion and inclusive governance. In many ways, Mayawati's return to this formula reflects her understanding of the changing political dynamics in Uttar Pradesh. She recognises the importance of rebuilding alliances that cross caste lines, particularly as the political landscape in the state continues to evolve. However, the new strategy does not stop with Brahmins. The booklet also directs sharp critiques at Mayawati's political rivals, particularly Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. She targets Gandhi's recent visit to a shoe repair shop, characterising it as "symbolic politics" that does little to address the real issues faced by marginalised communities. In her view, this gesture perpetuates castebased stereotypes, reinforcing the

notion that certain communities,

such as Dalits, should be associat-

ed with manual labour, including

shoe-making. This critique is

aimed at resonating with her core voter base—Dalits—by emphasising her stance against caste-based occupations and promoting a broader vision of social justice. Mayawati also uses the booklet to revisit past political alliances, notably the failed partnership between the BSP and the Samajwadi Party (SP) ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

The alliance, once seen as a formi-

dable force capable of challenging the BJP in Uttar Pradesh, ultimately fell apart. In the booklet, Mayawati attributes the breakdown to a lack of communication from Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, who, according to her, stopped answering her calls. organisational strength. In recent This communication breakdown, she claims, forced the BSP to withdraw from the alliance—a move she frames as one made out of self-respect. By bringing up the collapse of the alliance, Mayawati seeks to remind voters of her independence and self-reliance as a leader, further distinguishing herself from her political rivals. Despite Mayawati's efforts to reposition the BSP, the party faces significant challenges. One of the primary obstacles is the erosion of its traditional vote bank. The BSP,

recent elections. In a notable shift in strategy, Mayawati has announced that the BSP will contest the upcoming by-

which once commanded a substan-

tial base among Dalit voters, has

seen a significant portion of these

votes shift toward the BJP in

Historically, the party has refrained from participating in by-polls, preferring to focus its resources on general elections. However, the recent electoral setbacks and the changing political landscape in

reassessment of this approach. By contesting the by-elections, Mayawati hopes to reenergise the party's cadre and send a message to her supporters that the BSP is still in the fight. The by-elections offer the BSP an opportunity to test its new strategies and alliances in a smaller electoral context before the next general elections. By doing so, the party can identify its strengths and weaknesses, allowing it to adjust its tactics in preparation for larger electoral battles.

Additionally, Mayawati's decision to contest the by-elections is about more than just winning seats—it's also about reinvigorating the party's years, the BSP's grassroots machinery has weakened, with many party workers becoming disillusioned after a series of electoral defeats. By throwing the party into the by-election fray, Mayawati aims to revive its organisational structure and prepare it for future contests. Mayawati's messaging, as outlined in the newly released booklet, signals her determination to reclaim the BSP's former electoral strength.

Through a combination of symbolic language, critiques of her rivals, and a recalibrated strategy, she hopes to reposition the BSP as a force to be reckoned with in Uttar Pradesh politics. The upcoming by-elections will serve as a crucial test for the party's new approach and could determine whether Mayawati is successful in her efforts to revitalise her support base and counter growing competition from both established and emerging political players. (The writer is an Associate Editor,

of The Pioneer; views

Haryana's election lesson: Why Tejashwi and Akhilesh must shun caste politics

To secure long-term success, they must cater to broader social sentiments as voters increasingly reject traditional caste-based power structures

he recent election results in Haryana have overturned pre-poll predictions and ground reports by YouTubers, sending a clear message for future elections, particularly in key states like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. For leaders such as Tejashwi Yadav and Akhilesh Yadav, who belong to the dominant Yadav caste, the outcome holds lessons. Their political scenario mirrors the situation of the Jats in Haryana, where social dynamics are shifting away from dominant caste politics. In this evolving landscape, they face the challenge of addressing broader social sentiments and responding to the concerns of marginalised

al caste power structures.



AKHILESH SUMAN

In Haryana, the Jats, a politically influential community, faced a consolidation of other social groups against them, as seen in the election results. This trend is significant for Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, where the dominant OBC groups, particularly the Yadavs, have held power for decades but are now struggling to groups who feel overlooked or maintain their influence. The disadvantaged in the tradition- once-powerful Yadav-led gov-

power partly because of growing resentment from other communities who felt side-

The political history of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh is marked by the rise of leaders like Lalu Prasad Yadav and Mulayam Singh Yadav, who gained inipopularity by championing anti-Congress sentiment and social justice. Their "M-Y equation" (Muslim-Yadav alliance) was a powerful electoral strategy that secured their dominance, but it also instilled fear in other communities. The consolidation of their caste base came at the cost of alienating non-Yadav OBCs, Dalits, and upper castes, creating a sense of marginalisation. Over time, their politics of exclusion backfired, ernments lost their grip on as disillusioned voters began to

seek alternatives, leading to the emergence of leaders like Nitish Kumar in Bihar and the BJP in Uttar Pradesh, who promised clean governance and development for all.

The memories of the 1990s and early 2000s, when the Yadav-led administrations were perceived as using caste power to consolidate authority, still linger. While the Yadavs continue to be an important electoral bloc, the rest of society—especially the non-Yadav OBCs, Dalits, and upper castes—often recalls those years as an era of exclusion. The BJP, with its "subaltern Hindutva" narrative, has effectively capitalised on this sentiment, attracting marginalised groups by offering a



politics. Akhilesh Yadav, upon coming to power, made efforts to bridge the gap between his caste and others. He distanced himself from the old guard, symbolised by his uncle Shivpal Yadav, who represented the traditional power dynamics of the Samajwadi sense of inclusion and an Party. However, incidents alternative to Yadav-centric involving unruly behaviour

by some of his caste members toward other communities made it difficult for him to secure a second term. His attempts to modernise and adapt the party's image were undermined by persistent social tensions.

Similarly, Tejashwi Yadav faces challenges in Bihar, where his efforts to step out of his father Lalu's shadow have been hampered by his own caste groups' oppressive behaviour toward Dalits and upper castes. His political journey involves grappling with the legacy of Yadav dominance, which is often perceived as being dismissive of other communities' aspirations. To succeed in the future, Tejashwi must navigate these entrenched social dynamics with greater inclusivity. The lesson from Haryana is

clear: caste dominance can become a liability if it alienates other social groups. The Jat experience shows that when other communities consolidate against a dominant caste, it can significantly alter the political landscape. For Akhilesh and Tejashwi, this means urging their caste members to adopt a more accommodative stance, rather than projecting dominance. Effective leadership in this context involves advocating for social harmony and cooperation across different segments.

Both Tejashwi and Akhilesh must understand that lasting political success cannot be achieved by relying solely on their traditional caste bases. They need to expand their appeal beyond the Yadavs and reach out to other communi-

alised. Their strategy should involve building broader alliances that include marginalised communities, addressing their socio-economic needs, and promoting an inclusive vision of governance. The political landscape in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh is undergoing a shift. The BJP's ability to attract non-Yadav OBCs and other marginalised groups has weakened the impact of traditional Yadavcentric politics. Leaders like Tejashwi and Akhilesh must shed the image of their parties as "Yadav-centric" and instead emphasise inclusive governance that addresses the aspirations of all communities.

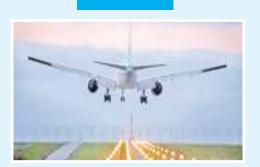
(The writer is a senior journalist; views are personal) HYDERABAD | MONDAY | OCTOBER 14, 2024

IN BRIEF



'Will explore electric vehicle export opportunities'

PO-bound Hyundai Motor India Ltd will explore opportunities for exporting its upcoming electric vehicles from the country to other similar markets to enhance its position as a production hub for emerging markets, according to a senior company official. The company is lining up four electric vehicles to be launched in future, including the electric version of its popular SUV Creta by Q4 FY25, in the mass and 'mass premium' segments. "We are a very strong production hub for emerging markets. We are exporting to 80 plus countries. As far as EVs are concerned, it will, of course, depend on the demand but we are always open to look at any product, which we introduce in India, for exporting it to the other market as well," Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL) COO



Average airfares around Diwali drop 20-25%

ir passengers might have a reason to smile this A Diwali season as average arriance on many 11 routes have dropped 20-25 per cent compared to Diwali season as average airfares on many domestic the year-ago period, according to an analysis. Increased capacity and the recent fall in oil prices are considered to be among the factors for the fall in air ticket prices. The analysis by travel portal ixigo showed that average airfare on the domestic routes have declined in the range of 20-25 per cent. The prices are for one-way average fare on a 30 days APD (advanced purchase date) basis. For 2023, the time period considered is November 10-16 while it is October 28-November 3 for this year. This is the time around Diwali. The maximum decline of average airfare is 38 per cent for a Bengaluru-Kolkata flight to Rs 6,319 this year from Rs 10,195 last year, as per the analysis.



IOB opens Retail Loan **Processing Centres**

ublic sector Indian Overseas Bank has unveiled retail loan Dprocessing centres in multiple cities aimed at streamlining the loan approval processes and reduce turn around time, a top official said. A Retail Loan Processing Centre was inaugurated in physical mode in Chennai while seven others were launched in virtual mode across cities, the bank's Managing Director and CEO Ajay Kumar Srivastava said. "Our new Retail Loan Processing Centres are not just about convenience. It is about building a smarter, more resilient banking framework. By harnessing digital tools and advanced analytics, we are ensuring stronger risk management while significantly reducing loan processing times." he said. The Retail Loan Processing Centre is designed to streamline the loan approval process, reduce turnaround time and provide faster and more efficient services to retail customers, he said in a statement on Sunday. Indian Overseas Bank has set up the RLPCs in Bengaluru, Coimbatore, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow and Mumbai.

Mcap of seven of top-10 firms erode by Rs 1.22 lakh cr

PNS NEW DELHI

The combined market valuation of seven of the top-10 most valued firms eroded by Rs 1,22,107.11 crore last week, with Tata Consultancy Services and Reliance Industries emerging as the biggest laggards, in line with weak trend in equities.

Last week, the BSE benchmark fell 307.09 points, or 0.37 per cent, to 81,381.36.

The market valuation of

country's largest IT firm Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) tumbled Rs 35,638.16 crore to Rs 15,01,723.41 crore.

The valuation of Reliance Industries slumped Rs 21,351.71 crore to Rs 18,55,366.53 crore. ITC's valuation dropped Rs

18,761.4 crore to Rs 6,10,933.66 crore, while that of Hindustan Unilever Ltd's mcap was down Rs 16,047.71 crore to Rs 6,53,315.60 crore. The market capitalisation

(mcap) of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) tanked Rs 13,946.62 crore to Rs 6,00,179.03 crore and that of ICICI Bank eroded Rs 11,363.35 crore to Rs 8,61,696.24 crore.

Also, HDFC Bank's mcap declined Rs 4,998.16 crore to Rs 12,59,269.19 crore.

Transformative initiative aimed at revolutionising infra

PNS NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan has emerged as a transformative initiative aimed at revolutionising India's infrastructure and is driving faster and more efficient development across sec-

PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (PMGS-NMP) was launched on October 13, 2021 for providing multimodal connectivity infrastructure to various economic zones.

PM GatiShakti is a transformative approach for economic growth and sustainable development which is driven by seven engines - railway, roads, ports, waterways, airports, mass transport and logistics infrastructure.

In a post on X, Modi said, "PM GatiShakti National Master Plan has emerged as a transformative initiative aimed at revolutionizing India's infrastructure. It has significantly enhanced multimodal connectivity, driving faster and more efficient development across sectors." The seamless integration of

various stakeholders has led

to boosting logistics, reducing delays and creating new opportunities for several peole, Modi said.

Thanks to GatiShakti, India is adding speed to fulfil our vision of a Viksit Bharat. It will encourage progress, entrepreneurship and innovation," the prime minister said. Modi tagged Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal's post in which he had lauded the GatiShakti initiative on

completion of three years.
"Today marks 3 years since

PM Modi on GatiShakti



the launch of the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan for Multimodal Connectivity by PM Narendra Modi ji. By streamlining logistics and advancing connectivity, this path-breaking initiative ensures faster

and more efficient project

implementation," Goyal said. It continues to play a pivotal role in developing a modern, interconnected infrastructure network, strengthening the vision of building a Viksit Bharat, he

Ensure level-playing field in rules on satcom spectrum: Jio Seeks minister's intervention

PNS NEW DELHI

Telecom operator Reliance Jio has sought Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia's intervention to get regulator Trai issue a revised consultation paper on a proposed spectrum allocation rule to ensure a level-playing field between terrestrial and

Reliance Jio, in its letter to telecom minister Scindia, referred to the Supreme Court's judgement in 2G case and indicated that Trai's failure to incorporate questions on level-play-ing field may lead to legal tus-

The letter came after Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) rejected Jio's request for incorporating questions around the level-playing field between terrestrial network players that provide mobile phone services using towers installed on ground and those seeking to offer satellite-based communication services.

On September 27, 2024, Trai floated a consultation process to explore methodology and price for assigning spectrum to satellite companies to provide calling, messaging, broadband and other services in the country. Reliance Jio, in the letter

dated October 10, mentioned



that satellite communication companies such Elon Musk's Starlink, Amazon's Kupier, Bharti Group-backed OneWeb Eutelsat, and SES-Jio joint venture have expressed interest to provide their services in India, which will directly compete with land based mobile networks, and therefore a fair and transparent auction system for satellite services is essential to

ensure level competition. "While the DoT correctly recognised the need for a levelplaying field in its reference to Trai, the consultation paper issued by TRAI appears to overlook this critical issue.

"It seems Trai has pre-emptively closed the matter without soliciting the views of stake-holders," Jio said.

LOAN SCHEME FOR MSME SECTOR

SBI plans to enhance threshold limit

PNS NEW DELHI

To ensure easy and adequate credit availability to the MSME sector, the State Bank of India (SBI) is planning to enhance the threshold under the instant loan scheme from the existing M S M E

Sahaj - End to End Digital Invoice Financing' provides solutions ranging from applying for the loan, documentation

and disbursement of the sanctioned loan within 15 minutes, without any manual intervention. "We have, last year, introduced a business rule engine based, data based assessment of the credit limits up to Rs 5 core. Anybody walking into our MSME branch has to give only their PAN and approval

give approval in 15-45 minutes," SBI Chairman C S Setty told PTI in an interview.

Simplification of the MSME credit is something that the bank is emphasising on and making lending cash flow based backed by the CGTMSE

T h i sreduces the need for colwould enable a lot of people to come into the formal MSME borrowing system,

he said. "We still have a large num-

ber of MSME customers accessing the informal credit. We would like to bring them to the banking fold," he said.
As far as network expansion is concerned, Setty said SBI is planning to open 600 branches across the country in the

Wipro to consider issuing bonus shares ahead of Q2 results

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

IT firm Wipro on Sunday said its board of directors will consider the issue of bonus shares at a meeting scheduled to be held on October 16-17, 2024.

Wipro is set to announce its Q2 FY25 results on October 17, 2024. "The board of directors of

the company will be considering a proposal for the issue of bonus shares, in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 (including the rules and regulations framed thereunder), the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2018, at its meeting scheduled to be held over October 16-17, 2024," a regulatory filing

Geopolitical events, inflation data to drive markets: Analysts

PNS NEW DELHI

Quarterly earnings of corporates, trading activity of foreign investors and inflation data are the key factors that are expected to drive the momentum in the equity markets this week, analysts said.

Moreover, markets would also focus on movement in crude oil prices amid geopolitical tensions, experts added.

"In the coming week, the market's direction will largely hinge on corporate earnings, with major companies like Reliance Industries, Infosys, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, and HCL Technologies set to release their results, among others," Ajit Mishra, SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd. said.

From the macroeconomic front, investors will keep an eye on the CPI (consumer price index-based inflation) and



based) inflation data for September, scheduled to be announced on Monday. Investors will also closely

track updates on geopolitical tensions, particularly their impact on crude oil prices, and foreign fund flows. Key domestic economic data, including CPI and WPI inflation, are also scheduled for release, which could influence market sentiment, Mishra

added.

mark fell 307.09 points, or 0.37 per cent to close at 81,381.36, while NSE Nifty slipped 50.35 points or 0.20 per cent to settle at 24,964.25.

The markets ended the week marginally lower, marking a pause after a sharp decline. The week started on a downbeat note due to continued selling pressure from foreign investors, but selective strength in heavyweight stocks helped limit the losses in the later seshe said

Govt imposes import curbs to reduce dependence on China

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Sunday imposed import curbs on parts of pocket lighters with immediate effect, a move which would help encourage domestic manufacturing and cut dependence on their inbound shipments from

"Import of parts of pocket lighters, gas fuelled, non-refillable or refillable lighters (cigarette lighters)... is restricted with immediate effect," the directorate general of foreign trade (DGFT) said in a notification.

Imports of cigarette lighters, priced less than Rs 20, are already prohibited. The import ban is also there on pocket



lighters, gas-fuelled, non-refillable or refillable.

Last year, the government also issued mandatory quality standard norms for flameproducing lighters with a view to contain import of sub-standard goods and boost domestic manufacturing.

(build, own and operate) basis

Items under the quality control orders (QCO), cannot be produced, sold/traded, imported and stocked unless they bear the BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) mark.

During April-July this fiscal, import of lighter parts stood at USD 3.8 million. It was USD

existing gas distribution grids

or supply directly to bulk consumers." India produces over

parts are mainly imported

Other sources of lighter imports include Spain, Turkey and the UAE.

In September 2022, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin had urged the Centre to ban single use plastic cigarette lighters to help the domestic matchbox industry.

These plastic cigarette lighters, which are legally and illegally imported from countries like China, are available for Rs 10 and can substitute 20 matchboxes. Further, these non-refillable lighters result in immense plastic waste, damaging the environment and also impacting health, he had

CCPA orders Ola to offer refund choices, provide auto ride receipts

PNS NEW DELHI

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has directed ride-hailing platform Ola to implement consumer-friendly changes, including offering refund options and providing receipts for auto rides, the regulator

said on Sunday.

The CCPA, led by Chief Commissioner Nidhi Khare, observed that Ola's no-questions-asked refund policy only provided coupon codes for future rides, without giving consumers a choice for bank account refunds.

"This (practice) violates consumer rights," the CCPA said in a statement. "The no-question-asked refund policy cannot mean that the company incentivises people to simply use this facility for taking another ride.'

The regulator also mandated Ola to issue bills or invoices for all auto rides booked through its platform, citing the absence of such documentation as an "unfair trade practice" under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

Following the CCPA's inter-

vention, Ola has implemented several changes, including displaying contact details of grievance and nodal officers on its website, clearly mentioning cancellation policies and fees at the time of booking, adding more options for ride cancellation reasons, and publicizing fare component breakdowns.

The other changes implemented were showing address of both pickup and drop locations to drivers and revised payment cycles for drivers for swift payment.

The CCPA reported 2,061 complaints against Ola from January to October 2024, with top issues including overcharging, refund delays and driverrelated problems.

"Through its regulatory intervention, the CCPA has been steadfast in ensuring that Ola adheres to the legal framework established to secure the rights of consumers," the reg-

ulator stated. The move comes as the CCPA increases scrutiny of digital platforms to protect consumer interests in the rapidly growing e-commerce



ONGC looks at mini plants to evacuate gas from isolated fields

PNS NEW DELHI

State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is looking to set up mini-LNG plants to evacuate natural gas from wells located in areas that are not connected with

pipelines. The firm has identified five sites in Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand and Gujarat for setting up mini plants at wellhead that will convert the gas pumped out from under the ground into liquefied natural gas (LNG) by supercooling it to minus 160 degrees celsius.

This LNG will be loaded on cryogenic trucks and transported to the nearest pipeline where it will be reconverted into its gaseous state and pumped into the network for

supply to users like power plants, fertilizer units or city

ONGC has floated a tender seeking manufacturers/service providers to tap stranded natural gas, according to the ten-

The locations identified for setting up mini-LNG plants in the tender are two sites at Rajahmundry in Andhra Pradesh and one each at Ankleshwar in Gujarat, Bokaro in Jharkhand and Cambay in Guiarat

ONGC in the tender document said while the country has an extensive network of pipelines that connect supply and demand centres, there remains a substantial volume of stranded gas (non-connected) that is required to be



tapped for enhancing domestic supplies and meeting the needs of nearby demand cen-

The stranded volumes, it said, range from 5,000 to 50,000 standard cubic meters

/ tankers to consumption sites per day that can be produced located within a distance of around 250 kilometers, depressurize / re-gasify the LNG for up to 5 years. The tender called for bids

90 million standard cubic meters per day of natural gas that is used to generate electricity, produce fertilisers or turned into CNG to run automobiles and piped into housedemand. from manufacturers and service providers to "set up a small scale LNG plant on BOO

hold kitchens for cooking purposes. But domestic production meets roughly half of the ONGC is India's largest crude oil and natural gas producer and has been investing billions of dollars to boost production to cut India's

to produce LNG, transport the produced LNG by cascades reliance on imports. Prior to floating of this tender, it had entered into a partnership with nation's largest fuel retailer Indian Oil

Corporation (IOC) to set up a small-scale LNG plant near its Hatta gas field in Vindhyan basin in Madhya Pradesh. The Hatta gas field is located in Batiyagarh tehsil of

Damoh district in Madhya

Pradesh, approximately 45 km from Damoh town. The initial LNG plant capacity is planned for 32 to 35 tonnes, with 45,000 standard

cubic meters per day of gas coming from the Hatta field. As per that agreement, IOC, which is conducting a detailed feasibility study of the project, will bear the cost of the small-

scale LNG plant. ONGC will sell gas to IOC. The LNG plant will be operated and managed by IOC and it will further sell the gas to con-

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Monday October 14, 2024

'Cringe Binge? We'll take it!' remarks Neelam Kothari

shikhaduggalwork@gmail.com

he latest season of Fabulous Lives vs Bollywood Wives, with its Delhi vs. Mumbai theme, is expected to generate new excitement among viewers. Right now, the well-known actress Neelam Kothari was the one causing all of us to get excited. Undergone a fascinating transformation during the third season, Ilzaam fame unloads the gossip exclusively with us!

For instance, when she said—which astounded us, "Although it has been a constant struggle, reinventing myself has been one of the most rewarding aspects of my journey. I had to deal with the highs and lows of the movie business as an actress in the 1980s and 1990s. However, transitioning from Bollywood to the jewellery industry required a significant learning curve. Given that our family has been in the jewellery industry for four generations, it seemed like a logical next step for me. However, managing a company differs greatly from being in the spotlight. All of a sudden, you are in charge of not only the artistic aspects of things but also the technical and administrative ones, such as finding the best stones and making sure every piece satisfies the strictest quality requirements." For Neelam, therefore, breaking into reality TV was a whole new experience. She had to be herself on camera for Fabulous Lives, which isn't as easy as playing a character. You reveal aspects of your life that you normally wouldn't, making you more open and vulnerable. She was intimidated by this kind of exposure, but it also made her realise how important sincerity is. If anything, maintaining her identity while juggling this many responsibilities has been the most difficult aspect.

The Hong Kong born goes on, "I believe Fabulous Lives portrays a fairly true representation of who I am in real life. My natural tendency has always been to keep to myself, which is why I often come across as reticent on the show. I think you should always observe a situation before you react, but when something is important to me or involves my family, I can be quite direct and assertive. It's that harmony between being easygoing and, when necessary, being forceful, which reflects my true self. I don't hesitate to voice my opin-

ions, but I also pick my battles wisely."

In fact, Neelam Kothari's internal conflict came to the fore in Season 2. Particularly when it comes to intimacy on-screen, she has always been somewhat at ease with her boundaries. When she first started shooting movies, she didn't have to think about it. However, as the entertainment industry developed, authenticity and pushing limits became more important! Her decision to change her mind was ultimately influenced by the encouragement she received from her friends, family and colleagues. They pushed her to venture into new areas while still staying loyal to herself. This was one of those situations when she had to step outside her comfort zone in order to progress. "To put it mildly, it's been a really intriguing experience! Giving away so much of your private life on such a public forum is daunting and exhilarating at the same time. *Fabulous Lives* includes parts of my life that, not even during my Bollywood years, I've actually never discussed before. Though there have been times when I've felt a little vulnerable, I also believe that it's critical for

people to realise that we're all human and that we have the same joys and challenges as everyone else. I definitely make an effort to strike a balance between my personal and professional lives. All in all, though, it's been really fulfilling since it makes it possible for me to interact with others in a manner that I couldn't previously," explains the incredibly elegant woman.

She has also, as everyone knows, been involved in

the industry since the 1980s and has seen it change firsthand. Letting us know about some of her biggest changes, Khudgarz fame extricates, "Over time, the way that people view Bollywood spouses has drastically changed. There was a notion in the 1980s and 90s that if you were married to someone in the business, you had to step down. However, things are very different now. Women are viewed as strong people in their own right, particularly those in the industry! They each run their own companies, careers and public personas. The popularity of reality TV and social media has also provided us a platform to show off our identities outside of the "wives" category. Respect for women who manage their public lives, careers and families has recently grown. People, in my opinion, are now more open to the notion that you may be a strong, supporting partner in addition to being an independent figure." However, there is also the flip side of it, which says that 'signing up for reality TV comes with scrutiny. It is unavoidable. However, I've come to realise not to take things personally. Opinions will always exist and TV portrayals of our lives are frequently overly dramatic. I believe it's critical to maintain perspective and to constantly remind yourself that what you see on television does not always accurately represent who you are. My robust support network keeps me grounded and I can laugh off a lot of the chaos. In the end, all that matters is that you feel at ease in your own skin."

The saga went on when "Addressing topics like

menopause and botox on Fabulous Lives was a conscious decision because these are conversations many women, especially in our age group, are either hesitant to talk about or feel judged for discussing. Menopause, in particular, is something every woman goes through, yet it's surrounded by this unnecessary stigma as if it's something to be hidden or ashamed of. For me, the motivation to bring these topics to light came from a desire to normalise them and make women feel less alone in their experiences. We are in a society where talking about aging, botox, or menopause is often frowned upon, especially for women in the public eye. But the truth is, these are natural parts of life, and there's no reason why we can't have frank conversations about them. It was crucial to address it on the show with tact and the candour it required. I believe it empowers more women to take charge of their decisions, whether they decide to go with cosmetic treat-

ments or to embrace aging naturally. In any case, it's a private choice that ought to be honoured."

In an amusing note, she also mentioned that she found it interesting that people called the show a "cringe binge" because, at the end of the day, they were still watching it! "The intended tone of Fabulous Lives is lighthearted, enjoyable and amusing. It doesn't aspire to be anything different. I recognise that some



instances may seem excessive to some, but that's what makes them so endearing. We're offering fans a behindthe-scenes peek at our lives, complete with all the glamour, drama and occasionally ridiculous moments. I don't mind labels like "cringe binge" because they typically stem from inquisitiveness or even fondness. We've done our job if viewers are interested in the show, whether it's because they're drawn to the drama or the way of life. It's not supposed to be taken too seriously. Many people find it to be a guilty pleasure and I believe that's part of its appeal."

The actress' candid discussion of the difficulties of

going back in front of the camera later in life has sparked candid remarks. Based on the similar first-hand accounts that she gave us, "Taking up coming on-screen again later in life has been thrilling and difficult at the same time. When it comes to age, the entertainment industry can be particularly cruel, especially to women. Actresses had a defined shelf life in the '80s, when I started out. Opportunities would dry up and you were expected to fade into the background beyond a certain age. Fortunately, things are now changing and I'm happy to be a part of it. My personal experiences have given me a fresh outlook, especially giving up acting and concentrating on my jewellery business for a long time. I've come to understand that your career and potential shouldn't be limited by your age. Although there is still a long way to go before the business treats older actresses with respect, I find it encouraging that more and more women are making a comeback to the screen later in life and still attracting notice. My confidence has increased as a result of my personal progress, which has enhanced the satisfaction I get from returning to the screen."

Introducing new characters, particularly those from diverse backgrounds and cities, inevitably brings a refreshing wave of change to the reality TV land-scape. This infusion of novelty is precisely what makes reality television so captivating! Neelam Kothari acknowledges that the arrival of fresh faces will undoubtedly disrupt the existing group dynamics, but she also recognises that challenges can be beneficial. And, undoubtedly, being featured on *Fabulous Lives* has increased the visibility of her brand, Neelam Jewels. People are now more interested in learning about her creative process and the backstory of the designs! She has also recently dabbled in more approachable, younger-targeted pret designs that draw inspiration from nature and feature elements like flowers and butterflies. She can now highlight the more whimsical, wearable side of her line while maintaining the timeless elegance for which she is renowned thanks to her appearance on the show. In the end, the show has made it possible for her to relate to new gen of jewellery lovers! She concludes by saying, "I adore Fabulous Lives because it tackles real problems that a lot of people can identify with and isn't just about glitter and bling. Divorce, childrearing difficulties and personal development are all common experiences and I believe it's critical for viewers to understand that life is constantly changing no matter where you are in life. Season 3 will be unlike any other season—I don't want to give anything away just yet. There will be many shocks and it will not be like seasons one and two. It's full of action, dhamaka, soul, tears, laughter and everything

Spices, story & soul

FOOD TO TRY

Miryala

Mamsam Vepudi

DECOR

Earthy 90's

retro vibe

PRICE

₹1500

for two

VERDICT

AARTI SREENATH aarti.sreenath9@gmail.com

alking into Anthe Kitchen felt like a beautiful step back in time. The moment I entered, I was embraced by an ambiance that radiated warmth and nostalgia. It was as if I'd been transported to my grandparents' home, where everything had a story and a sense of belonging. The earthy, retro decor, complete with bronze utensils and vin-

tage wooden chairs reminiscent of the 90s, set the perfect tone for what would be an unforgettable culinary experience. The cozy, rustic charm of the place paired harmoniously with the soul of its

cuisine, Andhra food served with pride, authenticity and flair.

The menu was vast and tempting, but a few standout dishes really captured my attention and taste buds. I started with the Miryala Mamsam Vepudu, a mutton dish infused with black pepper, which was a sensory delight. The meat was cooked to perfection, juicy, tender and coated in a fiery peppery masala that left a lingering heat. The balance between the bold spiciness and the natural flavour of

the mutton was flawless. Every bite was a hit of robust flavours that felt like a celebration of Andhra's spice-heavy tradition. For anyone who loves their meat with a punch, this is a must-try.

Next, the Miryala Kodi Chaaru—a pepper chicken soup—provided a perfect counterbalance. It was warming and full-bodied, with just the right amount of heat. The pepper didn't overpower the dish but rather enhanced the overall depth of the broth, making it comforting yet flavourful. The chicken pieces were tender and the broth was richly seasoned with coriander and black pepper, creating a perfect harmony of flavors that left me craving more.

Under appetizers, I was enchanted by the Raagi Sangati, a traditional dish made from finger millet. This dense, earthy dish had a chewy texture and paired beautifully with the tangy and spicy Natu Kodi Pulusu, a country chicken curry. The pulusu had a bold, tangy tamarind base, its sharpness cutting through the richness of the raagi, making for a combination that sang of rustic Andhra flavours. The curry, cooked with bone-in chicken, was succulent and packed with robust flavours, making it an absolute star in the lineup of appetizers.

The vegetarian dishes didn't disappoint either. The Gutti Vankaya Masala was a revelation. Tiny eggplants stuffed with a spiced peanut filling were



cooked until tender in a luscious gravy. The eggplants absorbed the flavours of the spices beautifully, while the nutty richness of the filling made every bite a delight. This dish is a must for any vegetarian food lover-it stands tall next to the meaty heavyweights of the menu. For mains, the

Konaseema Kodi Pulao was a treat. The aroma of the fragrant rice, mixed with tender pieces of chicken and an array of spices, filled the air before it even reached the table. The pulao was rich and flavourful without being overly spicy, making it a perfect accompaniment to the intense flavours of the other dishes. Each grain of rice was cooked to perfection and the chicken pieces were soft, succulent, and well-infused with the spices.

To finish off this indulgent feast, I opted for the Shadud Malai for dessert. This dessert was an absolute star, stealing the limelight from the savory dishes that preceded it. Creamy, luscious and lightly sweetened, the *Shadud Malai* was the perfect end to a spicy and flavourful meal. The soft, pillowy texture of the malai, with its rich milkiness, was incredibly satisfying, offering a delightful contrast to the boldness of the previous courses.

Beyond the food, the overall dining experience at Anthe Kitchen was fantastic. The restaurant's emphasis on using traditional cooking methods and serving authentic Andhra flavours is commendable. It's a place that clearly takes pride in its culinary heritage, offering a refined yet homey dining experience.

It was more than just a place to eat; it's an experience steeped in nostalgia and flavours that are as bold as they are comforting. If you're looking for an authentic taste of Andhra Pradesh with a side of retro charm, this is the place to be. Whether you're dining with family or simply looking to savour some unforgettable dishes, this restaurant will leave you longing to return.

Feed your follicles with right nutritions

n the world of beauty and wellness, the significance of nutrition often gets overshadowed by the latest hair care products and styling techniques. However, as experts emphasize, nutrition plays a vital role in the health and appearance of your hair.

Connection between nutrition and hair health

"What you eat comes to your hair." This statement reflects the idea that the nutrients we consume significantly affect the strength, shine and overall health of our hair. A wellbalanced diet provides the essential vitamins and minerals necessary for hair growth and vitality.

To cultivate healthy hair, Twinkle Deol, the Head of Training and Development, at Cut and Style emphasises the importance of incorporating a variety of foods into one's diet. "I make sure to eat a balanced diet with plenty of fruits, vegetables and whole grains. I also drink plenty of water to keep my hair hydrated and my scalp healthy," she

Key nutrients for hair growth

1. AMINO ACIDS

Amino acids are the building blocks of protein, which is essential for hair structure. Hair is primarily made of a protein called keratin, making amino acids crucial for hair health. Foods rich in amino acids include:

- Fish: Salmon and mackerel are excellent sources of omega-3 fatty
- acids, promoting scalp health. • **Meat:** Chicken and beef provide high-quality protein and essential amino acids.
- Eggs: A complete protein source, eggs also contain biotin, which is vital for hair growth.
- Dairy products: Yogurt and cheese provide calcium and protein,



contributing to stronger hair. • Nuts and seeds: Almonds, walnuts and pumpkin seeds are packed with essential fatty acids and protein.

A diet high in protein is critical for maintaining hair strength and preventing breakage. Good protein sources include:

- Beans and lentils: These plantbased proteins are excellent for vegans and vegetarians.
- Dairy products: Milk, cheese, and yogurt are rich in protein and
- Meat: Lean cuts of chicken, turkey, and red meat are beneficial for hair health

Calcium is not only essential for bone health but also plays a role in hair growth. It helps in the proper functioning of hair follicles. Foods rich in calcium include:

• Dairy products: Milk, cheese, and yogurt are excellent sources.

• Dark leafy greens: Spinach and kale are packed with calcium and other essential nutrients.

• Fortified foods: Many plant-based milks and cereals are fortified with calcium.

Iron is crucial for delivering oxygen to hair follicles, promoting healthy hair growth. An iron deficiency can lead to hair thinning and loss. Foods high in iron include:

- Meat: Red meat and poultry are rich sources of heme iron, which is
- easily absorbed by the body. • Fish: Salmon and tuna also
- provide significant iron content. • Legumes: Lentils and chickpeas
- are great plant-based sources of iron. • Fortified foods: Many cereals and bread are fortified with iron.

Role of hydration While nutrition plays a critical role in hair health, hydration is equally important. Drinking plenty of water is essential for maintaining healthy hair

and scalp. Dehydration can lead to

dry, brittle hair that is more prone to breakage. She recommends keeping a water bottle handy and ensuring adequate hydration throughout the

Importance of exercise

In addition to a balanced diet and proper hydration, regular exercise can significantly benefit hair health. Exercise promotes blood circulation to the scalp, ensuring that hair follicles receive the nutrients and oxygen they need to thrive. Furthermore, physical activity helps to reduce stress, which can negatively impact hair growth.

Twinkle notes, "When you exercise, you also release endorphins, which can help to reduce stress. Stress can damage hair, so it's important to find ways to manage it."

Supplements for healthy hair

For those who may struggle to meet their nutritional needs through diet alone, she suggests considering supplements. She personally takes amino acids, protein, calcium and iron to support her hair health. Supplements can help fill in nutritional gaps and ensure that your body has the necessary building blocks for optimal hair growth.

Creating a balanced diet

To help readers incorporate these essential nutrients into their diets, here's a sample list of foods to include for healthy hair growth:

- Breakfast: Greek yogurt topped with mixed berries and a sprinkle of chia seeds.
- Lunch: Grilled chicken salad with mixed greens, cherry tomatoes, avocado, and a lemon-olive oil
- dressing. • Snack: A handful of almonds or a banana with almond butter.
- Dinner: Baked salmon served with
- quinoa and steamed broccoli.

• Hydration: Aim to drink at least 8 glasses of water a day, and consider herbal teas for variety.

what's brewing?











Philanthropist and style icon Sudha Reddy hosted an exclusive Tiffany & Co. showcase at her private residence in Hyderabad. The intimate gathering featured a curated display of Tiffany's luxurious collection, offering guests a rare, personalised experience. Attended by close friends and family, the evening was a blend of elegance and exclusivity, complemented by







Vaarahi Silks in Jubilee Hills, Check Post Road No: 36, hosted an exclusive unveiling of its newest saree collection. Socialite Pinky Reddy, along with director Spandana, attended the event with their presence, adding elegance and insight to the proceedings. The vent was hosted by Ashna Misra Mahendra and Soumya Reddy





Abhishek Singhvi, the newly elected Rajya Sabha MP from Telangana, was felicitated at Renuka Chowdhury's residence in Hyderahad The event saw Abhishek Singhivi cutting the cake and . Y Rajeev Reddy, Chairman of Country Club, among other

dignitaries attending

the event.

In a joyous celebration,



BBG (Building Blocks Group) hosted its grand 474th Talent Factory at the prestigious Novotel HICC in Hyderabad, a fitting venue for a night that honoured the exceptional achievements and contributions of BBG associates across various categories, recognising their dedication and hard work.







Studio (BRDS), was held in Hyderabad at the The Platinum Business Hotel. Every year, this exhibition is organised in 12 cities in India— Hyderabad, Mumbai, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Pune, Bangalore, Kolkata, Jaipur, Lucknow, Bhopal, Nashik and Nagpur.

ARCHIE







CALVIN AND HOBBES









GARFIELD



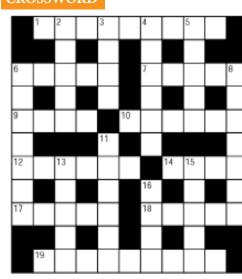




REALITY CHECK NSECURE PARANOSA PERSONALITY DISORDET AH. WHO AM I KIDDING? WHY WOULD ANYONE BE OUT TO GET SUCH A LOSER LIKE ME?



CROSSWORD



NANCY







SUDOKU

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ACROSS

9 Too

12 Class

17 Tiny

18 Unlocks 19 Replying

people

- 5 A dentist's machine 6 A disease with spots 1 All people 8 People from Germany 6 Fixes
- 11 Come next 7 On the way out 13 Madrid is the capital of 10 An underground room
- this country 15 Sea 14 A long seat for several
 - 16 Having very little money



GINGER MEGGS







3 1111 DIFFICULTY RATING: **

I'M NEVER GOING TO LET SOMEBODY DIM MY LIGHT BECAUSE THAT'S THE FIGHT I'VE TAKEN UP ON THIS LIFE. I THINK IN THE TELUGU FILM INDUSTRY, A LOT OF WOMEN HAVE COME TOGETHER TO REALLY HOLD THE SPACE FOR OTHER WOMEN AND WE HAVE BEEN ADDRESSING

EVERYTHING THAT COMES TO THE PRODUCER

Hyderabad | Monday October 14, 2024

tollywood

MANCHU LAKSHMI ON HER FIERY

COMEBACK IN ADIPARVAM

Manchu Lakshmi, a name synonymous with talent, determination and compassion, bares her heart in an exclusive interview with The Pioneer. As Adiparvam prepares to hit theatres, she discusses her journey, creative choices and unwavering commitment to empowering women

TEJAL SINHA tejal.sinha30@gmail.com

ierce and powerful aptly describes Manchu Lakshmi's upcoming character in her much-anticipated Adiparvam. Well, her birthday this year had gotten much better and special with the release of her poster, making fans wait with bated breath. As you look back at her journey, she has had an extensive carreer in the film industry. She

As you look back at her journey, she has had an extensive career in the film industry. She believes it too because she loves it when people believe she's had a big career. "Although I feel like I have a very niche career in ways that I still feel every movie that I do feels like the first time," affirms the *Kadal* fame in an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*. "I would say my journey has just begun."

With every project she's always on the go

journey has just begun."

With every project, she's always on the go to bring out something new and diverse with her characters; yet again, it is with Adiparvam that she's looking forward to. Though this film marks her return to the silver screens after a hiatus of two years, the Lakshmi Bomb star believes, "I really don't look at myself as taking a hiatus because I'm on television; I'm doing OTT. I'm doing other things. So, movies are just incidental if they happen. It's not like I want to stop or start or do anything like that."

Now that her li'l one is 10 years old, she's

keen on starting to work on and on. Getting back to *Adiparvam*, she brings in a revelation to us: "I have 7 different looks and 7 different get-ups in *Adiparvam*." This was something she felt was challenging to take it up, where she looks young and old at the same time. "My character starts from a young age," she tells about her character in the upcoming film, which is a revenge mystical drama. As the story progresses, so does her character. "Then it gets into her character getting older and will she avenge her revenge?" the *Pitta Kathalu* star says, intriguing us to know in detail and head towards the theatre to get to know it.

to know it.

"You have to really sit with the director when you prepare for any role; how are they seeing you?" says the *Anaganaga O Dheerudu* fame. Reason being: "I am from the interior parts of

Reason being: "I am from the interior parts of Rayalaseema, so there is a different kind of slang, language and that is very pertaining to that particular area."

Thus, understanding the process by working extensively with the director, the different looks for her to deliver, looking young to old, or the kind of clothes she wears. "Everything goes into playing in preparing that I have prepared for this role. I hope I have delivered."

Also a producer, the *Dongaata* lead cum producer believes, "When stories come to you and you feel like nobody else can tell these stories other than you, that motivates me to be a pro-

other than you, that motivates me to be a pro-

ducer. I love the stories I put together."

Not only has she been into the filmy world, but she has also put in her human side with her philanthropic efforts for the betterment of society. With great regards and love, she tells us, "I believe that if in this human life, God has given you, it is your prerogative to make sure

us, "I believe that if in this human life, God has given you, it is your prerogative to make sure one other person has the same."

Diverging a little towards the happenings in the industry, the Hema Committee for that matter, or in the dance choreographers case, lifestyle has just not been fair for women and several actresses coming up and speaking out. Opining on this, she points out, "Why, just during the Hema Committee, we are talking about life not being fair for women? Period. I hope we continue to find the voice and continue to speak up about things that are not right; keep the dialogue going and not shut it down. At least the women who lent their voices are not silenced. It is the job of a man to hit on you. It is also your job to know if that is coming from the right place or wrong. It takes two hands to clap, but when a person is in position and power, you can easily use that to suppress the other. You always have to know how to navigate yourself through life. There is no one right or wrong way. I think every workspace has to put stricter rules so women can speak up if a rule is not being followed. I'm never going to let somebody dim my light because that's the fight I've taken up

on this life. I think in the Telugu film industry, a lot of women have come together to really hold the space for other women and we have been addressing everything that comes to the producer council. There are strong women who are leading the women's wing of the Telugu industry. But do you think we are doing enough and can we be doing more? I absolutely think so."

doing enough and can we be doing more? Absolutely think so."

Well, one thing about our interviewee is that she is one headstrong person. How does she keep it? "Fake it till you make it," gushes the Yakshini actress because, she says, you don't have an answer for everything in your life. And it's then you will find your answers because you are staying true to yourself. But, "If you're going to wait for the rest of your life to get answers, to find your strength, that's a long way and then you're not going to make it that long."

Heading towards the end of this insightful chat with the Gundello Godari actress, she tells us about her project-choosing process: "I always look at it as an audience and how interesting it is for me to do it. That's what really motivates me to take up a project. I just finished a series on Amazon. I've just signed something for Netflix and then of course there's Adiparvam releasing on the 31st."

Adiparvam releasing on the 31st.'



Allu Arjun's Nandyal visit takes centre stage in *Unstoppable Season 4*

▼t's official now. Season 4 of the popular talk Ravi Chandra Kishore Reddy, and this visit was Is official now, season 4 of the popular talk show *Unstoppable* on Aha OTT will begin streaming from October 24. The host, Nandamuri Balakrishna, released a promo for the upcoming season on Sunday. While the celebrity guest list hasn't been officially revealed, the animation promo depicted Balakrishna as a superhero. According to our sources, Balakrishna has already completed two episodes, one featuring Malayalam actor Dulquer Salmaan and the other with Icon Star Allu Arjun.

Our reliable source reveals that in the episode with Allu Arjun, Balakrishna posed a direct question about Arjun's controversial visit to Nandyal during an election campaign. In response, Allu Arjun offered a diplomatic explanation, stating, "I've regularly visited many friends in the past, including my friend Shilpa

blown out of proportion."

Interestingly, the source also noted that

Balakrishna supported Allu Arjun's visit to Nandyal, expressing, "What's wrong in your visit?" This exchange touches on a sensitive issue, as Allu Arjun's visit has led to distance between him and the Mega Family, with him missing from many family events. Moreover, since the visit, Mega Fans have been trolling him, and some Jana Sena supporters have openly stated that they plan to target Allu Arjun's upcoming film *Pushpa 2*.

While the show starts streaming on October 24, it remains undecided which episode will air first. If Allu Arjun's episode is the debut, it could stir controversy and potentially reignite tensions between Mega Fans and Allu Arjun's supporters.

It's official: Nara Rohit gets engaged to his forever after!

riend and co-star from *Prathinidhi 2*, Sireesha Lella, on Sunday. Reports had been circulating about his engagement and the couple finally made it official at a private ceremony in Hyderabad. Nara Rohit is the nephew of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. The event was kept low-profile, with no media presence

According to sources, Nara Bhuvaneswari, the Chief Minister's wife, personally oversaw the arrangements for the event. The engagement was attended by several celebrities, including members of both the Nandamuri and Nara families. Nara Rohit's cousin, Minister Nara Lokesh, along with his wife Nara Brahmani, was also present. It is reported that Nara Lokesh, along with his mother, warmly received the guests and ensured everything went smoothly. Rohit and Sireesha have known each other for a long time, and their relationship blossomed while working together on Prathinidhi 2, which was released in May this year, just education in Australia before making her acting debut with this film. Sources suggest that their wedding will take

Nara Rohit, who debuted with *Baanam* in 2009, is known for his versatility in films like Solo, Rowdy Fellow, Jyo Achyutananda, Asura, and Saarocharu. After taking a long break following the release of Veera Bhoga Vasantharayalu in 2018. Rohit is set to make a comeback with Sundarakanda, which is slated for release soon. Though Prathinidhi 2 was released earlier this year with electionrelated themes, it did not perform well at the box office.



PAWAN KALYAN HITS HIGH NOTES:

Turns singer for Hari Hara Veera Mallu



28, 2025, in multiple languages, including Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Hindi and Kannada. We're aiming for a December 20 releas producer Sivalenka. "The shooting wraps in September and post-production is underway. We'll complete censor formalities soon and bring audiences a delightful comedy just in time for the

Christmas season." He promises Sarangapani Jathakam will be a memorable comedy for their banner.

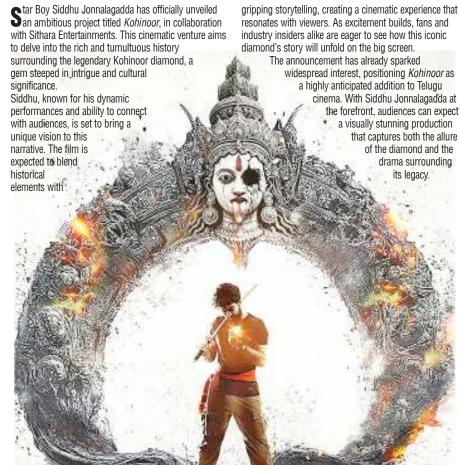


ctor Prabhas, one of the biggest stars in Indian cinema, is all set to relive his early days with the re-release of his debut film Eeswar on October 23, in celebration of his birthday. Directed by Jayanth C Paranji and produced by K Ashok, this film is being re-released by Lakshmi Narasimha Movies. Tollywood has seen a surge in successful re-releases,

with some even grossing as much as new films and the makers of Eeswar hope to replicate that success at the box office. The newly released trailer, featuring iconic mass dialogues by Prabhas, has already struck a chord with audiences, serving as a nostalgic re-introduction to the star. With fans known for celebrating re-releases like festivals, this 4K rerelease of Eeswar will allow them to relish Prabhas' early charm, further amplifying the pan-Indian stardom he enjoys



Siddhu aims hattrick with Sitara Entertainment



A CHRISTMAS

Tith *Game Changer* postponed to Sankranthi, filmmakers are adjusting their release calendars. Director Indraganti Mohanakrishna and actor Priyadarshi are teaming up for *Sarangapani Jathakam*, produced by Sivalenka Krishna Prasad, which is now set to release on December 20, 2024.

Privadarshi stars as Sarangapani, with Roopa Koduvayur in the lead. This marks the third collaboration between Indraganti and Prasad, following Gentleman and Sammohanam.



Akinenni Nagarjuna and Mega star Chiranjeevi were invited to the Devi Navratri festival at the residence of S. Kalyanaraman, MD of Kalyan Jewellers.

After Paris high, India look to continue momentum at home

⊣he absence of the Paris Olympic medallists notwithstanding, hosts India will not be short on firepower when they compete in the seasonending World Cup Final, starting here from Tuesday, with Rhythm Sangwan headlining a 23-member

squad.
The Paris Olympics medallists automatically qualify for the tournament, but Manu Bhaker, Sarabjot Singh and Swapnil Kusale, who won the bronze, have opted to skip the event to be staged at the Dr.

Karni Singh Range. Besides Rhythm, rising stars such as Ganemat Sekhon (women's skeet) and Sonam Maskar (women's 10m air rifle) will look to excel in the tournament, having earned their spots based on world rankings. The Indian squad features nine

athletes from the 2024 Paris Olympics, including Arjun Babuta (men's 10m air rifle), Anish Bhanwala (men's 25m rapid fire

women's 10m air pistol and 25m pistol events.

The other Olympians in the squad include Mairaj Ahmad Khan (men's skeet), Divyansh Singh Panwar (men's 10m air rifle), and Chain Singh (men's 50m rifle 3 positions). Also ready to shoot in the World Cup Final are Arjun Singh Cheema (men's 10m air pistol), Vijayveer Sidhu (men's 25m rapid fire pistol), Anantjeet Singh Narukha (men's skeet), Maheshwari Chauhan Rajeshwari (women's skeet), Kumari (women's trap) and

Shreyasi Singh (women's trap). All these shooters competed in the Paris Games. There are four finals lined up on each of the three competition days in this traditional ISSF season-ending showdown between the best in the world. Due to host country norms, a minimum of two Indian shooters will be in action in each of the 12 individual Olympic events on the roster.

Action begins on Tuesday with the 10m air rifle women being the first final on the schedule, followed by



The 10m air pistol men and women's finals are also lined up on day one. All the finals will be preceded by qualification rounds. preceded by qualification rounds.

131 of the world's top shooters from

37 countries including multiple
reigning Olympic champions
participate in the competition
which will determine the year's best
performers in each of the 12 performers in each of the 12 individual Olympic events. The world's top six athletes of the combined six ISSF World Cup stages held throughout year, along with Paris Olympic medallists, defending ISSF World Cup Final champions and reigning world champions have achieved direct qualification in each of the 12 qualification in each of the 12 events. Three events men's 10m air pistol, men's trap and women's 25m pistol will see all three Paris Olympic medallists compete for the top prize of 5000 euros.

All reigning champions from the previous year in Doha will also be

to attend the tournament, hailed India's role in the growth of the

"We're excited to be in India for the ISSF World Cup Final, one of the most dedicated shooting sport nations in the world," said Rossi. "After a successful season for our

athletes and a wonderful Olympic Games in Paris, this is the perfect opportunity for all to finish the season on a high," he added.

National Rifle Association of India's (NRAI) secretary general K Sultan Singh said, "Shooting sport has been witnessing huge rise in popularity and passion amongst the vouth, women and specially abled athletes in the country which can be gauged by the laurels which has

gauged by the laurels which has been achieved at the Olympics, Paralympics and continental championships."
"We wish all the participants the very best and immensely thank the ISSF and the government of India for all their support in booting and there to defend their titles.

President of the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF),

Final in New Delhi."

Historic women's doubles bronze at Asian TT Championships

India clinches three medals

PTI ■ ASTANA (KAZAKHSTAN)

India wrapped up their campaign at the Asian Table Tennis Championships with three medals, including a historic bronze in the women's doubles, after Ayhika Mukherjee and Sutirtha Mukherjee's dream run ended in the semifinals here on

Sunday. The world No. 15 pair, who stunned the reigning world champions from China en route to a bronze at the Asian Games last year, fell to Japan's Miwa Harimoto and Miyuu Kihara, 4-11 9-11 8-11 in under 30 minutes in their last-four clash.

Prior to that, the Indian duo third had defeated South Korea's Kim Nayeong and Lee Eunhye in the quarterfinals to secure India's first-ever women's doubles medal at the Asian meet.

The Indian women's team had earlier clinched a historic bronze in the team event. The trio of Manika Batra,

Ayhika Mukherjee, and Sutirtha Mukherjee secured the country's first-ever medal in the women's team category since the competition began in 1972, though they eventually lost 1-3 to Japan in the semifinals.

In the men's category, India secured another bronze, their

third straight in the tournament, after the team of Achanta Sharath Kamal, Manav Thakkar, and Harmeet Desai fell 0-3 to Chinese Taipei in the semifinals.

In men's singles, Manav Thakkar and Manush Shah bowed out in the prequarterfinals.

World No. 60 Thakkar, who had earlier shocked world No. 14 Jang Woojin of South Korea, was defeated by Hong Kong's Baldwin Chan, 4-11 4-11 8-11. Meanwhile, Manush put up a tough fight against Lin Yun-Ju of Chinese Taipei and took two games before narrowly losing 8-11 5-11 11-7 11-6 12-14.

We could have scored more: Farukh Choudhary PTI ■ NAM DINH (VIETNAM)

Returning to action after three midfielder Farukh Choudhary feels they could have scored another goal as India had to settle for a 1-1 draw against hosts Vietnam in an international friendly

Manolo Marquez's selection of Farukh had raised eyebrows but the midfielder, who was sidelined for three years, struck a second-half goal to level things for India after Vi Hao Bui had given the hosts a 38th minute

"Personally, I feel great. I've not been a part of the national team for a long time, but this is where I wanted to be. I worked hard at my clubs and I knew in my heart that I deserved to be here,"

The last time Farukh turned out for India, he created an assist against



Nepal, in October 2021, in a 1-0 victory in Male. But an unfortunate knee injury meant that he had to start from square one on his way back to the national team.

"I'm glad that I could make a difference for the team, but I feel that we could have scored another," he said. "But everyone played well together as a team. Gurpreet (Singh Saandhu) and

Anwar (Ali) also had exceptional games in defence, which is why we got this score."

In what was a game of two halves, India heaved an almighty effort for most parts of the second half, and perhaps were a bit disappointed that they could not find the winning goal. However, the head coach remains positive about his side's display as his search of a first win in charge of India continues.

"In the first half, it was practically all Vietnam. Then we discussed at half time how we have enough quality to play, and finally, we started executing our plans in the second," said Márquez.

'Sure, Vietnam could have scored in the last minutes when we were tired, but we could have scored too with our last chance. But overall, I am satisfied with this. It was a friendly game, after

Djokovic, Sinner reach Shanghai Masters final, Sabalenka rallies over Gauff at Wuhan

AP SHANGHAI

Novak Djokovic overcame physical discomfort to beat Taylor Fritz 6-4 7-6 (6) and move closer to a 100th career title and a recordextending fifth at the Shanghai Masters. By also reaching the final on Saturday night, top-ranked Jannik Sinner ensured he will be the ATP year-end No. 1 and the first Italian to achieve that feat. "(I've won) many titles, had great battles and great performances," the 37-year-old Djokovic said.

"I did come here definitely with a vision and a desire to get to the final and fight for a 100th title. I get that chance against the best player in the world, and let's see what happens." Fellow great Roger Federer has 103 titles and Jimmy Connors leads men with 109 in the Open era. Top-ranked Jannik Sinner will chase his seventh ATP title of the year after beating Tomas

Machac 6-4 7-5. Djokovic improved to 10-0 in career matches against Fritz, who blew a 5-3 lead in the second-set tiebreaker and a set point at 6-5 up. Djokovic was clearly struggling

for mobility and balance with his left knee heavily strapped. "It always takes it out of me, these kinds of battles, but particularly towards the end of the tournament," Djokovic said. "At this stage of my career, I'm doing my best to recover and I had some issues here and there on the court, physically." But US Open runner-up Fritz

could not take advantage. He lost a long rally at 6-6 and succumbed on the first match point when Djokovic stabbed a volley at the net and the American flicked it just long at

full stretch. Djokovic leads 4-3 overall against Sinner, who has won the last two - including in the Australian Open semifinals. Earlier, Sinner weathered a nearly two-hour baseline storm from No. 33-ranked Machac, who beat No. 2 Carlos Alcaraz in the quarterfinals. The Italian has a shot at his third Masters title in 2024 following victories in Miami and Cincinnati, to go with his



wins at the Australian Open and U.S. Open.
"I just tried to stay there every

point, to see what was going to happen," Sinner said.

"Just playing every point with the maximum intensity I could, so I'm very happy about that. I'm happy to be back in a

final again.
"I'm just looking forward to (the final), to try to find a solution somehow ... And hopefully it's going to win the match." Sinner fired 10 aces and 28 winners, against only seven unforced errors, in a characteristically efficient performance for his 64th match win this year.

WUHAN OPEN: Secondranked Aryna Sabalenka rallied from a slow start to beat an in-form Coco Gauff 1-6 6-4 6-4 in the semifinals to advance to her third straight Wuhan final and preserve her perfect record at the tournament.

Sabalenka will face seventh-

ranked Zheng Qinwen in the final. The Paris Olympics champion beat No. 51-ranked Wang Xinyu 6-3 6-4. Sabalenka will be bidding for her fourth title of the season, which includes the Australian Open and US Open.

The Belarussian's 16th straight victory at Wuhan end Gauff's own recent win streak at nine, including the China Open title last week. But it looked anything but certain for Sabalenka as she crashed 6-1 in the opening set.

"In the first set she was just crushing it," Sabalenka said. Whatever she was doing, everything was flying in. Everything was so aggressive. I didn't have

opportunities." In a fight between the last two US Open champions, Gauff led by a break early in the second but Sabalenka responded to pull level at 4-4 and saved a break point on serve to take a 5-4 lead.

Serving to stay in the set, Gauff was broken as Sabalenka hit a lunging forehand volley to force a deciding set.

Ronaldo scores again in Nations League win for Perfect Portugal

AP BARCELONA

Cristiano Ronaldo scored his record-extending 133rd international goal to keep Portugal perfect in the Nations League with a 3-1 win over Poland, and Spain struck late to edge Denmark

The 39-year-old superstar was there to put in the rebound after Rafael Leão's shot hit the post in the 37th minute on Saturday. That made it 2-0 following Bernardo Silva's opener in Warsaw in the 26th.

After failing to find the net in his five appearances at this summer's European Championship with Portugal exiting in the quarterfinals - Ronaldo has scored in three straight Nations League matches, including in wins over Croatia - his 900th career goal - and Scotland last month.

Portugal coach Roberto Martínez replaced Ronaldo with Diogo Jota with just under half an hour to play. Midfielder Piotr Zielinski halved the deficit in the 78th

for the hosts, only for Southampton defender Jan Bednarek to score an owngoal with two minutes left. Barcelona striker Robert Lewandowski started alongside Karol Swiderski but the Polish attacking pair couldn't find their way past

the Portuguese defense. "We worked very hard the last few days, preparing various solutions for this game, and we were able to show it on the pitch. I am really satisfied because we controlled this

game," Martínez said. "Also, I am satisfied how Renato Veiga and Rúben Dias performed against one of the best in the world (in Lewandowski)."

Portugal leads Group A1 with nine points from three games. Second-place Croatia has six points after it came back to beat Scotland 2-1 in Zagreb with the visitors having an equalizer deep into secondhalf stoppage time ruled out by VAR. Poland has three points, and Scotland zero. Scotland's Ryan Christie

opened for the Scots and their

under-fire manager Steve Clarke in the 33rd. Igor



Matanovic leveled three minutes later and Andrej Kramaric completed the fightback in the 70th.

Scotland had the ball in the net right at the end with substitute Che Adams involved but VAR confirmed it was offside. Zubimendi shines in Rodri's

spot Martín Zubimendi helped Spain crack Denmark's defense as the holding midfielder starred in place of

injured Rodri. The Real Sociedad player unleashed a powerful volley in the 79th to smash a rebound from outside the area past Kasper Schmeichel, who got his hand on the ball

but couldn't keep it out. Zubimendi had impressed in the final of Euro 2024 when he replaced Rodri for the second half of Spain's 2-1 win

over England. Rodri seriously injured his right knee and required surgery on his ACL while playing for Manchester City lasť month.

"Martín is a treasure," Spain coach Luis de la Fuente said. "I suppose with his goal he

will get more attention, but his play, the fact that he's got a computer in his brain, means we are privileged to have him at a time when Rodri will be out for a while."

Spain was also missing Nico Williams and Dani Olmo, two more players who excelled at the Euros, who are sidelined with minor injuries. Spain, the defending Nations League champion, has seven points in Group A4 afer three games. Denmark has six points, and Serbia has four after beating the pointless Switzerland 2-0.

The Swiss didn't help their cause with an own-goal by Nico Elvedi right before the interval.

Aleksandar Mitrovic doubled the lead for Serbia with a solo effort in the 61st, and Serbia goalkeeper Predrag Rajkovic saved a penalty taken by Breel Embolo.

Wins for Kosovo, Romania Kosovo won 2-1 at Lithuania in League C, while Romania thumped Cyprus 3-0, Northern Ireland drew 0-0 at Belarus, and Bulgaria was held 0-0 at home by Luxembourg.