

QUOTE OF THE DAY

These people who claim they would give their lives for the country are opposing the VLF Navy Radar Station. This is a matter concerning national security. If you don't love the country, you are worse than Kasab. KTR is talking like Kasab. If you have an issue with the project, why didn't you stand in front of Rajnath Singh's Land Cruiser instead of bothering me? This is cheap politics

- Revanth Reddy, Chief Minister

Africa emerged as key destination:
Murmu
 5

LOGISTICS
 COST WILL COME DOWN TO 9% OF GDP: GADKARI
 8

TFI gearing up for Gaddar Film
AWARDS
 11

DON'T MISS...

31,383 to appear for exams in 46...

Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari said that all arrangements have been made for the Group 1 mains examinations to be held from October 21st to 27th. She held a video conference with the District Collectors, Police Commissioners and officials concerned on the conduct of the examinations. Telangana Public Service Commission Chairman Dr Mahender Reddy and other members participated from their office while DGP Jitender, TGPSC Secretary Naveen Nicholas, SPDCL MD Mustraf Ali, Family Welfare Department ...

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BJP marks win with show of...

Nayab Singh Saini, the proverbial dark horse who became star of the BJP's victory in the Haryana assembly elections, was sworn in as chief minister of the state on Thursday in a grand ceremony attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and a galaxy of NDA leaders. Thousands of people packed into the Dussehra Ground to watch Governor Bandarudattatreya administer the oath of office to the low profile OBC leader and 13 others. For the BJP, the messaging was not just in its show of strength...

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Enhanced insurance benefits...

Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandavaya on Thursday announced extension of the enhanced insurance benefits for all members of retirement fund body EPFO under Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance (EDLI) scheme. The move will ensure up to Rs 7 lakh of life cover to more than 6 crore EPFO members. The scheme has been extended with retrospective effect from April 28, 2024 onwards, Mandavaya told reporters here. EDLI Scheme, launched in 1976, seeks to provide insurance benefits...

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Ganguly named director of cricket...

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly was on Thursday appointed Director of Cricket for JSW Sports, his role covering all its cricketing properties including the Delhi team in the IPL and the WPL along with the Pretoria Capitals franchise in SA20. JSW Sports and GMR Group co-own Delhi Capitals in the IPL and WPL (Women's Premier League) while Pretoria Capitals is owned solely by JSW Sports. "In his role, Ganguly will spearhead all cricketing properties owned by JSW Sports, including..."

-SPORTS

Musi on the move

CM unveils plan to rejuvenate the river project



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy unveiled the government's comprehensive action plan on Thursday to rejuvenate the Musi River and its surrounding areas. Unveiling his grand vision the CM said the plan aims to "Bring the city to the river and to give the river back to the city."

The plans are based on the 15 symphony model, that is, Innovative, Invigorate, Iconic, Inclusive and Integrated.

Innovative means the new economic pulse of Hyderabad and its agri-aqua hub, Invigorate is to use the timeless treasure of Hyderabad's historic monuments, capitalising on its history and celebrating its roots, Iconic means crafting its landmarks, Inclusive as the riverfront that embraces its nature and community and Integrated means to take Hyderabad into a digital future and

Showcases 15 symphony of Musi

KTR, Harish & Eatala should stay away from Musi area for 3 months

establishing a world-class smart city infrastructure and an integrated future-ready city that will have edu-

cation, a healthcare and innovation hub, an environment exploration centre/sustainability learning hub, a media, entertainment and financial hub, eco residential townships, administrative and convention hub, and a recreational and ecological park.

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CM blasts KTR for opposing Dammagundam VLF Station

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy lashed out at opposition BRS leader KTR, calling him 'Kasab' for criticizing the Dammagundam VLF Station Project.

Revanth, while addressing the

media, defended the project as vital to national security and accused KTR of politicizing the issue for personal gain.

"This is connected with national security. 3,500 Navy families are going to stay at Dammagundam.

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CITIZENSHIP TO IMMIGRANTS

SC upholds validity of Sec 6A of Citizenship Act

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a significant judgement, the Supreme Court on Thursday upheld the constitutional validity of Section 6A of the Citizenship Act which grants Indian citizenship to immigrants from Bangladesh who entered Assam before March 25, 1971.

Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud and Justices Surya Kant, M M Sundresh, and Manoj Misra further underscored the necessity for more robust policy measures to curb illegal immigration.

Section 6A was inserted in 1985 into the Citizenship Act of 1955 following the signing of the Assam accord between the then Rajiv Gandhi government at the Centre and the agitating groups led by Prafulla Mahanta including All Assam Students Union in the state.

The verdict is believed to give a boost to those opposed to grant of Indian citizenship to immigrants who entered Assam after March 25, 1971.

According to the provision, all those who came to Assam on or after January 1, 1966, but before March 25, 1971, from Bangladesh at the time of commencement of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 1985, and since then

are residents of Assam, can register for Indian citizenship.

As a result, the provision fixes March 25, 1971, as the cut-off date for granting citizenship to migrants, particularly those from Bangladesh, residing in Assam.

While the CJI, Justices Kant, Sundresh, and Misra upheld the constitutional validity of Section 6A, Justice J B Pardiwala dissented in a minority verdict.

Holding the cut-off date of March 25, 1971 as rational, the CJI, writing for himself, said Section 6A was included with the objective of reducing the influx of migrants to India and dealing with those who had already migrated.

CJI Chandrachud said Section 6A was not violative of Articles 6 and 7 of the Constitution, which stipulates a cut-off date for conferring citizenship to migrants from east and west Pakistan at the "commencement of the Constitution".

"The Assam Accord was a political solution to the issue of growing migration and Section 6A was a legislative solution. Section 6A must not be read detached from the previous legislation enacted by Parliament to deal with the problem of influx of migrants of Indian origin..."

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CJI recommends Justice Sanjiv Khanna's name as successor
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'WE FOUGHT CBN & YSR'

Revanth no big deal: KTR



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Minister for Roads and Buildings, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, clarified that helicopter services were used for official programmes across multiple districts with prior approval from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO).

He emphasized that the use of helicopters is part of the government's effort to ensure the efficient execution of development and welfare schemes and to save time during district tours.

He explained that he along with other ministers had used helicopter services for government functions, inauguration ceremonies and to conduct review meetings in various districts. He also reminded that during the recent floods, copters were used to coordinate the visits of Union Ministers and oversee relief and rehabilitation operations. Helicopters were also employed to ensure the smooth conduct of the Ganesh immersion process, he said.



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLA KTR, speaking at the BRSV representatives' meeting held at the Telangana Bhavan with affected people. He assured them that the BRS would not only fight on their behalf but also provide legal assistance free. The government's policy to demolish the homes of the poor in the name of the Musi Project would not be tolerated, KTR warned.

"We won't remain idle if they try to bring down the houses of the poor," he added, vowing to stand by those whose livelihoods are at risk. KTR did not mince words as he targeted the Congress, the very party that granted permissions for these settlements and collected electricity bills and property taxes, only to now label the poor as encroachers. He called this attitude disgraceful, saying that it exposes the Congress government's double standards. "Musi victims should not fear anything. The BRS will be there to support them," he said, assuring them of his party's full backing.

He criticized the current CM, Revanth Reddy, for being inexperienced and uninformed and pointed out his recent public gaffes.

"Revanth doesn't even know what he doesn't know," KTR said, mocking his frequent errors during speeches. Highlighting the transformative achievements under KCR's leadership, KTR pointed out the

'Will help Musi victims'

HYDERABAD: We will stand with Musi victims, KTR said at a meeting held at the Telangana Bhavan with affected people. He assured them that the BRS would not only fight on their behalf but also provide legal assistance free. The government's policy to demolish the homes of the poor in the name of the Musi Project would not be tolerated, KTR warned. "We won't remain idle if they try to bring down the houses of the poor," he added, vowing to stand by those whose livelihoods are at risk. KTR did not mince words as he targeted the Congress, the very party that granted permissions for these settlements and collected electricity bills and property taxes, only to now label the poor as encroachers. He called this attitude disgraceful, saying that it exposes the Congress government's double standards. "Musi victims should not fear anything. The BRS will be there to support them," he said, assuring them of his party's full backing.

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numerous projects completed, especially in irrigation and education. "KCR made Telangana number one in per capita income and major irrigation projects like Kaleshwaram," he stated.

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4 IAS officers from TG report to AP Sectt

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Four IAS officers from the Telangana State reported to the Andhra Pradesh Secretariat on Thursday, following orders from the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT). They met Andhra Pradesh Chief Secretary Neerabh Kumar Prasad and submitted their joining reports. The State government is expected to announce their new postings soon.

This came after the Telangana High Court dismissed petitions from the officers—Vani Prasad, Vakati Karuna, Ronald Rose, and Amrapali—who had tried to stop their transfer from Telangana to Andhra Pradesh. The officers argued that the transfers were not proper, but the High Court upheld



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the decision of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), which stated that cadre allocation is managed by the central government.

The court advised the officers to address their concerns with the CAT,

where related cases are still ongoing. Telangana has already relieved these officers from their duties, and they must now join the Andhra Pradesh cadre.

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Harish demands 'One Nation, One MSP' for cotton

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLA Harish Rao renewed his call for a 'One Nation, One MSP' for cotton and accused the Centre of blatant discrimination in the support prices offered to different states.

In a sharp critique posted on X, he highlighted the stark differences in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) offered for cotton with Gujarat farmers receiving Rs 8,257 per quintal, while farmers in Telangana are offered only Rs 7,521. Harish questioned the Centre's



commitment to uniform policies, given its advocacy for 'One Nation,

One Tax', 'One Nation, One Election, and 'One Nation, One Ration Card, and its failure to provide a consistent MSP for farmers across the country.

"Why should Telangana's cotton farmers, who grow quality produce, face such injustice?" he asked, emphasizing that this regional disparity harms Telangana's farmers.

He demanded immediate action to address this inequality, stressing that a unified MSP would ensure fairness for cotton farmers nationwide, regardless of their state.

Not all demolished buildings are illegal: Eatala

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Termining HYDRAA as a big drama, the BJP's Malkajgiri MP, Eatala Rajender, said that not all buildings in FTL areas and buffer zones are illegal. Some of them are on lands with title deeds, he said. All buildings demolished by HYDRAA are not illegal and it is just a drama to extort money from builders, he said.



He said the Congress governments had behaved vengefully in the past by demolishing the houses of the poor with bulldozers and added that the current government is behaving unjustly by targeting the poor. HYDRAA is mostly demolishing buildings on Saturdays and Sundays as courts are off on these days.

Eatala asked the government to collect the details of government and private lands first to protect lakes and ponds.

He also demanded the government to pay compensation immediately to the poor who are now on the roads after the demolitions.

There is internal bickering in the Congress government, he said, adding that the government started demolitions to divert public attention from the infighting in the Congress.

The lands of the poor are not Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's ancestral property to grab in the name of HYDRAA, he said and demanded that the government should acquire land if it wanted to protect water bodies.

Hooch leaves 25 dead in Bihar

PNS ■ PATNA

In one of the biggest hooch tragedies in Bihar since the state went dry in 2016, at least 25 people have died after consuming spurious liquor in the adjoining districts of Siwan and Saran, a top officer said on Thursday.

Director General of Police Alok Raj said that while Siwan accounted for 20 fatalities, five deaths have been reported from Saran even as 12 people have been arrested for allegedly selling spurious liquor and they were likely to be "tried under the most stringent laws and punished by the court".

"Two special investigating teams have also been set up in the aftermath of the incident. The one set up at the local level will be looking into the criminality involved in the latest



"Two special investigating teams have also been set up in the aftermath of the incident. The one set up at the local level will be looking into the criminality involved in the latest episode."

episode." Another SIT has been set up by the Department of Prohibition in Patna which will carry out a comprehensive study of all such incidents that have taken place in the recent past, based upon which a plan of action will be drawn out," the DGP said.

The name of a liquor mafioso has cropped up. He happened to be involved in a similar case earlier and is currently out on bail. We are investigating the matter from all angles," he added. According to officials in the two districts, tragedy befell Maghar and Auriya pan-chayats of Siwan and Mashrak in Saran on Tuesday night when a number of locals treated themselves to liquor, the sale of which was completely banned in the state by the Nitish Kumar government way back in April, 2016.

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Bangla tribunal issues arrest warrant against Hasina

PNS ■ DHAKA

Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal on Thursday issued arrest warrants against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, who was ousted after student-led protests in August, and 45 others for alleged crimes against humanity.

The warrants against Hasina, 77, and others, including her party Awami League's top leaders, were issued on the first day of the judicial proceedings begun by the re-constituted tribunal, Dhaka Tribune newspaper said.

The Tribunal, led by its chairman Justice Md Golam Mortuza Majumdar, passed the orders after the prosecution filed two petitions seeking arrest warrants, Chief Prosecutor Muhammad Tajul Islam was quoted as saying by the Daily Star.

The ICT also directed the authorities concerned to produce Hasina and 45 others before it by November 18.

So far more than 60 complaints of enforced disappearance, murder and mass killings have been filed at the ICT against Hasina, other leaders of her Awami League party and the 14-party alliance, journalists and former top officials of law enforcement agencies.

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RTI in trouble in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

The Right to Information Act 2005 is in trouble, at least now in the state of Andhra Pradesh. Unfortunately, even in Telangana, the state government is yet to think of appointing the Chief Information Commissioners and State Information Commissions, despite High Court orders as well as several judgments of the Supreme Court.

When ten thousand plus second appeals were pending for several years, how could the Information Commission not even attend to this statutory office, as reportedly mentioned in the report of the SCIC sent to the Governor? Can an office of the Governor or Chief of Commission ensure strict attendance on take-up hearings of the appeals? It is neither accountability nor transparency. **Strike at 'work'**

It is a simple duty that

every Commissioner should be attending the office at least to dispose of second appeals to make it 'work'. But they were neither attending duty nor on leave. They should learn from the sub-courts under the superintendence of the High Courts how to work. Though there was huge pendency of cases, the judges worked from 10.30 am to around 5.30 pm, posted more than 2 hundred cases, and disposed of dozens of them.

It was surprising to note what has been happening in the Andhra Pradesh State Information Commission. **Report of Chief against Commissioners**

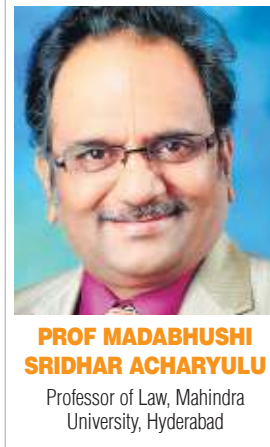
Based on a complaint, a report was submitted to Governor Syed Abdul Nazeer by State Chief Information Commissioner (SCIC) R. Mahabob Basha on October 3, which exposed several unwelcome happenings at the

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Andhra Pradesh Information Commission (APIC). The SCIC, Mahabob Basha, has complained about the alleged irregularity in attendance of the Commissioners, delay in adjudication of the cases, and others. **No accountability?**

An RTI activist, Emmanuel Dasari Chakradhar Buddha, co-convenor of the United Forum for RTI Campaign - AP (UFRTI-AP), has complained against some State Information Commissioners

of Andhra Pradesh. According to a report from RTI activists, media, and the SCIC, Basha studied the complaint to Governor Syed Abdul Nazeer of AP. Chakradhar Buddha has rightly asked to ensure accountability in APIC and their office. The reading of this 46-page report exposes the pathetic stage of the RTI. The State Information Commissioners (SICs) could not draw a full salary for September, as their payslips were reportedly prepared



PROF. MADABHUSHI SRIDHAR ACHARYULU
Professor of Law, Mahindra University, Hyderabad

based on their attendance register. **Breach of oath!**

In the complaint, Basha said that "APIC took all steps to achieve noble objects of ensuring transparency and accountability, however, the demeaning, non-cooperative

attitude and misbehaviour of the concerned SICs is depriving the APIC to achieve its objectives and such conduct of SICs tantamount to breach of oath."

He also explained that "to ensure punctuality, discipline, and accountability in the functioning of the APIC, this office passed an administrative order on August 29, 2024, directing all the quasi-judicial authorities, including SCIC and SICs, to mark their entry and exit attendance through Facial Recognition System (FRS) and by signing in the entry and exit manual attendance register."

It is a tragedy that, except for himself, none of the SICs working at the APIC have marked their attendance in the register. Later, the Drawing and Disbursement Officer, in consonance with the administrative order of the APIC, prepared the salary bills of

SCIC and SICs as per the monthly attendance report and uploaded the same on September 25.

It is further said that "the SICs are attending the office without adhering to the timings, and remaining absent without applying for leave but drawing full salary". The APIC introduced the manual attendance system and directed the DDO to prepare the salary bills based on attendance reports, he added.

The SCIC exposed that one of the SICs, Chavali Suneel, intruded into his chamber, sat on the floor, and instructed his office subordinate to serve food, demanding a new dining table along with chairs. At present, four SICs are working viz. P. Samuel Jonathan, Chavali Suneel, Rehana Begum, and Allareddy Uday Bhaskar Reddy.

The SICs alleged in their let-

ter that, "The SCIC has been formulating orders with an undue intention of subjugating, exercising undue influence and creating a sense of fear and panic among the SICs, thereby causing unnecessary trauma and interference in the daily functioning of the SICs."

Don't we have right to know?

Let us remind the people and the Governments to know that it is right to information and right to know! Right to Information Day is celebrated on October 12 --this is the day the Right to Information Act of 2005 came into force. The act's goals include making the government more accountable to the people, promoting transparency, and containing corruption. Internationally, on September 28, Right to Know Day should have been celebrated.

(The writer is former CIC)

KTR backs Group-1 Mains candidates, asks govt to change exam schedule

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS Working President KTR urged the government to positively consider the demands of Group-1 mains candidates, who are demanding the rescheduling of their exams. He asked why the government is being stubborn as the candidates themselves are requesting rescheduling.

He strongly condemned the arrest of candidates protesting in Ashok Nagar and demanded their immediate release and the withdrawal of all cases against them.

On Thursday, KTR met protesting Group-1 mains candidates at the Telangana Bhavan, after their appeal on X for support. He assured them that the BRS stands firmly behind their cause and will provide legal assistance.

The candidates told KTR about the government's refusal to reconsider its stance, despite

legal and constitutional challenges to GO No: 29, which they argued violates the Constitution. They also highlighted issues with reservations and how the current situation is unfair to them.

Despite 22 cases pending in court regarding Group-1 Mains, the government insists on conducting the exams, the candidates told KTR. They said that if they approach the Supreme Court the exams may be cancelled. Conducting an exam that is bound to get cancelled is unfair, they argued, but the government continues to push forward stubbornly.

KTR reassured the candidates that the BRS would provide full legal support and pressure the government to reschedule the exams. He emphasized that the exams should be conducted only after all legal hurdles are cleared to ensure fairness for all candidates.

Cabinet meeting on Oct 23, to discuss major issues

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Cabinet will meet on October 23 at the secretariat under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. The meeting, scheduled for 4 pm, is expected to address pressing issues concerning the state.

Among the topics likely to be discussed are the progress of the Musi Project, which has been a focal point of recent infrastructure planning, and updates regarding the Dharani Portal, an essential tool for managing land records.

The Cabinet is also expected to consider reforms in the health sector, including the expansion of healthcare services, as well as decisions regarding the distribution of ration cards, which could impact many families across the state.

Fulfil promises to govt staff, demands Harish

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLA Harish Rao called on the Congress government to fulfil its long-standing promises to government employees, teachers and government pensioners.

With the Centre announcing a 3% Dearness Allowance (DA) as a Diwali gift, he reminded Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of the commitments made in the Congress election manifesto, which remain unfulfilled.

Harish said the Congress Abhaya Hasta manifesto promised the release of pending DAs immediately after coming to power. Ten months later, five DAs are still pending, and government employ-

ees are suffering, losing between ₹5,000 to ₹20,000 each month.

He stressed the urgent need for the Cabinet meeting scheduled for October 23 to address this and release the 17.29% pending DAs as a Diwali gift.

Criticizing the Congress government, Harish pointed out the lack of progress regarding the Pay Revision Commission's (PRC) recommendations and the failure to clear supplementary bills like GPF and leave surrender.

He demanded the immediate clearance of these arrears, which have left employees waiting for months. Additionally, he raised the issue of nearly 5,000 retirees

who are still waiting for their retirement benefits, facing hardship due to pending dues like GPF, gratuity and insurance.

Harish demanded the government must resolve these issues immediately in the next Cabinet meeting. He also emphasized the need for the immediate implementation of the Employee Health Scheme (EHS) introduced by the BRS government, which was designed to benefit employees, teachers and pensioners.

He concluded by urging the Congress government to act before Diwali and fulfil its promises. Failure to do so, he warned, would harm the state's employees and pensioners, he said.

Harish must ask women about BRS Govt's Bathukamma sarees: Srinivas

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLA T. Harish Rao should ask women about what happened to the Bathukamma sarees that were distributed during BRS rule, Government Whip Adi Srinivas said.

Addressing the media here on Thursday, Srinivas said that Harish is giving the impression that he has lots of concern for women forgetting the fact that former Chief Minister K. Chandrababu Naidu had ignored women when he was in power.

"Did the BRS government include women in the Cabinet? Is it not the BRS government that weakened women's self-help groups? Is it not the BRS government that lifted Pavala Vaddi loans and did injustice to women," he said.

He said that women used the BRS admin-given

Bathukamma sarees to purchase aluminium goods and to protect crops by tying them up on the borders of fields. Harish must feel ashamed to speak about women, he said.

Srinivas asked Harish to explain whether he couldn't see how the Congress government is honouring women.

He said the Congress government gave free bus travel facilities to women immediately after coming to power and gave 200 units of free power.

The government is also giving a gas cylinder for Rs 500, he said. The government has also set up Indira Shakthi canteens, he added.

The government is also going to provide Indiramma houses to women, he said. The Congress government gave a place to an Adivasi woman and a BC woman in the cabinet, he added.

SC: Will decide constitutional validity of laws granting immunity to husbands

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said it will decide the constitutional validity of penal provisions in the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) which grant immunity from prosecution to a husband for the offence of rape if he forces his wife, who is not a minor, to have sex with him.

A bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra sought views of the petitioners on Centre's contention that making such acts punishable would severely

ly impact the conjugal relationship and cause serious disturbances in the institution of marriage.

Senior advocate Karuna Nundy, appearing for one of the petitioners, began arguments and referred to the provisions of the IPC and BNS on "marital rape".

"It is a constitutional question. There are two judgments before us and we have to decide. The core issue is of the constitutional validity (of the penal provisions)," the CJI said.

Nundy said the court must strike down a provision, which was unconstitutional.

Pay three times compensation for Musi oustees: Vishweshwar

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Lashing out at the demolitions in the Musi River area, the BJP's Chevella MP, Konda Vishweshwar Reddy, demanded that the government should pay three times compensation to Musi land losers.

Speaking to the media after visiting Musi victims in the Athapur area on Thursday, Vishweshwar said that it is shocking on the part of Congress government to demolish the houses of the poor without serving notices to the victims. He made it clear that the BJP will stand by the victims.

BJP files complaint about fake video on Kishan Reddy

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The BJP filed a complaint with the cybercrime police seeking an inquiry into the fake, derogatory video circulating on social media about G. Kishan Reddy, the BJP's Telangana State President and Union Minister of Coal and Mines.

Telangana BJP General Secretary Kasam Venkateshwarlu filed the complaint attaching a copy of the fake video which is being circulated on social media platforms. The video undermines the character and stature of G. Kishan Reddy.

Prima facie, it is evident that the video was created with ulterior motives to assassinate the character and personality of G. Kishan Reddy, who is a staunch follower of the BJP and who was instrumental

in expanding the party's base in TG.

Venkateshwarlu said in his complaint that to expand the party's base throughout the state, Kishan undertook padayatra and also lent a hand for creating a Telangana state. Kishan played a major role in building up the BJP by taking along all party leaders and activists, he said.

When this is the real character of G. Kishan Reddy, the video that is being circulated is intended to malign his character and personality, Venkateshwarlu said.

"We request you to immediately take all steps to get the video blocked and also order an investigation to find the source of the video and book cases under cyber laws and other laws so that they get exemplary punishment," he said.

CJI recommends Justice Sanjiv Khanna's name as successor

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud has set in motion the process of appointment of his successor after he recommended the name of Justice Sanjiv Khanna, the senior-most judge after the outgoing CJI, to the Centre.

According to sources, CJI Chandrachud had on Wednesday written a letter of recommendation to the Union Law Ministry naming Justice Khanna as his successor.

Justice Khanna is set to become the 51st CJI on November 11. Elevated as a judge of the Supreme Court on January 18, 2019, Justice Khanna will superannuate on May 13, 2025, making it a tenure of little over six months. Justice Khanna was elevated as an additional judge of the Delhi High Court in 2005 and was made a permanent judge in 2006.



Born on May 14, 1960, he studied law at the Campus Law Centre of Delhi University.

Some of the notable judgments of Justice Khanna in the Supreme Court include upholding the use of Electronic Voting Machines in elections, saying the devices were secure and eliminated booth capturing and bogus voting.

He was also part of the five-judge bench that declared the electoral bond scheme, meant for funding of political parties, as unconstitutional.

Justice Khanna was a part of

the five-judge bench, which upheld the Centre's 2019 decision abrogating Article 370 of the Constitution which granted a special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. Justice Khanna, who is the senior-most judge after the outgoing CJI, and the executive chairman of the National Legal Service Authority (NALSA), had granted interim bail to the then Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, an accused in the alleged Delhi excise policy scam cases, for campaigning in Lok Sabha elections.

TODAY ALMANAC

Month & Paksham: Krishna Paksha
Tithi: Pratipada: Oct 17 04:56 PM to Oct 18 01:15 PM
Dwitiya: Oct 18 01:15 PM to Oct 19 09:49 AM

Nakshatram:
Ashwini: Oct 17 04:20 PM to Oct 18 01:26 PM
Bharani: Oct 18 01:26 PM to Oct 19 10:46 AM

Rahukalam: 10:34 AM to 12:01 PM
Yamagandam: 2:54 PM to 4:21 PM

Varjyam: 09:58 PM to 11:23 PM
Gulika: 7:40 AM to 9:07 AM
Amritakalam: 07:06 AM to 08:31 AM
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:38 AM to 12:24 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Showers
Temp: 29°
Humidity: 79%
Sunrise: 6:10 AM
Sunset: 5:52 PM

Updated: October 17, 2024 5:00 PM

'BJP dangerous for family-based parties'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The BJP is dangerous for the corrupt, family-based parties, parties looting the state and those who issue statements endangering the country's integrity and unity, BJP state General Secretary Kasam Venkateshwarlu said.

"Is the BJP dangerous as it exposed the corruption of the BRS government," Venkateshwarlu asked.

He said KTR is like a scorpion on Shivalinga and his family dreams of running the state with looted money.

"KTR should remember that the BRS could save its deposits only in two out of 17 seats in the last LS elections. People rejected the BRS outright. The BJP won eight seats. People have not forgotten the BRS's anarchic rule," he said.

He said the Congress is following the same policies as the BRS and criticized the way the Congress and the BRS are

dealing with unemployment and Group-I exams in Telangana.

He said the Revanth government has failed to remove the doubts among the unemployed and Group-I hopefuls regarding the conduct of Group-I examinations.

The BRS is shedding crocodile tears for the unemployed, he said. When an unemployed woman named Pravalika who was preparing for competitive exams in Ashok Nagar, committed suicide, KTR tried to suppress it and said that she had died due to a love affair gone wrong, Venkateshwarlu said.

"Before the last Assembly and Parliament elections, we informed the people of Telangana about the projects undertaken by the Centre in Telangana and the funds given by the Centre. It is a shame that KTR is now criticizing what the BJP has given to Telangana," he said.

Woman shot at after argument over pizzas

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A woman was shot at by her sister-in-law's brother following a heated argument over sharing pizzas in northeast Delhi's Welcome area, police said on Thursday.

Four people have been arrested in connection with the incident which took place on Wednesday night, they said.

The matter came to light after Seelampur police station received information from GTB Hospital that a woman, Saadma, was brought to the facility with a gunshot injury. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Northeast) Rakesh Paweria said.

"Initial investigation revealed that the victim's brother-in-law Zeeshan brought pizzas for the entire family on Wednesday. He

gave them to everyone in the family, including Saadma, the wife of his younger brother Javed," the DCP said.

Zeeshan's wife Saadiya, who had a dispute with Saadma, got upset over her husband sharing food with her sister-in-law and this led to a fight between the three, the officer said.

"At night, Saadiya called her four brothers - Muntahir (35), Tafseer (28), Shahzad (22) and Gulrej (31) -- to her home. Her brothers had an argument with her in-laws. During the argument, Muntahir fired a shot and the bullet hit Saadma," the DCP said.

Saadma sustained a bullet injury in her stomach and is undergoing treatment at the GTB Hospital. Her condition is stated to be stable, he said.

MEA: Current tension precipitated by Trudeau govt's baseless allegations

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India on Thursday said the current diplomatic row with Canada has been precipitated by the Trudeau government's "baseless" allegations, and reiterated that "no evidence" has been shared in support of Ottawa's serious allegations against New Delhi.

At his weekly briefing, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's own admission during a public inquiry tells the value of allegations levelled against India.

Testifying before the public inquiry into foreign interference in federal electoral processes and democratic institutions, Trudeau on Wednesday acknowledged that he had only intelligence

and no "hard evidentiary proof" when he alleged the involvement of Indian government agents in the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar last year.

The MEA early on Thursday reacted to this and said what it has heard only "confirms" New Delhi's consistent stand that Canada has "presented us no evidence" in support of the serious allegations Ottawa chose to level against India and Indian diplomats.

During the briefing, Jaiswal reiterated that so far no evidence has been shared by Canada.

"The current crisis (in India-Canada relationship) has been precipitated by the Trudeau government's baseless allegations," he said.

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CITY EVENTS

INDULGENCE OF INTELLIGENCE

16th Southern India Regional Conference of Practising Company Secretaries. Governor of Telangana Jishnu Dev Varma to inaugurate.

Venue

Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS), Adjacent Lane of Aggarwal Eye Hospital, Punjagutta October 18, 10.45 am.

Musical journey

Sensational Geetha Madhuri and her band to perform.

Venue

Heart Cup Coffee, Kompally October 19 evening onwards

Standup Comedy

Vivek Muralidharan brings in his signature show "Death by Laughter", where he brings his newest material to stage.

Venue

Multiple venues. October 19 to November 24

Dial 9 for Devi

Carnatic music recital by Ranjani Sivakumar.

Venue

Saptaparni, October 19.

Toxic

By Abhishek Upmanyu

Venue

Shilpakala Vedika November 2

Prateek Kuhad

Silhouettes 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

Venue

Trailing Ivy Cafe till November 17

City Pioneer



HYDERABAD FRIDAY | OCTOBER 18, 2024

03

GROUP 1 MAINS EXAMS FROM OCT 21 TO 27

31,383 to appear for exams in 46 centres

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari said that all arrangements have been made for the Group 1 mains examinations to be held from October 21st to 27th.

She held a video conference with the District Collectors, Police Commissioners and officials concerned on the conduct of the examinations. Telangana Public Service Commission Chairman Dr Mahender Reddy and other members participated from their office while DGP Jitender, TGPSC Secretary Naveen Nicholas, SPDCL MD Murrhaf Ali, Family Welfare Department Commissioner Karnan, Hyderabad, Rangareddy, Medchal Malkajigiri District Collectors

Anudeep, Shashank and Gautam were present.

Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari said that 31,383 candidates are appearing for the Group-1 Mains examinations in 46 examination centres in Hyderabad, Rangareddy and Medchal/Malkajigiri districts. She said that security has been provided to prevent any kind of untoward incidents at all the centres. District Collectors will directly supervise the conduct of these examinations and the Police Commissioners concerned will also make appropriate arrangements.

TGPSC Chairman Dr M Mahender Reddy said that Group-1 Mains examinations are being conducted after a gap of 13 years. The last time the mains exams were held in



Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari holding a video conference on the conduct of Group 1 Mains examinations

2011. He advised the officials to perform their duties very carefully in every aspect in the conduct of these examina-

tions. Mahender Reddy said that in the current situation where social media is active, the conduct of exams is also

challenging and in this context, proper precautions should be taken to avoid any misconceptions and rumours.

Official study tour to Seoul for Musi river revitalisation



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A delegation of public representatives and senior officials totaling 25 from Telangana will embark on a study tour to Seoul from October 21 to 24 marking a significant step in the ongoing efforts to revitalise the Musi river, the officials said on Thursday.

Ministers Ponguluri Srinivas Reddy, Ponnamb Prabhakar and Vem Narender Reddy, Chief Advisor to Government of Telangana. G Vijayalakshmi- Mayor of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), M Srilatha-Deputy Mayor of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, eleven members of Legislative Assembly, Dana Kishore, Principal Secretary to government, Director, MRDCL P Gouthami, Joint

Managing Director, MRDCL, along with three officers of MRDCL, Chalamala Kiran Kumar, Kale Yadaiah, M Hanumantha Rao, Karri Sriram will be on the entourage.

The Telangana government is committed to restoring Musi's former glory by cleaning up the polluted river and transforming Hyderabad into a heritage city and is also focused on improving living standards, creating employment and developing revenue streams, added officials.

During the visit, the delegation will study Seoul's riverfront development projects on-site to gather insights for the Musi river revival.

The team is scheduled to depart from Hyderabad in the early hours of October 20 and return on October 25.

Sewage tunneling project to be completed soon

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) Managing Director Ashok Reddy inspected several areas under O&M Division 5 as part of a 90-day special drive to prevent sewage overflow and announced that sewage tunneling project will be completed soon.

He reviewed desilting and tunneling works in Barkatpura, Bagh Lingampally, King Koti and Kachiguda and instructed the team to complete the projects quickly. The tunneling work in these areas involves 200 meters each in King Koti and Kachiguda, with another 200 meters planned for Basheerbagh.

During his visit to Satya Nagar and Achaiah Nagar on Thursday, Ashok Reddy emphasised the need to repair damaged manholes immediately. He pointed out that manholes constructed without proper precautions were causing blockages and instructed officials to propose permanent solutions within 20 days.

The MD also discussed the



Water Board MD Ashok Reddy inspecting several areas as part of a 90-day special drive to prevent sewage overflow in the city

ongoing Sewerage Tunneling Project, which aims to divert sewage from Abids, Himayat Sagar and nearby areas to the Amberpet Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP). He directed officials

to speed up the completion of the remaining 0.6 km of the pipeline. This project, once complete, is expected to significantly reduce road damage and sewer complaints.



The Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) is going to make its much-awaited return to the mat. The Battle of Breath will kickstart with a thrilling opener where the Telugu Titans and the Bengaluru Bulls square off at the GMCB Indoor Stadium, Gachibowli, in Hyderabad.

BATTLE OF BREATH

Hyd to host historic PKL kickoff

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) will make its much-awaited return to the mat on Friday, October 18. The Battle of Breath will kickstart with a thrilling opener where the Telugu Titans and the Bengaluru Bulls square off at the GMCB Indoor Stadium, Gachibowli in Hyderabad.

In anticipation of the new season, a grand launch was held at the Hyatt Place, at Banjara Hills, in Hyderabad. The event was attended by PKL League Commissioner and Head of Sports Leagues at Mashal Sports, Anupam Goswami, along with team captains Pawan Sehrawat (Telugu Titans) and Pardeep Narwal (Bengaluru Bulls). Captains of the remaining 10 teams were also present as they kicked off the PKL season.

One of the most exciting moments of the day was when an exhibition match was held featuring the PKL captains and a team of prominent creators, as a result of our partnership with Meta.

Some of the prominent creators present at the match included the Big Nerds, Hardik Banga, Sidhant Sarfare, Ashish Singh, amongst others, bringing a fresh and engaging dynamic to the sport.

Expressing his thoughts on the journey so far and the upcoming season, Anupam Goswami, League Commissioner, Pro Kabaddi League said, "The first decade of the PKL has been a huge achievement, but for us, the focus is on using the experiences to help prepare for the next phase, and further build on the success stories.

The players have received a lot of support over the years. And one of the standout

aspects is the confidence with which the players say they are kabaddi athletes. After helping rediscover a world class Indian sport, the next phase of this important journey involves going to newer shores. There has been a significant amount of interest internationally for the PKL.

We have always worked with a fan-first thought process, and we promise to be relentless in our approach towards that."

Telugu Titans' captain Pawan Sehrawat also shared his excitement for the opening match by saying, "I am very happy that we, Telugu Titans, will play the opening game of the season at Hyderabad in front of our home fans. The fans have always supported us a lot, and we are sure there will be more of the same when we walk onto the mat. The team is in a good place and we are confident of doing well."

Ilambarithi takes over as GHMC Commissioner

Ilambarithi has assumed charge as Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner on Thursday. He was given Full Additional Charge (FAC) of the post after Anuragpati Kata was repatriated to Andhra Pradesh cadre. On this occasion, GHMC Zonal Commissioners Hemant Keshav Patil, Anurag Jayanti, Apoorv Chauhan, along with Additional Commissioners Nalini Padmavati, Yadagiri Rao and other senior officials from various departments met the new Commissioner and extended their greetings.



DRF teams, Police to jointly manage peak hour traffic

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A joint review meeting was conducted on Thursday at the office of the Additional Commissioner of Traffic, Hyderabad, discussing on HYDRAA's Disaster Response Force (DRF) teams to get trained on traffic management in the city.

P Vishwaj Prasad and HYDRAA's Commissioner AV Ranganath aimed to address the city's traffic issues. The HYDRAA decided to work closely with the traffic department to address traffic challenges in the city. It was resolved to provide training to the DRF teams of the HYDRAA on traffic control measures.

During non-rainy seasons, the DRF teams will collaborate with traffic police to manage traffic more efficiently. Both departments agreed to join forces, especially during peak times, to clear traffic using DRF personnel.

In case of water-logging

during rains, traffic police will work with DRF teams to drain water and ensure smooth traffic flow. A review was conducted on water-logging points and steps were discussed to prevent water accumulation, including using high-powered pumps.

Focus was placed on identifying and clearing encroachments on footpaths in colonies and main roads, with a special drive planned for removing permanent shops. The departments will also remove unnecessary public utilities like transformers, telephone ducts, and garbage bins from footpaths. Immediate action will be taken to remove dangerous trees and branches at risk of falling.

The public will be informed about the response teams for traffic and flood-related issues in their areas.

A monthly review will be held between the traffic and HYDRAA to assess and implement the necessary action plans.

Compensation ordered in vehicle theft case

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a significant ruling, the District Consumer Redressal Commission, Ranga Reddy, has directed NTR Memorial Vehicle Paid Parking and Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) to jointly compensate a complainant for negligence leading to the theft of his vehicle from the NTR Memorial Garden's paid parking.

The order, dated October 14, 2024, awarded the complainant, Jagana Hari Krishna, compensation of Rs 25,000 for mental agony and inconvenience, along with Rs 5,000 towards litigation costs. The case stemmed from an incident on October 8, 2022, when Jagana Hari Krishna, a resident of Kukatpally, parked his Royal Enfield Classic-350 motorcycle at the NTR Memorial Garden's paid parking facility.

Upon returning after two hours, he discovered that his bike was missing. Despite informing the parking authorities, who failed to take responsibility or provide any assistance, the vehicle remained untraceable. A police complaint was subsequently lodged, and two months later, the vehicle was recovered in a damaged condition.

The complainant incurred Rs 28,000 in repair costs for his bike but was unable to provide the required invoices for these expenses in court. However, the Commission found that the negligence of the parking authorities and HMDA, which oversaw the facility, contributed to the incident.

The Commission, while dismissing parts of the complainant's claim, acknowledged the mental anguish and inconvenience caused by the theft and subsequent recovery process.

The order further held both the parking authorities and HMDA responsible for failing to secure the complainant's vehicle and ruled that they must compensate him jointly. The court's directive allows a 45-day compliance period for the payment of the awarded amounts.

New Chairman, Vice-Chairman of TGCHE assume charge

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Prof V Balakista Reddy officially took charge as the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council, was honoured. Prof V Venkataramana, who served as Vice-Chairman was also felicitated.

On this occasion, Prof R Limbadri, who rendered exemplary service as both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council, was honoured. Prof V Venkataramana, who served as Vice-Chairman was also felicitated.



Atithi Devo Bhava drive to train cab drivers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Empowering cab drivers with skills training, The Tourism, Hospitality, Media, MICE, Events, and Entertainment Committee (THMMICEE), the Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI), in collaboration with the TG's Department of Tourism, and Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, launched the second edition of "AtithiDevo Bhava 2024" on Thursday.

The program's goal is to improve the skills and knowledge of auto and cab drivers to ensure tourists receive a warm and safe welcome. Over three days, it will train 1,000 drivers across Hyderabad and nearby areas. A special feature is the collaboration with the Telangana Police Department, which will provide safety training and QR codes for security.

The CEO of GHIAL, Pradeep Panicker emphasised the importance of cab drivers in creating a positive first impression for tourists, helping

to make Telangana a tourist-friendly State. Rakhi Kankaria, Chairperson of THMMICEE, highlighted the programme's aim to elevate the tourism experience by empowering drivers.

The inaugural session was attended by 100 drivers, focused on customer service and professional behavior, including CPR training from the Apollo medical team. Drivers were given QR code stickers to display in their vehicles, offering safety information to passengers.

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Claranet's Indian arm donates 25 laptops to support rural girls

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Claranet India Private Limited, a UK-based company's Indian branch in Hyderabad, donated 25 high-end laptops, valued at Rs 32 lakh, to the NGO PURE (People for Urban and Rural Education). The donation was made on Thursday as part of the company's CSR initiative, aimed at supporting rural girls in government schools.

The donation included 10 Dell Latitude I-5 laptops, three Dell Latitude I-7 laptops, and six Lenovo ThinkPads, all newly new with full warranty and home service. These laptops will soon be given to poor rural girls studying in government schools through PURE.

The HR Head India, Srujani Choudhury said that laptops can greatly help students, especially girls in rural areas.

Police evacuate Metropolis Hotel amid probe

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

North Zone Hyderabad City Police began evacuating people living in Metropolis hotel where the accused who vandalised Muthyalamma temple in Secunderabad was living for a workshop. North Zone Police have begun clearing out Metropolis Hotel, evacuating customers from the premises as they have mentioned that a personality development programme was happening for large people gathering without obtaining permission.

North Zone DCP Rashmi Perumal held a meeting with hotel and function hall operators in the area.





Many heads to roll in CMR diversion

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Many heads may roll in a case relating to the diversion of custom-milled rice (CMR) by some rice millers in the Khammam district.

Officers probing into the case estimated that the diversion of CMR ran into crores of rupees. Following the inquiry, an official has already been placed under suspension. Action is likely to be taken against many more in a day or two.

The district has at least 115 par-boiled and raw rice mills. Annually, 4 lakh tonnes of rice is supplied to them during the Vanakalam and Yasangi season for milling.

For the 2022-23 Ysangi and 2023-24 Vanakalam seasons, the mills must give 30,000 tonnes of rice to the Food Corporation of India (FCI).

Motivated by greed as the price of rice in the open market was very attractive, the rice millers allegedly played gimmicks. They



converted the paddy given to them by the government into rice and sold it in the open market. In the subsequent season, the rice millers bought paddy from farmers besides the paddy given to them by the government and milled the paddy and showed as the CMR.

Some other millers have been buying the rice meant for the Public Distribution System (PDS) recycling it and supplying it to the FCI and Civil Supplies Department claiming it as the CMR.

Police, Civil Supplies officials bust PDS rice smuggling ring

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Nalgonda Police on Thursday arrested several suspects involved in smuggling of rice meant for public distribution system (PDS) and seized 504.40 quintals of rice worth Rs 18 lakh. District Superintendent of Police Sharath Chandra Pawar told reporters that the smugglers were apprehended while attempting to transport rice from Andhra Pradesh to multiple states, including Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Rajasthan. In a proactive measure, the Telangana state government has established 24x7 surveillance at interstate borders to prevent the diversion of rice meant for the PDS. On October 17, acting on a tip-off, police and civil supplies officials conducted vehicle inspections at the RTA border check-post near Wadapalli village. At around 6:30



Nalgonda Superintendent of Police Sharath Chandra Pawar speaking at a media conference in Nalgonda on Thursday

am, authorities intercepted a lorry and found the vehicle transporting 245.40 quintals of PDS rice. The rice was packed in 818 plastic super bags, each weighing 30 kg. The Deputy Tahsildar of Civil Supplies, SK Javed, in collaboration with Wadapalli police, confiscated the lorry and its cargo. Additionally, during the same operation, police seized nearly 250 quintals of illegally transported PDS rice valued at around Rs8 lakhs

from another lorry heading from Bapatia to Gujarat. The driver, identified as Bhimaiah, has been taken into custody for further questioning. The arrested individuals include Sudhakar Chamakurthi, a 53-year-old businessman from Bapatia, and Syed Salawuddin, a 30-year-old lorry driver from Karnataka. Another suspect, Ashok, is currently absconding. The suspects sourced PDS rice from farmers and polished it to resemble higher-quality rice. Authorities are urging the public to report any suspicious activities related to PDS rice distribution, emphasising that stringent action will be taken against illegal smuggling. This operation was conducted under the supervision of Miryalaguda Deputy Superintendent of Police K Rajasekhara Raju, with further investigations ongoing.



A crocodile being caught after it escaped from an overturned lorry at the Mondigutta forest check post in the Nirmal district on Thursday

Lorry carrying wild animals overturns in Nirmal dist

Two crocodiles that leapt out were caught

PNS ■ NIRMAL

A lorry transporting wild animals from Sanjay Gandhi Biological Park in Patna to Bannerghatta National Park in Bengaluru overturned in Nirmal district on Thursday. Two crocodiles that leapt out were caught.

The incident happened near the Mondigutta forest check post of Nirmal at about 1 am on Wednesday when the driver allegedly drove the vehicle in a rash and negligent manner and crashed it into the cement pillars on NH-44 road before falling off the road.

Eight crocodiles and other wild animals including a white tiger were being carried in the lorry from Patna

to Bengaluru and following the incident, all of them were safely rescued, a senior police official said.

Two crocodiles out of the eight fell off the lorry. Police with the help of forest personnel captured the two crocodiles and they were safely rescued. Another vehicle was arranged to transport the wild animals, she said.

Police arranged for another vehicle to transport the animals to Bangalore. The police confirmed that the accident happened due to the driver's negligence.

A case has been registered, and an investigation has been initiated. Meanwhile, locals gathered in large numbers to see the animals.

16 get RI for killing man in Asifabad dist

PNS ■ KUMURAM BHEEM ASIFABAD

A court in Kumuram Bheem Asifabad district on Wednesday sentenced 16 people to life imprisonment for killing a 45-year-old man in 2020.

The Principal District and Sessions Judge found them guilty under section 302 (murder) and other relevant sections of IPC and sentenced them to undergo rigorous imprisonment for life, a release from Telangana Police said.

The court also imposed a total fine of Rs 1.49 lakh.

According to prosecution, the accused number one (A1) in the case was in love with the daughter of the man, who was resident of Singleguda village of Rebhena mandal of the district, but the latter objected to it.

As a result of it, the accused hatched a plan to do away the girl's father.

Collector dons roll of teacher, teaches math concept

PNS ■ MEDAK

He is the District Collector. The administrative duties keep him always busy. However, during a surprise inspection of a government school, the Collector donned the role of a teacher and taught lessons to students.

District Collector Rahul Raj on Wednesday made a surprise visit to Shankaram Peta Zilla Parishad high school and check whether the teachers were punctual to duties. The Collector has been making surprise checks time and again and keeping the officials on their toes.

During his visit to the school, Rahul raj taught mathematics concept to students of Class 10 and asked them questions. He interacted with the students to understand the problems being faced by them and then donned the role of a teacher, explaining lessons. The joy among the students knows bounds. Later, he spoke to the media, mentioning that



Medak Collector Rahul Raj teaching mathematics to Class 10 students at Shankaram Peta Zilla Parishad high school on Thursday

attendance at the school was quite low. He revealed that students indicated they were coming from very far-off places.

The students also mentioned that there are hostels nearby. It was found that attendance in the hostels was also low. The Collector stated that he would ask the officials concerned to visit the school to understand the reasons for the low attendance. He noted that the students at this school

have working memory issues. He discussed this with the teachers, who assured him that they would tackle in next two months.

The teachers promised to show improvement in maths, social studies, and science. They mentioned they would create a special plan for improvement.

The Collector instructed teachers to provide quality education to students.

Role of students in shaping India's future stressed

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

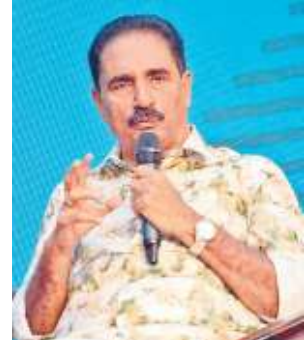
NK Premachandran, Lok Sabha member from Kollam, was the guest speaker at GITAM's Changemakers series. During the session, he shared profound insights on leadership, innovation, and the future of India, with a focus on transformative initiatives.

Premachandran emphasised the role of students in shaping the future of the nation. He acknowledged the widespread cynicism among youth towards political affairs but highlighted the importance of educating them in political and parliamentary matters.

He touched on issues like the Employees Pension Scheme, explaining how a private member's resolution in Parliament, based on discussions, influenced government policy. Premachandran stressed the importance of political will and perseverance, noting that impactful change can be achieved regardless of party strength.

Addressing environmental issues, particularly the Wayanad landslide, Premachandran stressed the urgent need for ecological and environmental protection.

In response to a question about Coca-Cola plant controversies, he expressed con-



Kollam MP NK Premachandran speaking at a seminar at GITAM in Sangareddy on Thursday

cern over how environmental issues are frequently compromised for industrial pur-

poses, particularly affecting marginalized communities. In response to a question about the failure of communism in India, he provided a historical overview, noting that the movement did not adequately account for India's unique political, social, and geographical context. He argued that communism in India struggled because it isolated itself from mainstream national politics during key moments in history.

The event was moderated by Prof DRP. Chandrasekhar, and Sriharat Mathukumilli, President of GITAM and MP from Visakhapatnam, proposed the vote of thanks.

Reorganisation of district to be made as per administrative convenience

PNS ■ SIDDIPEET

Minister for Transport Ponnab Prabhakar on Thursday attended the oath-taking ceremony of K Lingamurthy as chairman of the District Library Society in Siddipet district.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said the reorganised as per the people's wishes. He cautioned the BRS leaders not to provoke people.

He assured the people that the district would be reorganised as per constituency restructuring and that he would take all measures for the district's development. He mentioned plans to establish an integrated school in the Siddipet, Gajwel, and Dubbaka constituencies and instructed Revenue officials to 25 acres of land for this pur-



Minister for Transport Ponnab Prabhakar speaking at a meeting in Siddipet on Thursday

pose. He criticised the previous government for failing to construct proper buildings for Gurukul Schools, forcing them to operate from rented premises.

Minister Prabhakar highlighted the fact that the Congress government had prioritised education and it was providing free electricity.

He expressed concern over some private colleges creating difficulties for students by observing shutdown on the pretext of not receiving fee reimbursement and promised that reimbursement would be released regularly.

He warned that if the managements failed to mend their ways, legal action would be taken against them.

KTR seems to have lost mental balance: Cong leader

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Khammam District Congress Committee president Puvvalla Durga Prasad has alleged that BRS working president KT Ramara seems to have lost mental balance. He is finding it difficult to over arrogance of power, he said. Addressing the media at the DCC office here on Thursday, he questioned the rationale behind KTR not responding to the challenge thrown in by the Chief Minister.

"Can't you see the implementation of many welfare schemes under implementation by the Congress regime," he questioned, quoting the schemes of free RTC travel for women, LPG cylinder supply at highly subsidised prices, and free power to the poor.

Need to pass down ideals of Maharshi Valmiki to future generations

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Additional Collector P Sreeja emphasised the importance of passing down the ideals of great personalities like Valmiki to future generations.

On Thursday, the Additional Collector inaugurated a programme organised by the Department of Backward Classes at the Collectorate to celebrate the Jayanti of Maharshi Sri Valmiki, the author of the Ramayana. She paid floral tributes to Valmiki's portrait.

During the event, she stated that Maharshi Valmiki contributed a lot to society by writing the Ramayana, teaching us about human relationships.

Subsequently, the speakers praised the significant aspects of Maharshi Valmiki's life.



Additional Collector P Sreeja paying floral tributes to the portrait of Valmiki at Collectorate in Khammam on Thursday

Those attended the event included District Revenue Officer Rajeshwari, district officials, Collectorate administration officer Aruna, superintendents of various sections in the Collectorate, staff, BC Association leaders Jakula Venkata Ramana and Shakeena, Valmiki Association leaders K Upender Rao, D

Srinivas Rao, M Narasimha Rao, President of the National BC Welfare Association Khammam City G Venkata Ramayya, Secretary Gajavelli Lakshmi Varaprasad, Khammam District Working President Lingaboyina Pulla Rao, Chief Secretary Kethanboina Nageshwar Rao, among others.

Komatireddy inspects school building work

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkata Reddy inspected the construction of the Bottuguda High School, being developed by the Prateek Foundation with an investment of Rs3 crore. The Minister said that this school would differently uniquely designed unlike any other government or private schools in the state.

During his visit on Thursday, the Minister reviewed the ongoing construction work which includes the completion of the basement pillar work. He provided guidance to the contractor and the school headmaster, stressing the need to ensure that the school is developed to outclass the corporate schools.

The school will have digital classrooms, with digital TVs in every classroom. Special digital classes will be avail-



Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy inspecting the construction of a school at Bottuguda in Nalgonda district on Thursday

able for students in grades 9 and 10. Furthermore, the minister announced along with training programmes. that spoken English classes, sports facil-

ities, and other amenities will be integrated to the school.

To cater to the needs of 10th grade students, additional classes will be conducted. The Minister directed that all classrooms should be equipped with air-conditioning and a lift for students, and that construction should maintain high standards in areas such as parking, modern tiling, flooring, and electrical lighting.

He also mentioned the importance of planning for future expansions, allowing for the possibility of an additional floor if necessary. The Minister instructed officials and contractors to ensure that all necessary facilities are included in the school design.

Present during the inspection were Nalgonda Municipal Chairman Burri Srinivas Reddy, former ZPTC Lakshmayya, and Gummala Mohan Reddy, among others.

Graduates urged to enrol themselves in voters' list

PNS ■ MEDAK

District Collector Rahul Raj on Thursday urged every eligible graduate to enrol himself or herself as voters to participate in Medak-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Karimnagar Graduate constituency.

Those who have their degree by November 2021 are eligible to register as voters. During his visit to Haveli Ganpur on Thursday, the District Collector urged graduates to register as voters for the

Legislative Council elections. As per the instructions of the Election Commission of India, voter registration centres have been established at Tahsildar offices in the district.

He advised that all eligible individuals to register as voters. Graduates with degrees or equivalent qualifications obtained before November 1, 2021, need to provide their degree memo, provisional certificate, Aadhaar card, voter ID, passport-sized photo, email ID, and phone

number. Eligible graduates should submit Form 18, along with the relevant certificates either manually at the Tahsildar office or online through the website ceotelangana.nic.in before November 6.

The draft voter list for the Graduate MLC seats will be published on November 23, objections will be accepted until December 9, and resolutions will be completed by December 25, with the final voter list published on December 30.

Three dead as RTC bus hits bike

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

A fatal road accident happened near Puduru Gate on the Hyderabad-Bijapur highway in Vikarabad district, leaving three people dead. An RTC bus from the Hyderabad depot collided with a bike, killing two of the three riders on the spot, while the third succumbed to injuries en route to a hospital.

The deceased were identified as Naveen (21)

and Harshvardhan (15) from Medikonda village in Puduru mandal, and Praveen (20) from Gongupalli.

The tragic incident took place as the group was heading to Manneguda on their bike when the RTC bus traveling in the opposite direction struck them.

The accident, which left the parts of the bodies scattered on the highway, left the local community in shock and grief.

ACROSS THE STATES



Bomb threats: Govt plans strict norms

The civil aviation ministry plans to put in place strict norms to prevent incidents of hoax bomb threats to airlines, including placing the perpetrators on the no-fly list, a senior official said on Thursday. Civil Aviation Minister K Rammoohan Naidu said on Thursday said the ministry is looking at amending civil aviation regulations to ensure strict action is taken against incidents of bomb threats to airlines. In four days, at least 25 flights of various Indian airlines received bomb threats, including international flights, and some of them were diverted. Most of the threats have turned out to be hoaxes. "We are taking things seriously... we will take action," Naidu said about the bomb threats. He also emphasised that there needs to be changes in civil aviation rules and regulations to ensure strict action with respect to bomb threats to airlines.



Indian airlines will operate 25,007 weekly flights

Indian airlines will operate 25,007 flights every week to and from 124 airports in the winter schedule starting October 27, according to aviation regulator DGCA. The number of flights is three per cent higher than 24,275 departures per week from 125 airports in the current summer schedule. In comparison to the winter schedule 2023, the number of flights has increased by 5.37 per cent. The winter schedule is from October 27, 2024 till March 29, 2025. "Out of these 124 airports, Pondicherry airport is proposed by the scheduled airlines whereas operations from Pakyong and Tezpur airport were suspended in the winter schedule 2024," the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said in a release on Thursday. More than half of the total 25,007 domestic departures per week during the winter schedule will be handled by IndiGo.

'Will help Musi ..

Continued from page 1

During the meeting, the Musi victims expressed their concerns over the government's move to demolish their homes. They shared their anguish with KTR, explaining that their homes in the Musi floodplains are over 50 years old. "Where can we go if they destroy our houses?" they asked, pleading for help. KTR

responded by cautioning the Congress government against indiscriminately demolishing homes, asserting that would not be tolerated under any circumstances.

The Musi victims expressed gratitude to KTR for his assurance of support, and KTR reminded them to approach local BRS leaders or the elected representatives they had helped win if they faced any problems.

Revanth no big deal..

Continued from page 1

He also said that the BRS government's welfare schemes had substantially improved the quality of life of farmers and youth. KTR continued his attack on the Congress government, criticising its lack of action on job creation and the mishandling of reservations, particularly for SCs and STs. He asked why, despite promises, there had been no

significant job notifications after Revanth Reddy assumed office. Encouraging BRSV representatives to mobilize the youth, KTR said that the BRS must remain the dominant political force in Telangana for years to come.

"It's time to build a new leadership that can continue KCR's legacy and take Telangana to greater heights," he said, concluding with a call to action to the party's youth.

Musi on the..

Continued from page 1

'Musi on the Move' is buses across the riverfront with Purana Pul being transformed as Pyarana Pul, connecting Miralamb to the Musi, the first landmark on the Musi-Hyderabad Central Park route. Our Vision for the Musi River is to transform its riverfront into a world-class economic centre and job hub that respects our heritage and propels us into the future.

The CM outlined the government's plan to transform Hyderabad into a global city and to address the difficult living conditions of those inhabiting the Musi catchment area. "I suggest KTR, Harish and Eatala to live in the Musi area for three months. I will bear their expenses under the R&R package. If you can stay there for three months, I will cancel this Musi Project and all legal expenses of this tender will be borne by me," the CM said.

"Musi is Musa meaning Moses and Esa is Yesu which originates at the Ramalingeshwar Temple in Anantagiri," he said.

"By this Saturday, the BRS, the BJP and the AIMIM should give a timetable on what their action plan is and whether to execute the Musi Project or not," he said.

Revanth emphasized that 33 teams have already visited the Musi River area to assess the challenges faced by its residents, many of whom live in appalling conditions.

"We are not just focusing on beautification but on improving the living standards of the poor who stay along the Musi," he stated, stressing that the government has drawn up plans to provide livelihoods and rehabilitate those displaced by the project.

The CM also spoke about how former Prime Ministers Jawaharlal Nehru, Rajiv Gandhi and PV Narasimha Rao introduced revolutionary reforms that propelled the country forward.

Africa emerged as key destination: Murmu

PNS ■ LILONGWE (MALAWI)

President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday said Africa has emerged as an important trade and investment destination, highlighting that there are growing investments by Indian companies in the continent in a range of sectors including telecommunications, IT, education and petroleum among others.

Addressing the India-Malawi Business Meet here, Murmu said she was happy to be the first Indian President to visit Heart of Africa. "Africa has emerged as an important trade and investment destination," said Murmu, who arrived here earlier in the day on the final leg of her three-nation visit. She is the first Indian Head of State to visit the African nation.

The President said there are growing investments by Indian companies in multinational and small and medium enterprises in Africa in various sectors, including telecommunications, IT, education, water treatment and petroleum.

Noting that India was the first country to establish diplomatic relations with Malawi



"Africa has emerged as an important trade and investment destination," said Murmu, who arrived here earlier in the day on the final leg of her three-nation visit. She is the first Indian Head of State to visit the African nation.

soon after its Independence in 1964, she said commercial ties between the two countries are historic. But people-to-people contact between the two countries spans over 140 years, she added. "Bilateral trade between India and Malawi has been growing despite the Covid pandemic-induced downturn," she said. "India is currently the fourth largest trading partner of Malawi, and it is also one of the largest investors in Malawi, with over USD 500 million worth of investment in various sectors," she added.

Underscoring that Malawi is rich in natural reserves and fertile agricultural land, and India has a large consumer base

with increasing demand for energy, minerals and food, she said the two countries can "come together to find synergy in many areas." She added that there is scope for enhancing cooperation in the areas of agriculture, mining, energy, etc. The President also noted that this year marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Malawi.

During her two-day visit, she will hold bilateral talks with Malawi's top leadership and address the diaspora. Upon her arrival at the Kamuzu International Airport here earlier in the day, she was received by the Vice President of Malawi

Michael Usi, and was accorded a ceremonial welcome.

"In the final leg of her three-nation visit, President Droupadi Murmu landed at the Kamuzu International Airport, Lilongwe, Malawi," her office said in a post on X.

Children greeted President Murmu at her arrival at the airport, and a traditional cultural performance was also presented before her, her office said. "This is the first-ever State visit from India to Malawi," the Ministry of External Affairs said in a post on X.

Murmu is visiting Malawi from October 17-19 at the invitation of the Malawian President Dr Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera.

During her visit, Murmu "will hold bilateral meetings with Malawi's leadership; interact with key trade and industry leaders and the Indian diaspora; and visit places of cultural and historical significance," the MEA said in a press release before her visit.

The President arrived here after successful visits to Algeria and Mauritania, where she held talks with her respective counterparts to enhance bilateral ties.



SAINI TAKES OATH AS HARYANA CM

BJP marks win with show of strength

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Congress. Saini is heading the BJP's third consecutive government in the state, a strategic victory after the Lok Sabha elections that many party leaders hope sets the pace for next month's crucial assembly polls in Maharashtra and Jharkhand.

Nayab Singh Saini, the proverbial dark horse who became star of the BJP's victory in the Haryana assembly elections, was sworn in as chief minister of the state on Thursday in a grand ceremony attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and a galaxy of NDA leaders.

Thousands of people packed into the Dussehra Ground to watch Governor Bandaru Dattatreya administer the oath of office to the low profile OBC leader and 13 others. For the BJP, the messaging was not just in its show of strength with a power packed dais seating its chief ministers, ministers and NDA partners but also in its choice of the day - Valmiki Jayanti.

Sage-poet Valmiki is the author of the Hindu epic Ramayana and a revered figure, especially among Dalits.

"For the third time with full majority, the BJP government will work with full energy for good governance, equality and welfare of the poor," Saini said in a post on X after being sworn in for the second time as chief minister. He thanked 2.8 crore people of Haryana for their mandate and the prime minister for his "inspirational leadership".

The 54-year-old, who was the surprise pick to replace strongman M L Khattar as chief minister ahead of the assembly elections, proved his naysayers wrong by steering the BJP to a win in an election many thought would go to the

The BJP won 48 seats in the 90-member assembly. Three Independents, including Hisar MLA Savitri Jindal, also extended support to the party.

Haryana can have a maximum of 14 ministers, including the chief minister.

The 13-member council of ministers includes the party's most senior leader Anil Vij, Ahir leader Rao Narbir Singh and Jat leader Mahipal Dhandu. It also has two women - former Congress leader Shruti Choudhary, daughter of Rajya Sabha MP Kiran Choudhary, and first time MLA Arti Singh, the daughter of Union minister Rao Inderjit Singh. Rajesh Nagar and Gaurav Gautam took oath as state ministers (independent charge).

Congress slams Mahayuti govt for 'undermining' Shivaji's legacy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday accused the Mahayuti government of "undermining" the legacy of one of India's greatest sons, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, and said those who reject Maharashtra's glorious history and composite culture will face their comeuppance next month.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh also alleged that the Mahayuti didn't spare

the Chhatrapati from its "extortion and loot" as his 35-ft statue at Rajkot Fort in Sindhudurg was made so "shoddily" that it collapsed within a year of its inauguration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself.

"The Mahayuti Government in Maharashtra, as also its patron in New Delhi, has been undermining the legacy of one of India's greatest sons," Ramesh said in a post on X.

"Seven years ago, the non-biological PM laid the foundation stone for a 696 feet statue

of Shivaji Maharaj in the Arabian Sea near Mumbai. It has since been silently abandoned by his government. The jumble-baz have had the temerity to deliver a jumla to Shivaji Maharaj himself," the Congress leader said.

"BJP leaders, in their attempts to ingratiate themselves to the self-proclaimed divinity, have belittled the Chhatrapati by comparing him to the non-biological PM," he said. In a petty effort to spite the people of Maharashtra after



their stinging debacle on June 4th, they removed the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj from its place of prominence outside the Parliament House, Ramesh said. "Those who reject Maharashtra's glorious history and composite culture will face their comeuppance next month," he said.

Every mobile user a broadcaster: Murugan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Every mobile user is a content creator and broadcaster and has the moral responsibility to ensure the veracity of the information shared by them, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting L Murugan said here on Thursday.

Addressing a symposium on the 'Emerging Trends and Technologies in Broadcasting Sector' on the sidelines of the India Mobile Congress, Murugan said content was the "hero" of the emerging broadcast revolution and anybody providing good quality content would be successful.

He said the government has recently approved establishing Indian Institute of Creative Technologies in Mumbai to promote the Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR) sector and encourage filmmakers to 'shoot in India',



utilising the talent pool and locations across the country.

Murugan said that when a person publishes news or information, it is incumbent on him to authenticate it, verify it and ensure that it is correct. "We have the social responsibility, we have the moral responsibility. Every mobile user and broadcaster must think carefully before broadcasting whether this news would affect anyone's personal life, whether it is against the nation.

BJP plundered Jharkhand for 20 yrs: Hemant Soren

PNS ■ RANCHI

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren accused the BJP of plundering Jharkhand for about 20 years since its creation and claimed that he tried to strengthen the roots of the state during his five-year tenure.

In a post on X, Soren mentioned various social welfare programmes such as financial assistance scheme 'Maiyan Samman Yojna' and housing scheme 'Abua Awas Yojna' formulated by his government. "Today marks 100 days since I returned from jail and took charge of the state... In December 2019, with the blessings of the people of Jharkhand, I took over the reins of the state. My sole purpose was to irrigate the tree of Jharkhand and strengthen its roots. The BJP had plundered this tree with both hands



for 20 years. It had dried it up," Soren said in a post in Hindi on Wednesday.

"This was the reason that in the 20 years of Jharkhand, the poor, deprived and exploited people yearned for basic needs like social security. The tribals, Dalits, backward and minorities yearned for their lost identity, and the children yearned for good education. The youth wanted jobs and employment while hardworking farmers

were crushed under the burden of debt and this land yearned for its identity," he added.

He also wrote how his government brought back lakhs of migrant labourers of the state from different parts of the country during the lockdown.

To tackle the pandemic, the entire government machinery worked on improving healthcare facilities, and Jharkhand became the first state to supply oxygen to the entire country, he said. "Unless the social security of the poor, deprived and exploited class is ensured, their food, clothing and shelter are ensured, no state can progress," Soren mentioned, listing schemes for providing free electricity and pensions.

"Loans of up to Rs 2 lakh of our hardworking farmers of the state were waived off," he said.

Bangla tribunal..

Continued from page 1

Following unprecedented anti-government protests over a controversial quota system in government jobs that peaked on August 5, Hasina resigned as prime minister and fled to India and is currently believed to be living at an undisclosed location there. Hundreds of people were killed in Bangladesh in the incidents of violence that erupted across the country following the fall of the Hasina government, taking the death toll to more than 1,000 since the massive protest by students against a controversial quota system in government jobs first started in mid-July.

Hooch leaves..

Continued from page 1

The officials also said that more than 20 people were still battling for life at hospitals, many of them having lost their eyesight as a side effect of the spurious liquor.

State Prohibition Minister Ratnesha Sada vowed to bring in a stringent "CCA" (crime control act) to rein in liquor mafia, but snapped at reporters when asked whether he saw the latest incident as a "failure" of the much-touted prohibition law. "Do not talk like an idiot. I am sitting here at my residence. If I do something wrong inside my house, will the police station concerned get to know about it beforehand?" Sada asked.

State Congress president Akhilesh Prasad Singh lashed out at the government, saying, "Why only CCA? Let them hang the culprits. Let them not spare anybody, even if the suspects happen to be connected with any opposition party.

SC upholds validity of ..

Continued from page 1

Section 6A is one more statutory intervention in the long list of legislation that balances the humanitarian needs of migrants of Indian origin and the impact of such migration on economic and cultural needs of Indian states," he wrote.

The CJJ said though other states such as West Bengal (2216.7 kilometre), Meghalaya (443 kilometre), Tripura (856 kilometre) and Mizoram (318 kilometre) share a larger border with Bangladesh compared to Assam (263 kilometre), the magnitude of influx to Assam and its impact on the cultural and political rights of the Assamese and Tribal populations was higher.

Noting the data on record, the CJJ said the total number of immigrants in Assam was approximately 40 lakh, 57 lakh in West Bengal, 30,000 in Meghalaya and 3.25 lakh in Tripura, the impact of migrants

in Assam may conceivably be greater than other places because of its lesser population and land area compared to West Bengal.

"Since the migration from East Pakistan to Assam was in great numbers after the partition of undivided India and since the migration from East Pakistan after Operation Search-Light (launched by Pakistani Army to curb the Bangladeshi nationalist movement) would increase, the yardstick has nexus with the objects of reducing migration and conferring citizenship to migrants of Indian origin... Section 6A is neither under-inclusive nor over-inclusive," he wrote.

Justice Surya Kant, writing for himself and Justices Sundresh and Misra, said, Section 6A falls within the bounds of the Constitution and does not contravene the foundational principles of fraternity. "It is held that Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955 falls within the bounds

of the Constitution and is a valid piece of legislation," Justice Kant wrote.

Highlighting that statutory machinery for identification of illegal immigrants in Assam was inadequate, Justice Kant said the implementation of immigration and citizenship legislations cannot be left to the mere wish and discretion of the authorities, necessitating constant monitoring by this court.

Although Section 6A conferred citizenship rights exclusively to immigrants arriving before this cut-off date, there seems to still be an ongoing influx of migrants through various border states of India. Due to porous borders and incomplete fencing, this unceasing migration imposes a significant challenge," the majority verdict held. Dissenting from the majority judgment, Justice Pardiwala held that Section 6A of the Citizenship Act was arbitrary and constitutionally invalid.

CM blasts KTR for opposing..

Continued from page 1

If it's really difficult for human existence, why are big officers coming to stay there? There are many cell phone towers in the city, did we die? This VLF station emits far lower frequencies than those towers," said Revanth. He pointed out that the project is strategically significant as it can monitor all three major water bodies in the region.

Revanth revealed that 2,900 acres had been allotted for the project, with only 8 to 10 per cent of the land designated for construction. He noted that a similar VLF station was established in Tamil Nadu in 1990

and requested the opposition to visit the site if they had any concerns. "This is about national security. The clearances for the project, from 2014 to 2023, were all granted by the BRS government, including forest, environmental and land acquisition approvals. Now, they want to blame Revanth for it," he said.

In a scathing attack, Revanth compared KTR to Ajmal Kasab, the notorious 26/11 terrorist, saying, "These people who claim they would give their lives for the country are opposing the Navy's radar establishment. If you don't have love for the country, you are worse than Kasab.

4 IAS officers from TG..

Continued from page 1

Meanwhile, the Telangana government appointed Transport

Commissioner Ilambarathi as the full-time GHMC Commissioner, replacing Amrapali.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Jaishankar holds a mirror

At the SCO Summit, S Jaishankar urges regional powers to tackle terrorism, extremism and separatism

At the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit held in Islamabad, India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar took the opportunity to deliver a pointed message to China and Pakistan, highlighting the erosion of trust in the region. His address focused on the principles outlined in the SCO Charter, underscoring the need for genuine cooperation, respect for sovereignty and an uncompromising stance against the 'three evils' of terrorism, extremism and separatism. Jaishankar's remarks came at a time when India's relations with China and Pakistan have reached a nadir. The minister subtly pointed out the prevailing trust deficit, stating, "If trust is lacking or cooperation inadequate, if friendship has fallen short and good neighbourliness is missing somewhere, there are sure reasons to introspect and causes to address." His words alluded to China's unilateral border violations along the Line of Actual Control and Pakistan's use of cross-border terrorism as state policy. A central theme of Jaishankar's address was the urgent need to combat terrorism, extremism and separatism—the 'three evils' that, according to him, have plagued the region. He argued that these threats undermine peace and stability, which are prerequisites for development. Without addressing these issues, the prospects for economic growth, trade, connectivity and people-to-people exchanges remain bleak. Jaishankar's participation at the Islamabad summit marked a significant moment in India's diplomatic strategy.



Despite the strained relations, his address indicated India's willingness to engage in dialogue—provided that the foundational issues of trust and security are addressed. The summit showcased the growing rift between India's expectations for regional conduct and the policies pursued by some of its neighbours. It remains to be seen whether China and Pakistan will introspect on Jaishankar's remarks or continue to pursue policies that hinder regional integration. India's position remains clear: trust must be restored through actions that respect the sovereignty and security of all nations. The ball is now in the court of its neighbours to demonstrate a commitment to peace and stability. In his address, Jaishankar effectively used the SCO platform to hold a mirror up to China's border aggressions and Pakistan's sponsorship of terrorism, laying bare the challenges to regional cooperation. His words served not just as a critique but as a call for renewed commitment to the principles of the SCO Charter, signalling India's firm stance on upholding peace and good neighbourliness. The question now is whether China's and Pakistan's leaders will see the reflection and act accordingly, or if the region will continue to grapple with a status quo marked by distrust and discord.

PICTALK



A Royal Bengal tiger yawns at the National Zoological Park, in New Delhi

Pinarayi Vijayan: A tale of U-turns and controversies

CM Pinarayi's U-turn on sensitive data disclosures, coupled with the BJP's election triumph in Thrissur suggests a shifting balance of power

Man, woman and Child was a novel by best-selling author Erich Segal (1937-2010) which has been translated into many languages. It was made into a movie in English as well as in many languages. Our own Shekhar Kapur shot the movie *Masoom* based on the same novel. Well, *Masoom*, and "Man, Woman and Child" came to mind after seeing the plight of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan over the last fortnight. Vijayan, known for his determination, decisiveness and dictatorial tendencies, was a pale shadow of his old self during the last few weeks. Though he was seen laughing at flippant questions put to him by some of the journalists "studying to become Kerala's own Lutyens media", it was visible that Vijayan had lost most of his demeanour which in the past had silenced his detractors and rivals alike. The U-turn made by him viz-a-viz the data about the seizure of smuggled gold and hawala cash from Malappuram had shocked even his critics. Various Islamist organisations expressed their displeasure



over the quantity of gold and amount of illegal money seized from Malappuram which houses the Calicut International Airport. Though the Chief Minister had disclosed these figures in the 140-minute long press meet held on September 21 at Thiruvananthapuram, newspapers and TV channels did carry it in their reports. The present controversy in Kerala had its roots in the meetings held by M R Ajith Kumar, additional director general of police with two senior RSS leaders in 2023 and the fiasco of the 2024 edition of Thrissur Pooram, Kerala's mega cultural extravaganza, the impressive victory scored by the BJP candidate Suresh Gopi in the Lok Sabha poll from Thrissur constituency and the unprecedented increase in gold smuggling and hawala dealings in Malappuram dis-

trict are much ado about nothing. The ADGP has every authority to meet the people of his choice as part of his policing job is known to one and all. Many IPS officers and intelligence officers with whom this issue was taken up were unanimous in their view that there was nothing wrong with the ADGP calling on RSS leaders. One of the severe critics of the meeting between Ajith Kumar and RSS bosses is Binoy Viswam, the CPI Kerala secretary, who has been crying for the ADGP's blood for violating the Lakshman Rekha (or is it the Lenin Rekha?). But what is left unsaid is that Surya Binoy, daughter of Binoy Viswam, is a standing counsel of the BJP Government the Centre, yet another branch of the RSS! Binoy Viswam, who considers himself the global face of Communism and a stickler for propriety should openly admit that his criticism of RSS is with an eye on the minority vote bank. The Congress, CPI and the Muslim League allege that the CPI(M) had a tacit under-

AI: Redefining learning in the 21st Century

Teaching methods and workplace demands are evolving rapidly, pushing educational institutions to adopt new paradigms that keep pace with the changing times



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

It is now being increasingly recognised that artificial intelligence and technology use are going to alter the nature of learning, as few things have in the last 100 years. The fundamental nature of change and its pace is nothing new if one goes back over six or seven decades ago. The digitisation process altered the nature of learning numerals. The use of calculators rendered memorising multiplication tables substantially irrelevant. There was a sea change that has only increased its reach and depth with each passing decade. From calculators to the computerisation and successive upward scaling of computerisation competencies rendered not only the tables and the algorithms only marginally relevant, but even the log tables became a matter of history.

After some initial reluctance to allow a mechanical instrument into the classroom and the examination hall, the nature of learning was adjusted to the new realities. The machine-added reality became the new paradigm. The nature of learning changed slowly but surely from working through one's memory to getting used to machines and their algorithm. The orientation changed from falling back on mental collaborations to machine-led solutions. Changes in technology also needed learning but of a different order. The dualism of specialisation was more in demand for staying current in the employment market. Indeed, machines started competing with each other in a manner of speaking and a classical example would be the different technology modes used in the manufacture of a jet plane (Ilyushin) in Russia and the technology used in a Boeing aircraft. The new realities required a new approach to what could be termed as 'new learning'. The nature of teaching arithmetic, mathematics, and more all underwent a change, and a revolution bigger than many had hit the classroom. The nature of this revolution was significant because it was a



continuing revolution, and today, it confronts the learner through various forms of artificial intelligence, also. The notions of mechanical search have not only revolutionised the search for information but even rendered encyclopedias decoration pieces in fancy drawing rooms. They have now, perhaps, become a showcase of how learning used to be not so long ago. All this has implications not only for the classroom but also for the workplace. The exact manifestation of this is not clear, but the rumblings go on. Whereas earlier on, learning organisations used to pay equal focus on how to teach. Now the focus is equally on what and how to teach. The pressure in both the classroom and the workplace is equally intense, calling for a paradigm shift. The real challenge for learning organisations lies in embodying the paradigm shift. It will be useful to remind oneself that learning



TODAY, LEARNING REQUIRES THE COMPETENCE TO APPRECIATE THE NEW AND EMERGING PATTERNS OF TECHNOLOGY. NOT SO LONG AGO, LITERACY WAS IMPORTANT TO THE USE OF A MACHINE BECAUSE ONE HAD TO PUNCH THROUGH THE ALPHABET

organisations is nothing new. As a proposition, the need to keep reinventing oneself has been commonplace. Not so long ago, the focus was on keeping the mind open. Much of that has now metamorphosed into almost a new paradigm: keeping the mind growing. Enhancing of skills and competencies continues to be a defining trait of a learning organisation. It is simply not possible to confine oneself just to 'keeping the mind open'. Today, learning requires the competence to appreciate the new and emerging patterns of technology. Not so long ago, literacy was important to the use of a machine because one had to punch through the alphabet. Now the situation has reached a context where even if one does not have the competence to punch an alphabet, one can speak into a machine and the machine will comply. At the moment, this process is at an early stage, but the problems that it means to tackle are

expanding every day. The change in the gamut of learning is important because if one can solve problems without being able to write, there indeed is a revolution in the entire paradigm of learning. The proposition, therefore of a learning organisation is undergoing several fundamental reformulations. There was a time in the 20th century when technology altered the nature of distance, and now there seems to be an emerging approach to technology that can alter the nature of time itself. Time present and time future are ready to merge into each other through technological interventions, allowing one to pass through a time machine, even if only temporarily. These are fundamental postulates and need rethinking far more deeply than what we have been able to do at present. (The writer is a well-known management consultant of international repute; The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

INDIA-CANADA TENSIONS RISE

Madam — The Indian government has once again officially denied the allegations of the murder of Khalistani supporter Hardeep Singh Nijjar levelled by the Canadian government. Not only this, it has also taken diplomatic revenge by ordering the Canadian ambassador in India and other officials to leave the country. Have we reached the lowest point in diplomatic history in our relations with Canada? Is it possible that all diplomatic relations between India and Canada come to an end? In some circles of India, even senior journalists of international affairs believe that Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is playing all these games to save his chair. Is it really true that the Canadian Prime Minister, due to his lust for power, is hell-bent on ending diplomatic, political and business relations with India? I think this story is not so simple that it will remain just a story of the chair. Because many Sikhs have been murdered in the same way all over the world, for which the governments there have blamed India. For example, in Lahore, Pakistan, on 6 May last year, Paramjeet Panjwar was shot dead, and the Indian government was also blamed for it. Okay, let's assume that Pakistan is our enemy, so it can make false allegations against us. But the United States of America is our friend. It has also made a similar allegation against us. It had alleged that an Indian citizen was involved in the conspiracy to murder Khalistani separatist Gurbatwint Singh Pannun in New York. Therefore, the Canadian government should also present evidence if it has it in the International Court of Justice and not just raise the issue by holding press conferences.

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

EMPOWERING INDIA'S YOUTH

Madam — The government in its Budget this year had proposed to launch a scheme to provide internship opportunities to 10 million youths in the top 500

Tackle mental health challenges



The most admirable and analytical article 'The invisible battle for mental health in India' (October 16), encourages us to evaluate and recognise our mental wellness and seek counselling for physical illness. The worst part is that we are vitiating and spoiling our mental health despite warnings of being too much glued to our mobile phones, social media, late-night lifestyle, and orientation of ourselves, isolation and so many

other factors. Women suffer more from social and family pressures and they don't speak out. The major enemies are mobile phones and social media platforms, anxiety of getting too much in too little time, gaining public attention all the time, competition with the peers and us, working from home for longer hours, fear of failures, loss of family members, sensory issues and marital discord. The obvious symptoms are anxiety attacks, anger, depression, anger, misbehaviour and violence. However, many easily overcome these symptoms in public posture, delaying the solution and treatment. The work from home should be restricted to prescribed working hours only as scheduled. Yoga is the best option for mental wellness. Vacating, holidaying, playing games, music, bhajans and romanticism with hobbies and passion are the self-healing methods to keep us happy and tranquil, cheerful and bubbly.

Vinod Johri | Delhi

companies over a span of five years. This helps youth to gain exposure to real-life business environments in different areas for a year. Internship schemes are as old as industrialisation as the means to perpetuate skill sets. With rapid mechanisation, it was losing impetus and formalisation. A pilot for the scheme in 2024-25 was kicked off last week with internship opportunities in 24 sectors, including energy, hospitality, auto, and banking and financial services. Companies are expected to bear the cost of training and 10 per cent of internship costs from their corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds. Major corporations over the years have been focusing on health, education and women empowerment. This new internship scheme hopefully should not affect their continued funding.

R Narayanan | Mumbai

PRİYANKA'S POLITICAL DEBUT

Madam — The bypoll for Wayanad has been announced by the Election Commission and the Congress leader

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is likely to make her debut for Lok Sabha. The seat went vacant while her brother Rahul Gandhi got elected to Lok Sabha also from Raebareilly in Uttar Pradesh in the general elections. When the elected members who hail from the same place have not used to visit their constituencies, where is the question of Priyanka serving the people of Wayanad once she gets elected? One should recall the promise of the Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi that he vowed that the Congress would construct 100 houses for those who lost their dwellings in the landslides at Chooralmala and Mundakkai during his visit on August 2, 2024. Winning elections matters most for the leaders and by consolidating the dynastic politics, the Congress can increase their numbers on the floor by wooing the voters but there is no justification to serve the people of the constituency in a real sense.

A P Thiruvadi | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

UNDERSTANDING THE BIG PICTURE

By living according to dharma, we can strive for a higher quality of life



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

What is this Big Picture, that finds mention in spiritual talks? Simply stated, it means to know something in its totality. For example, we wish to know about ourselves in great detail, i.e. who we are; where have we come from; where are we going; and so forth. These and many more questions can be answered if we go to the source of everything, i.e. God, who is everything. (The Bhagavad-Geeta 7.19) We, souls, are His parts (15.15); we exist eternally; we are presently in material bodies. This happened because that is all we qualified for. There are superior planets like Heaven and, of course, the Vaikuntha – God’s planet (15.6). How are we judged? It is purely based on ‘karmas’ (our acts), both material and spiritual. Most of us are engaged mainly in material acts. We may have a slight percentage of spiritual acts like occasional visits to a temple, hearing a spiritual talk, etc. These count but are not enough to go to the highest planet, i.e. the Vaikuntha. We keep on getting born on the earth’s planet with an occasional visit to Heaven.

What is the role of God in all these? God is the creator of all that we see; He is its controller also. Logically, God must know the Big Picture. He does; God is omniscient. He knows past, present and future also. Just as our present is the result of our past, our future will be the result of our present. God is aware of how we will use our free will because that is influenced by our nature – part of our fate. As the Creation is to last for a very long time, control must be exercised to ensure its continuity. God does that. He uses the



Divine Authority to assist Him; it works under His superintendence. (9.10) They in turn reward and punish us based on our karma. There is nothing like chance, whatever happens to us is already preordained. In short, there are three levels of control. God is the head. Then comes the Divine Authority and, lastly, it is the material nature, which has been set in motion by God.

That is how we have seasons, rains, etc. We must live in synchronisation with it to have a healthy life. Our all acts must be ‘yukta’, i.e. appropriate according to the highest principles known as ‘dharma’. These rules have been formulated by God Himself. The Big Picture won’t be complete without a detailed description of our souls and how we can get help from God to improve our lives. We are many, eight billion plus on the earth planet itself. Surely, we are small and need help all the time, especially from God, who only knows the Big Picture. We are relocated after the present lifespan is over, which is preordained. Quality of life is all-important for all of us.

Unfortunately, we seek it from material objects, which are never satisfied. We must serve other souls to be served in turn by others. How can we improve the quality of our lives? We must begin by accepting the reality. This is where the Big Picture enters our lives, whatever we can know with our limitations.

This includes accepting the Cosmic Design, and having faith in God and His System. We should try to be good in whatever we do; we generally know what that is. We must be useful to others, otherwise the world would not have any use for us. We need to be tolerant, because the earth planet is no heaven, but is not a concentration camp either. One can have a reasonably good life.

(The writer is a spiritual teacher; views are personal)

Empower urban local bodies for climate resilience



SONAL SINGH

Despite their economic importance, most urban areas are ill-prepared for the growing risks of climate change; these local bodies must be trained to fight climate changes



Cities are centres of economic growth, contributing around 63 per cent to India’s GDP while housing approximately 36 per cent of its population.

This urban population is expected to reach 50 per cent by 2050, further intensifying the challenges cities face from extreme weather events such as heatwaves, floods, and droughts as recently witnessed in Wayanad, Chennai, New Delhi and other cities. According to a study by IIT Gandhinagar, the proportion of urban areas exposed to extreme weather events is set to increase significantly as global temperatures rise beyond 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. While the growing vulnerability is felt across rural and urban centres, the multiplier effect of damage caused to urban infrastructure, lives and livelihood on the larger socio-economic conditions as cities drive national GDP. Moreover, most of the cities are ill-equipped to tackle these climate risks. A lack of clearly mandated roles in climate response, insufficient financial allocations, and limited institutional capacities exacerbate this challenge. To enable transformative, city-led climate action, it is essential to align Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the specific needs and capacities of cities. This requires designing enabling frameworks to help urban areas build climate resilience. Without such frameworks, cities may struggle to cope with mounting climate risks. India has played a very proactive role in shaping policy and strategies for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The country’s early adoption of environmental policies can be traced back to the Environmental Protection Act of 1986, a direct result of the United Nations Conference on Human Environment (Stockholm Conference) in 1972. This laid the foundation for key initiatives such as the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) in 2008 and the National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC) in 2015. India has also spearheaded international efforts, including the establishment of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Coalition for

Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

At the sub-national level, 34 States and Union Territories have prepared State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCC) to address state-specific vulnerabilities in line with the NAPCC framework. Although the concept of city-level Climate Action Plans (CAPs) is relatively new in India, cities are developing these plans to address local risks such as heatwaves, water scarcity, and flooding for example, Mumbai, Coimbatore, Rajkot, Siliguri, and Udaipur.

These climate action plans are often in collaboration with international networks like C40 cities supported by global donor agencies. However, a major limitation remains: Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) do not have a clear mandate to respond to climate challenges. While the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992 assigns ULBs certain responsibilities, such as urban forestry and environmental protection, “climate change” is not explicitly mentioned among the 18 functions designated to ULBs. This creates a significant governance gap at the local level. Although the National Mission for Sustainable Habitat (NMSH) 2.0 encourages ULBs to design action plans as one of the key strategies, it falls short of providing concrete guidelines, financial assistance, or incentives to assist city governments in these efforts.

The absence of a designated decision-making authority at the city level further compounds the problem.

While the SAPCC guidelines call for establishing climate cells at the state level, there is no similar provision for cities. Even when ULBs do develop climate action strategies, their implementation is hampered by overlapping mandates across multiple agencies and

parastatals, with no centralised body to oversee or coordinate these efforts.

Additionally, national climate policies such as the Net Zero by 2070 target and NDCs do not mandate the collection of city-level greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions data, limiting the ability to undertake data-driven climate actions. As India transitions towards a more urban future, with 50 per cent of the population estimated to live in cities by 2050, amid rising climate risks, the devolution of powers to ULBs for climate governance becomes crucial. Empowering local governments through the principle of “climate subsidiarity”—which ensures that climate action is undertaken at the most appropriate level by adequately resourced and empowered agencies—can be a key step toward achieving climate resilience and national climate goals. One such long-term measure often suggested by experts involves amending the Constitution to include “climate action” as one of the functions of ULBs.

While constitutional amendments may be a long-term goal, an immediate step could involve making a comprehensive central law on climate mitigation and adaptation with the city as a unit of governance. Also, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) could update NMSH 2.0 with detailed guidelines for city-level Climate Action Plans. Such guidelines would ensure a standardised approach across cities while allowing for localized strategies aligned with national goals. Additionally, providing financial incentives—such as climate finance or additional transfers from the State Finance Commission (SFC) or Central Finance Commission (CFC)—would encourage ULBs to initiate climate risk assessments, imple-

ment green mobility projects, and undertake other climate-resilient initiatives.

Institutionalising climate governance at the local level is only the first step. Local governments must also be given clear and measurable targets, necessitating the localisation of NDCs and SDGs. Incorporating cities into future updates of the NAPCC and SAPCC would allow for a more bottom-up approach to planning adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Furthermore, establishing a centralised decision-making body at the city level would facilitate better collaboration among city agencies, ensuring a more coordinated response to climate risks.

As global and national conversations on climate action gain momentum, it is imperative to build a similar focus at the sub-national level to ensure tangible results. The dynamism seen at the national level must be replicated in cities, towns, and districts, which are at the frontline of climate impacts. This will require a realignment of governance structures and a re-evaluation of climate strategies to bring the focus to the smallest units of governance—cities and ULBs.

A blend of long-term strategies and short-term action plans must be developed with sub-national governments to ensure accountability and cohesion in how cities perceive and address climate change. By empowering ULBs with the necessary resources, mandates, and institutional support, India can ensure that its urban centres are not just engines of economic growth but also pillars of climate resilience. This is essential if the country is to meet its ambitious goal of achieving Net Zero emissions by 2070.

(The writer is Research Associate, TERI; views are personal)



MOST OF THE CITIES ARE ILL-EQUIPPED TO TACKLE THESE CLIMATE RISKS. A LACK OF CLEARLY MANDATED ROLES IN CLIMATE RESPONSE, INSUFFICIENT FINANCIAL ALLOCATIONS, AND LIMITED INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES EXACERBATE THIS CHALLENGE

Aurangzeb: A contested legacy shaping India’s political discourse

The portrayal of Aurangzeb as a ruthless oppressor reflects a blend of folk tales and myth rather than a verified account of his reign

The figure of Aurangzeb remains deeply embedded in India’s contemporary political and cultural landscape, reflecting a blend of historical memory, myth and modern political rhetoric. His name frequently surfaces in electoral campaigns and public debates, evoking emotions and controversies centuries after his reign.

When leaders criticise each other with references to Aurangzeb, it signifies how his legacy continues to shape national politics. In the modern narrative, Aurangzeb is often depicted as a ruthless tyrant—a figure equated with notorious symbols of intolerance, such as Hitler or extremist ideologies. This perception paints him as someone who dedicated his life to eradicat-



NIHARIKA DWIVEDI

ing Hinduism and oppressing Hindus. Consequently, there’s a prevalent notion that contemporary Indian Muslims are somehow connected, either by ancestry or ideology, to the Mughal emperor’s legacy, which is accused of inflicting harm on India’s cultural and religious heritage. This view draws heavily on VS Naipaul’s concept of India as a “wounded civilisation,” enduring centuries of subjugation by

foreign invaders, including Muslim rulers who allegedly dismantled the country’s glorious past. Yet, the belief in deliberate, systematic destruction by Muslim conquerors is not a continuous historical memory nor entirely grounded in verified historical records. Instead, it reflects deep emotional and cultural wounds, often fueled by present-day anti-Muslim sentiments.

Historically, Aurangzeb was the last significant Mughal ruler, governing much of the Indian subcontinent for nearly five decades. His reign is marked by controversies, such as imprisoning his father, Shah Jahan, his perceived orthodoxy, and the inability to consolidate the Deccan region into the Mughal Empire.

Central to the debates on Aurangzeb is the question of his motivations and policies. Some historians, such as Sir Jadunath Sarkar, argue that his primary aim was to establish an Islamic state in India by enforcing Sharia law and converting the population. Pakistani historian Ishtiaq Husain Qureshi asserts that Aurangzeb’s policies were intended to preserve Muslim dominance and to maintain the empire’s unity.

This included discouraging religious pluralism that could undermine Muslim hegemony in a state where they were responsible for defence and administration. However, Aurangzeb’s actions were not always consistent with the idea of enforcing an Islamic state. For example, while he did



destroy certain Hindu temples, including the Vishwanath temple in Banaras, there is little evidence supporting the claim of a widespread, systematic campaign of temple destruction. Many temples, like those in Vrindavan, continued to receive royal patronage. The destruction of some temples appeared more politically motivated than religiously driven, often tied to punitive

actions against local rebellions or defiant rulers. Aurangzeb’s revival of the jizya tax in 1679, a levy on non-Muslims, further complicates the interpretation of his policies. While some scholars, like Sarkar, view this as an attempt to pressure Hindus into conversion, others argue that the tax was intended more as a political tool to rally support from conservative Muslim factions. Its reinstatement after two decades of the rule suggests it was not a priority-driven solely by religious zeal but rather a measure aimed at consolidating power during times of conflict, particularly against the Rajputs and Marathas. Qureshi contends that Aurangzeb sought to reverse the damages caused by Akbar’s more liberal policies, which

had integrated Hindus into administrative roles. Ironically, the number of Hindus in government service increased during Aurangzeb’s reign, reaching 33 per cent by 1689, despite the emperor’s reputation for religious intolerance. Dr RP Tripathi views Aurangzeb’s actions as primarily politically motivated, aimed at consolidating power in a diverse and vast empire. His policies, while sometimes harsh, were not necessarily born from a deep-seated animosity toward Hindus. Instead, they reflected the complexities of ruling an expansive and multi-ethnic empire where shifting political, social, and military factors required adaptable strategies. Modern scholarship increasingly emphasises the need to

view Aurangzeb beyond simplistic labels of heroism or villainy. His reign is better understood within the broader context of socio-economic, cultural, and political dynamics of the time. While his orthodox leanings and authoritarian tendencies shaped some of his policies, his actions also mirrored the challenges of ruling a fragmented and turbulent subcontinent. Aurangzeb’s legacy, thus, remains a complex and contested chapter in Indian history. It serves as a reminder of the intricate interplay between history and politics, and how the past is continuously invoked to influence the present.

(The author is a freelance writer and a documentary filmmaker; views are personal)

IN BRIEF



Gold jumps Rs 450 to breach Rs 79k-mark

Gold prices advanced Rs 450 to hit another record of Rs 79,350 per 10 grams in the national capital on Thursday on the back of continued buying by jewellers and stockists, according to the All India Sarafa Association. The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 79,900 per 10 grams in the previous session on Wednesday. Rallying for the second straight day, gold of 99.5 per cent climbed Rs 450 to hit another fresh high of Rs 78,950 per 10 grams. It had finished at Rs 78,500 per 10 grams. However, silver remained flat at Rs 93,500 per kg. Traders said increased buying by local jewellers to meet festive demand and a rally in the precious metal rates in the global markets mainly lifted gold prices to record high levels. In futures trade on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold contracts for December delivery reached a lifetime high of Rs 77,019 per 10 grams.

Logistics cost will come down to 9% of GDP: Gadkari

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday said India's logistics cost will come down to 9 per cent of GDP within the next two years as the ministry is constructing several high-ways and expressways. "Within two years, we are going to reduce our logistics cost to 9 per cent," he said while addressing an event organised by Niti Aayog.



According to Gadkari, currently logistics cost in India is 14 per cent, while logistics cost is around 12 per cent in major European countries and the United States.

He said logistics cost is around 8 per cent in China.

According to quick estimates of the economic think tank National Council of Applied Economic Research

(NCAER), logistics costs in India ranged between 7.8 per cent to 8.9 per cent of GDP for fiscal 2021-22, while the Economic Survey 2022-23 highlighted that it was 14-18 per cent of the GDP, which is significantly higher than the global standard of around 8 per cent.

Gadkari said there is huge potential for India to export alternative fuels and biofuels.

He also pointed out that low-quality coal is useful for making methanol. The minister added that India is making significant strides in the biofuel sector, especially in methanol.

Gadkari also said he aimed to make the Indian automobile industry number one in the world.

Last year, India had overtaken Japan to become the third-largest automobile market in the world, only behind the US and China, he added.

Walmart expands snack sourcing from India for US

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

US retail major Walmart on Thursday said it is increasing its food and snack products sourcing by adding new popular Indian brands like Bikano, Britannia and Jayanti Spices for the US market ahead of Diwali.

Bentonville-based retail giant Walmart has also set a goal of sourcing goods worth USD 10 billion from India annually by 2027.

The announced lineup of new food and snack products will cater to Diwali celebrations. "Together, they will supply a diverse range of well-loved snacks and food products to Walmart's US customers," a statement said, adding that "offerings include premium tea, ready-to-eat and frozen foods, traditional snacks, spices, and festive packs".

Products by India's leading food companies like Britannia and Bikano will be available this Diwali, while brands, such as Regal Kitchen and VAH-DAM, are already available to the Walmart US customer, it noted.

Jayanti Spices and HyFun



Foods currently have products under Walmart's Great Value brand.

Walmart, Executive Vice President, Sourcing, Andrea Albright said: "As part of our goal to increase exports from India to USD 10 billion per year by 2027, we are excited to bring a taste of India's rich culture and traditions to our customers in the US during the holiday season and beyond".

These products from Indian food brands and suppliers are being sold in Walmart's US stores, Sam's Club and also online through Walmart.com.

From the house of Britannia Industries, Walmart will sell

the US market under Walmart's Great Value private label. It offers a variety of flavourful spices and herbs, including onion powder, garlic powder, cinnamon powder, crushed red pepper, parsley flakes, black pepper, and cinnamon sticks, bringing spices grown in India to US consumers, Walmart said in a statement.

Vahdam, a premium brand specialising in tea, spices and herbs, is already a favourite at Walmart.

"The brand offers a wide range of spices and powders, including cumin, clove, cinnamon, turmeric, ginger, garlic, onion, amla, and ashwagandha, along with tea products like Turmeric Ashwagandha, Turmeric Ginger, and Turmeric Citrus Ginger and Turmeric Tea variety pack in Walmart stores," the statement said.

HyFun, a Gujarat-based frozen foods brand and first-time exporter to the US market, will also be available under the Great Value brand, offering products like tater tots and seasoned hash browns at a great price.



Direct tax collections jump to over Rs 19.60 lakh cr

Direct tax collections have surged 182 per cent to over Rs 19.60 lakh crore in 2023-24 in the 10-year period of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government. The latest 'Time Series Data' released by the income tax department showed that the corporate tax collections more than doubled to over Rs 9.11 lakh crore in 10 years to 2023-24 fiscal. Personal income tax mop up grew close to four-fold to Rs 10.45 lakh crore during the period. In the first year of the Modi government in 2014-15, direct tax collection was about Rs 6.96 lakh crore. This included about Rs 4.29 lakh crore of corporate tax and Rs 2.66 lakh crore of personal income tax. The number of income tax returns filed (including revised returns) increased from over 4.04 crore in 2014-15 fiscal to over 8.61 crore in 2023-24.

'Will clear all backlogs of recruitment offers soon'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

IT major Wipro will clear all backlogs of recruitment offers by the end of this calendar year, the company's Chief Human Resources Officer Saurabh Govil said on Thursday. The comment comes amid growing concerns around IT firms delaying onboarding of new recruits for as long as 6 months to 2 years.

"By the end of current quarter, Q3, we will make sure there is no backlog of any of the offers made. It will all be taken care of," Govil said during the company's Q2 earnings presser. Wipro on Thursday reported a 21.2 per cent increase in its consolidated net profit to Rs 3,208.8 crore in the second quarter of FY25. It had reported a profit of Rs 2,646.3 crore in the year-ago period. The revenue from operations during the reporting quarter was Rs 22,301.6 crore, a 0.95 per cent decline from Rs 22,515.9 crore in Q2 FY24.

Over 100 overseas buyers through India Expo Mart

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Buyers from more than 100 overseas countries are visiting the 58th IHGF Delhi Fair with over 3,000 exhibitors showcasing handicraft items like housewares, furniture, gifts and decor, lighting and leather bags.

The five-day event, which will end on October 20, is being organised at the India Expo Centre & Mart on the Greater Noida Expressway.

Buyers from over 103 countries, including Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Panama, Peru, the Philippines,

Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, the UAE, the UK and the US, have pre-registered to visit the fair.

At the inauguration ceremony, Suresh Khanna, Minister for Finance and Parliamentary Affairs in the Uttar Pradesh government, said it is a "great opportunity for ODOP (one district one product) manufacturers from the state to showcase their products as well as artisans and exporters from all across the country to connect with global buyers".

The IHGF Fair is a major sourcing destination for handicraft buyers from overseas. During 2023-24, the overall handicraft exports from India stood at around Rs 32,758 crore.



Investors' wealth erodes by Rs 6 lakh cr as mkts slump

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Investors' wealth slumped Rs 6 lakh crore on Thursday as markets fell sharply amid unabated foreign fund outflows.

Falling for the third day running, the BSE Sensex tanked 494.75 points or 0.61 per cent to settle at 81,006.61. During the day, it tumbled 595.72 points or 0.73 per cent to 80,905.64.

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms tanked Rs 6,03,862.06 crore to Rs 4,57,25,183.01 crore (USD 5.44 trillion).

"Rising domestic inflation data released this week and continued FII selling weighed on the market sentiments. This along with disappointing Q2 earnings from major companies added to the pressure," Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Research, Wealth Management at Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

From the 30 Sensex firms, Nestle declined over 3 per cent after the FMCG major reported a decline of 0.94 per cent in its net profit at Rs 899.49 crore for the second



quarter that ended September 2024, as some of its key brands faced softer consumer demand and high commodity prices.

Mahindra & Mahindra, UltraTech Cement, Bajaj Finserv, Titan, Tata Steel, Maruti and Axis Bank were among the other big laggards. However, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, Power Grid, Larsen & Toubro and State Bank of India were among the biggest gainers.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 3,435.94 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

The BSE midcap gauge declined 1.65 per cent and smallcap index fell 1.42 per cent.

Among the indices, realty tumbled 3.76 per cent, auto (3.48 per cent), consumer discretionary (2.45 per cent), consumer durables (2.28 per cent), commodities (1.77 per cent), oil & gas (1.54 per cent) and power (1.48 per cent). BSE IT and tech emerged as the only gainers.

A total of 2,690 stocks declined while 1,272 advanced and 102 remained unchanged on the BSE.

Rupee falls 5 paise to close at 84.07 against US dollar

Rupee traded in a narrow range and settled for the day lower by 5 paise to 84.07 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, pressured by foreign fund outflows, a negative trend in domestic equities and broad strength of the American currency. Forex traders said rupee witnessed range-bound trade as weak domestic markets and a strong US dollar weighed on the domestic currency, while a decline in crude oil prices and contained geopolitical tensions cushioned the downside. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 84.01 and traded in a narrow range of 83.99 and 84.07 and finally settled for the day at 84.07 (provisional), lower by 5 paise over its previous close of 84.02. "We expect the rupee to trade with a negative bias on strong dollar and weak domestic markets. FII outflows may further pressurise the rupee. However, soft crude oil prices and contained geopolitical tensions in the Middle East may support the rupee at lower levels," said Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas.

DISBURSAL OF LOANS
RBI bars Navi Finserv, 3 other NBFCs

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank on Thursday ordered Sachin Bansal's Navi Finserv and three other NBFCs to cease and desist from sanction and disbursement of loans effective from the close of business of October 21, on material supervisory concerns, including usurious pricing.

In a statement, the central bank said the directions have been conveyed on Thursday to the NBFCs -- Bengaluru-based Navi Finserv Limited,

New Delhi-based DMI Finance Private Limited, Kolkata-based Arohan Financial Services Limited, and Chennai-based Aspirvad Micro Finance Limited -- through the Reserve Bank's detailed supervisory orders. "This action is based on material supervisory concerns observed in the Pricing Policy of these companies in terms of their Weighted Average Lending Rate (WALR) and the Interest Spread charged over their cost of funds, which are found to be excessive and not

in adherence with the regulations...", the RBI statement on action against NBFCs and MFIs.

The entities are also found to be not in conformity with the provisions laid down under the Fair Practices Code issued by the Reserve Bank, it added.

A Navi Finserv spokesperson said: "Navi Finserv Limited is committed to conducting its business operations with the highest standards of compliance, customer service, and transparency. The compa-



ny is reviewing the directions received from the Hon'ble Reserve Bank of India and will work with them, and address all the concerns raised with promptness and completeness."

Enhanced insurance benefits for EPFO members extended

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Thursday announced extension of the enhanced insurance benefits for all members of retirement fund body EPFO under Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance (EDLI) scheme.

The move will ensure up to Rs 7 lakh of life cover to more than 6 crore EPFO members. The scheme has been extended with retrospective effect from April 28, 2024 onwards, Mandaviya told reporters here.

EDLI Scheme, launched in



1976, seeks to provide insurance benefits to members of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) in order to ensure some financial assistance to each member's family in case of the member's death.

In 2018, the minimum insurance cover of Rs 1.5 lakh was introduced under the scheme.

Till April 2021, the maximum benefits to the legal heir of the deceased employee was capped at Rs 6 lakh as per the

criteria defined in the EDLI Scheme.

Later, the government, through a notification issued on April 28, 2021, enhanced both minimum and maximum benefits under the scheme to Rs 2.5 lakh and Rs 7 lakh, respectively, for the next three years. Further, the condition of continuous service of 12 months in an establishment was also relaxed so as to cover even those employees who changed jobs during that period.

These benefits were effective for the three-year period which came to an end on April 27, 2024.

Asia Index launches BSE Premium Consumption index

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Asia Index, a subsidiary of BSE, on Thursday said it has launched a new thematic index -- BSE Premium Consumption -- which will provide investors an opportunity to tap into the future of consumption in the country. The new index measures the performance of companies selected from the relevant industries that broadly have an association with premium spends, selected based on free-float market capitalisation from the BSE 500 Index. "We believe the launch of the BSE Premium Consumption Index is perfectly timed as India's evolu-

ing consumer landscape reflects a shift towards premiumisation, driven by growing disposable incomes, an increasing demand for high-quality lifestyle and wellness products, and the resilience of our thriving economy. This index provides investors a unique opportunity to tap into the future of consumption in India," Ashutosh Singh, MD and CEO of Asia Index, said in a statement.

The index, reconstituted semi-annually and rebalanced quarterly, can be used by mutual funds for running passive strategies, such as ETFs and Index Funds as well as gauging the performance of companies in the index.

Personal computers emerge as promising electronic item exports

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After smartphones, exports of personal computers including laptops have emerged as a key electronic item shipments from India during April-August this fiscal, according to the commerce ministry data.

The exports of personal computers have recorded healthy growth in five destinations- the

UAE, Russia, Bangladesh, the US, and Sri Lanka. The exports of laptops to the top five markets - increased to USD 102.6 million in April-August from just USD 37 million in the same period of the previous year, the data showed. The biggest market for laptops, palmtops and handhelds is the United Arab Emirates (UAE) which imported \$64 million worth of these devices.

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
TENDER NOTIFICATION
TENDER NOTICE NO. 13/EEC-20/PL/GHMC/2024-25 Dated: 17-10-2024
Name of the Work: For 1 Work "Unmanned Aerial Vehicles known as Drones for Anti Larval Spraying Operations for Lakes of LB Nagar Zone for the period from 01.09.2024 to 31.01.2025". Estimate Amount: Rs. 9.81 Lakhs, Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids: 21-10-2024 @ 12:00 PM. Name & Address Officer: Sri. V. Harish, Executive Engineer, Uppal Div. No.2, GHMC. For further details can be seen at e-procurement@http://www.tender.telangana.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer
C.O.No: 5425-P/CLAD/11/2024-25, Dt. 17-10-2024

NORTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED
CIN No. U40109TG2000SGC034119
EXTENDED SHORT TENDER NOTICE NO.01/2024-25 OF SE/OP/WARANGAL, WITH SPECIFICATION No. 049 /2024-25, (RESERVED FOR ST)
Sealed tenders are invited from TGNPDCL registered contractors of Warangal District for Proposal for shifting of 33KV Double Circuit (R & O/U) Sagarm feeder emanating from 130/33 KV Geesugonda TGT/AMCO of Length 0.24KM at 33/11KV/KMTTP 65 which was passing underneath 132KV DC line from 230/132/33KV TGT/AMSCO 65 at KMTTP to N/S. Khas at Kalkayya Magbu Toddi Park in Madhapur section of Kapalkhapparty sub division of Warangal District Division of Operation, Warangal Circle. The details of works can be obtained from our website www.TGNPDCL.com
Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Operation Circle, Warangal.
TENDER NOTICE NO - 09/2024-25 OF DE/OP/BHADRACHALAM WITH SPECIFICATION NO.01 & 02/2024-25
Sealed tenders are invited from TGNPDCL registered contractors for filing of agency estimate for execution of works in Durnagumam & Charla Sections of Operation Division Bhadrachalam. The Details of works and other information can be obtained from our website www.TGNPDCL.in
Sd/- OFFICIAL ENGINEER, OPERATION TGNPDCL, BHADRACHALAM.
SHORT TENDER NOTICE NO. 03/2024-25 OF SE/OP/JANGAON, WITH SPECIFICATION No. 07,08 & 03/2024-25.
The sealed tenders are invited by the undersigned from the registered and valid contractors of TGNPDCL for various works in Operation circle Jangam as per terms and conditions presented in detailed tender schedule. The details such as cost of tender schedule, date of sale of tender schedule, eligibility criteria etc., can be had from TGNPDCL website www.tgnpdcl.in.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Operation Circle, Jangam.
DPR/ILD No.: 508-P/CL-ASB/20/V001/1/2024-25, Date: 17-10-2024

THE PIONEER CATCHES UP WITH JAMIE LEVER ONCE AGAIN IN AN EXCLUSIVE CONVERSATION, DELVING INTO HER LOVE FOR EXPLORATION, CULTURAL IMMERSION AND MOUTH-WATERING CUISINE AS SHE RECOUNTS HER THRILLING TRAVEL ADVENTURES



TRAVELOGUE

Raveena Tandon's surprise hug in London left Jamie speechless!

TEJAL SINHA
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Travelling is, without a doubt, the best and most powerful way of exploring the unexplored. Well, it is for Jamie Lever as well, as she's one of those who loves exploring, seeing new places and learning about their culture, history and food.

"Thank god that my job allows it," begins Jamie in an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer* for our exclusive Travelogue segment. Travelling constantly, either for shows or shooting, she's grateful that it is one of the biggest highlights of the profession she is in.

As we hark back to one of her latest trips, which was to Hong Kong for a show, was a quick trip. "I had a show in the night and the other couple of days, we went up to the Hong Kong tour to see the entire city. It was nice to see Hong Kong, which was impacted badly by the pandemic," she shares with us great exhilaration. In fact, there was an overjoying moment that she had there: "We happened to go to an Indian restaurant where the television was on and my dad's movie was playing. I also realised that people in Hong Kong really love Indian food." Then of course was her trip to Bali, where she had never happened to travel to and here she was for about 10 days. There were these beautiful places she had been to: Ubud and Seminyak. "Ubud is known for the rice fields and there are beautiful locations where you can see this wide set of land just of rice fields. There was this very small thing that I noticed whenever I was out: Outside each shop, they would have, like, a little thing made up of a leaf with flowers and they would place it down on the ground. The locals told me that it is kind of like a prayer and a blessing that they pray to their deities."

Again, it was nice to see that people are very spiritual and very prayerful out there and most of them are Hindu. "They believe in the *Mahabharata* and the *Ramayana*. In Bali, there are a lot of big structures of Ram and Sita. Then I got to see their cultural dance and the culture there was so mesmerising," says the talented gagster. Oh, Bali and not witnessing the swing? She did experience that too! "I love doing all these small adventure rides. Even though I get scared of it, I do try to push myself to experience it all. In fact, you know, these guys, who were pushing the swing, were having these small conversations with me and asking me where I was from. As I said Mumbai, they started speaking to me in



Hindi, broken Hindi (she giggles)."

There she stayed in this beautiful natural vegan resort, which was no less of an experience for her. And there was a kind of fun incident that happened where, "I watch stuff when I'm travelling. I remember watching a comedy show and it was quite loud. I think there were some laughter tracks going on. I got a call from the property saying, 'Ma'am, could you please turn it down? This is just a silent zone. You're not supposed to make noise. Hahaha! But on a serious note, it was nice to just be quiet and enjoy the peace and the sound of nature. Later, when my friends called me from Mumbai, my voice was very mellow and soft and they were like, Are you okay? I said, no. I haven't spoken in the last 5 days. (She laughs out loud.) But yes, it was nice to be by myself in nature."

Her go-to place for rejuvenation? It's London, folks. "I have a lot of friends there. I've lived in London for 3 years myself. So for me, it's just sort of feels like a second home. I feel very comfortable there. I feel I know everything there—every gully, nook and corner I know. So I really enjoy going to London. But of late, I think all of India is in London. It's like I came out of my country and I'm only seeing my people. So let me tell you this thing: I was in London in the month of July and I was walking on the road when someone from behind squawked Jamie Lever. And guess who it was? Raveena Tandon. She gave me the biggest hug."

Let's not forget, not all trips can be as smooth as expected to be. She had a frightening experience too that left her with no money. "It was quite a frightening thing. I had connected my phone to the Wi-Fi of the hotel. I probably logged in to my bank on the Wi-Fi and my bank account was hacked. In fact, when I came back, I heard of many more stories of people whose accounts and social media were hacked through the public." Heading toward the end of the chat, we ask her about the next place on her bucket list, and it's none other than Italy.

"It's been on my list for a really long time," shares the *Housefull 4* fame as she continues, "I have and surprisingly, I was just watching *Eat, Pray, Love* of Julia Roberts. She's in Italy and eating this pasta. Seeing that, I felt it was a signal for me to travel there. I want to really explore the south of Italy. I want to eat the food. I want to take my time, probably for a whole month off, to explore different parts of Italy; it's culture and food, of course."



India's sports tech revolution is here

Revolutionising India's sports landscape, one match at a time, Suhail's brainchild, is transforming the way Indians engage with sports. *The Pioneer* has the visionary entrepreneur onboard as he discusses bringing innovation to the Indian sports business and more

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Suhail didn't just return from Michigan with a degree; but with a game-changing playbook. In a country where planning a weekend football match feels like coordinating an international summit, he brought some much-needed order to the chaos. Launched in 2016 and turbocharged by tech in 2019, it is that finally answers the age-old question, 'Who's in for a game?' With over 500,000 players and 100,000 matches happening every month, Suhail is turning WhatsApp banter into real competition—one perfectly booked match at a time. Now, all you need to worry about is your fitness level!

Driving innovation in the Indian sports business by fusing his background in academia with more than ten years of expertise in sports is the entrepreneur. So his Hudle is a sports experience that he created in 2016. The concept was inspired by the maturity and scope of American sports! In 2019, he transformed it into a tech platform after seeing the necessity to increase the general public's accessibility to sporting events. Under his direction, it has grown to become the biggest sports community in India, with over 1,200 locations, over 5,00,000 players and over

1,00,000 games played each month.

In an insightful read, he explains, "The main motivation behind developing a software platform to increase accessibility to sport was the idea that sports were becoming a part of people's daily routines and not a one-off event. Put another way, engaging in sports was less like taking a Sunday afternoon movie at the theater and more like going for a daily walk." That's a fascinating bit of knowledge!

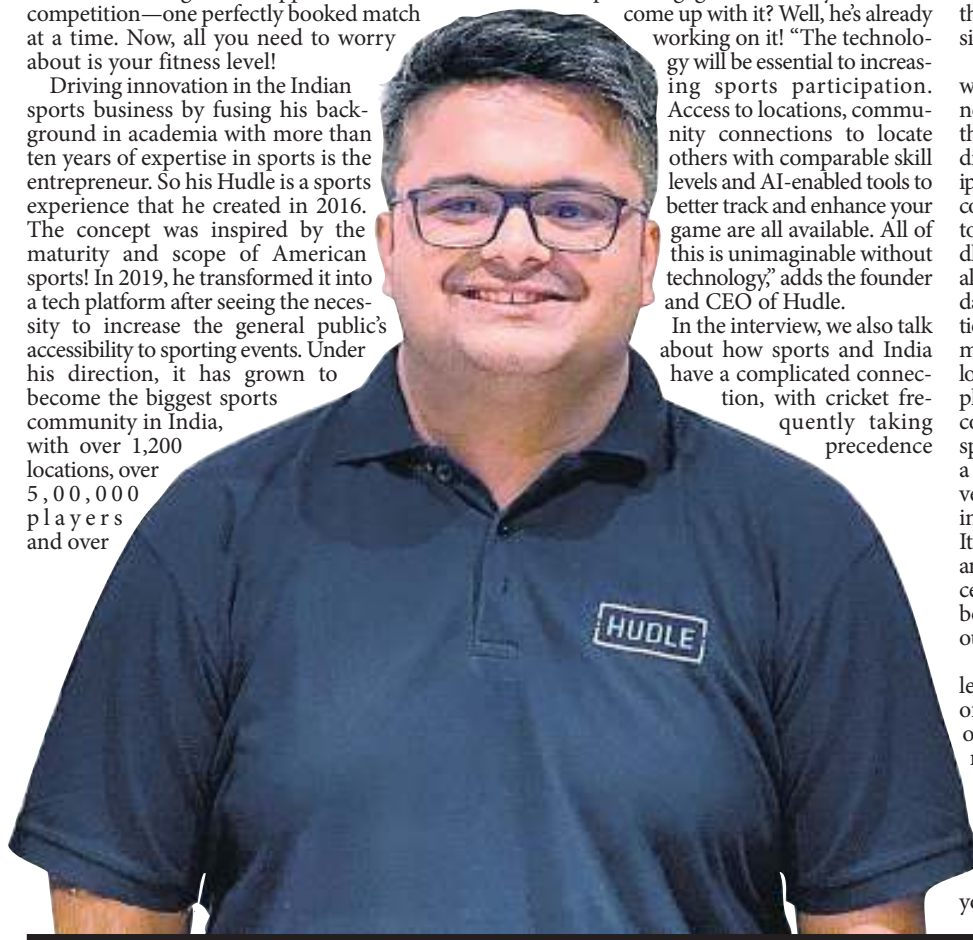
To enable 100 million Indians to adopt sports as a way of life is the aim. Consider how SportsTech will grow and impact not only cities but also rural places where there is still a low level of sports engagement! Are you able to come up with it? Well, he's already working on it! "The technology will be essential to increasing sports participation. Access to locations, community connections to locate others with comparable skill levels and AI-enabled tools to better track and enhance your game are all available. All of this is unimaginable without technology," adds the founder and CEO of Hudle.

In the interview, we also talk about how sports and India have a complicated connection, with cricket frequently taking precedence

over other subjects. Thus, he's also trying to develop a culture and opportunity around lesser-known sports like padel and pickleball! Apparently, globally, both pickleball and padel have experienced explosive growth, with pickleball being played in 84 countries by over 5 million players and padel in 110 countries by over 25 million players. He continues, "A widely held belief is that as cricket is the most viewed sport, it must also be the most played. That is untrue. Although cricket is one of the most popular sports, playing football and badminton is also quite similar. Padel and pickleball are quickly catching up. Different factors are taken into account while selecting a sport to play, such as the number of participants needed, venue accessibility, ease of learning, etc."

He is creating a tech platform for this reason, which can be difficult for an entrepreneur who is not tech savvy! He encountered difficulties throughout the tech transition: "Yes, it was quite difficult. However, there were also a few unanticipated advantages. The journey to becoming a tech company took a totally different turn. We were able to hire a reputable outside organisation to handle the tech development for the first year, which allowed us to concentrate more on laying the foundation. It was quite difficult to build a subscription option also. Considering badminton is a communal activity, the frequency of playing varies a lot among persons. However, as it encourages people to take up a sport as a regular activity, we will continue to work on improving for more recent sports. Over the years, Ajinkya Rahane has been a great deal of support. Even though funds and venture capitalists were skeptical about this industry, Ajinkya was the first to invest with me! It remains a crucial partnership from his network and credentials. The concept of sports legends and celebrities collaborating with startups must align both culturally and with the startups' goals. The outcomes could then be exponential."

As corny as it may sound, there are new challenges to face every day. Finding the first group of venues to collaborate with Suhail and developing a digital platform without any tech experience were the early tasks. After then, it was fundraising and expansion! Another unique kind of problem was COVID. Different obstacles arise at different times. However, as he overcame the first few obstacles, he gained the confidence to tackle any task. And you accomplish it that way!



RAISING WORLD CHANGERS, BEYOND CLASSROOMS

When young learners step out of their homes to acquire an education, their minds and hearts are full of hopes and expectations. Educational institutions have the ethical responsibility to nurture these young minds and nudge them in the right direction. These young minds are the beacon of light for our society and what we give to them through their education is what we get back in our society for all times to come. It is through these young learners that we aspire to build a brighter future for our generations.

Keeping this steadfast goal in mind, educational setups should encourage not just the assimilation of conceptual knowledge but also its real-life application. In addition to this, schools are places where characters are built as well, making it extremely important for education to also focus on the refurbishment of a student's skill repertoire. A 'Whole Person' education is the absolute need of the hour since it allows for an overall development of an individual thereby making them capable, resilient, and empathetic. It is only such well-rounded individuals who can bring instrumental interventions to the world we live in and accelerate positive change.

The biggest mandate of an educational institute is to nurture and facilitate growth of an individual in such a way that they become

capable of enduring any challenge that life may throw at them. Good education is an amalgam of in-class conceptual knowledge that introduces a learner to various domains and an out of the class implementation of this knowledge that makes them equipped with solutions for the real-world. This feat is achievable only when real-life skills are given adequate importance in the developing years of a learner. Holistic education is often misconstrued as only an extra-curricular add-on to academics.

While this acquisition is pertinent for them, they are also alongside, exposed to expressive skills and given an education in communicating effectively, articulating with creativity and innovation and are constantly encouraged to partake in art and performances – where they do and make. This model of education allows them to also engage in experiential learning where they participate in various adventures and sports and explore numerous leadership opportunities during their formative years. Education is not just about learning plentiful things and moving on. It is also about absorbing what has been learnt so that it becomes a part of the students' essential mental framework and stands them in good stead in life. Which is why schools allow for occasions and the right set of circumstances for reflective learning where learners look at

areas of spiritual and moral development, cultivate an understanding of different cultures, become more and more self-aware, interact with people around them in such a way that it exhibits social intelligence and ultimately develop a sense of direction, meaning and purpose in all that they undertake.

This approach helps students to develop a broader perspective, fostering respect and understanding for diverse cultures and a multitude of points of view. It prepares them to thrive amid all and despite challenges that they may face in higher education, future careers, or life in general. The world we live in today is full of activities that happen 24x7. People today multitask like no previous generation had. All kinds of pressures have gone up in people's lives and most people struggle to organise their life and excel at what they do. In such a charged environment, this kind of education lays due emphasis on the building of virtues and character strengths and inculcates critical life skills in the students. This 'Whole Person' education nurtures young learners and their overall academic, social, emotional and ethical dimensions.

(The author, Dominic Tomalin, is the Founding Headmaster, of Shrewsbury International School India.)



what's brewing?



Purnima and Sridruthi



Srikrishna and R.P. Patnaik



Kirty and Kirthana



KS Chithra

Chithramrutam, a grand celebration of K S Chithra's illustrious 45-year career, was held at the Jubilee Ridge Hotel in Hyderabad. The event marked the presence of the music maestro herself, alongside celebrated lyricist Ananta Sriram and renowned composer R P Patnaik, who came together to pay tribute to one of India's greatest musical icons.

PARTY



Simran



Faria Abdullah

Actress Faria Abdullah, announced the winner of Bajaj Electronics' biggest festive offer bumper draw of 20 lakh cash prize.

From Singham Again to Venom - upcoming high-octane action films you can't miss to watch!

If you're a fan of a high-octane action, adrenaline-fuelled films that keep you on the edge of your seat, these upcoming movies from Bollywood to Hollywood are sure to hit the mark. From high-stakes battles to jaw-dropping stunts, each film on this list brings a unique story and relentless action sequences. Whether you're looking for heroic tales or dark anti-heroes, these films offer something for every action enthusiast. Get ready to mark your calendars!

1. SINGHAM AGAIN

From India's first cinematic cop universe by Rohit Shetty, *Singham Again* stands as one of the most awaited films of the year. Featuring an ensemble cast of Ajay Devgn, Akshay Kumar, Kareena Kapoor, Ranveer Singh, Deepika Padukone, Tiger Shroff, Arjun Kapoor and Jackie Shroff, the film promises intense action sequences and a storyline inspired by the triumph of good over evil. Releasing on November 1, this mass family entertainer will deliver Shetty's signature mix of high drama, explosive stunts, and powerful dialogues. Celebrate this Diwali in typical Rohit Shetty style, with fireworks on the big screen with your entire family.



journey of Allu Arjun's character, Pushpa Raj, as he faces new threats and challenges in the world of red sandalwood smuggling. Alongside Allu Arjun, the film stars Fahadh Faasil and Rashmika Mandanna, adding to its star-studded cast. With a gripping storyline and fierce action scenes, the film is all set to release on December 6, 2024.

3. BABY JOHN

For the first time, Varun Dhawan takes on a full-fledged action role in *Baby John*. Packed with larger-than-life stunts and emotional depth, this mega-budget film also introduces Keerthy Suresh to Hindi cinema and features Wamiqa Gabbi in her big-screen debut. With Jackie Shroff and Rajpal Yadav adding gravitas to the cast, *Baby John* is sure to be a mass entertainer that action fans won't want to miss. The film is slated to release on December 25, 2024.



4. VENOM: THE LAST DANCE

The final chapter in Tom Hardy's *Venom* franchise, *Venom: The Last Dance* follows Eddie Brock and his alien symbiote, Venom, as they face a mounting threat that could change their lives forever. This film promises everything from high-stakes battles to gripping moments as Eddie and Venom are forced into impossible choices. Releasing on October 25, this film will be an action-packed send-off for fans of the franchise.

5. KRAVEN THE HUNTER

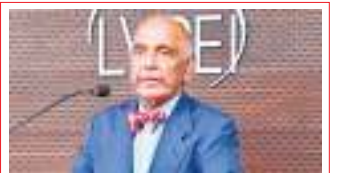
Marvel fans can gear up for an intense origin story with *Kraven The Hunter*, an R-rated dive into the making of one of *Spider-Man*'s most formidable villains. Starring Aaron Taylor-Johnson as Kraven, this gritty and visceral film explores the motives and evolution of the iconic character before his rivalry with *Spider-Man*. With relentless action and raw emotion, *Kraven the Hunter* will hit theatres on 13th December.

2. PUSHPA 2: THE RULE

This highly anticipated sequel to the blockbuster *Pushpa: The Rise* promises to deliver intense drama and action. Directed by Sukumar, *Pushpa 2* follows the



Malabar Gold & Diamonds, has opened its US flagship showroom in Los Angeles, marking a significant milestone in its growth within North America.



The Shantil Shingvi Comea Institute has performed the highest number of corneal transplants ever (over 50K), by any eye care institution in the world. This places LVPEI at the top of large volume cornea care centres in the world! The L.V Prasad Eye Institute, at its Dr Kallam Anji Reddy Campus organised an evening to celebrate this milestone.



Ten students from Resonance Gurukul School cleared the prestigious IOQM and Qualified for RMO (Regional Mathematics Olympiad) 2024. The Indian Olympiad Qualifier in Mathematics (IOQM) is conducted by Mathematics teachers association, India. The students were felicitated by Purnachandra Rao, Managing Director, Resonance Educational Institutions, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, in the presence of their parents.



The 9th Telangana state and 19th South zone ENT Surgeons conference, themed "Basics and Beyond" where nature and culture Meet science and Technology, is set to take place at the scenic Azalankrita Resort in Hyderabad between October 18th and 20th, 2024. This event under the aegis of The Association of Otolaryngologists of India, South Zone (AOISZ), brings together over 1000 delegates from the five Southern states of India, including Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka.

FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



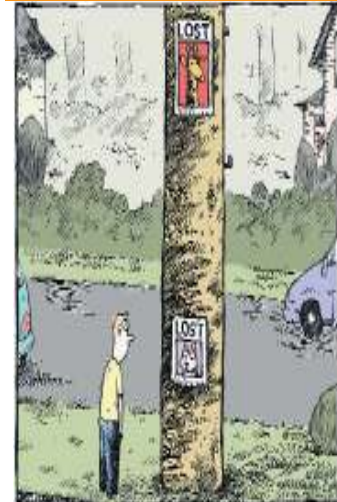
GARFIELD



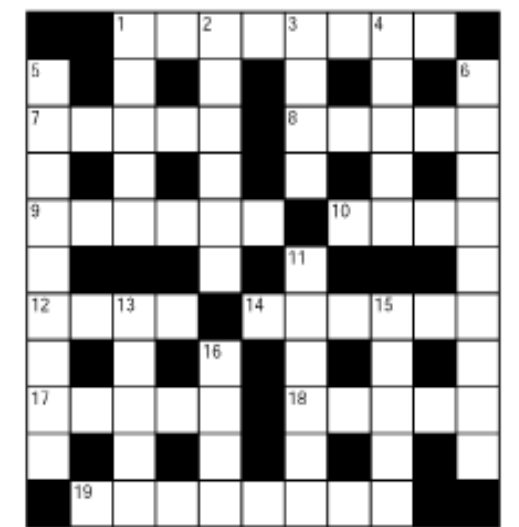
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



NANCY



GINGER MEGGS



SUDOKU

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

Yesterday's solution

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

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

ACROSS

- Observing
- A thrown weapon
- A large stream
- The writer of a book
- A small green creature
- Weapons
- Purchased
- Beneath
- Railway coaches pulled by an engine
- Soft shoes worn indoors
- Not ever
- A green pointy vegetable
- Scares
- A container for a drink
- A soldier's award
- Sheep eat this
- A journey

DOWN

- Grind this up for flour
- Extreme fear
- Difficult





Pradeep Machiraju rekindles PSPK's legacy

Pradeep Machiraju, a popular anchor, host and actor, previously starred in the box-office success *30 Rojullo Preminchadam Ela*. Now, he is set to lead in another film, titled *Akkada Ammayi Ikkada Abbayi*, which coincidentally shares the title of Pawan Kalyan's debut film. The film, directed by the Nitin and Bharath duo, is a unique love and family entertainer featuring Deepika Pilli as the female lead. On Thursday, the makers revealed the film's title along with the first look, highlighting the chemistry between Pradeep and Deepika. The story follows a civil engineer who arrives in a village for work and falls in love with a spirited village girl. What ensues is a charming love story filled with laughter, unexpected twists and a surprising romance. The film also stars Vennela Kishore, Satya and Getup Srinu in key roles, with music composed by Radhan.

SAMANTHA REVEALS SHE 'BEGGED' DIRECTORS TO REPLACE HER

Samantha Ruth Prabhu made a heartfelt revelation about her experience with myositis. Following her diagnosis, she humbly requested directors to consider replacing her in *Citadel: Honey Bunny*, even suggesting alternative actors. However, the director duo showed their support and confidence in her, refusing to recast the role. Samantha said, "I begged them to move on because I really didn't think I could do it. I was really sure I couldn't. I sent other recommendations: 'Look at this heroine; she is so amazing. She will kill it. I beg you, I can't do this.' I sent like four options to them. I was really not well." However, the director duo refused to take her suggestion and only wanted to go ahead with her for the project. Now, Samantha is grateful that the directors made that decision, as she is happy looking at herself in the show. "Now, watching this show, I am so thankful that they didn't make it without me and that I found the strength to do it. Even before the verdict is out for this show, I am going to give it to myself for pulling through," said Samantha.



TFI GEARING UP FOR GADDAR FILM AWARDS

The Telugu film industry is welcoming the Gaddar Awards. The State government plans to kickoff these awards this year, recognising films released in the same year

SURESH KAVIRAYANI
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The Telangana government is reviving its film awards after a decade-long hiatus and this time, they're naming the awards after the legendary singer Gaddar. In the last 10 years, there have been no awards by the government in the Telugu-speaking states. Not long ago, the Deputy Chief Minister of Telangana, Bhatti Vikramarka, had a talk with the committee members of the Gaddar Film Awards. The Telangana Chief Minister, Revanth Reddy had announced his intention to initiate the Film Awards in honour of the singer-poet and key figure in the Telangana Statehood movement. The Chief Minister expressed his disappointment over the initial lack of response from the film industry to his announcement, leading to reports that a few of them in the industry might not be enthusiastic about the awards. "There is no controversy in it; the industry is welcoming it and we are also part of the discussion with the government about the structure of these awards," said Suresh Babu, a member of the Gaddar Film Awards committee. He emphasised that for the Government of Telangana, Gaddar symbolises the state's arts and cultural heritage, making it fitting to present film awards in his name.

"I want to make films for rewards and awards. An award is akin to a box office collection. It also recognises a person's hard work, bringing happiness and honour to the recipient," Suresh Babu added, affirming the industry's support for the awards. "There is no difference of opinions to it, though there are some personal opinions," he noted. Suresh Babu compared the prestige of the Gaddar Awards to that of the Oscars, noting how such recognition attracts attention to films. "When *The Elephant Whispers* won an Oscar, it drew many viewers, even among hundreds of documentaries. Similarly, an award from the government is a significant recognition," he explained. Addressing the delay in



response to the Chief Minister's announcement, T Prasanna Kumar, Joint Secretary of the Telugu Film Chamber of Commerce (TFCC), clarified, "We responded immediately and welcomed the awards. We sent a letter right after the CM's announcement to the Telangana Film Development Corporation (FDC), but there was some miscommunication between the FDC and the CMO office." He pointed out that the government has yet to appoint a chairman for the FDC, which serves as a crucial link between the TFI and the government. Prasanna added that the industry has suggested several prominent names for the awards committee, many of which were included.

Tammareddy Bharadwaj, also a member of the Awards Committee, dismissed concerns about the naming of the awards. "Some questioned why the film awards are named after Gaddar, but the government clarified that Gaddar represents Telangana's arts and culture, making the name fitting for these awards. Now, we are discussing the awards' structure, dates and other details," he said. The government aims to host the inaugural awards ceremony on January 31, which is Gaddar's birthday. "We have to explore the possibilities, as the committee needs to review many films in a short time-frame, which poses some challenges," said Tammareddy. Only films released in 2024

will be considered, with a submission deadline of December 31. The Telangana government is planning the Gaddar Awards as a prestigious event. Suresh Babu remarked on the significance of government-backed awards compared to privately organised ones, especially those held abroad. "When private entities host awards functions outside India, many from the industry attend and speak highly of them. Now that the government is giving awards in Gaddar's name, it is even more prestigious and an honour for the recipient's work. We are all welcoming it and there is nothing wrong with it," he affirmed. The committee is set to reconvene to finalise the awards' structure and schedule.

PUSHPA 2'S 50-DAY SPRINT BEGINS

The makers of *Pushpa 2* have re-affirmed that the film will release on December 6, as previously announced, with no further postponements. A new poster featuring Allu Arjun was unveiled, emphasising the film's upcoming release, now just 50 days away. In the poster, Allu Arjun exudes power and authority.

Pushpa 2: The Rule is a sequel to *Pushpa: The Rise*, arriving nearly three years after the first installment. The sequel was initially set for an August 15 release but was later postponed to December 6. The new poster aims to assure fans that the release date is final.

In the latest poster, Allu Arjun is seen in a commanding pose. Director Sukumar is focusing on making the sequel even grander than its predecessor. The film is slated to hit theaters on December 6, 2024. Devi Sri Prasad, who composed the hit songs for the first part, promises another memorable soundtrack. The film is produced by Naveen Yerneni and Ravi Shankar Yalamanchili.



Arjun Sarja's next directorial, titled *Seetha Payanam*

Arjun Sarja, a renowned actor across Telugu, Tamil and Kannada cinema, has appeared in nearly 160 films and directed a dozen more. Despite his acting commitments, Arjun is now returning to direction with his latest project, *Seetha Payanam*. Known for earlier directorial works like *Jai Hind* and its sequel *Abhimanyu*, Arjun's new film is set for a multilingual release in Telugu, Tamil and Kannada.

As the title suggests, the film is expected to be a journey that combines emotional storytelling, a hallmark of Arjun's style. While the cast and crew details are yet to be revealed, sources suggest that the film will be a family-oriented drama. Arjun, often referred to as the Action King, made his Telugu debut with *Maa Pallelo Gopaludu*, which enjoyed a successful 100-day run. Produced by Arjun Sarja himself, more details about *Seetha Payanam* are anticipated soon.



Anirudh Ravichander: Tollywood's most in-demand music director



Music director Anirudh Ravichander's popularity is soaring, not just in Tamil cinema but also in Telugu. His recent Telugu project *Devara* produced hit songs and was a box office success. Then was *Vettaiyan*, released in both Tamil and Telugu, also achieved commercial success. Last year, Anirudh made headlines with his work on the Hindi film *Jawan*, which became the highest-grossing Indian film featuring Shah Rukh Khan.

Anirudh Ravichander is now in high demand and has signed on for another Telugu film. Nani and director Srikanth Odela, who previously collaborated on *Dasara*, have teamed up again for a project tentatively titled *Nani Odela 2*, which was launched during the *Dasara* festival. Produced by Sudhakar Cherukuri, the film has brought Anirudh on board as the music director. This marks the third collaboration between Nani and Anirudh, following their previous films *Jersey* and *Gang Leader*.

Director Srikanth Odela is crafting another grand narrative with a gripping screenplay, presenting Nani in a new mass avatar. The actor, currently filming *Hit 3*, is expected to begin work on this project next.

STANDALONE



Shankara Eye Hospitals, in collaboration with the Phoenix Foundation, organised a free eye health checkup for all MAA members. The event featured participation from MAA president Vishnu Manchu, vice president Madala Ravi and treasurer Shiva Balaji. During this free eye health camp, all the MAA members had the opportunity to undergo complimentary eye examinations.

BUOYANT NEW ZEALAND FACE UPBEAT WEST INDIES IN T20 WORLD CUP SEMIFINAL

PTI ■ SHARJAH

Buooyant New Zealand will seek to continue their inspirational run in the women's T20 World Cup when they face the West Indies in the second semifinal here on Friday.

New Zealand has undoubtedly been the story of the tournament so far in which they got the better of Asian sides India and Sri Lanka to make the final four from Group A, putting behind their 10-match losing streak before the competition.

With her towering presence, Sophie Devine has rallied the Kiwis troops impressively. Their success story features solid contributions at the top from Georgia Plimmer and veteran Suzie Bates, along with the all-round threat posed by Amelia Kerr further down the order.

Kerr has been at the forefront of the Kiwis attack with 10 wickets and 85 runs in what has been a largely low-scoring tournament, providing New Zealand with a lot of impetus. Rosemary Mair has also been



at the helm of New Zealand's success in this World Cup with seven wickets on slow pitches of the UAE.

Eden Carson set up the tone for New Zealand's high profile clash against India and the Kiwis will hope that the right-

arm spinner is at the top of her game against the West Indies, who are coming off a huge win over England.

Hayley Matthews' West Indies topped Group B and like New Zealand they also lost one game in the group stage, but

overall the winners of the 2016 edition have put together robust performances.

The West Indies have qualified for their first semifinal since hosting the tournament in their back yard in 2018, while the biggest moment for the

Caribbean side arrived in this edition when they pipped England in their last group stage match.

The West Indies had lost 13 matches in a row against England before the two teams met in their last Group B

fixture, but their run-chase of 142 showed no signs of mental fatigue against this opponent.

Matthews teamed up with the young Qiana Joseph to shut England out of the tournament with a rapid 102-run stand in which both the batters brought up their respective half-centuries.

While Matthews is the only Caribbean batter to have crossed the 100-run mark in the competition, Sarah Taylor and Deandra Dottin remain vital cogs in their batting.

Spinners Afy Fletcher (8 wickets) and Karishma Ramharack (5 wickets) have been the most successful bowlers for the Caribbean side.

New Zealand hold upperhand against the West Indies when it comes to bilateral record, having won 15 out of 23 matches so far with two tied games and one without a result.

The winner of this contest will take on the triumphant team from the first semifinal, to be played in Dubai on Thursday between the six-time winner and defending champions Australia and South Africa.



Vivaan wins silver medal, Naruka claims bronze in Shooting World Cup Final

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Vivaan Kapoor claimed silver in men's trap event after compatriot Anant Jeet Singh Naruka's bronze in the men's skeet competition, taking India's tally to four medals at the ISSF World Cup Final here on Thursday.

Vivaan shot 44 in the final to finish behind gold medal winner Ying Qi of China. Turkey's Tolga N Tuncer won the bronze medal with a score of 35.

Vivaan had come up with a score of 120 out of 125 in the qualification round to enter the six-man final.

Earlier, Naruka, the 26-year-old from Rajasthan, shot 43 in

the six-man final, earning third place, while Italy's Tammara Cassandro and Gabriele Rossetti took home the gold and silver with scores of 57 and 56, respectively.

Naruka made it to the finals by scoring 121 out of 125 in the qualification round.

Sonam Maskar had won a silver in the women's 10m air rifle on Tuesday and Akhil Sheoran clinched a bronze in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions on Wednesday.

Naruka and Maheshwari Chauhan had settled for a fourth-place finish in the skeet mixed team event at the Paris Olympics after losing the bronze medal match to China.



Ganguly named director of cricket at JSW Sports

ROLE TO COVER IPL, WPL AND SA20

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly was on Thursday appointed Director of Cricket for JSW Sports, his role covering all its cricketing properties including the Delhi team in the IPL and the WPL along with the Pretoria Capitals franchise in SA20.

JSW Sports and GMR Group co-own Delhi Capitals in the IPL and WPL (Women's Premier League) while Pretoria Capitals is owned solely by JSW Sports.

"In his role, Ganguly will spearhead all cricketing properties owned by JSW Sports, including the Delhi Capitals men's IPL and women's WPL teams, and the Pretoria Capitals that plays in the SA20 League in South

Africa," said JSW Sports in a statement.

Ganguly joined Delhi Capitals in 2019 as an advisor, where he worked alongside coach Ricky Ponting, and later returned to the franchise as Director of Cricket after his stint as BCCI president.

Ganguly's appointment came soon after it was decided that the management of cricket operations for Delhi Capitals' teams in the IPL and the WPL will be handled in a two-year rotation policy between GMR Group and JSW Group.

The GMR Group will handle the operations of the Delhi Capitals in the IPL for the next two years, while JSW Sports will handle the franchise's team in the WPL.

Former India batter Hemang Badani is expected to be named head coach ahead of

IPL 2025.

Speaking on the appointment, JSW Sports founder Parth Jindal said, "Dada has always had a special place at JSW Sports. For us, he is family first and then the cricketing icon that he is.

"I've said this in the past and it stands true even today - he is one of the sharpest brains in cricket and we will always stand to benefit from his guidance and wisdom of the sport."

Ganguly added, "I've had the pleasure of knowing the JSW Group and the Jindal family personally and professionally which made this an easy decision.

"JSW Sports has been doing visionary work across the board, and I am pleased to be able to lend my experience to all its cricketing projects."

Nadal-Alcaraz and Djokovic-Sinner are the Six Kings Slam exhibition matches in Saudi Arabia

AP ■ RIYADH

Rafael Nadal starts his pre-retirement farewell tour against Carlos Alcaraz on Thursday at the Six Kings Slam, the top-ranked Sinner — who was cleared in a doping case shortly before winning the U.S. Open last month, although the World Anti-Doping Agency has appealed that exoneration — beat Daniil Medvedev 6-0, 6-3, and Alcaraz defeated Holger Rune 6-4, 6-2.

Nadal, an ambassador for the Saudi Tennis Federation, and Djokovic were given byes into the semifinals.

there raised by Hall of Famers Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova and others.

In Wednesday's matches at the Six Kings Slam, the top-ranked Sinner — who was cleared in a doping case shortly before winning the U.S. Open last month, although the World Anti-Doping Agency has appealed that exoneration — beat Daniil Medvedev 6-0, 6-3, and Alcaraz defeated Holger Rune 6-4, 6-2.

Nadal, an ambassador for the Saudi Tennis Federation, and Djokovic were given byes into the semifinals.



The matchup against Alcaraz will be the first contest for Nadal since his exit at the Paris Olympics in July — and his first match since he announced last week that he

would be retiring after playing for Spain in the Davis Cup next month. Nadal and Alcaraz played doubles together at the Paris Games and could team up again for

Davis Cup.

Looking ahead to Thursday's exhibition, Alcaraz called Nadal a "legend" and "a really important person for my life, for my career."

Djokovic and Sinner met for real on Sunday: Sinner won in straight sets to earn the trophy at the Shanghai Masters.

After a day off on Friday, the winners of Thursday's two matches in Riyadh will meet in the event's final on Saturday.

Nadal, 38, owns 22 Grand Slam titles; Djokovic, 37, has won 24, a record for the Open era.

Pogba ready to give up money to play for Juventus again after doping ban

AP ■ MILAN

Paul Pogba says he's ready to give up money to play for Juventus again. The Serie A club may not want him, though, or need him.

Pogba recently had his four-year ban for doping reduced to 18 months after appealing to the Court of Arbitration for Sport, meaning the France World Cup winner will be free to resume his career in March 2025.

Juventus has not been overly enthusiastic about welcoming him back but Pogba says that is the only club he is thinking about playing for.

"I am ready to even give up money so that I can still play for Juve," he said in an interview with Italian sports daily Gazzetta dello Sport. "I want to return."

Juventus sporting director Cristiano Giuntoli and new coach Thiago Motta

are dubious about whether Pogba can return to the top level after being out for so long since testing positive for testosterone in August last year.

But the 31-year-old Pogba, who said he "felt like a caged lion" for the past year, has been training hard on his own and is ready to prove them wrong.

"I am a Juve player now. That is all I have in my mind today," he said. "I don't have to talk. What I do on the pitch will do my talking and then Thiago Motta will judge with his own eyes, based on what he sees."

"Talk is nice, but I want to play and I want to be the best one at Juve and in the France team."

But not only has Juventus changed coach since Pogba was banned, it has also changed strategy.

It has brought in fresh new faces, including bright talents who



progressed through its youth team, and got rid of the — costly — old guard with the offseason departures of Federico Chiesa, Wojciech Szczesny, Alex Sandro and Adrien Rabiot.

Pogba, who was the most expensive soccer player in history when he joined Manchester United from

Juventus for 105 million euros (\$113 million) in 2016, returned to the Bianconeri as a free agent in 2022.

He signed a contract worth eight million euros (\$8.7 million) a year — plus two million (\$2.2 million) in bonuses — but injuries limited him to just eight Serie A appearances in his second spell at the club before his ban.

The judges who cut Pogba's ban acknowledged the lack of intent but suggested the 2018 World Cup winner should have taken more care about his treatment in Florida.

"What I did wrong was not looking at what a professional gave me. I repeat, a professional," Pogba said. "Like a lot of soccer players, I have a cook, a trainer and a personal physiotherapist.

"It's not a matter of reading the leaflet better, a professional outside the club had given it to me. But I won't do the same thing again, that's certain."

Nationality matters less than it used to in international soccer

AP ■ LONDON

The question was inevitable.

At his first news conference as England's newly appointed head coach, Thomas Tuchel — a German — was asked on Wednesday what message he had for fans who would have preferred an Englishman in charge of their beloved national team.

"I'm sorry, I just have a German passport," he said, laughing, and went on to profess his love for English football and the country itself.

"I will do everything to show respect to this role and to this country."

The soccer rivalry between England and Germany runs deep and it's likely Tuchel's passport will be used against him if he doesn't deliver results for a nation that hasn't lifted a men's trophy since 1966. But his appointment as England's third foreign coach shows that, increasingly, even the top countries in the sport are abandoning the long-held belief that the national team must be led by one of their own.

Four of the top nine teams in the FIFA world rankings now have foreign coaches. Even in

Germany, a four-time World Cup winner which has never had a foreign coach, candidates such as Dutchman Louis van Gaal and Austrian Oliver Glasner were considered serious contenders for the top job before the country's soccer federation last year settled on Julian Nagelsmann, who is German.

"The coaching methods are universal and there for everyone to apply," said German soccer researcher and author Christoph Wagner, whose recent book "Crossing the Line?" historically addresses Anglo-German rivalry. "It's more the personality that counts and not the nationality. You could be a great coach, and work with a group of players who aren't perceptive enough to get your methods."

Not everyone agrees.

English soccer author and journalist Jonathan Wilson said it was "an admission of failure" for a major soccer nation to have a coach from a different country.

"Personally, I think it should be the best of one country versus the best of another country, and that would probably extend to coaches as well as players," said Wilson, whose

books include "Inverting The Pyramid: The History of Football Tactics."

"To say we can't find anyone in our country who is good enough to coach our players," he said, "I think there is something slightly embarrassing, slightly distasteful about that."

That sentiment was echoed by British tabloid The Daily Mail, which reported on Tuchel's appointment with the provocative headline "A Dark Day for England."

While foreign coaches are often found in smaller countries and those further down the world rankings, they are still a rarity among the traditional powers of the game.

Italy, another four-time world champion, has only had Italians in charge. All of Spain's coaches in its modern-day history have been Spanish nationals.

Five-time World Cup winner Brazil has had only Brazilians in charge since 1965, and two-time world champion France only Frenchmen since 1975.

And it remains the case that every World Cup-winning team, since the first tournament in 1930, has been coached by a native of that country. The situation is



similar for the women's World Cup, which has never been won by a team with a foreign coach, though Jill Ellis, who led the U.S. To two trophies, is a naturalized U.S. Citizen born in England.

Some coaches have made a career out of jumping from one national team to the next.

Lars Lagerback, 76, coached his native Sweden between 2000-09 and went on to lead the national teams of Nigeria,

Iceland and Norway.

"I couldn't say I felt any big difference," Lagerback told The Associated Press. "I felt they were my teams and the people's teams."

For Lagerback, the obvious

disadvantages of coaching a foreign country were any language difficulties and, having to adapt to a new culture, which he particularly felt during his brief time with Nigeria in 2010 when he led the African country at the World Cup.

Otherwise, he said, "it depends on the results" — and Lagerback is remembered with fondness in Iceland, especially, after leading the country to Euro 2016 for its first ever international tournament, where it knocked out England in the round of 16.

Lagerback pointed to the strong education and sheer number of coaches available in soccer powers like Spain and Italy to explain why they haven't needed to turn to an overseas coach.

At this year's European Championship, five of the coaches were from Italy and the winning coach was Luis de la Fuente, who was promoted to Spain's senior team after being in charge of the youth teams.

Portugal for the first time looked outside its own borders or Brazil, with which it has historical ties, when it appointed Spaniard Roberto Martinez as national team coach last year. Also last year,

Brazil tried — and ultimately failed — to court Real Madrid's Italian coach Carlo Ancelotti, with Brazilian soccer federation president Edinaldo Rodrigues saying: "It doesn't matter if it's a foreigner or a Brazilian, there's no prejudice about the nationality."

The United States has had a long list of foreign coaches before Mauricio Pochettino, the Argentine former Chelsea manager who took over as the men's head coach this year.

The English Football Association certainly had no qualms making Tuchel the national team's third foreign-born coach, after Swede Sven-Goran Eriksson (2001-06) and Italian Fabio Capello (2008-12), simply believing he was the best available coach on the market.

Unlike Eriksson and Capello, Tuchel at least had previous experience of working in English soccer — he won the Champions League in an 18-month spell with Chelsea — and he also speaks better English.

That won't satisfy all the nay-sayers, though.

"Hopefully I can convince them and show them and prove to them that I'm proud to be the English manager," Tuchel said.