

www.dailypioneer.com Published From: HYDERABAD DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL RAIPUR CHANDIGARH BHUBANESWAR RANCHI DEHRADUN VIJAYAWADA

QUOTE OF THE DAY
 The pioneer
Congress Ministers are trying to remove Revanth Reddy from the Chief Minister's seat. They are conspiring to dethrone the CM like a fox waiting at a burial ground. Revanth will face problems if he does not wake up on matters like HYDRAA, the Musi Project and Group-I issues. Congress Ministers are trying to ensure that people oppose Revanth
 - Bandi Sanjay Kumar, Union Minister

'Adoption of unconventional ideas only way to progress'
 5

'INDIA NEEDS TO CUT RELIANCE ON IMPORTED FEEDSTOCKS'
 8

'Jani master deserves fair trial, not rushed JUDGMENTS'
 P11

DON'T MISS...

'Talent triggers new gold rush'
 Emphasising that the new gold rush has begun with talent as the new goal, and Global Capability Centers (GCCs) driving the second economic earthquake through transformations and innovative technologies, which is just getting started in the city. Vikram Ahuja, Co-founder of ANSR, gave an expert talk at the GCC Innovation Summit at T-Hub on Friday evening. Addressing GCC leaders and startup innovators, Vikram Ahuja, Co-founder of ANSR, highlighted how GCCs have evolved from cost arbitrage ...



Adani meets CM, donates Rs 100 cr for Skills University

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 A delegation from the Adani Foundation, led by Gautam Adani, the Chairperson of the Adani Group, met Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to present a cheque of Rs 100 crore to establish the Young India Skills University. The initiative is aimed at supporting skill development and empowering the youth of Telangana. Gautam Adani, in his post on X after the meeting, expressed his gratitude for

In his post, KTR said, "AICC tweets about Modani this morning. Same day in Telangana. What should we call this Jodi? Revanth + Adani = Revdani. Ra Ga + Adani = RaGadani"

-PAGE: 3

Man marries trans woman ...

Love marriages have become quite common of late. Many youngsters openly discuss their romantic relationship with their parents, convincing their elders to accept their marriage proposals. Parents are increasingly understanding their children's inclination towards choosing their partners. Although there are instances where elders oppose love marriages, many are giving the green light to their children. So far, everything has been going well, but it is noteworthy that incidents of girls marrying ...

-PAGE: 4

Economic activity shows dynamism...

Economic activity continued to show dynamism in the second quarter of 2024-25, though at a moderated pace, according to the NCAER-NSE Business Expectations Survey. The survey said after improving for two consecutive quarters, business sentiments moderated in the second quarter of 2024-25 (134.3) compared to the first quarter (149.8) as well as the corresponding quarter of 2023-24 (140.7). While all four components of the Business Confidence Index...

-PAGE: 8

Rohit, Kohli, Sarfaraz fifties...

A counter-attacking India kept alive the hopes of a miracle turnaround through free-flowing fifties from the trio of Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Sarfaraz Khan, reaching 231 for three in their second innings on the third day of the first Test against New Zealand here on Friday. Kohli (70), who completed 9,000 Test runs during the course of his knock, got out to Glenn Phillips off the last ball of the day, edging him to Tom Blundell, leaving Sarfaraz (70) at the crease at close. The deficit at the end of an overcast...

-SPORTS

EXAMS AS PER SCHEDULE, HIGH COURT NIXES ALL PLEAS Group 1 aspirants lathi-charged

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 The High Court dismissed all petitions challenging Group-1 exams, paving the way for the mains examinations to proceed as scheduled. The exams, being held by the Telangana State Public Service Commission (TSPSC), are scheduled to begin on October 21. However, the hopefuls have now approached the Supreme Court. Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal would mention the TSPSC case (on behalf of the hopefuls) in the SC Chief Justice's Court. The Supreme Court has agreed to hear the matter on October 21. Around 31,000 candidates are expected to appear for the Group-1 mains exams examination at centres set up across Hyderabad, Rangareddy and Medchal districts. Despite the court's decision, tensions flared up in Hyderabad's Ashok Nagar area when Group-1 hopefuls staged a rally demanding postponing of the exams. The hopefuls raised concerns about the new selection process, implemented through GO



The rally, which started without prior permission, quickly escalated as the protestors marched towards Indira Park, chanting slogans and carrying banners. The police intervened to stop the march resulting in a confrontation. The police resorted to a mild lathi-charge to disperse the protestors, leading to tension in the area. The protesting hopefuls continue to demand rescheduling of the exams, while the authorities, backed by the court's ruling, are determined to proceed with the current schedule. All arrangements, including biometric attendance and security measures are in place for the smooth conduct of the exams.

29 earlier this year. Many expressed dissatisfaction with the revised 1:50 selection ratio, fearing that it could affect fairness in the recruitment process.

'Govt which has shed the blood of youth will never survive'

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar said that the lathi-charge against Group-1 hopefuls was shocking. Sanjay posted on X regarding this on Friday. He said in his post that the "Congress is against reservation.

This has been proved in Telangana. Met teary Group-1 hopefuls in Karimnagar, who were seeking help on postponing the Mains Exams. GO No: 29 is proof of how the government is damaging SC, ST, BC reservations.

Continued on Page 5

'No one against cleaning up Musi' Curb orders issued for Group-I Mains exams

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 Declaring that no one is opposing the cleaning up and beautification of the Musi River, Telangana BJP President and Union Minister of Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy said that cleaning the Musi is not possible without solving drainage problems. He said that the Musi should be cleaned and beautified by constructing retaining walls on both sides of the river. Addressing the media on Friday, Kishan said that 30 per cent of Telangana's population is now in Hyderabad city and that the BJP is demanding that the Congress government should not demolish the houses of the poor who had constructed houses 30 years ago. He inaugurated the sewerage line at the Andhra Café X Road in Gandhi Nagar division along with



MLA Muta Gopal. Later, he asked the government to clean up and beautify the Musi River and added that he has no objections to building a house by the side of the Musi for the Chief Minister.

Rs 25,000 and vacate houses and that it will construct double-bedroom houses after demolishing the houses of the poor who had constructed houses with their hard-earned money. Musi beautification can be done without troubling people," Kishan said.

FIR filed against Harish's relatives in Miyapur PS

'Musi rejuvenation may cost Rs 25 K cr'

Congress gov't Musi Project most expensive on earth: KTR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 BRS Working President KT Rama Rao criticized Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for spreading falsehoods and making baseless statements about the Musi River clean-up project. He urged the government to complete the Musi Project using the plans and designs provided by the BRS administration, which could be accomplished with just Rs 20,000 crore, rather than inflating the cost to Rs 1.5 lakh crore.



Rs 3.44 cr distributed to women's SHGs in Musi area

Govt will rehabilitate Musi River area people: Seethakka

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 The government is committed to rehabilitating and financially supporting people in the Musi River basin, Minister Dhanasari Anasuya (Seethakka) said. She also distributed Rs 3.44 crore to women's Self-Help Groups from

the affected areas during a programme held at the Praja Bhavan on Friday. She said that each affected woman is being given Rs 2 lakh, of which Rs 1.40 lakh is a subsidy. The remaining Rs 60,000 is payable over three years.

Continued on Page 5

Governor appoints VCs for nine universities

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 The Telangana Governor has appointed new Vice-Chancellors for some state universities. These appointments come at a time when universities are focusing on enhancing academic standards and research. Prof. GN Srinivas has been appointed as the Vice-Chancellor of Palamuru University in Mahbubnagar. Prof. Pratap Reddy has been appointed as the Vice-Chancellor of Kakatiya University

in Warangal. Prof. Kumar Moglaram has been named the new Vice Chancellor of Hyderabad's Osmania University, and Prof. Nityananda Rao has been appointed the V-C of Telugu University. Prof. Umesh Kumar has been appointed the Vice-Chancellor of Satavahana University in Karimnagar. Prof. Altaf Hussain has been appointed as the V-C of Mahatma Gandhi University in Nalgonda.

Govt constitutes Education Commission

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 The Telangana Government has constituted the Telangana Education Commission to revamp and strengthen the education sector. The commission will be headed by retired IAS officer Akunuri Murali as per orders issued by the Higher Education Department on October 18. The commission was constituted as per GO Ms: No: 27 issued in early September. The General Administration Department also played a key role in issuing

TG can be Net Zero GHG emissions state by 2047

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 Telangana has the potential to achieve Net Zero Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions status by 2047, well ahead of India's 2070 target, said Jayesh Ranjan, the Special Chief Secretary of Industries, Commerce and IT. Speaking virtually at the Net Zero Summit 2024, Jayesh said that based on the state's environmental initiatives, Telangana is likely to reach this milestone in time for the 100th year of India's Independence. The Net Zero Summit 2024, held at IMT Hyderabad in collaboration with Virtusa, Greenko Group, and IIT Hyderabad, focused on the theme 'India's Net Zero 2070 Goal: Progress, Pitfalls and Possibilities'. The event brought together stakeholders from industries, academia

and the government to discuss the path forward for achieving Net Zero Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 2070. Jayesh said that while Prime Minister Modi announced the 2070 target at COP26 in 2021, Telangana is on track to achieve this much earlier. Citing the state's programmes like the Haritha Haram tree plantation drive, lake rejuvenation projects and the implementation of policies like the Cool Roof Policy and the Electric Vehicle (EV) and E-Mobility Policy, Jayesh expressed confidence that Telangana can

achieve Net Zero by 2047. The summit, inaugurated by representatives from IMT Hyderabad, Virtusa, and IIT Hyderabad, began with a ceremonial lamp lighting followed by a welcome address by Prof. (Dr.) Sriharsha Reddy, the Director of IMT Hyderabad. The event featured discussions, including a keynote address by Dr Krishna Yedula, the Vice President of Virtusa, who spoke about Virtusa's pioneering role in the sustainability journey. A technical session by Dr Paravastu Rambabu, the Advisor of Greenko Group, explored the methodologies required to achieve a Net Zero India. The summit also highlighted the investments needed to meet the country's Net Zero goals. Prof. (Dr.) Sriharsha Reddy said that achieving Net Zero emissions will require an investment of around USD 160 billion annually until 2027, primarily to reduce India's reliance on fossil fuels. He also discussed IMT Hyderabad's sustainability efforts, such as utilizing solar energy and creating a green campus environment. The panel discussions at the event focused on India's Net Zero goals, sector-specific approaches, and circular business models. Experts from various sectors like IT, chemicals and sustainable business shared their experiences on how technology and innovation can drive progress towards Net Zero.



Can AP's new liquor policy tame the black market, syndicates?

In India, liquor is more than just a commodity—it's a high-stakes, high-revenue business that state governments fiercely regulate. Each state enforces its own taxes and policies, resulting in wild price variations for the same bottle of whiskey. Take Karnataka, where a staggering 80% tax is slapped onto alcohol prices, compared to Goa's more modest 50%. The result? A bottle of whiskey that costs Rs 130 in Goa will cost you Rs 513 in Karnataka. Such price differences have created a perfect breeding ground for black markets and smuggling, as consumers cross borders to find cheaper booze.

Amid this maze of regulations, liquor remains a golden goose for states, contributing around 13% of total state tax revenues in the 2024 fiscal year. In Andhra Pradesh, however, the liquor business has been a rollercoaster of

failed policies, fiscal hits, and unbridled black-market activity. The state government's recent effort to impose liquor prohibition backfired spectacularly, slashing revenues by Rs 20,000 crore. Now, the state is gambling on a new liquor policy, rolled out on October 16, 2024, aiming to generate over Rs 5,500 crore in revenue. But the question remains—can this new approach rein in illegal sales and reduce black-market dominance?

The history of Andhra Pradesh's liquor regulation is a cautionary tale. A few years back, in an attempt to curb alcohol consumption, the state took control of retail liquor sales and reduced the number of outlets from 4,380 to 3,500 while hiking up prices. This move slashed demand but fuelled a surge in black-market sales as people flocked to

This time, Andhra Pradesh is hoping to avoid the pitfalls of its earlier policy by handing the reins back to private players. Under the new policy, 3,736 liquor shops will be opened up for private ownership, with each licence requiring a non-refundable fee of Rs 2 lakh per shop. There is no limit on how many licences an individual can hold, which could either democratize the market or lead to monopolies.

neighbouring states for cheaper, untaxed alcohol. Smuggling networks thrived, and the state's attempt at controlling the liquor trade crumbled under the weight of its own restrictions. This time, Andhra Pradesh is hoping to avoid the pitfalls of its earlier policy by handing the reins back to private players. Under the new policy, 3,736 liquor shops will be opened up for private ownership, with each licence requiring a non-refundable fee of Rs 2 lakh per shop. There is no limit on how many licences an individual can hold, which could either democratize the market or lead to monopolies. To sweeten the deal, the state is introducing low-cost liquor priced as low as Rs 99 to undercut black-market operations. Retailers are promised a 20% margin on liquor sales, but they will also face a steep annual retail excise tax (RET) ranging from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 8.5 lakh, depending on the size of the town or city. In the sec-



DR. ARJA SRIKANTH (Former Special Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh)

ond year, this tax will increase by 10%.

On paper, the new policy looks promising. The combination of more retailers and cheaper legal alcohol could significantly reduce black-market activities. But

the reality is murkier. Despite the state's best efforts, the bidding process for liquor licences revealed worrying trends. Of the 85,000 applications received, around 900 shops were left without any bids. Some districts, including Tirupati, Nellore, and Vishakhapatnam, saw zero interest in certain outlets, while Vijayanagar reported a flood of over 800 bids. The uneven distribution of bids has critics worried that the new system could result in monopolies, with a few major players controlling large sections of the market. The high taxes and low prices could also spell trouble for retailers. With slim profit margins and hefty excise duties, some shops may struggle to stay afloat. This economic pressure could push some licence holders toward illicit practices, further undermining

the very purpose of the policy. Even more concerning is the spectre of political syndicates. As the policy begins to take effect, reports of intimidation and coercion have already started trickling in. In districts like Vijayawada and Guntur, licence holders have been approached by local political leaders demanding a share of profits—sometimes as high as 20%. Syndicates have reportedly offered to buy out licences for sums as high as ₹1 crore, while some political figures are warning new entrants that they won't be allowed to operate unless they comply with these demands. The stakes are enormous. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has vowed to crack down on such tactics, but whether his administration can deliver remains to be seen. This is a high-wire act for Andhra Pradesh, as its liquor policy

could serve as a blueprint for other states grappling with similar challenges. If successful, the state could revolutionize how liquor is regulated, simultaneously increasing revenue and curbing illegal activity. But if it fails, Andhra Pradesh could end up strengthening the black market it so desperately wants to dismantle.

In conclusion, Andhra Pradesh's new liquor policy is bold and ambitious, aiming to strike a delicate balance between economic gain and social responsibility. However, the road ahead is fraught with challenges, from the looming threat of black markets to the pressure exerted by political syndicates. Whether the policy can survive these hurdles remains to be seen, but one thing is certain—India will be watching closely as the state attempts to rewrite the rules of its liquor trade.

FIR filed against Harish's relatives in Miyapur PS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

An FIR has been registered against relatives of BRS MLA Harish Rao at the Miyapur Police Station for trespassing and cheating.

The accused, Thanniru Gowtham, Boynappally Venkateshwar Rao, Gone Raj Kumar Goud, Garapati Naga Ravi, Jampanna Prabhavathi and Tanniru Padmaja Rao allegedly occupied a five-storey property owned by one Dandu Latchi Raju. The case was registered after a complaint by Chitti Babu.

The case has been filed under Sections 420 (cheating), 448 (trespassing), 504 (intentional insult), and 506 (criminal intimidation) and Section 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of com-

mon intention) of the BNSS. The complainant, Chitti Babu, accuses FASMO Hospitality Services and Prabhavathi of forging documents and fraudulently misusing the original sale deed to sell the property without notice.

According to the complainant, Raju was coerced into signing agreements and blank cheques under duress, which were later misused to claim payments for services not rendered.

The complainant had earlier filed many reports with the Miyapur police station between 2019 and 2021 regarding unauthorized sales and fraud, but no action was taken until recently.

In response, FASMO Hospitality Services issued a press statement condemning the involvement of Harish

Rao's name in the matter, clarifying that the dispute over two plots in Mathrusri Nagar, Miyapur, has no connection to the BRS MLA.

FASMO explained that while Prabhavathi sold her plot, Raju had agreed to lease his plot for a hostel but later reneged on the deal leading to legal disputes.

The company claims to have invested heavily in the property, only to face resistance from Raju, who allegedly threatened to sell the property to others despite their agreement.

FASMO Hospitality Services has filed multiple suits in civil and criminal courts, resulting in a status quo order from the civil court. The company clarified that all petitions of Latchi Raju to dismiss their cases have been rejected by courts,

including a civil revision petition dismissed by the High Court in March 2022.

Despite the ongoing legal proceedings, Raju executed a General Power of Attorney (GPA) in favour of Chittibabu in May 2024. Using this GPA, Chittibabu filed cases against FASMO Hospitality, but his July 2024 complaint was set aside. However, another FIR was accepted by the police on October 5 raising questions about the motives behind the case.

FASMO Hospitality Services has also filed a civil recovery suit against Raju for harassment, asserting that Harish Rao has no connection to the hostel or the dispute.

The company expressed concern about false information being spread to mislead the public and the media.

TPCC warns 'officials working for BRS leaders'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC Media Committee Chairman Sama Rammohan Reddy warned government officials who are functioning as the agents of the BRS of action.

He said that some officials are showing over enthusiasm and IAS and IPS officers are also among them. Speaking to the media at the Gandhi Bhavan on Friday, Rammohan said that these officials have been leaking information to BRS leaders. He said the government will not tolerate these officials who have fallen into the trap of the BRS and are trying to blame the Congress government.

Rammohan asked these officials not to hinder the programmes of the 'people's government' as the Chief Minister is taking decisions to ensure public welfare. He asked the officials to change their attitude.

Why is BRS creating hungama on Musi clean-up: Raja Narasimha

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Asking BRS leaders to explain why they are creating a hungama on the Musi River issue, Health Minister Damodara Raja Narasimha said the BRS government had only issued GO MS: No: 7 setting up the Musi River Front Development Board in 2016.

He said the BRS government decided the boundaries of the Musi River and now the BRS is politicizing the Musi cleaning issue.

Speaking to the media at the secretariat on Friday along with Rajya Sabha Member Anil Kumar Yadav and former MLAs T. Jagga Reddy, Enugu Ravinder Reddy and others, Raja Narasimha said the BRS

government decided to give double-bedroom houses and an R&R package to people affected by the Musi Project.

He said that these decisions were taken by the BRS government's Municipal Department. The BRS admin set up corporations and gave directions but it is now politicizing the issue, he added.

Raja Narasimha said that people living in the Musi River area will not suffer any injustice and that is the CM's guarantee. "The protection of the Musi River is everyone's responsibility. Development is not possible overnight. Musi outsees will not suffer any losses," he said.

He said that rehabilitating those who are evicted is the

responsibility of the government and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is trying for that. The Musi Project is not a new one, he said.

Raja Narasimha asked BRS leaders to explain what they had done for the people who lost lands in Mallanna Sagar.

"Police lathicharged and clamped Section 144 on them. The court dismissed the Land Acquisition Act introduced by the BRS government. The BRS government did not implement the UPA government's Land Acquisition Act-2013. The BRS admin introduced GO No: 123 and then people fought against the government. They approached the court and succeeded in getting GO No: 123 scrapped," he said.

MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

Delhi court grants bail to AAP leader Satyendar Jain

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Friday granted bail to AAP leader and former Delhi cabinet minister Satyendar Jain in a money laundering case, citing "delay in trial" and his "long incarceration".

Jain was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on May 30, 2022, on the charge of laundering money through four companies allegedly linked to him. He is currently in judicial custody.

"Considering the delay in trial and long incarceration of 18 months, and the fact that trail will take long to start, let alone conclude, accused is



favourably suited for the relief," said Special Judge Vishal Gogne.

The judge granted the relief on a bail bond Rs 50,000 with two sureties of like amount.

The ED case stems from an FIR lodged against Jain by the Central Bureau of Investigation in 2017 under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

BJP to continue membership drive: Maheshwar

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The BJP would continue its membership drive in Telangana, BJP leader Aleti Maheshwar Reddy said.

The BJP's Telangana in-charge Sunil Bansal, Union Minister and BJP Telangana state president Kishan Reddy held a meeting of BJP MLAs, MPs and Legislative Council members at the state BJP office here on Friday.

The meeting discussed the party's membership drive, MLC elections, local elections and the steps to be taken to strengthen the party in TG. A decision was taken on the programmes to be undertaken by the BJP in the state, Maheshwar said. He said that the meeting decided to continue the BJP's membership drive in the state on a larger scale.

"We discussed the Graduate MLC elections and local body elections so that BJP can move ahead strategically. We will

carry out extensive programmes at the field level. The party will soon decide the candidate for the MLC election," he said.

The BJP leader said that in the case of HYDRABAD, BJP MLAs and MPs will visit the areas affected on October 23 and 24 to protest against the destruction carried out by the government in the name of Musi cleansing, and on October 25 the party will undertake various programmes.

"We will launch programmes to fight for public issues and stop the anti-people policies of the government," he said.

Intelligence failed in detecting Hyd hate meet: Eatala

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The BJP's Malkajgiri MP, Eatala Rajender, said that the state Intelligence machinery failed in detecting a meeting that was held in Hyderabad which led to the destruction of the idols of the Muthyalamma Temple.

Eatala asked the Intelligence wing to explain what they were doing when 200 persons conducted a hate meeting at the Metropolis Hotel in Secunderabad.

Speaking to the media on Friday, Eatala asked the

police to tell people about the plan of those who attended the meeting. He asked people not to panic as the BJP would stand by them. People here have called for a bandh in Secunderabad on Saturday. Businessmen and people are requested to support it, he said.

He said that the Metropolis Hotel meeting indicates that Hyderabad has become a training centre for terrorists. He asked the government to conduct an investigation and stop such moves. If the state cannot do that, request the Centre for help, Eatala said.

He said that he would inform the developments in Hyderabad as a local MP to the Union Home Ministry.

He said the meetings were held for 15 days against the Hindu religion in the hotel and one person who took part in it destroyed the idols in Muthyalamma Temple.

What did the police do after people handed over that person, he asked and added that the police are now giving cell phones to the culprits. What will the police do if the culprits post hate messages using those phones, he asked.

Over 1 bn people live in acute poverty, half are children

PNS ■ UNITED NATIONS

More than 1 billion people in the world live in acute poverty, over half are children and nearly 40 per cent live in conflict-torn and fragile countries, according to a report released Thursday.

The report by the UN Development Programme and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative at the University of Oxford also said that more than 83 per cent of poor people live in rural areas — and the same percentage live in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

The UN Development Programme and Oxford have been publishing the Multi-dimensional Poverty Index, known as the MPI, since 2010 using 10 indicators including health, education and standard of living. This year's index included data from 112 countries with a combined population of 6.3 billion people. According to the index, 1.1 billion people live in acute



poverty, with nearly half in five countries: India with 234 million impoverished people, Pakistan with 93 million, Ethiopia with 86 million, Nigeria with 74 million and Congo with 66 million.

Over half of the people living in poverty — 584 million — are children under the age of 18, with 317 million in sub-Saharan Africa and 184 million in South Asia, it said. In Afghanistan, where poverty has increased, the proportion of impoverished children is even higher — nearly 59 per cent. UNDP and Oxford said this

year's report focused on poverty amid conflict because 2023 saw more conflicts than at any time since World War II and that an all-time high of 117 million people were forced to flee their homes due to conflict, disasters and other factors.

Pedro Conceicao, director of the UN Development Programme office that produces its annual Human Development Report, said: "By overlaying conflict data with global MPI data for the first time, the report reveals the stark realities of those simultaneously enduring conflict and poverty."

BJP, BRS & AIMIM must reveal stand on Musi clean-up: Kiran

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Bhongir MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy demanded that the BJP, the BRS and the AIMIM should make clear their stand on cleaning the Musi River. He said that a decision would be taken after discussing the matter in the Assembly.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has taken up a good thing and so opposition parties must not speak cheaply about that, he said.

Speaking to the media at the Gandhi Bhavan on Friday along with MLC T. Jeevan Reddy, he said that the CM took up the Musi cleaning programme to prevent Hyderabad from facing the problems faced by Bengaluru and Chennai.

He said that people won't believe the cheap campaign on social media against Musi cleaning and added that BRS leaders looted the state and made Telangana a debt-ridden state owing Rs 7 lakh crore.

"BRS Working President

Was jailed to stall projects like Mohalla Clinics, Yamuna cleaning: Satyendar Jain

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Senior AAP leader Satyendar Jain, who came out of jail on Friday evening, said in his first reactions that he was arrested to stall the AAP government's projects such as Mohalla Clinics and Yamuna river cleaning.

The former Delhi government minister also alleged that he and AAP leaders like Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia and Sanjay Singh were arrested to dissuade common people from joining politics in the country.

He charged that his arrest was part of an attempt to defame Kejriwal who is working hard to ensure the government works for common man and not for a few chosen ones.

"We will continue our fight against injustice and work for the common man," Jain told a crowd of AAP leaders and workers outside the Tihar jail after his release.

The AAP leader, who was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money laundering case in March 2022, was greeted by Delhi Chief Minister Atishi, party leader Manish Sisodia, Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh and several MLAs and leaders.

Jain hugged Sisodia and Singh as he stepped out of the Tihar Jail and waved to the waiting gathering of supporters.

Earlier in the day, Jain was granted bail by a court in the city on the grounds of delay in start of trial and his long period of imprisonment.

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

CITY EVENTS

Musical journey

Sensational Geetha Madhuri and her band to perform.

Venue

Heart Cup Coffee, komally
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

ISB to host Innovent 4.0 on Nov 8

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Devising an innovation index for Indian companies, the Indian School of Business (ISB) to host the first edition of Innovent 4.0, an exclusive workshop with the theme of "Making India a Product Nation", on 8 November. This workshop will feature CXOs from manufacturing and supply chain.

At a roundtable on innovation held at T-Works on Friday, former ISB Dean and Executive Director of ICBI, Prof Rajendra Srivastava shared his research. He mentioned that while 20% of companies explain their innovations well, 80% fail to highlight their branding. He used Apple as an example, where many ISB students buy iPhones due to branding, despite slower software updates.

Srivastava emphasised the importance of Indian companies learning from giants like Tesla and redesigning their strategies like Microsoft. He pointed out that 9 out of 10 companies fail because they stick to past methods. He added that at ISB we leverage technology but also get value from the market.

Minister calls for expanding TGTS operations

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

IT Minister D. Sridhar Babu has directed the Telangana Technology Services (TGTS) to expand its operations. The TGTS supplies computer hardware and software to government departments. He noted that last year, the agency earned a profit of Rs 5 crore and is encouraged to achieve more turnover by increasing its reach.

Sridhar Babu reviewed TGTS's performance at its office in Haka Bhawan, Saifabad, on Friday. He stressed the importance of all government departments

the pioneer

HYDERABAD SATURDAY | OCTOBER 19, 2024

03

IT companies must focus on education in tribal, rural areas: Seethakka

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister Dhanasari Anasuya (Seethakka) called upon IT companies to prioritise the educational needs of tribal and rural areas through their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programmes.

Speaking at the HYSEA Education Conclave 2024 held at the Infosys facility in Gachibowli, she emphasized the importance of bridging the educational gap in India's rural regions and urged corporations to adopt villages and provide quality education.

The conclave, hosted by HYSEA (Hyderabad Software Enterprises Association) in collaboration with NIRMAAN organization, revolved around the theme 'Leveraging Technology to Democratize Education'.

The event brought together leaders from the IT/TES industry, government officials and

education experts to discuss solutions for making education more accessible and technology-driven.

HYSEA President Prashanth Nandella highlighted the organization's Disruptive Digital Intervention (DDI) programme, aimed at enhancing infrastructure and curricula in government schools.

He said that HYSEA's goal is to extend the programme to 330 schools across Telangana, ensuring that marginalized communities are equipped with tools for a brighter future.

During her address, Seethakka pointed out the educational disparity faced by rural areas and asked corporations to make meaningful investments in tribal and rural regions to ensure equitable access to education.

She stressed the need for collaboration between the government, companies and NGOs to



Minister Dhanasari Anasuya speaking at HYSEA Education Conclave in Hyderabad on Friday

achieve this.

Eighteen companies were honoured at the event for their

contributions to the DDI programme, which has successfully impacted over 20,000 students

directly and around 1.6 lakh students indirectly by setting up 40 Digital Labs across Telangana. Companies like Infosys, Microsoft India R&D Pvt Ltd, and HCL Technologies were among those honoured.

Akunuri Murali, IAS (Retd), Chairman of the Education Commission of Telangana, while addressing the gathering said that the focus must be on preparing students for the future with emphasis on skill development, employability and fostering an entrepreneurial mind.

The event featured panel discussions on taking education to rural areas and the role of technology in democratizing education. Government officials, IT leaders, and education experts participated in these discussions, exploring the potential of technology to overcome infrastructural challenges and promote inclusive education.

'Talent triggers new gold rush'

SAMUEL JOSHUA
samueljoshuajmc@gmail.com
■ HYDERABAD

Emphasising that the new gold rush has begun with talent as the new goal, and Global Capability Centers (GCCs) driving the second economic earthquake through transformations and innovative technologies, which is just getting started in the city, Vikram Ahuja, Co-founder of ANSR, gave an expert talk at the GCC Innovation Summit at T-Hub on Friday evening.

Addressing GCC leaders and startup innovators, Vikram Ahuja, Co-founder of ANSR, highlighted how GCCs have evolved from cost arbitrage to talent arbitrage. He said GCCs 8.0 integrates innovation, startups, and top-tier talent, and predicted that the number of GCCs will grow to 2,500 in the next five years.

He emphasized that 60% of GCCs are established by mid-sized companies, which are driving the next phase of growth.

He also noted that building a global workforce is now



Information Technology Minister D Sridhar Babu, along with Special Chief Secretary to the IT Department, Jayesh Ranjan and T-Hub CEO at the GCC Innovation Summit at T-Hub in Hyderabad on Friday

a reality.

Ahuja concluded by emphasising the golden opportunity for GCCs to collaborate with academia, startups, and innovation to become economic catalysts and global leaders.

Meanwhile, Special Chief Secretary to the Information Technology department Jayesh Ranjan announced government support for infrastructure challenges and encouraged GCCs to link with the BFSI consortium. He stressed the importance of young innovators in the city's growth.

Speaking as the Chief Guest for the first ever GCC Summit, Information Technology Minister D Sridhar Babu, spoke about

advancing innovation and entrepreneurship. He cited the recent AI summit, where seven foundational pillars were initiated, including a Skill University for technology skills.

He mentioned plans for an exclusive AI city and highlighted that the ground-breaking of the AI City will take place in the first quarter of next year.

Sridhar Babu also said that a Centre of Excellence has been planned to create new skills and adapt to market changes.

The minister concluded by stating the state's goal to make Hyderabad a global leader in AI and reach a \$1 trillion economy in the next 10 to 14 years.

Capacity Building programme held for LS Secretariat Officers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Capacity Building Programme for Private Secretaries and Stenographic Service Officers from the Lok Sabha Secretariat, organised by Dr MCR HRD Institute, Government of Telangana, concluded on Friday. The valedictory function was presided over by Dr Shashank Goel, Director General of the Institute and Special Chief Secretary to the Government of Telangana.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Shashank Goel emphasised the crucial role that the officers of the Lok Sabha Secretariat, including Private Secretaries and Stenographic Service Officers, play in ensuring the smooth functioning of the Lok Sabha Secretariat. He acknowledged their vital contribution to Parliamentary Democracy, noting that they are the backbone of the system.

Dr Goel expressed confidence that the programme has equipped the officers with the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities to handle the challenges of their service more effectively. He highlighted that their enhanced capabilities would allow them to provide better assistance to Members of

Parliament, Chairpersons of Parliamentary Committees, and senior officers, ultimately fostering a more cohesive and productive working environment within the Secretariat.

He also urged the officers to reflect on the key lessons learned during the program and work closely with their superiors to implement necessary changes that can improve the functioning of the Lok Sabha Secretariat. Continuous learning, he stressed, is essential for their development, and leveraging daily experiences and interactions with colleagues would contribute significantly to their personal and professional growth.

Manish Bhagel, Executive Officer, PRIDE, Lok Sabha Secretariat, lauded the comprehensive nature of the program, noting that it covered both administrative tools and their practical application. V Sujitha Rao, Assistant Private Secretary, echoed these sentiments, emphasising the importance of human resource management for achieving extraordinary results.

Dr Usha Rani, Course Director and State Head at CDS, welcomed the attendees and conducted the proceedings of the valedictory function.



Director General of MCRHRD Shashank Goel speaking at a meeting in Hyderabad on Friday

IIIT Smart City Living Lab Wins 'Best Education Institute Exhibit of the Year'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

IIIT Hyderabad's Smart City Living Lab has been awarded the prestigious "Best Education Institute Exhibit of the Year" at the India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2024. The event took place at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi, attracting global participation from industries, academia, start-ups, and standardization bodies, all showcasing cutting-edge advancements in telecom and ICT technologies.

Led by Dr Aftab Hussain, the IIIT Hyderabad team was invited by the Department of Telecommunications (DOT) to participate in the congress.

The Smart City Living Lab demonstrated live solutions addressing current smart city challenges, focusing on three key innovations: the Wi-SUN (Wireless Smart Ubiquitous/Utility Network) based RF-Mesh Network, the City IoT Operating Platform (ctOP), and the Digital Twin for Water Utility Networks (DTWN).

The Wi-SUN network, India's first large-scale deployment in collaboration with Silicon Labs, has been successfully used to control streetlights on the IIIT Hyderabad campus.

The network provides secure, reliable, and low-power communication,

enabling efficient management of IoT deployments.

At the IMC 2024, a complete Wi-SUN network was demonstrated, showcasing its capability to connect devices and sensors within the network's range, making it highly adaptable for smart city applications.

The City IoT Operating Platform (ctOP), designed to enhance interoperability and simplify multiple vendor integration, was another highlight at the exhibition. Built on oneM2M standards, ctOP integrates devices from different vendors seamlessly, providing real-time data visualization through interactive dashboards.

Intelligence is the key driver of progress: Governor

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Jishnu Dev Varma, Governor of Telangana, inaugurated the 16th Southern India Regional Conference (SIRC) of Practising Company Secretaries in Hyderabad on Friday.

The two-day conference, held at the Centre For Economic and Social Studies (CESS) in Punjagutta, saw over 200 company secretaries, students, and professionals from across South India gather under the theme "Indulgence of Intelligence".

Addressing the attendees after the inauguration, Governor Jishnu Dev Varma emphasised that intelligence is the key driver of progress and lauded the theme as timely and relevant. He acknowledged the vital role company secretaries play in promot-



Governor Jishnu Dev Varma at the 16th conference of SIRC of Practising Company Secretaries in Hyderabad on Friday

ing social responsibility, as well as their increasing involvement in emerging areas like insolvency, mediation, arbitration, valuation, forensic audits, and risk management. He urged young professionals to stay updated and maintain compliance in their respective fields.

Governor Varma also high-

lighted the Institute of Company Secretaries of India's (ICSI) efforts to train specialist company secretaries in high-demand areas like Maritime Law and Capital Markets, noting that these specializations are crucial in today's increasingly specialized world. He commended the organization for offering fee waivers to stu-



GHMC Commissioner Ilambarathi K holding a review meeting in Hyderabad on Friday

Ensure effective waste collection process: GHMC Commissioner

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

GHMC Commissioner Ilambarathi K urged all department heads to work in coordination to provide better services to the citizens of the city. He addressed the heads of departments during an interactive meeting held on Friday, where he reviewed the ongoing work and programs being conducted by various departments.

During the meeting, the Commissioner asked the department heads to give updates on the activities managed by their respective teams. The heads of the departments briefed the Commissioner on the operations they are overseeing through their departments.

Ilambarathi K emphasized the need for officials to work efficiently to ensure improved services to the citizens. He also highlighted the importance of focusing on sanitation management and instructed relevant officers to ensure that waste collection processes are carried out more effectively across the city. He suggested that department heads conduct regular reviews with their respective teams to ensure smooth operations. The meeting was attended by Additional Commissioners Shivakumar Naidu, Sneha Sabareesh, Nalini Padmavati, Geetha Radhika, Pankaj, Raghu Prasad, Venu Gopal Reddy, Samrat Ashok, Yadagiri Rao, Alivelu Mangathayaru, Satyanarayana, Saroj, Chief Engineers Bhaskar Reddy, Anil Raj, Devanand, SE Koteswar Rao, CCP Srinivas, Chief Entomologist Rambabu, Chief Examiner Venkateswar Reddy, Chief Veterinary Officer Abdul Vakili, Chief Financial Advisor Lakshmi, and others.

AWS revitalises lake at Shabad in RR district

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Amazon Web Services (AWS) India Private Limited has successfully completed several village development projects in Rangareddy district, including the restoration of a 65-acre lake and the renovation of a local Anganwadi Centre in Machanpally village under Shabad Mandal. These initiatives, part of AWS's In Communities programme, aim to improve the quality of life in the region and are supported by SEARCH, a local non-government organization.

The lake restoration was unveiled on Friday, in the presence of Dr E Vishnu Vardhan Reddy, Vice Chairman, Managing Director, and Executive Director of the Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TSIIC), Saji PK, Director of Data Center Operations, Asia-Pacific, Middle East, and Africa at AWS; and Aditya Chowdhry, Lead for Data Center Operations, AWS India. Speaking at the inauguration, Vishnu Vardhan Reddy emphasised the role of corporations in supporting local communities. "Corporates and industry players have a significant responsibility not just in driving economic growth through job creation and revenue but also in enhancing the quality of life for local communities. AWS's consistent efforts in Telangana are commendable, and I believe these projects will benefit all sections of the village," he said.

Minister calls for expanding TGTS operations

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

IT Minister D. Sridhar Babu has directed the Telangana Technology Services (TGTS) to expand its operations. The TGTS supplies computer hardware and software to government departments. He noted that last year, the agency earned a profit of Rs 5 crore and is encouraged to achieve more turnover by increasing its reach.

Sridhar Babu reviewed TGTS's performance at its office in Haka Bhawan, Saifabad, on Friday. He stressed the importance of all government departments

Special Branch crucial for Police Department: CV Anand

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Police Commissioner CV Anand emphasised the importance of the Special Branch in the police department, urging personnel not to be disheartened by their responsibilities. He conducted a review meeting at the Command Control Centre with officials and staff from the seven zones of the Special Branch under the Hyderabad Commissionerate.

Addressing the staff, Anand highlighted that the actions of superiors are based on the information provided by the Special Branch. He urged the branch's personnel to remain constantly alert and to focus on field-level intelligence gathering. Anand stressed that the Special Branch is a crucial pillar of the

Hyderabad City Police and should not be seen as a punitive assignment. He encouraged staff to work diligently during their tenure in the branch, noting that the experience would be invaluable throughout their police careers.

The Commissioner advised Special Branch personnel to maintain strong relationships with local communities, including elders and leaders, as these connections are vital for gathering ongoing intelligence.

He also reminded the staff to immediately relay any piece of information, no matter how small, to higher authorities, and to protect their sources to ensure a steady flow of intelligence.

Anand stressed the need for constant surveillance, particularly on



Hyderabad Police Commissioner CV Anand speaking at a review meeting in Hyderabad on Friday

individuals from outside the city and those coming from bordering countries. He emphasised that the Special Branch should be informed about suspicious activities, includ-

ing those in hotels, colonies, and bastis, and that staff should ensure continuous monitoring of these individuals.

He added that the Special Branch

must maintain its performance even after officer changes, ensuring consistency in operations. The Commissioner advised personnel to engage informally with the public and to use technology to aid their work, stressing that the local police station house officers must be vigilant and aware of all activities within their jurisdictions to prevent problems from escalating.

Anand also touched upon the importance of integrity during passport verification, urging staff to work impartially and decisively. He concluded by stating that the Special Branch must operate with a commitment to truth at any cost.

The meeting saw the participation of DCP S. Chaitanya Kumar IPS, along with other Special Branch officers and staff.

Telangana



the pioneer

HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | OCTOBER 19, 2024

04

CPM demands Rs 500 bonus over MSP for cotton

PNS ■ NALGONDA



In a statement, Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) district secretary Muddireddy Sudhakar Reddy on Friday demanded the immediate opening of Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) procurement centres.

He mentioned that cotton was cultivated in 5.5 lakh acres in Nalgonda district. Due to the delay in the opening of CCI procurement centers, many farmers are forced to sell their produce to middlemen at lower prices in several villages.

He expressed concern over the farmers suffering heavy losses, as there was scanty rainfall during the initial stages of cotton cultivation and it was followed by excessive rainfall when the crop was ready for harvest. He further added that the cost of cotton cultivation was higher this year due to the increase in the prices of seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides. Many cotton farmers had to rely on private money lenders because the government had not released input subsidy under Rythu Bharosa funds. He urged the government to provide an additional bonus of Rs 500 per quintal over the minimum support price (MSP) announced for cotton.

Govt will protect endowment properties: Surekha

The Endowments Minister said that Vemulawada temple has 5,000 kilos silver

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



Endowments Minister Konda Surekha speaking at a media conference in Hyderabad on Friday

Stating that the Vemulawada Temple has 5,000 kilos silver and 65 kilos gold, Endowment Minister Konda Surekha said and added that the silver will be used to make silver palanquin.

Speaking to the media at Secretariat on Friday, Konda Surekha said that the state government is committed to the Development of Yadadri, Bhadrachalam and Vemulawada temples.

Surekha said that the significant reforms have been undertaken within the Endowments Department, bringing about revolutionary changes aimed at improving operations and addressing longstanding issues. She said that all steps were taken for the protection of Endowment lands.

The Minister said that the Telangana State Government is committed to the development and protection of key temples and endowment lands

across the state. The Minister announced several initiatives aimed at making temples more accessible to devotees and safeguarding temple properties.

At a press conference held at the Telangana State Secretariat on Friday, Minister Surekha emphasised the government's resolve to transform temples like Yadadri, Bhadrachalam, and Vemulawada. "We have already taken significant measures in various temples to bring them closer to devotees and improve their facilities," she stated.

Minister Surekha outlined the revolutionary changes

implemented in the Endowment Department, addressing issues that have persisted for over 30 years. Following the Presidential Order of 2018, the subordinate service rules were revised to reflect the zonal system. As part of this reform, a preliminary notification was issued in November 2022, followed by a final notification on July 9, 2024. "This has resulted in the appointment of 33 grade-3 government employees, the largest number of such appointments in the combined history of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana," she said, noting that these appointments are a record in the department's history.

After six years, government employees have been successfully transferred to the Endowment Department. She further explained that temple staff was also transferred for the first time in 15 years. In addition, she highlighted the successful organization of major festivals like the Sankranti Sarakka Jatarata and the Bonalu festival in 2024, as well as the live telecast of the Bhadrachalam Kalyanam Utsavam, which was broadcast even during the Election Code to reach devotees in remote areas.

Surekha reassured the public that robust measures are being taken to protect endowment properties. She revealed that geo-tagging has already been completed for 34,092 acres of temple lands, and 57% of these lands have been recorded on the Dharani web portal to prevent illegal registrations.

Man marries trans woman with parent's consent in Jagtial district



COUPLE

PNS ■ JAGTIAL

Love marriages have become quite common of late. Many youngsters openly discuss their romantic relationship with their parents, convincing their elders to accept their marriage proposals. Parents are increasingly understanding their children's inclination towards choosing their partners.

Although there are instances where elders oppose love marriages, many are giving the green light to their children. So far, everything has been going well, but it is noteworthy that incidents of girls marrying girls and boys marrying boys are emerging. If that's acceptable, a new trend has started: youngsters are now falling in love with and marrying transgenders. One such incident has come to light.

Srinivas Malyala, from Lakshmiipur village in Gollapalli mandal, married a transgender woman named Karunanjali from Madampalli. This is not just any marriage; it was a love

marriage, conducted with the consent of their families and celebrated with grandeur.

Srinivas met Karunanjali two years ago, and their acquaintance blossomed into love. During this time, Srinivas went to Dubai for work. When he returned, his family wanted him to get married. He decided to tell them about his love.

When he revealed that he was in love not with a girl but with a transgender woman, his family was initially shocked. However, after discussing everything with them and explaining their love, he emphasised that love knows no gender. He provided examples and shared Karunanjali's qualities, which helped convince his family. Ultimately, they had no choice but to accept their marriage.

The wedding was celebrated in a manner similar to a traditional marriage between a boy and a girl. Notably, transgender individuals also attended to bless the couple.

'JOBLESS GROWTH'

Jagadish Reddy cautions govt over 'youth unrest' in State

PNS ■ SURYAPET



Former minister G Jagadish Reddy speaking at a media conference in Suryapet on Friday

Former Telangana Minister G Jagadish Reddy on Friday criticised Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's comments on the Musi River beautification project.

Speaking at a media conference here, Jagadish Reddy argued that the remarks made by the Chief Minister were unbecoming of someone occupying a high office, stating that they diminish the dignity associated with the role. The prestige of the Chief Minister's office is important.

He suggested that Revanth Reddy should stop relying on speeches provided by speechwriters. He claimed that there was a significant progress made under former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, pointing to an increase in state revenue since 2014. He criticised the current administration for making misleading claims regarding State debts, asserting that the revenue generated should be sufficient for

the state's needs. Jagadish Reddy expressed his willingness to discuss issues related to state revenue.

Moreover, he raised alarms over the growing unemployment in the state, indicating that the growing discontent among young people could lead to widespread unrest across Telangana. He cautioned that imposing restrictions rather than addressing issues would be counterproductive, urging the government to engage with the youth

and provide solutions to their concerns. He condemned using force against aspirants of Group 1 aspirants at Ashoknagar in Hyderabad.

He underscored the critical need for effective communication and responsive governance in Telangana, especially as youth frustration is mounting and expectations for development remain high. The future of the state's leadership may depend on how well it addresses these pressing issues, he said.

Sureka dedicated to people's welfare: MLA Yashaswini Reddy

PNS ■ WARANGAL

Politics in Warangal have kept getting curiously and curiously. Minister for Endowments Konda Sureka is facing opposition from her own party leaders. Notably, even MLAs from her own party are making complaints against her with the party leadership.

The Minister seemed to have won respite now with a young Congress leader Mamidala Yashaswini Reddy publicly expressed her admiration for Sureka. Yashaswini tweeted about meeting Konda Sureka at a private event in Hanamakonda, praising her as a steadfast leader dedicated to progress and public service.

Additionally, opposition to Konda Sureka within her party is growing daily in the undivided Warangal district. Six Congress MLAs from the region have formally complained to the party leadership about Sureka's increasing interference in their constituencies.

SCCL hosts community lunch to strengthen bonds with workers

PNS ■ PEDDAPALLI



SCCL General Manager Lalith Kumar at a community lunch programme with workers in Peddapalli on Friday

A community lunch was organised by the Singareni Collieries Company Limited to strengthen bond with workers.

Hundreds of workers and employees shared meals creating a festive atmosphere. The initiative, titled "Ujjwala Singareni - Role of Employees," showcased the friendly bonds forming between workers and management.

On Thursday, Singareni Ramagundam Area General Manager Lalith Kumar participated in the community lunch, building good relations with mine workers and employees. He urged everyone to contribute for a bright future for the Singareni coal industry. During the event, Lalith Kumar interacted with the workers.

With the increasing production costs in the Singareni coal industry, the management has focused on reducing these expenses. It is believed that without lowering production costs, the industry could face numerous challenges in the

future. As part of this initiative, the management is conducting community lunch programmes across Singareni to explain to workers the realities of coal production, productivity costs, and the potential challenges ahead.

Special camps have been set up at coal mines and open-cast projects to detail the productivity costs of coal production to the workers. General Managers directly communicated with workers in these

areas, providing insights into the company's real situation, cost-reduction strategies, and future business expansion plans.

This programme saw participation from GM Safety Gupta, GM Anjaneya Prasad, and officials such as Dasari Venkateshwar Rao, Veerareddy, Chandrashekar, Kiran Babu, Jitender Singh, Hanumanth Rao, Karn, and Dhanalakshmi Bai, among others.

Investigation into sex determination tests intensified

PNS ■ KAMAREDDY

Police intensified investigation into sex determination test racket in the district. The investigation, according to sources, led to skeletons tumbling out of the closets. In the inquiry, it was found that a gang conducting gender determination tests was aided by ASHA workers, particularly at the Rajampet Primary Health Centre.

The gender of the child can be known within seven to eight weeks into the pregnancy. It was disclosed that gender determination tests were conducted right in front of the homes of pregnant women using ultrasound machines. Recently, the police apprehended a man named Ravinder, who was allegedly involved in these activities. The police investigation uncovered that more than 35 abortions were conducted across the district. Reports indicate that they charged around Rs15,000 for gender determination and between Rs 50,000 to Rs 70,000 for abortions.

KARIMNAGAR-ADILABAD-NIZAMABAD-MEDAK GRADUATES CONSTITUENCY

Poll is crucial test for political parties

PNS ■ MANCHERIAL

T Jeevan Reddy representing the Karimnagar-Adilabad-Nizamabad-Medak Graduates constituency of Legislative Council is seeking reelection in the elections to the constituency to be held either in January or February 2025. His term as MLC will come to an end in March next year.

All political parties have taken the elections as a matter of prestige. Meanwhile, the Election

Commission has initiated measures to conduct elections to the constituency. All main political parties have focused on the elections. The ruling Congress is making hectic efforts to retain the seat. Many Congress leaders have been making hectic efforts to get the party nomination.

Jeevan Reddy who unsuccessfully contested the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections has plans to contest the MLC election again.

The BJP and BRS are also keen

to contest the elections. Therefore, the election activity has begun in all political outfits.

The BJP which got sizeable seats in last Assembly and Lok Sabha elections has pinned hopes on the MLC elections. The list of ticket aspirants for the saffron party runs long. The BRS which received severe drubbing in the last Assembly elections and wiped out in the Lok Sabha elections is trying to make its presence felt by contesting the elections.

Ensure smooth procurement of cotton: Collector to officials

PNS ■ NIRMAL

District Collector Abhilasha Abhinav has directed officials to ensure that cotton procurement is conducted smoothly.

At a meeting held at the Collectorate conference hall on Thursday, she reviewed the procurement operation. Additional Collector Kishore Kumar, officials, farmers and traders took part in the meeting.

The Collector emphasised the need to ensure that farmers do not face difficulties during cotton

procurement. She directed the officials to make all arrangements ahead of the commencement of cotton procurement in the first week of November. With cotton being cultivated over 1,47,000 acres in the district, there is an expectation of approximately 10 lakh quintals of yield, she noted.

She also asked the officials to make necessary arrangements at ginning mills before the start of cotton procurement. The minimum support price for cotton is Rs 7,521 per quintal by the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI). She urged farmers to ensure that the cotton they produce meets quality standards with moisture content not exceeding 8 per cent to qualify for the support price. It is essential for farmers to provide proof of their Aadhaar number linked to their cotton produce. The Collector stated that Aadhaar authentication is mandatory for farmers.

Seven inter-state check posts in the district were established. Police and transportation officials were directed to make adequate

arrangements at ginning mills to avoid traffic issues. Afterward, the Collector conducted a meeting with officials of various departments regarding paddy procurement and made several suggestions. She ordered the establishment of 272 procurement centres for paddy in the district, with separate centres for coarse and fine grains.

Prior to this, marketing department brochures were unveiled by district collector officials along with traders.

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
IRRIGATION & CAD DEPARTMENT**

NOTIFICATION

Final stage-II approval for diversion of 15.063 Hs of Forest Land in Bellampally Forest Division of Mancherial District for excavation of Left Main Canal and BR Distributary of Left Main Canal of Neehal Medium Irrigation Project across Peddavagan near Neehal (V), Mancherial (M), Mancherial District (Package No. 12) has been accorded by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India (L.No. F.No. 4-TS/124/2016-CHN, Dt. 14.12.2023 and Government of Telangana GO Ms.No. 18, Dt. 06.04.2024. As per directions of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Hyderabad vide Ref No. FCA/FC25/29/2022, Dt. 21.04.2024 paper notification is hereby published. For further details please visit Telangana Forest Website <http://forests.telangana.gov.in/pages/FCA.aspx>. Sd/- Superintending Engineer, (I.S.No. 545/FPC/NOY/1204-25, Dt. 18-10-2024) Irrigation circle, Bellampally, Mancherial Dist.

GREATER WARANGAL MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

TENDER NOTICE

No. TP/GW/MC/CTN. I/c-procurement/2024-25 Dated: 18-10-2024
DRONE SURVEY ALONG THE MAJOR NALA STRETCH TO DEMARCATE AND IDENTIFY ENCROACHMENTS / HOUSEHOLDS FALLING WITHIN THE NALAs ALIGNMENT AND ITS BUFFER UNDER GWMC LIMITS FOR PREPARATION OF NALA DEVELOPMENT PLAN
Bid Document Download Start Date : 18.10.2024 at 10.00 A.M onwards.
Pre Bid Meeting Date : 23.10.2024 at 03.00 PM Olo GWMC, Warangal
Last Date of receipt of Bids : 29.10.2024 upto 03.00 PM.
Note: Further details can be seen @ "e" procurement market place @ www.tender.telangana.gov.in. Sd/- Commissioner
E.O.No: 503-PNCLADVT/2024-25, Dt: 18-10-2024 Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation

Raise drumstick crop in 10,000 acres: DC to farmers

PNS ■ BHADRADRI KOTHAGUDEM

Collector Jitesh V Patil has described cultivation of moringa plantation is very profitable and asked the authorities to sensitise farmers to ensure cultivation of drum sticks in at least 10,000 acres during January next year.

He reviewed the activities of plant nurseries in the district, development of moringa plantation, cultivation of azolla, canal bund plantation development, mushroom cultivation and other issues along with Additional Collector Venu Gopal, local bodies additional collector VidyaChandana, MPDOs, MPOs, APOs, APMS and ECS through video conference from

integrated district offices' complex.

Addressing the officials, the farmers work hard to grow paddy, cotton and maize to earn a profit of Rs 20,000 to Rs 30,000 per acre. The district administration can benefit the farmers through the NREGS.

He suggested district officials to sensitise farmers on cultivation of drum stick. During summer, the fields, in the post-harvest phase, will go without any cultivation of crops. The farmers by investing Rs 10,000 from their rabi crop revenue - Rs 2000 on seeds, Rs 2000 on chemicals and fertilisers and plastic bags and other incidental expenses - the farmer should raise the moringa or drumstick crop.



Collector Jitesh V Patil speaking at a meeting

cultivate moringa during summer and take steps to maximise returns from the crop. The demand for moringa leaf powder in the market is very high. Currently, a kg of the powder sells at Rs 1000. The oil extracted from dried drum stick seeds fetches Rs 3000 a litre. On the whole, cultivation of drum stick crop is highly profitable. The farmers can earn Rs 90,000 with an investment of Rs 10,000, he said. Moreover, they can claim back the investment through the NREGS.

By October end, the officials should gather information about the name of the farmer, his or her address, the extent of land holding, whether the farmer is agreeable to cultivation of drum stick crop,

availability of water, whether the farmer has bore well and register the same. Further, they should also obtain information about NREGS job card of the farmer. If the farmer did not have the job card, the officials should help the farmers get the card.

The officials should take steps that the area of cultivation under drum sticks should be 3% of the total area of cultivation under maize, cotton and paddy and oil palm. He said that the area under maize and cotton cultivation in Gundalallandu is about 32,000 acres. The officials should sensitise the farmers to take steps to cultivate drum sticks in at least '1400 acres.

ACROSS THE STATES



'No haggling in MVA over Assembly seats'

Amid an impasse over seat-sharing among Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) parties in Maharashtra, Shiv Sena (UBT) President Uddhav Thackeray on Friday cautioned that haggling among allies must not be allowed to reach a breaking point. Addressing a news conference here, Thackeray asserted the political scenario in Maharashtra has changed and people have decided to bring the opposition MVA, which consists of the Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP), to power in the November 20 assembly polls. "Haggling among allies must not be allowed to reach a breaking point," the former CM cautioned as talks among MVA parties for allocation of seats in the 288-member assembly dragged on. The Sena (UBT) leader maintained he has not heard from his party leaders involved in seat-sharing talks that there was any major issue in clinching a deal. Seat-sharing talks among MVA partners were in final stages and a deal could be sealed by Saturday or in the next 2 to 3 days, Thackeray emphasised.



AIIMS guard accuses CSO of sexual harassment

A female guard at AIIMS-Delhi has accused its chief security officer of sexual harassment and caste discrimination, prompting the premier medical institute to initiate a probe into the allegations. According to an office memorandum dated October 15, the probe will be conducted by Dr K K Verma, Dean Academics, who heads the institute's committee on redressal of grievances of SC/ ST/OBC; and Dr Punith Kaur, HoD Biophysics, who chairs the Internal Complaints Committee against sexual harassment. Both the committees have been asked to file preliminary reports along with evidentiary material within seven days from the date of the issuance of the memorandum. According to sources, the female guard has alleged that the chief security officer sexually harassed her and hurled casteist remarks when she went to meet him regarding her duty roster.



Bishnoi gang member sent to police custody

A court at Panvel in Maharashtra on Friday remanded a member of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, arrested for alleged involvement in a conspiracy to kill Bollywood actor Salman Khan, in four-day police custody. Sukha alias Sukhbir Balbir Singh, the accused, was arrested from Panipat in Haryana by a Navi Mumbai police team two days ago. He would also be interrogated in connection with the murder of NCP leader and former Maharashtra minister Baba Siddique, officials had said. On April 24 this year, Navi Mumbai Police registered a case against 18 identified and other unidentified members of the Bishnoi gang for allegedly hatching a conspiracy to kill Salman Khan at his farmhouse at Panvel near Mumbai.

Govt constitutes education..

Continued from page 1

directions for its constitution, with inputs from the Chief Minister's Office.

The members of the commission are PL Vishweswar Rao, a professor known for his academic expertise, Charagonda Venkatesh, a distinguished educationist, and K. Jyotsna Shiva Reddy who has contributed ideas for educational reforms. The term of these members will be the same as that of the Chairperson, Akunuri Murali. These appointments mark a

crucial step towards ensuring a more streamlined governance of the state's higher education system.

The Telangana Education Commission is expected to play a key role in shaping policies, addressing challenges and ensuring that the education system in the state continues to evolve with changing needs. This initiative aligns with the government's broader objective of enhancing the quality of education and fostering a robust learning environment for students across the state.

Govt which has shed the blood..

Continued from page 1

The BJP extends support to all Group-1 hopefuls and will fight till the Group-1 Mains exams are rescheduled. A government which has shed the blood of youth

will never survive. This is wrong and I strongly condemn the lathicharge. I will be going to Ashoknagar to meet the hopefuls as per the directions of @BJP4Telangana President Shri @kishanreddybjp garu".

BJP, JD(S) welcome ED raids in MUDA 'scam'

'Fair probe not possible by Lokayukta'

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Welcoming the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) raids in the MUDA site allotment case allegedly involving Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's family, opposition BJP and JD(S) in Karnataka asserted on Friday that they are necessary to uncover the "scam" and to bring out the truth.

Leaders from the two parties slammed the ruling Congress for questioning the ED probe in the case, in which Siddaramaiah is an accused, asking whether a fair probe into the case was possible by the Lokayukta police that function under his government.

The ED on Friday conducted searches in a money laundering case linked to alleged irregularities in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) matter in which it has booked Siddaramaiah, his family members and others, official sources said.

The MUDA office in Mysuru

Leaders from the two parties slammed the ruling Congress for questioning the ED probe in the case, in which Siddaramaiah is an accused, asking whether a fair probe into the case was possible by the Lokayukta police that function under his government



and some other locations are being raided by the federal probe agency officials along with an escort of a central paramilitary force.

Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R Ashoka

denied suggestions of political motive behind the raids, noting that the complaint against the CM and others was not filed by his party.

"...it is said Rs 3,000-4,000 crore illegality has happened, if



'Muslims needn't have any allergy towards BJP'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Friday called on the Muslims to back the BJP and asserted that when the ruling party does not discriminate against any section in terms of development then why should there be any stinginess in supporting it.

Speaking at a BJP's 'Sakriya Sadasyata Abhiyan' event in Uttar Pradesh's Rampur, the senior party leader said the Modi-Yogi governments' priority is not the security and protection of rioters and strongmen but securing the harmony of the society.

Ensuring a society free from riots and hooligans is the constitutional responsibility of any government, the former minority affairs minister said.

"We will have to crush the selfish political custom of clemency for criminals. We need to punish perpetrators," he was quoted as saying in a statement from his office.

Naqvi said that the backward and downtrodden sections of the society had been the biggest victims of scourge of riots under earlier governments.

Minorities, especially the Muslims, should not allow any "allergy" towards the BJP to settle in, he said.

"We have to work very hard to convert this distrust into trust. We must proudly assert that when the BJP doesn't discriminate against any section in terms of development then there should also not be any stinginess in support for the BJP," he said.

VIRAL VIDEO

'Outstation voters will get money for travel to seat'



PNS ■ CHHTRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR

A video of Shiv Sena MLA Santosh Bangar's speech has gone viral in which he is purportedly heard saying that voters from his constituency staying outstation would be paid money online if they travel to their native place for voting.

Bangar, who belongs to the ruling Shiv Sena led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, represents the Kalamnuri assembly seat in Hingoli district.

The video of his speech has gone viral on social media and has been shared by some regional news channels. However, when and where he made the comment could not be known. PTI could not independently verify the authenticity of the video.

In the video, he said, "The list of those (voters) who are out of station should be submitted to us in the next 2-3 days. Ask them to hire vehicles and they should get what they want. Everything will be made available to them including 'PhonePe' (online payment app). Tell them that they are coming for us. The voters staying outside should come to our village."

Bangar was elected as an MLA of the undivided Shiv Sena in 2019. After the party's division, he sided with CM Shinde. When contacted, Hingoli collector Abhinav Goel told PTI, "I have not seen the video (of Bangar's speech) so far. But we have our teams and they are keeping a watch. We will examine the video and take action if it is necessary."

Governor appoints VCs..

Continued from page 1

Prof. Yadagiri Rao will take charge as the Vice-Chancellor of Telangana University in Nizamabad. Prof. Aldas Janaiah has been appointed as the Vice-Chancellor of the Prof. Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University in Hyderabad. Prof. Raji Reddy has been appointed as the V-C of the Sri Konda Laxman Telangana Horticultural University. The appointments are aimed at strengthening universities and ensuring focus on academic excellence. The newly appointed Vice-Chancellors are expected to take charge immediately.

UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE

'Adoption of unconventional ideas only way to progress'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday said technology has "transformed" the conventional warfare into an unconventional one, and adoption of "unconventional ideas", not yet known to the world, is the only way to progress while navigating this change.

In his address at the 'DRDO-Industry Workshop on Defence Technology Acceleration' held at the DRDO Bhawan here, he also called upon the private sector to move forward from the state of 'participation' to 'taking lead' in the defence sector.

Today, technology has "transformed" conventional warfare into unconventional warfare, the defence minister said.

"New dimensions have been added to modern-day warfare, such as drones, cyber warfare, bio-weapons and space defence.

In this transformative phase, research and development in defence will definitely make the defence sector stronger," he was quoted as saying in a statement issued by the defence ministry.

It is heartening to witness Indian scientists, industrialists, academia, start-ups, MSMEs and young entrepreneurs working together in this endeavour, he said.

The defence minister asserted that "it is time for the private sector to take lead as it has the ability to absorb rapid changes and create new innovations".

Singh, in his address, described the adoption of "unconventional ideas, not yet known to the world, as the only way to progress in unconventional warfare".

Acknowledging it as a tough task, he stated that the government, led by Prime Minister



Narendra Modi, will "continue providing all necessary support" to the youth, scientists, industrialists and MSMEs in this endeavour.

Singh reiterated the government's commitment to make the defence sector more innovative and technology-oriented.

At the event, the minister launched 'Dare to Dream 5.0' to encourage next generation of

innovators and start-ups to come forward with transformative ideas for defence applications.

The fifth edition of DRDO's innovation contest aims to generate cutting-edge solutions for India to progress further in its pursuit to achieve 'aatmanirbharata' in defence technologies, the statement said.

Singh also felicitated the win-

ners of 'Dare to Dream 4.0', recognising individual innovators, start-ups and MSMEs for disruptive solutions and innovations in the fields of countermeasures for drones and swarm of drones; advanced acoustic system to locate gunfire, directed energy technologies, cognitive listening device, target seeking, among others.

He described the challenges as a testament to the commitment of the industrial ecosystem of the country to protect the future of the defence sector.

"Like our brave soldiers, scientists, industry leaders, academia, start-ups, MSMEs and entrepreneurs too are the warriors of the country, prepared to complete every assigned task," he said. Singh laid emphasis on the need to achieve advancements in both incremental and disruptive technologies within the defence sector.

Musi rejuvenation may..

Continued from page 1

regarding the Musi River Project. He also detailed the initiatives taken by the BRS government for cleaning the Musi River over the past 10 years through a PowerPoint presentation.

He said that Revanth Reddy's affidavit says he has Rs 30 crore assets. From where will he pay Rs 141 crore if they have to back off? KTR said he is ready for a probe on the Rs 10,000 flood distribution, Kokapet lands, ORR etc.

During this presentation, KTR explained the programmes implemented by the BRS government for the Musi River. He mentioned the construction of Sewage Treatment Plants costing over Rs 3,800 crore to treat wastewater before it enters the Musi. He said that Hyderabad would soon become the first city in South Asia with 100% sewage treatment, ensuring no untreated sewage water flows into the Musi.

He also explained how linking the Godavari to the Musi through the Kaleshwaram Project water would permanently solve the wastewater problem and revive the Musi River.

He also gave detailed plans for expressways on both sides of the Musi and the construction of 15 bridges over the river.

'J-K govt seeking statehood, not Article 370 'very painful'

PNS ■ SRINAGAR

Baramulla MP Sheikh Abdul Rashid on Friday said reports of a resolution passed by the J&K government seeking restoration of statehood only and not Article 370 was "very painful" and a "departure" from the principle stand of the ruling NC.

The remarks of the Baramulla MP, popularly known as Engineer Rashid, came after a Jammu-based newspaper 'Daily Excelsior' carried a report that the cabinet had passed a resolution urging the Centre to restore Jammu and Kashmir's state-



hood. The report also said Chief Minister Omar Abdullah will travel to Delhi to handover the draft of the resolution to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

However, there was no official confirmation or denial of the report.

"There are reports that a resolution has been passed to seek restoration of the statehood. It is his right to pass anything.

But, we want to remind Abdullah that you contested the election on Articles 370 and 35A and statehood. So these reports that only a resolution on statehood has been passed is very painful. It means a departure from the principle stand of his party," Rashid said at a press conference here.

He said the resolution on statehood only makes it clear that Abdullah, who is also the National Conference (NC) vice president, is "playing in the hands of the BJP".

Curb orders issued for..

Continued from page 1

five or more people within a 200-meter radius of all examination centres is strictly prohibited. Additionally, all photocopy (Xerox) and Internet booths within a 100-meter radius of the examination centres must remain closed during the exam.

These restrictions will be effective daily from 6 am to 6 pm from October 21 to

October 27. The examination timings are from 2 pm to 5 pm. Police officers, military personnel, Home Guards on duty, as well as members of the flying squad and education department are exempted from the order. Funeral processions are also exempted.

The Cyberabad Police Commissionerate warned that any violation of these orders will result in prosecution under Section 163 of BNSS.

Rs 3.44 cr distributed to..

Continued from page 1

Speaking on the occasion, Seethakka recalled the struggles faced by those who had to relocate and the damage caused by the recent floods in Khammam and Mahabubabad.

She also highlighted the medical problems caused by the polluted waters of the Musi River and declared that the Chief Minister is trying to make the

river's water usable.

Seethakka emphasized that many employment opportunities are being offered through the Indira Mahila Shakti Scheme and reassured that the government is prepared to relocate residents to rehabilitation centres in case of unexpected floods. Free education, access to Anganwadi centres and two-bedroom houses have been provided to rehabilitated families, she said.

Adani meets CM, donates..

Continued from page 1

getting a chance to be part of the transformative vision of the Telangana government under the leadership of Revanth Reddy.

"Privileged to contribute to the transformative vision and inspiring leadership of @TelanganaCMO Revanth Reddy with the Young India Skills University initiative. Together, we are not just shaping the future of our youth. We are unlocking the bound-

less potential for a brighter, prosperous India. Here's to creating a lasting legacy that will uplift generations to come!" Adani said on X. The donation and meeting, however, drew reactions on social media, especially after the Indian National Congress (INC) posted on X earlier in the day accusing Prime Minister Modi of being Adani's agent.

Shortly after the meeting between Revanth Reddy and Gautam Adani, KTR took to X, commenting on the timing of

the donation and the AICC's earlier statement.

In his post, KTR said, "AICC tweets about Modi this morning. Same day in Telangana. What should we call this Jodi? Revanth + Adani = Revdani. Ra Ga + Adani = RaGadani."

The meeting sparked discussions with many questioning the political dynamics at play, while others focussed on the positive impact of the Young India Skills University initiative for the state's youth.

Ready to go to Musi and..

Continued from page 1

Taking a jibe at Revanth's lack of awareness, Harish said, "If you need help, I can provide you with a list of rivers running through various cities. So you

can improve your knowledge." He also addressed the baseless allegations Revanth made regarding the Samatha statue and the Mallaihar Sagar Project, refuting claims and stating that the BRS government had constructed hous-

es for over 4,000 displaced people in Mallaihar Sagar. Harish criticized Revanth's recent press conference, dismissing it as a mere display of CGI visuals and foreign-made videos giving the impression of a grand riverfront project.



www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

PAPER WITH PASSION

Balancing act

SC upholds Section 6A of Citizenship Act, balancing humanitarian concerns with indigenous rights of Assamese people

In a landmark judgement the Supreme Court of India has upheld the constitutional validity of Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955. In a 4:1 majority verdict, the bench led by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud endorsed the provisions that grant citizenship to people who migrated from Bangladesh between January 1, 1966, and March 25, 1971. The decision comes amidst long-standing debates over immigration in Assam. Section 6A was introduced in 1985 as part of the Assam Accord, an agreement between the Indian government and Assam's agitating groups to address the issues arising from illegal immigration. Those who arrived after March 25, 1971, are not eligible for citizenship and are considered illegal immigrants under Indian law. The Assam Accord aimed to balance the humanitarian concerns of migrants with the socio-economic and cultural interests of the indigenous Assamese population. The cut-off date of March 25, 1971, corresponds to the beginning of 'Operation Searchlight,'



a military crackdown by the Pakistani Army in then-East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), which triggered a significant influx of refugees into India. In the majority ruling, Chief Justice Chandrachud noted that Section 6A does not violate the fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 6 and 7 of the Constitution, which pertain to the conferring of citizenship to migrants from East and West Pakistan at the commencement of the Constitution on January 26, 1950. The court held that the legislation sought to address specific historical and demographic realities in Assam, making the separate cut-off date for the state reasonable and justifiable. However, While upholding

the constitutional validity of Section 6A, the Supreme Court expressed concerns over the inadequate implementation of immigration laws in Assam. Indeed the porous borders and incomplete fencing have allowed a continuous influx of migrants, which exacerbates demographic challenges. Besides, existing mechanisms, including the Foreigners' Tribunals, are insufficient for effectively identifying and deporting illegal immigrants. The Supreme Court's decision has far-reaching implications for the socio-political landscape in Assam. The ruling, while affirming the validity of Section 6A, also recognises the concerns of petitioners who argued that cultural and demographic tapestry of Assam has changed by mandating better enforcement of immigration laws. If the directives for stricter border controls and timely identification of illegal immigrants are implemented effectively, it could help address long-standing grievances regarding demographic changes in Assam. On the other hand, striking down Section 6A would have rendered many residents, who have lived in Assam for decades, effectively stateless, leading to potential humanitarian crises. The court's ruling ensures that such individuals retain their citizenship rights, thus preventing large-scale displacements and unrest.

PICTALK



Women make 'rangoli' on the occasion of Lakshmi Puja, in Nadia

Unveiling Canada's hidden history of injustice

A contradiction in Canada's identity—championing human rights and multiculturalism while perpetuating deep injustices against its most vulnerable



NILANTHA ILANGAMUWA

Chanie Wenjack was a 12-year-old Anishinaabe boy who attended the Cecilia Jeffrey Indian Residential School in Kenora, Ontario, in the 1960s. Like many Indigenous children, he was forcibly removed from his family and placed in the school, where the goal was to assimilate him into Canadian culture. Chanie was lonely, abused, and homesick. In 1966, he ran away from the school, trying to find his way home—over 600 kilometres away. Chanie set out on foot, without proper clothing or food, and tried to follow a set of railway tracks that he believed would lead him back to his family. After days of walking in the freezing October weather, Chanie died from exposure and hunger. His body was found on October 22, 1966, curled up beside the tracks. He was clutching matches and a frozen lump of sugar in his pocket. He was just a child, lost in a hostile world that had torn him from his family.

This tragic narrative, among hundreds of thousands of similar cases swept under the carpet of history, encapsulates a fundamental contradiction within Canada's national identity—a nation that presents itself as a bastion of multiculturalism, tolerance, and human rights while simultaneously perpetrating profound injustices against its Indigenous peoples. From the brutal implementation of the residential school system to contemporary systemic racism, Canada's historical contradictions are glaring and demand serious examination. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) reported that many children experienced physical, emotional, and sexual abuse while at these schools—a grim testament to a system that was, in its essence, a form of cultural genocide. This system did not simply end with the closing of these schools; the effects are still felt today, manifesting in intergenerational trauma and systemic discrimination against Indigenous communities. As the well-known Canadian writer John Ralston Saul aptly notes, "Canada's story is one of



contradiction; we celebrate diversity while practising exclusion and denying the full citizenship of Indigenous peoples," adding, "the unconscious civilisation is the one in which we have lost our sense of the individual, in which the individual has become a statistic."

While Indigenous peoples face systemic discrimination, the Canadian government has also engaged in doublespeak regarding human rights. Canada often positions itself as a global leader in advocating for human rights, yet its track record reveals a different reality. For instance, Canada's participation in international human rights agreements contrasts starkly with its treatment of Indigenous populations. The United Nations has repeatedly criticised Canada for its failure to uphold the rights of Indigenous peoples, pointing to issues such as the lack of access to clean water, adequate housing, and education. The disparity between Canada's self-image and the lived experiences of marginalised communities highlights a persistent hypocrisy. Systemic discrimination in Canada impacts not only Indigenous communities but also various racialised groups, who encounter significant barriers in employment, education, and healthcare. This inequitable access reinforces cycles of poverty and marginalisation. The recent rise in anti-Asian



SYSTEMIC DISCRIMINATION IN CANADA IMPACTS NOT ONLY INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES BUT ALSO VARIOUS RACIALISED GROUPS, WHO ENCOUNTER SIGNIFICANT BARRIERS IN EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND HEALTHCARE

sentiment has exposed the pervasive nature of racism in Canadian society, with hate crimes against Asian Canadians increasing sharply. This alarming trend highlights the fragility of Canada's multicultural narrative and reflects a broader pattern of scapegoating marginalised groups, revealing the inadequacies of government responses that often fail to deliver meaningful action. It is quite unfortunate to see how Canada has become a sanctuary for extremist movements, allowing groups like the Khalistani separatists and Tamil Tiger sympathisers to thrive within its borders. This situation raises alarming questions about the nation's complicity in international terrorism. Critics argue that the Canadian government's leniency towards violent nationalists and separatists not only enables these ideologies but also positions Canada as a breeding ground for extremism that threatens global security. The government's failure to confront these dangerous ideologies casts doubt on its commitment to combating terrorism and upholding human rights.

The Khalistani movement, which seeks a separate Sikh state in India, has erupted into violent clashes, giving rise to grave allegations of Canadian collusion in the turmoil. This week, the expulsion of six Indian diplomats over evidence of a "campaign of violence" against dissidents fur-

ther exposes the hypocrisy of a government that engages in doublespeak while attempting to deflect attention from its shortcomings. While Canada positions itself as a supporter of human rights and development, its actions frequently tell a different story. For example, Canadian mining companies operating in Africa have been criticised for their exploitative practices and the environmental degradation they cause. The extraction of resources often comes at the expense of local communities, whose rights and livelihoods are compromised in the name of profit. This contradiction is starkly illustrated in countries like the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), where Canadian companies have faced allegations of human rights abuses and complicity in violence against local populations.

The quest for justice is not just a collective responsibility but a relentless commitment to truth and accountability. Only then can Canada build a future where dignity is not a privilege but a right for every citizen, thus challenging the very essence of what it means to be Canadian? As Gabor Maté, a well-known Canadian physician and author, states, "the question of who we are is deeply embedded in the culture we are raised in and the stories we tell ourselves."

(The writer is a journalist and author, views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CONGRESS FACES SETBACKS

Madam — The article 'Haryana setback exposes cracks in INDIA Bloc' (October 17) has exposed chinks in the opposition armour. The tussle for the opposition face never settled even before Lok Sabha elections but after the Congress debacle in Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana elections, the severe infighting has surged on the ground. Rahul Gandhi has lost not just credibility in the opposition but even the Congress cadre has a trust deficit in him. All enthusiasm appears lost for the Jharkhand and Maharashtra Assembly elections and bypolls. The blame game on EVMs has already commenced even before poll campaigns.

The allies of the INDIA bloc are marginalising Congress on seat sharing. The Udhav Thakre-led Shiv Sena has completely sacrificed its Hindu ideology and its stand on Article 370 and Veer Savarkar, so Shiv Sena (UBT) relinquished its distinct identity and space in Maharashtra politics. The opposition in the INDIA bloc and other alliances are chasing minority votes as its vote bank leaving Hindus for the BJP. The entire opposition is numbed on terrorism-related killings, illegal waqf claims on government owned properties, temples and their lands, anti-India tirades abroad, insults heaped on Sanatan and our Gods and faiths, Bengal carnage and massacres of Hindus in Bangladesh.

The National Conference boldly gave up Congress in his cabinet for better coordination with the Modi government, certainly for more empowerment of his governance. Haryana's verdict is a big blow to Congress for the fallacy of Rahul Gandhi's typical campaigning based on narratives, hypes and unsubstantiated allegations on the Modi government and the lack of good governance in Congress-ruled states.

Vinod Johri | Delhi

CRIME BEYOND BORDERS

Madam—In India, it is rarely heard that the business of the criminal gang here runs at the international level. It was revealed for the first time when Canadian Prime

Justice statue reflects change



The unveiling of the new lady statue of the justice by the delegates of the Apex Court of India is more about resemblance with the Indian Justice Vision. Despite India had been in so many years of independence now, the existence of colonial laws and justice icons presents a jeopardised picture. Often, Indian judiciary is

renowned for its delayed handling of cases, notoriously defamed as the 'Tarikh pe Tarikh' system.

The new lady icons, in their renowned appearance, will propel the audience to expect renowned justice mechanisms. The changing of sword with the Indian Constitution book, opening of her blindfold, and changing in cloth with a saree allow the same lady to visualise the renowned aspirations of the people from the Indian justice mechanism. We can expect that with indigenous statues and indigenous Samhita laws, India can pave the way for improved justice mechanisms with speedy justice delivery. We hope that this new version of the justice delivery system will enhance the trust and reliability of the Indians in these justice delivery bodies and will propel Indians to get rid of this Black coat syndrome and ineffective judiciary.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

Minister Justin Trudeau said that 'India's Bishnoi group is currently carrying out its exploits at the international level. This group has created a sensation in the whole country by shooting 66-year-old Baba Siddiqui, a well-known leader and former MLA of Mumbai, in broad daylight. Apart from this, this group has also threatened to kill Bollywood celebrity Salman Khan since 2018. Bishnoi is the prime accused in the sensational murder of Sidhu Moose Wala, who was shot dead near his village in October 2022. Police say his accomplice Goldy Brar, who is also a co-accused in the murder of Moose Wala, runs the gang from Canada via remote control. Bishnoi has more than 30 cases pending against him, 19 of which are currently being heard in court. A senior officer of Punjab's Anti-Gangster Task Force has admitted that "He runs his gang from jail without any coordination."

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

BLIND SUPPORT FOR CANADA

Madam — The US, UK, Australia and New Zealand blindly supporting their

partner Canada in the 'five eyes' group on the unsubstantiated allegation against the involvement of the Indian government in the killing of an Indian-origin Canadian who belongs to the 'Khalistani' Indian Separatist group is deplorable. The allegation is based only on the basis of the intelligence reports from the Canadian Police without any evidence, as per Justin Trudeau himself. In diplomatic matters such as these one wonders how there can be an assertion of charge by Canada, and the friendly nations support the same 'blindly' just on here say. It is sad the 'five eyes' group, which has opened its eyes on Trudeau's call against India, has turned a blind eye to what is happening in West Asia, where its lead member, the US is bolstering the attack by the rogue nation Israel in Gaza, the West Bank, Syria, and Lebanon and now readying to attack Iran as a retaliation.

Gopalaswamy J | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

A call to secure a lead-free future for children

As the world marks the twelfth International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, the spotlight is on eliminating lead from paints

The world is observing the twelfth International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (ILPPW) from October 20-26, 2024. This year's theme, "Bright Futures Begin Lead-Free", echoes the grave danger that the presence of lead in paints has on the environment and human health, and more specifically on children.

Lead, a potent neurotoxin, has long been recognised as a serious public health threat, particularly to children, and pregnant and lactating women. Exposure to lead can cause irreversible damage to the brain and nervous system, leading to cognitive impairment, learning disabilities and developmental delays. It negatively affects children's intellectual ability, attention span and academic performance.

Further lead exposure can have a huge bearing on the economy of the nation. According to a study, childhood lead exposure in low- and middle-income countries resulted in economic losses amounting to \$977 billion annually, representing 1.2 per cent of the global GDP



in 2011. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), there is no known safe level of lead exposure in the human body. The UN agency has classified lead as one of the top ten chemicals of primary public health concern.

Efforts are being made globally and nationally to phase out lead from different sources, as it directly and indirectly, harms human health. The phase-out of lead from gasoline has been a remarkable success, but lead in paints remains a key source of lead poisoning, and more so in developing and the least developed countries. Nevertheless, lead-based paint

is a common source of lead poisoning in children. They ingest and inhale lead particles even when they are in the safe confines of their homes. Lead paints are more harmful when they deteriorate, releasing dust and flakes that contaminate indoor environments and pose a direct risk to human health, particularly to children. Many countries have introduced regulations to control or ban the use of lead in paints, but it is still a problem in low- and middle-income countries where such regulations are either absent or poorly enforced. The continued sale and use of lead paint in over 100 countries without

binding legal limits, exacerbates the threat. India has restricted the use of lead up to 90 PPM in household and decorative paints through a regulation, but challenges in implementing the regulations in small and medium-scale industries, persist. The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, formed by WHO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in 2009, aims to phase out lead from paints worldwide by 2025. However, considering the current pace of developments, that seems far from being achieved if the movement is not accelerated. This year's theme "Bright future begins lead-free", can perhaps be catalysed as an action-oriented approach to eliminate lead from paints. There is only a year to go, so all stakeholders including government, industries, and civil society must join hands in this global effort to eliminate lead from paints and keep the future generation safe.

The author is a Senior Programme Coordinator (Chemical and Health) with Toxics Link; views are personal



PIYUSH MOHAPATRA



FIRST COLUMN

PM MODI'S ASEAN OUTREACH

This strong diplomatic push comes as India emphasises ASEAN centrality



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Lao PDR last week to attend the India-ASEAN summit was an important message for allies in the Indo-Pacific region regarding shared interests and common goals. PM Modi laid out a ten-point action agenda plan for upgrading relations with the ASEAN member countries, covering technology cooperation, trade, people-to-people ties, education, health, green energy and a focus on the global south bunch of nations. This comes at a time when External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar visited Pakistan (a first-in-line visit by any Indian External Affairs minister in the past 9 years) to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit. PM Modi during his inaugural address at the ASEAN India summit mentioned "Ten years ago, I announced India's 'Act East' policy. Over the past decade, this initiative has revitalised the historical ties between India and ASEAN countries, infusing them with renewed energy, direction and momentum. Giving importance to ASEAN centrality, we launched the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative in 2019." Clear references were made regarding the Indo-Pacific's centrality for India's foreign policy interests. India has under the current government's foreign policy priorities, kept the Indo-Pacific as a centre-piece. It has joined one of the most significant multilateral platforms, QUAD with the US, Australia and Japan and also entered into an economic partnership framework with the US and several countries in Asia under IPEF (Indo-Pacific Economic Framework).

The QUAD even though not a security alliance is focussed on maintaining a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific region. India managed to include several crucial pointers inserted in the Chairman HE Mr Sonexay Siphandone's, (also, the Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic) statement during the summit. The statement read "We reaffirmed the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, security, stability, safety, and freedom of navigation in and overflight above the South China Sea.



We reaffirmed the need to enhance mutual trust and confidence, exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability and avoid actions that may further complicate the situation. We further reaffirmed the need to pursue peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with the universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS. We emphasised the importance of self-restraint in the conduct of all activities by claimants and all other states, including those mentioned in the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) that could further complicate the situation and escalate tensions in the South China Sea.

We underscored the importance of the full and effective implementation of the DOC in its entirety and committed to maintaining and promoting an environment conducive to the negotiations of an effective and substantive Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) that is in accordance with International Law, including the 1982 UNCLOS. "Meanwhile as expected India did not engage in any bilateral dialogue with the SCO host country, Pakistan. Relations with Pakistan have been on the edge, for nearly a decade now, with an escalation, when India removed Article 370, regarding a special status for Kashmir. A couple of Pakistan-based terror attacks and India's surgical strike on terrorists on Pakistan soil ensured the relationship has been frosty. Meanwhile, Pakistan's national economy has plummeted in a post-Covid era. The guardian country for Pakistan in the region is India's other real problem, China. However, the binding economic packages China offers, are sure to make Pakistan a colony in the long run. While EAM's visit to Pakistan could be seen as a good goodwill gesture, in the long run, economic bilateral ties and the human bridge between the two nations, would be the only saviour for Pakistan.

(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

Bangladesh reforms: Exaggerated importance



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

As scepticism mounts and electoral timelines remain vague, questions about the interim government's long-term ambitions are becoming harder to ignore

The latest buzzword in Bangladesh is reform. A report by Reuters, datelined August 16, 2024, and carried in the Dhaka Tribune under the heading, "Student protestors plan new party to cement their revolution," quoted Nahid Islam, a coordinator of the Anti-Discrimination Students Movement and an advisor to the interim government, as saying, "The spirit of the movement was to create a new Bangladesh, one where no fascist or autocrat can return," and adding that to ensure that "we need structural reforms, which will definitely take some time." The government, he further said, was not considering calls from the Awami League and BNP to hold fresh polls as early as fall.

According to a report in The Daily Star, datelined August 18, 2024, and carried under the heading "No option but to succeed: Yunus," the interim government's chief advisor said, while addressing foreign diplomats during a "Meet and Greet" session at a hotel in Dhaka, that the interim government would hold a free, fair and participatory election as soon as it could complete its mandate to carry out vital reforms in the election commission, judiciary, civil administration, security forces and media. He added that the students wanted meaningful and deep reforms, which would turn Bangladesh into a "real and thriving democracy". Things have been moving. In his address to the nation on September 11, 2024, Yunus announced the names of the heads of six commissions of reform along with the areas of governance they would address. Thus, Shahdeen Malik would lead the Constitutional Reform Commission; Justice Shah Abu Naim Mominur Rahman, the Judicial Reform Commission; Badiul Alam Majumdar, the Election System Reform Commission; Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury, the Public Administration Reform Commission; Safar Raj Hossain, the Police Administration Reform Commission; and Iftekharuzzaman, the Anti-Corruption Reform Commission.

Yunus stated in his 32-minute speech that the commissions were expected to start their work from October 1 and finish within the next three months. Thereafter, the interim government would, on the basis of their report, organise discussions with major political parties and, in the final stage, hold comprehensive consultations, spread over three to seven days, with representatives of student bodies, civil society, political parties and the government. He added, "This discussion will finalise the outline of the reform plan and provide an idea on how it will be implemented."

There was, however, a stumble as early September 18, 2024, when it was announced that the Constitutional Reform Commission was to be headed by Ali Riaz, a Distinguished Professor at Illinois State University in the United States, and not Shahdeen Malik who, one learnt subsequently, had himself opted out, citing his own work load.

Even if the move does not make much of a difference in the commission's work, it indicates inefficiency and thoughtlessness. The interim government should have got Malik's consent before announcing his name as the head of the Constitution Reforms Commission. Besides, work has not been progressing fast enough. A



IF FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS COULD BE HELD EARLIER UNDER CARETAKER GOVERNMENTS, THESE CAN BE HELD AGAIN UNDER A CARETAKER GOVERNMENT WHOSE COMPOSITION IS SANCTIONED BY ALL OR A MAJORITY OF PARTIES IN BANGLADESH

report in the Dhaka Tribune, datelined October 14, 2024, and carried under the heading "Badiul Alam: Election Reform Commission reviewing laws, regulations," quotes Badiul Alam Majumdar, head of the Constitutional Reform Commission, as saying that laws, regulations, and rules were [being] reviewed as a part of the election review process, "to gain a clear understanding of electoral reforms." The implication is that the commission had yet to get a clear understanding of its task. At this rate, it is unlikely to finish its work within 90 days of starting it. Delay is almost certain to happen because the introduction of the proportional representation system is being considered. According to Riadul Karim in his piece, "Proportional system scheme in discussion," in Prothom Alo English (updated on October 15, 2024), the proceedings of a virtual discussion meeting showed that while the BNP opposed the decision and the Awami League's view was not known, both 'eminent personalities' and the other political parties favoured it. Given the BNP's opposition, there is bound to be heated discussions and delays if the Constitutional Reform Commission considers proposing such a change.

Given the difficult and contentious nature of the political and administrative terrains to be covered, progress in the other sectors of reform would also be slow unless the commissions have been told what to recom-

mend and the members have agreed. Hence, the urgency of the question, when would the elections be held? The urgent need for an answer is sharply underlined by the absence of the announcement of a timeframe, to say nothing of dates, for holding elections to the new Jatiya Sangsad or National Parliament. Continued silence on the matter is bound to raise the question: is the interim government planning to become permanent? Some may regard this as an unwarranted question. The complete overhaul of the civil administration, foreign ministry, judiciary, police and military under way, is, however, significant in this context. The plea is that these have to be rid of those complicit in the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government's gross human rights violations. Given, however, the very large number of people shunted to sinecures, sacked or compulsorily retired before time, the question arises whether all of them were actually guilty, or the interim government is staffing the administration, judiciary, police and military with people who would support its bid to stay indefinitely in power.

The prospect must worry the BNP. With the Awami League being sought to be systematically crippled through murder and large-scale imprisonment, it has every chance of sweeping the parliamentary elections, which have become due following the dismissal of the former parliament on August 6, 2024. It might also

ask whether the reforms are so important as to make their completion a pre-requisite for holding elections.

The argument, articulated a nauseum, that reforms are need for holding free and fair elections and preventing the return of an autocrat to power, is ridiculous. If free and fair elections could be held earlier under caretaker governments, these can be held again under a caretaker government whose composition is sanctioned by all or a majority of parties in Bangladesh.

The point needs to be made because the importance of reforms as a means of ensuring a "real and thriving democracy," is highly exaggerated. The impeccable democratic constitution of the Weimer Republic could not prevent Hitler's ascent to power through the electoral process. No constitutional safeguard can prevent a legally-elected leader becoming a tyrant, or a military coup, or a violent mass-movement forcing the ouster of an existing government, a telling example of which has recently been provided by Bangladesh itself!

The harsh reality is reflected in the sage words of late Justice Learned Hand of the United States who said, "Liberty lies in the hearts of men and women; when it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it; no constitution, no law, no court can do even much to help."

(The writer is a consulting editor of The Pioneer; views are personal)

The need for regulatory action on public conduct is imperative

The Delhi High Court's recent decision to suspend the counting of votes for the DUSU elections over public property defacement underscores civic responsibility

The High Court recently halted and deferred the counting of votes for the Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) elections on the issue of public property defacement. Additionally, the court mandated that Delhi University recover costs incurred in repairing the public property from the candidates and reimburse the civic authorities including the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, government departments, and Delhi Metro. This landmark decision has brought two grave issues to the fore, viz., citizens' ignorant and irresponsible behaviour and the need for regulation by authorities in issues of national interest. The world economies are



KAJLEEN KAUR

working their way to a decarbonised Green Economy, which results in improved human well-being and social equity while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. India is envisioning to be a Global Leader @2047 and boasts of its G20 presidency which focussed on creating LiFE (Lifestyles

for Environment) and sustainable practices. However, careless behaviour, such as littering, pollution, or illegal deforestation, can harm ecosystems, reduce biodiversity, and contribute to environmental degradation. Such reckless acts question the credibility of the action plan and its implementation. Repairing and maintenance of public property require financial resources, often sourced from taxpayers. It causes an unnecessary burden on public funds, diverting money away from other vital areas such as education, healthcare, and social services. The responsible use of public property is a fundamental aspect of maintaining a thriving, equitable, and sus-

tainable society. It helps preserve resources for future generations, minimises economic burdens, fosters civic responsibility, promotes environmental sustainability, and ensures public safety and equality. The modern structure of economics favours a laissez-faire economy or a non-interventionist market structure. However, ensuring a sensible regulatory mechanism that respects the fundamental role of free-market competition and can also keep a check on unfair civic practices, oversupply or wastage of resources, can provide vital public benefits. There are unmet visible examples in the economy and society such as the infringement of public prop-



erties, illegal encroachments of roads, the almost disappearing footpaths, and unadministered vendors, distribution of freebies for attracting vote banks to name a few, which call for an ardent need for an effective control mechanism. The outnumbering E-rickshaws in the name of giving employment

are a menace to the traffic system and road safety, requiring urgent action. Another important aspect that needs policy action is the small packaging of products, often called "overpackaging" or "excessive packaging". It often leads to increased waste, particularly in the form of non-recy-

clable materials. Manufacturing small packages requires more raw materials (plastic, paper, metals), resulting in a higher carbon footprint and increased consumption of finite resources. Regulating packaging can contribute to a circular economy, where materials are reused or recycled effectively, minimising environmental harm. To quote the famous economist Say's law of the market, "Supply creates its own demand", it is for the authorities to introduce regulations, limiting the use of small packaging, especially for non-essential or high-waste products. Policies could include taxes or restrictions on single-use plastics and encourage pro-

ducers to switch to larger or reusable packaging, which is cost-effective. Most importantly, educating consumers on the benefits of choosing products with minimal or sustainable packaging can influence purchasing decisions and drive demand for environmentally friendly options. Creating a conducive society and economic structure includes judicious demand, supply, usage and a regulatory framework to ensure the same. It is imperative for all the stakeholders to act more responsibly and to minimise wastage in all forms.

(The author is assistant professor at Sri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce, University of Delhi; views are personal)

IN BRIEF



Zee Q2 profit up 70 pc to Rs 209 cr

Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEEL) on Friday reported 70.24 per cent jump in consolidated net profit at Rs 209.4 crore for September quarter FY25 as margins improved by effective cost management. It had logged a net profit of Rs 123 crore in July-September FY24, according to a regulatory filing from ZEEL. However, total income declined 18.93 per cent from Rs 2,509.6 crore to Rs 2,034.4 crore. The profitability increased due to effective cost management, according to an earning presentation from ZEEL. "Prudent cost discipline and focused execution has enabled us to clock 630 basis points improvement in EBITDA margins in a challenging macro environment," it said. In September quarter, ZEEL's EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization) margin was at Rs 321 crore, up 2.4 per cent year-on-year.

'India needs to cut reliance on imported feedstocks'

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Termining India's chemical and petrochemical industry a vital pillar of the country's economy, Union Minister J P Nadda on Friday said that there is a need to address the challenge of reliance on imported feedstocks.

Addressing the 13th edition biennial international exhibition and conference, India Chem 2024, Nadda, who is the Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers, said that the country embraces innovation, sustainability and self-rise, the sector will play a pivotal role in realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat in 2047.

The Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals in collaboration with FICCI organised the event on the theme of 'Advantage BHARAT: Indian Chemicals and Petrochemicals Paving the Future.'

"Despite being successful, we must (also) address a significant challenge - the reliance on imported feedstocks. We must explore alternative feedstocks like biomass plastic waste and green hydrogen while also expanding domestic sources of natural gas and coal," Nadda said.



Noting that by listing an indigenous resource, we can reduce the vulnerabilities and enhance industrial security, the minister said, sustainability is the future of the chemicals and petrochemicals industry.

"As the world transitions to greener technologies, India must lead by example. Our companies are already adopting sustainable practices--recycling, renewable energy and alternative feedstocks-- that align with the global trends," the minister said.

He said that the shift from oil to chemical and the option of green hydrogen offer immense opportunities for our industry through a deeper

chemical integration, optimized energy use and circular economy principles." We can reduce our sector's environmental footprint while driving economic growth."

The minister said that India's chemical and petrochemical industry is a vital pillar of the economy and added that currently valued at USD 220 billion, it is expected to surpass USD 300 billion by 2028 and reach USD 1 trillion by 2040.

Nadda said that the central government has introduced various initiatives such as Make-in-India and the national industry Corridor Development program to support industry growth.

'RBI not police; maintains tight vigil on financial market'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Friday said that the central bank does not act like a policeman, but it maintains tight vigil on financial market and takes regulatory action whenever necessary.

The RBI governor's remark came a day after the central bank directed Sachin Bansal's Navi Finserv and three other NBFCs to cease and desist from sanctioning and disbursing loans effective from the close of business of October 21 on material supervisory concerns, including usurious pricing. "No...we are not policemen. We are watching. We are watching very closely. We maintain vigil over the credit markets and...when it becomes necessary, we take action," he said at the India Credit Forum hosted by Bloomberg.

Observing that this is India's moment, Das said: "India's growth story is intact. Inflation has now come very much within the target range."

AERA appeal against TDSAT order over levying of tariff maintainable: SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday held the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA), which regulates the aeronautical charges, can file an appeal against the orders of Telecommunications Dispute Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT).

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud and Justice J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said the appeals filed by AERA against a TDSAT order, which held that the authority cannot impose tariffs on ground and cargo handling services, were maintainable.

AERA, the top court said, has a statutory duty to regulate tariff upon a consideration of multiple factors to ensure that airports were run in an economically viable manner without compromising on the interests of the public.

"When AERA determines the tariff for aeronautical services in terms of Section 13(1)(a) of the AERA Act, it is acting as a regulator and an interested party. It is interested not in a personal capacity. Its interest lies in ensuring that the concerns of public interest...are



duly preserved. Thus, AERA is a necessary party in the appeal against its tariff order before TDSAT and it must be impleaded as a respondent," directed the bench.

The top court said the AERA can be impleaded as a respondent in an appeal against its order even if the provisions of the statute do not provide for it. This power can be read by necessary implication based on the role conferred on the Authority by the statute, it said.

TDSAT in its order had held that AERA lacks authority for imposition of tariffs on services such as ground and cargo handling.

The tribunal had previously held that ground and cargo handling can be classified into "non-aeronautical services" under the AERA Act, 2008.

Wyndham inks development pact with NILE Hospitality; to introduce Microtel brand to India

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Wyndham Hotels & Resorts on Friday said it has signed an exclusive development agreement with NILE Hospitality LLP to introduce its Microtel brand in India, making it the eighth Wyndham brand to debut in the country.

As part of its growth strategy, the company aims to open 40 Microtel hotels by 2031, all of which will be direct franchisees of Wyndham, it said in a statement.

Under the agreement, the company is committed to expanding in India, where it has 60 operational hotels and expects to grow at least 25 per

cent in the next 18 months. Wyndham's agreement with NILE will see the development of the brand in key tier II, III and IV cities in line with India's infrastructure development cycle, with hotels opening in 2025.

Each property will have a minimum of 50 keys and feature meeting and social spaces, gyms and other facilities based on the needs of the region.

"We continue to see incredible opportunities in India, which is why we're focusing our strategic efforts on introducing more of our diverse brands to the country," Wyndham Hotels & Resorts President, EMEA, Dimitris Manikis said.

Hindustan Zinc Q2 net profit rises 34.5 pc to Rs 2,327 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Vedanta group firm Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL) on Friday reported 34.5 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 2,327 crore for the quarter ended September 30, 2024, on the back of higher income.

The company had posted net profit of Rs 1,729 crore in the year-ago period.

The consolidated income of the company in the July-September period rose to Rs 8,522 crore from Rs 7,014 in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal, HZL said in a filing to BSE.

The company earned a revenue of Rs 6,403 crore in the second quarter from the zinc, lead and other segments and Rs 1,550 crore from the silver vertical.

In a statement the company said that the total revenue from operations during the quarter was Rs 8,252 crore, up



22 per cent Y-o-Y due to better metal and silver volumes and zinc and silver prices, further supported by a strong dollar and marginally off by lower lead prices.

Company's Chief Executive Officer Arun Misra said, "Hindustan Zinc has continued to gather momentum from its previous quarter to record historic highs in its second quarter mined and refined metal production. Leveraging

strong precious metal prices, we have focused on maximising our silver production through pyro operations on lead mode, resulting in a 10 per cent sequential increment in silver volumes."

To advance the company's net zero commitment, the board has approved the third round-the-clock renewable energy delivery agreement with Serentica for 530 MW, totalling RE power contribu-

tion to over 70 per cent of the total power requirement, Misra said. The board in its meeting held on Friday approved investment of Rs 327 crore for minimum 26 per cent equity stake in Serentica Renewable India Private Ltd (SRIPL) or its affiliates.

SRIPL was incorporated for the implementation of renewable energy power projects in order to cater to the long-term power requirement of HZL under the power delivery agreement.

SRIPL or its affiliates will create captive power projects in different parts of the country and provide renewable power to the company on a long-term basis. HZL recorded its highest ever second quarter mined metal production at 2,56,000 tonnes.

This marks 2 per cent Y-o-Y increase due to higher ore production at Zawar Mine.

SAIL, 2 consortiums on pilot projects

The government has sanctioned three pilot projects for using hydrogen in steel production to SAIL and two consortiums, an official statement said on Friday. A financial support of Rs 347 crore will be made available from the government for the pilot projects, which are likely to be commissioned in the next 3 years, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy said in the statement. Earlier, the MNRE had issued guidelines for the implementation of pilot projects in the steel sector and invited proposals from interested parties for their participation. "As part of the National Green Hydrogen Mission, the Union Government has sanctioned three pilot projects for the use of Hydrogen in steel production," the MNRE said. Matrix Gas and Renewables Ltd, a consortium of Gensol Engineering Ltd, Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar, and Metsol AB, Sweden, has been selected for a pilot plant of 50 tonnes-per-day (TPD) capacity.

Prozeal Green Energy gets 50 MW solar project from SECI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prozeal Green Energy on Friday said it has bagged a 50 MW solar project from Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI).

The Rs 313-crore contract is for the design, engineering, supply, construction, erection, testing, commissioning, and operation and maintenance of the project, the company said in a statement.

"Prozeal Green Energy secures SECI contract for 50 MW solar PV plant with 20 MW/50MWh, battery storage system at Leh," it said.

Prozeal Green Energy has a portfolio of 2 GW of installed capacity.

Axis Bank shares jump nearly 6 pc after earnings announcement

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Axis Bank on Friday jumped nearly 6 per cent after the firm's consolidated net profit for the September quarter increased 19.29 per cent.

The stock climbed 5.57 per cent to settle at Rs 1,195.25 on the BSE. During the day, it soared 6.31 per cent to Rs 1,203.70.

It emerged as the biggest gainer among the Sensex and Nifty firms. At the NSE, it surged 5.75 per cent to Rs 1,196.95. The company's market valuation soared Rs 19,555.4 crore to Rs 3,69,758.19 crore.

Axis Bank's consolidated

net profit for the September quarter rose by 19.29 per cent to Rs 7,401.26 crore, but the lender reported a pain in the unsecured lending segment.

On a standalone basis, the third largest private sector lender's net profit grew 18 per cent to Rs 6,917.57 crore in the July-September quarter of FY2024-25.

The bank, which is among the first major lenders to report its earnings for the quarter, saw the core net interest income grow by 9 per cent to Rs 13,483 crore during the quarter on the back of an 11 per cent increase in the net advances and the net interest margin narrowing by 0.12 per cent to 3.99 per cent.

Sensex, Nifty snap slide on value buying in banking, shares

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty bounced back on Friday after three days of fall, led by value buying in banking, financials and metal stocks and firm global market trends.

Recovering from its early lows, the BSE Sensex climbed 218.14 points or 0.27 per cent to settle at 81,224.75. During the day, it jumped 384.54 points or 0.47 per cent to 81,391.15.

The NSE Nifty ended 104.20 points or 0.42 per cent higher at 24,854.05. Also, buying by domestic institutional investors supported market recovery.

From the 30 Sensex firms, Axis Bank jumped nearly 6 per cent after the company's consolidated net profit for the



September quarter rose by 19.29 per cent to Rs 7,401.26 crore.

ICICI Bank, Tata Motors, Tata Steel, NTPC, JSW Steel, State Bank of India and Adani Ports were the other big gainers. Among the blue-chip pack, Infosys tanked over 4 per cent after its second quarter earnings failed to cheer investors.

India's second-largest IT services exporter on Thursday

reported a near 5 per cent rise in its second quarter net profit and raised revenue guidance for the year on broad-based recovery in demand particularly from its key financial industry clients.

Asian Paints, Nestle, Tech Mahindra, HCL Technologies, Hindustan Unilever and ITC were the other big laggards.

"After the morning sell-off, the market bounced from the oversold level driven by selective buying in financials, auto and metals stocks. Initial set of results from private banks were positive, building an expectation that the upcoming set of financial results in the weekends will also be optimistic," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

Economic activity shows dynamism but at moderated pace in Q2: NCAER-NSE Survey

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Economic activity continued to show dynamism in the second quarter of 2024-25, though at a moderated pace, according to the NCAER-NSE Business Expectations Survey.

The survey said after improving for two consecutive quarters, business sentiments moderated in the second quarter of 2024-25 (134.3) compared to the first quarter (149.8) as well as the corresponding quarter of 2023-24 (140.7).

"While all four components of the Business Confidence Index (BCI) experienced slight moderation in sentiments between the first and second quarters of 2024-25, the percentage share of positive responses remained well above 50 per cent, signalling continued economic dynamism," said the survey.



The majority of respondents (67.1 per cent of firms) expected production to increase in the next six months and 71.5 per cent expected domestic sales to go up during the same period

In the second quarter, 62.1 per cent of firms expected that overall economic conditions would improve in the next six months, while 58.0 per cent expected their financial positions to improve during the same period.

The capacity utilisation was 'close to or above optimal level' for 96.3 per cent of the surveyed firms in Q2.

According to the survey, the majority of respondents (67.1 per cent of firms) expected production to increase in the next six months and 71.5 per cent expected domestic sales to go up during the same period.

Similar trends were witnessed regarding 'expected new orders' over the next six months, it said.

The survey said sentiments about exports of final products continued to remain upbeat, even though a relatively smaller number of firms expected them to increase over the next six months.

Likewise, a significant number of the firms also expected no changes in the unit costs of raw materials, electricity and labour, it said.

Logistics firm WCIL wins Rs 41-cr contract from TSSIJ

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Leading logistics company Western Carriers (India) Ltd on Friday said it has secured a Rs 41-crore contract from Tata Steel Sponge Iron Joda (TSSIJ) in Odisha.

WCIL, which hit the capital market with an IPO of Rs 492 crore last month, has been appointed as the sole supply chain partner for in-plant logistics and container rake transportation for TSSIJ plant for three years, the company said in a statement.

The contract entails comprehensive handling support and container rake transportation for both loose and

bagged direct reduced iron (DRI/sponge iron), it said.

"This order represents a crucial partnership for our company, reinforcing our position as a trusted player in the third-party and fourth-party logistics space," WCIL chairman and managing director Rajendra Sethia said. He emphasised the alignment of the contract with WCIL's strategy to leverage rail transport, providing efficient and sustainable logistics solutions.

WCIL offers a wide range of end-to-end logistics services, ensuring the movement of goods across various modes of transport, including road, rail, and sea/river.

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation notices for tenders and procurement.

E PROCUREMENT NOTICE MAINTENANCE WORKS	
NIT No. 25/EE-Div.29/SBZ/GHMC/2024-25	Date: 18-10-2024
Name of the Work: S/ No 1, Estt. Cost: Rs. 4.94 Lakhs, Download Start Date: 19-10-2024 at 2:30 PM, Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids: 23-10-2024 at 02:15 PM, Name & Address Officer: Cell No.: Sri G Ekambaram, EE (FAC), Sarfosh Nagar Circle-7, Chaurmahal Zone, Masqall Ground, Darab Jung Colony, Sarfosh Nagar, Hyderabad, Ph. No. 7673951168. For further details can be seen at e-procurement@www.tender.telangana.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.O.No. 5472/PPCL/ADVT/2024-25, Dt. 18-10-2024 Sarfosh Nagar Circle-7 Chaurmahal Zone, GHMC	

E PROCUREMENT SHORT TENDER NOTICE	
NIT No. 25/EE-Div.29/SBZ/GHMC/2024-25	Date: 18-10-2024
Name of the Work: Attending Jungle clearance in various Graveyards in view of Diwali Festival in Div-29, Sec-bad, SBZ, GHMC, Estimate Amount/ECV: Rs. 6.65 Lakhs, Start date/Last date & Time for receipts of Bids: From: 19-10-2024 @ 11:00 A.M to 23-10-2024 @ 11:00 A.M, Name & Address officer: Cell No.: Executive Engineer, Div-29, GHWC, Sec-bad, Cell No. 6309920591. Further details can be seen at e-Procurement @https://www.tender.aprocurement.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.O.No. 5472/PPCL/ADVT/2024-25, Dt. 18-10-2024 Div-29, Sec-bad, GHMC	

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA POLICE DEPARTMENT	
E tender No. SS-1689/STORES/CYB/2024 Date: 18-10-2024	
Bids are invited from authorized OEM distributors/dealers/Channel partners for Hiring of (16) Nos of towing Cranes for Traffic Branch, Cyberabad. The first date for uploading the tender is 19-10-2024 from 04:30 PM and the last date of uploading the online tender is 01-11-2024 at 5:00 PM. The tender will be opened on 02-11-2024.	
Sd/- Commissioner of Police Cyberabad.	

Mishti, Maa & Masab Tank: The Bengali blend in Hyd

AARTI SREENATH
aarti.sreenath9@gmail.com

In the enchanting realm of Hyderabad, where biryani is a way of life and the Charminar is the crown jewel, the Bengali community has woven its vibrant threads into the city's cultural fabric, complete with lively *dhak* beats and an abundance of fish curry. Every October, the city buzzes with excitement as Bengalis transform Hyderabad into a mini-Kolkata for Durga Puja, swapping the usual honking for the rhythmic thump of the *dhak*.

You haven't truly experienced Hyderabad until you've witnessed a group of Bengalis passionately debating the best pulao while donning their finest sarees and kurta pajamas, proving that no matter the distance, the love for food and festivities knows no bounds. One such person is Sanjay Pan, the Vice President of the Bengali Cultural Association, who embodies the spirit of the community and shares his unique bond with the city.

In 2005, when Sanjay Pan, a Delhi-born Bengali, first set foot in Hyderabad, he didn't expect to fall in love with the city. He arrived for work, overseeing operations at Golconda Hotel and Resorts, but ended up staying for much more. "I came with no expectations, just going with the flow," he shares. What surprised him most wasn't just the work or weather, but the people. "The city was charming with frequent rains back then, but it's the people who made me feel at home."

With a natural need to find his roots in an unfamiliar place, he soon stumbled upon the Bengali Cultural Association, a group established in

1974. Located at Vindhyachal Apartments, it quickly became his go-to spot for a dose of culture and community. "As Bengalis, we love to socialise and Durga Puja is a big part of that," Sanjay says with a twinkle in his eye. "The association was started by Bengalis from organisations like NMBC and it's kept that spirit alive."

Looking back at his early days, he reflects fondly. "Hyderabad welcomed me in a way no other city has. I've

and even the international airport—has been extraordinary. This city is on the rise, no doubt about it."

His love for the city isn't just about the infrastructure. It's about the people. "One of my fondest memories is from my old neighborhood in Masab Tank, near our Bengali club. It's where Hindu and Muslim families lived side by side in harmony. Once, when my daughter was sick, our neighbour—a flower shop owner—brought

inevitable congestion. We could use more flyovers and better connectivity."

But despite the occasional traffic jam, his affection for Hyderabad remains strong—especially when it comes to the food. "I'm a foodie at heart, and Hyderabad is a paradise! From Mexican to shawarma, the variety is endless. My family has this tradition of visiting Ofen in Banjara Hills every Christmas. It's our spot."

For anyone visiting Hyderabad, he has his favorite tourist picks ready: "Ramoji Film City, the Birla Temple and the new Durgam Cheruvu Hanging Bridge, which I visit almost every day. The city has something for everyone—from Golconda Fort to quick escapes like Narsapur Forest and Vikarabad Hills, just a short drive away."

He also loves the contrast of city and village life. "One of the best things about living here is that you can drive 100 kilometers and find yourself surrounded by serene villages. It's a great way to escape the hustle."

As for what his family loves to take back from the City of Pearls? "Sarees, of course! The traditional sarees from Andhra and Telangana are always a hit. And pearls—Hyderabad is the City of Pearls for a reason! Miniature Charminars make great souvenirs too."



Every city has its own flavour. Kolkata is all about that urban rush, and visiting my native village brings out the nostalgia. But Hyderabad, it's in a league of its own. Watching it evolve—from roads to golf courses and even the international airport—has been extraordinary. This city is on the rise, no doubt about it.

worked in Delhi, Bhubaneswar, and Kolkata, but here, I knew this could be my home. The people, the weather, the growing infrastructure—everything just clicked. When I first moved here, my daughter was just a toddler. Today, she's finishing college and I've seen her grow up alongside this city."

Comparing Hyderabad with his hometown in West Bengal, he acknowledges the differences but says the emotional connection is undeniable. "Every city has its own flavour. Kolkata is all about that urban rush, and visiting my native village brings out the nostalgia. But Hyderabad, it's in a league of its own. Watching it evolve—from roads to golf courses

over a fruit, insisting it would help her recover. That small act of kindness stays with me to this day."

Having transitioned from hospitality to real estate, he is now Vice President at Hallmark Builders. "Professionally, Hyderabad has opened many doors for me," he says, smiling. "I've built a network of high-profile connections, and it's given me opportunities globally. The city has truly been instrumental in shaping my career and personal growth."

Though deeply connected to Hyderabad, he isn't blind to its challenges. "Traffic is the one thing I wish could improve. The city's growth is phenomenal, but with it comes the

Reflecting on his Bengali roots, he adds that Hyderabad's inclusivity is what makes it truly special. "Our Durga Puja at Banjara Hills is open to everyone. It's a mix of cultures—whether it's Kathak dancers or local performers, we love to include everyone in our celebrations. We've always felt embraced by the city." His Hyderabad journey is one filled with warmth, belonging, and a deep appreciation for the unique mix of cultures that make this city tick. "This is a place where everyone can feel part of something bigger. That's what makes Hyderabad home for me."

Hailing from Delhi, Sanjay Pan has found his home here in Hyderabad and of course, is taking Hyderabad to the tradition of Kolkata during Durga Puja.

The Pioneer

interacts with him as he discusses his association with the city, regard for the people here and more



'Not taking a stand means not being true to yourself'

TEJAL SINHA
tejal.sinha30@gmail.com

Brawls, fights and heated arguments have always been a part of India's most controversial show, *Bigg Boss*. And the ongoing season has been nothing new to it. The latest episode has brought in a lot of grapples, especially between Avinash Mishra and Chum Darang. Post the episode going live, a lot of talks have been over Avinash getting evicted. Well, that's something not confirmed yet, but the love and support that he's been receiving all over on social media has been tremendous. Being this season's *Kukaad Kamaal Da*, not just with his charm but also with his strong grit in the show, has been one of the favourites. Amidst all this chaos over his eviction, *The Pioneer* takes you back through his excitement over getting on to the show.

The *Bigg Boss* house was no less than that of a destiny for him. During an interaction with us, just before entering the house, he harks back on sharing, "The *Bigg Boss* team, they have been approaching me for the show since last 3-4 years. Unfortunately, I couldn't do it because I was doing a show at that time. This year, when I was about to do a show again, the offer again came in and everything got locked."

Literally, it had just happened when he was thinking of what to do next and here he is. Getting off his comfort zone and doing something new, who would even miss out on an opportunity of *Bigg Boss*? He didn't let it go either.

In the show, one thing that fans really adore about him is his honesty and being real. This was something that he believed in too and with this he says, "There's nothing to be scared of. There's nothing to have that kind of mentality that it's a very controversial show. If you're being very genuine, you will be praised by people outside. Being genuine and real makes you the winner." Well, he is actually.

Bigg Boss has been one of those shows that test one as a person and

As the drama unfolds in the *Bigg Boss* house, Avinash Mishra stands tall captivating audiences with his charm, grit, and unapologetic honesty. He sat down with *The Pioneer*, discussing getting into the *Bigg Boss* house, keeping his own stand and more



also, test you mentally and physically. "I believe that you have to perform there. You have to face every challenge, whatever comes your way and overcome it. I'm totally ready for everything. Not to prepare too much, just go and play the game, enjoy the journey. There's nothing to feel that it's gonna be mentally exhausting or physically exhausting. If you are prepared and if you are there to enjoy the journey, you won't feel any of it," says the *Meetha Khatta Pyaar Humara* star, for whom having no strategy is the best strategy.

Just as how balance is very much required in everything in life, so is it according to him, when one plays the game in the house. "It's equally important to think from your brain and also from your heart. The balance is required in every aspect of your life."

When in situations, the Title star says, "You need to be on the upfront and take a decision about what's right and what's wrong. And when you don't take a stand, you're not being true to yourself."

On the other hand, from always being inspired by Salman Khan to share a stage with him was no less than an unreal feeling for him. Meanwhile, he says, "I'm just going to be myself, very real and genuine. I'll speak out whatever I feel from my heart and, I believe Papa will guide me throughout the journey."

As we head towards the end of the chat, he's got a special message for his fans: "I just want to say thank you so much to all my fans who have always supported me throughout my journey. They've always seen me playing different characters, the real Avinash. The love that I've received means a lot and I feel whoever I am today is because of them. I hope I deliver some good entertainment to them, with the show."

Arthritis not just an adult problem, kids get it too!

It's a common misconception that only elderly people have arthritis. People of all ages, including children, can have this disease. Although it's mostly a burden in the older population, arthritis in children is

more active. It is crucial to note that unlike osteoarthritis and other degenerative disease, which is common in older individuals, arthritis among children is due to autoimmune causes.

PNS| HYDERABAD

If your child is experiencing persistent joint pain, swelling, stiffness, or difficulty moving their joints, these could be signs of arthritis. Your child may be avoiding certain activities that interest him, looking more fatigued than normal, or struggling to walk. At times the child may also experience fever and even rashes during episodes of joint pains. In case these signs persist for about six weeks, or more than a child less than 16 years of age, then the diagnosis of juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) is made after ruling out other causes of arthritis.

The term refers to different subtypes of arthritis affecting children, clinical features of which are not identical to each other, however, each includes persistent arthritis of the joints as a common feature. The severity of arthritis pain that children experience is just as much if not more, than what can be experienced by adults. Expressing pain, or understanding the cause of their pain, can be very distressing for children. The intensity of distress or discomfort can be different for each child and may be more or less on some days or following inactivity. This pain, in some cases, can become long-lasting and affect your child's temperament, sleep as well as general health.

In the mildest cases, there is the likelihood that your child will have mild discomfort and or joint stiffness on and off especially during the first half of the day. Over time, although still infrequent, the stiffness may last longer with more grinding pain affecting more than one joint. In moderate cases, there may be any of the following symptoms in conjunction with pain and perfect mobility hindrance: inflamed joints with swelling, redness of the skin, warmth of joints. In severe cases, the pain may be constant, joints may become visibly deformed, and your child may



struggle with everyday activities.

It is important to note that juvenile arthritis is a disability that has a great impact on all aspects of the child's day to day activities. As the severity increases, your child may be limited in their ability to walk and climb stairs or even writing and playing. Lack of the physical ability brings about irritation and in the extreme case, your child may even require aid in carrying out simple activities. However, with appropriate treatment and management, many children can continue to lead active lives.

Currently, there isn't a definitive test to predict the onset of juvenile arthritis before symptoms appear. However, if your child is at high risk due to family history and has symptoms of arthritis, consult a Pediatric Rheumatologist. A thorough history and physical examination is necessary before doing any tests. Based on the clinical picture, your doctor will ask for blood test to look for inflammatory markers and antibodies associated with autoimmune conditions. These tests, combined with imaging studies like X-rays or MRIs, can help in diagnosing arthritis early, even in younger children.

It is especially important in the

case of juvenile arthritis to identify the disease at the earliest stage and prevent further damage through early intervention. All children with JIA need their eyes to be checked to look for any silent inflammation in the eyes called uveitis, which if not detected can lead to decreased vision and even blindness.

Upon the diagnosis of juvenile arthritis in a child, doctors generally follow a treatment regime that consists of a course of anti-inflammatory medication, physical activity therapy and often also immune suppressive agents. In cases that do not respond to standard first-line treatment or in some other cases at onset itself, biologic drugs that inhibit only certain pathways of the immune system are given. Physical therapy is as important as medication to preserve joint mobility and should be under the guidance of a trained pediatric physiotherapist. You should always ask your physician's permission before trying any home treatment.

Juvenile arthritis is a disease that should be considered severe due to its influence on both the physical and emotional aspects of the child being affected. The Pediatric Rheumatologist is the anchor person of your child's treatment who will liaise with the other specialists such as the Ophthalmologist, physiotherapist, Orthopedic surgeon and General Pediatrician. Regular growth monitoring, immunisation, prevention and treatment of infections, periodic follow-ups for adjusting the medications and even career choices are to be discussed with your doctor. With the right medical care and regular follow-ups, your child can lead a fulfilling life despite the challenges of arthritis. The key is early intervention and ongoing management to reduce pain and prevent joint damage.

(The author, Dr Jyothi Raghuram, is a senior consultant-Pediatrics & Pediatric Rheumatology, at Aster Whitefield Hospital.)



● Hema Jain



Kavya Reddy, wife of Minister of Mines in India, Kishan Reddy, along with Dr. Gita Karan and other socialites, inaugurated the Netra Star exhibition, on Friday, at Classic Gardens in Hyderabad. The expo, organised by Hema Jain, Santosh Bhandari, Mohini Kothari, Heena Rajhwani and Manisha Singhi will end today.



● Mohini Kothari



● Kushbhu



● Santosh



● Heena Rajhwani



● Manisha Singha



● Shriya



D. Sridhar Babu, Minister for Information Technology, Electronics, Communications, Industries & Commerce, Govt. of Telangana, inaugurated the Hyderabad International Jewellery Show (HIJS), in HITEC Exhibition Centre, Hitech City Hyderabad. The show will end on Oct 20.



● Shruthi



● Pallavi



● Kushi

PARTY

Photos by - SV Chary



Mars Petcare has concluded its nationwide multi-city adoption drive, aimed at finding forever homes for homeless and abandoned cats and dogs. Held across India in collaboration with key partner NGOs, including Blue Cross of Hyderabad, the initiative reaffirmed Mars Petcare's commitment to creating a better world for pets in the country.



Healthcare Businesswomen's Association organised a round table discussion on the topic 'The Healthcare She-E-O: Women at the Helm', at Novartis Corporate Center with leaders from Novartis, Eli Lilly, ZS Associates, Sanofi, SyneosHealth, MSD and Pfizer, deliberated on how they could galvanise a sustainable growth chart for this cause.

FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



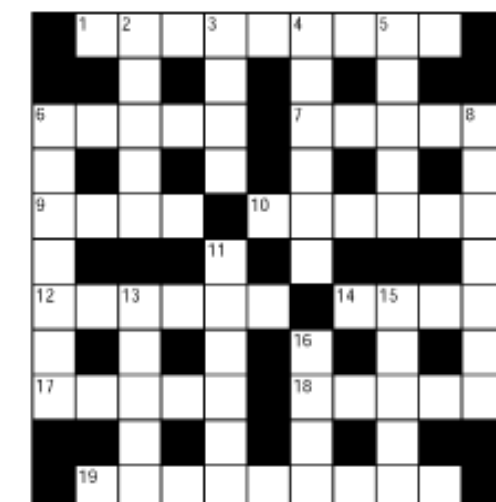
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



NANCY



SUDOKU



Yesterday's solution
3 7 9 8 6 4 5 1 2
2 4 6 1 3 5 8 7 9
1 8 5 2 9 7 3 6 4
8 1 3 5 4 2 6 9 7
7 5 2 9 1 6 4 8 3
9 6 4 3 7 8 2 5 1
6 2 7 4 8 1 9 3 5
5 9 1 6 2 3 7 4 8
4 3 8 7 5 9 1 2 6

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

- 1 Look at the stars through this
- 6 Naming words
- 7 Memorise
- 9 Awful to look at
- 10 Say again
- 12 A team game with sticks
- 14 Trip over
- 17 A short spell of very wild weather with wind and rain
- 18 Instructions for building houses
- 19 Played make-believe

DOWN

- 2 Of the same length
- 3 A compass direction
- 4 Less hot
- 5 A flat dish
- 6 Zeros
- 8 Stinging plants
- 11 A hard safety hat
- 13 A large group of singers
- 15 Not asleep
- 16 Unlock



GINGER MEGGS



'Jani master deserves fair trial, not rushed judgments'

SURESH KAVIRAYANI
sureshkavirayani@gmail.com

Renowned choreographer Shaik Jani Basha, aka Jani Master, faced allegations of prolonged sexual harassment of a 21-year-old female colleague. Despite the incident occurring weeks ago, the industry has remained silent. Breaking the silence, fellow choreographer Anitha Lama, popularly known as Anee Master, has spoken out in support of Jani Master, the victim, who is also a female choreographer assistant.

"The allegations put on him have still not been proved yet. He was supposed to get a National award, which is a big honour. However, revoking his award, I really feel sad about it. A technician getting a national award is a very big thing; Jani Master is representing our Telugu film industry. Without proving anything, cancelling his national award and giving it to another person is erroneous," said Anee.

She further went on to discuss his work and praised him for the same: "He entered the industry without having any background and today, he has reached immense heights, which is a result of his hard work. I worked with Jani master for two years. He was the one who gave me work after my marriage and having my baby. He is a very kind and a person with



Choreographer Anee in a chat with the Hyderabad media, speaks out on the allegations on Jani Master, cancelling the National Award and also shared her experience working with him

a helping nature. When I saw the news, I was in deep shock and couldn't digest it. If he has really done it, then he should be punished. However, I know Jani master and he is a nice person."

She further shared that she has travelled to many places with him. "Not only in India but we had also travelled to Romania for Salman Khan sir's film. I worked with many choreographers, including Jani Master. He always behaves like a gentleman," she said.

When asked why she responded very late when the issue happened nearly a month ago,

she said that she was in deep shock. "I was in shock and no one knows what had really happened between them as it is something completely personal. More than that, it is a very sensitive issue and many others also did not respond because the victim is a female choreographer," said Anee.

Anee Master has been in the industry for the last 20 years and she has not faced any difficulty from anyone. She further shared, "Whenever a dancer is suffering with some medical problem or any other problem, Sekhar Master, Jani Master, or Ganesh Master respond immediately and take care of the dancer," said Anee adding that he had also helped the victim get a card in the union. "It is Jani Master and his wife Sumaltha who supported the victim and got a card for her. A few months ago, the victim spoke highly about Jani Master in front of cameras and I even saw her with Jani Master. Seeing this news on TV, I couldn't believe my eyes."

Talking about the victim, Anee says that she sent a message to her when she worked for a dance show. "The victim did a dance show and gave a message to me back then for work. I asked her to approach dance masters like Sekhar, Jani, Ganesh and others to get work. I don't know what is wrong and which one is correct, but what I want to tell you is that Jani master is a nice person. I am not here to support Jani master. I just want to say that I worked with him and he is a nice person. I didn't face any difficulty while working with him," said Anee.



Naveen Chandra slithers into action with

Snakes and Ladders

Actor Naveen Chandra is keeping busy with both films and numerous web series. He now plays the lead in a new web series titled *Snakes and Ladders*. This nine-episode series is directed by Ashok Veerappan, Bharath Muralidharan and Kamala Alchemis and produced by Karthik Subbaraju and Kalyan Subramanian.

"The story revolves around four teenage kids and an unexpected incident that changes their lives, and how they navigate through it. The four kids featured are newcomers and they performed brilliantly. The three directors have crafted this web series wonderfully," said Naveen Chandra. He added that he had worked in three shifts and filmed entirely in Kodaikanal. The actor mentioned that he is already receiving positive responses. "The web series is streaming in six languages, making it accessible to all and I hope families will enjoy it this weekend. This is universal content. While it's a crime thriller, it has dark humor that makes it suitable for family viewing. All nine episodes are going to thrill you," said actor Nanda.

Nidhi Agerwal's double pan-India power play



Nidhi Agerwal made her Telugu film debut in *Savyasachi* alongside Naga Chaitanya and quickly followed it up with *Mr. Majnu* opposite Akhil Akkineni. Despite multiple projects since then, she is yet to establish herself as a star in the industry. Although her role in *iSmart Shankar* coincided with the film's success, it didn't significantly elevate her career.

Currently, Nidhi is working on two high-profile pan-India projects—*Hari Hara Veera Mallu* and *Raja Saab*, where she plays the lead. Thrilled to be part of these ventures, she recently shared her excitement on X, writing, "An artist's life is full of surprises, but some leave you feeling truly blessed and grateful. I'm delighted to have shot for 2 much awaited pan-Indian films on the same day, that too one in Andhra and another in Telangana. 1 day 2 film shoots 2 states. Eagerly waiting for you all to see what we have done. It's going to be a celebration!" Nidhi is hopeful that her roles in these projects, starring opposite Prabhas and Pawan Kalyan, will help her reclaim the spotlight and open up new opportunities.

Victory Venkatesh, Nithiin, Keerthy Suresh join forces for investigative thriller

Telugu star Nithiin is stepping into the role of producer with an exciting new project, a gripping investigative thriller directed by Tamil filmmaker TN Santosh. Inspired by a real-life incident, the film has already created a buzz among audiences. Nithiin's production house, Sresht Movies, is backing the venture, drawn to its compelling storyline.

The movie has already secured Keerthy Suresh for a key role, adding to the anticipation. But the biggest news is the potential casting of Victory Venkatesh, who is in talks to take on the lead role as a determined cop. Known for his commanding screen presence, Venkatesh's involve-



ment could bring an extra edge to Santosh's intense narrative.

While his participation is yet to be

confirmed, the possibility of this collaboration has generated significant excitement in the industry.

Pranayagodari gets groovy with Tellarupoddullo

Some small films have been doing well at the box office recently, providing a boost to many filmmakers to produce small films with quality content. The film *Pranayagodari*, directed by PL Vignesh and produced by Paramalla Lingaiah, is one such content-driven film. According to the makers, it is a feel-good entertainer with a unique storyline. Sadan stars as the lead actor, with Priyanka Prasad as the female lead. The promotional content released recently garnered significant attention. Now, the makers have released another song titled *Tellarupoddullo*, launched by star choreographer Shekhar Master. The music is composed by Markan deya, who also wrote the lyrics. The song is sung by Dhanunjay and Aditi Bhavaraju.

"It's a wonderful song and a good one," said Shekhar Master, praising director Vignesh and producer Lingaiah for their passion for the film. The song, choreographed by Mohan, has been beautifully shot in Araku. Shekhar Master wished for the film's great success. The release date for the movie will be announced soon.



Kiran Abbavaram fulfills his promise

A few days ago, actor Kiran Abbavaram participated as a special guest at the pre-release event of the *Love Reddy* movie. At the event, he pledged to support the small film by offering free shows in the Nizam, Andhra and ceded areas.

Keeping his promise, four free shows were organised on Friday. Kiran Abbavaram hosted these free screenings at GPR Multiplex in Hyderabad, Sri Rama Theater in Visakhapatnam, Krishna Teja Theater in Tirupati and Swarna Multiplex in Vijayawada.

On this occasion, the film team expressed their gratitude to Kiran Abbavaram. Social media has been buzzing with praise for the actor's support of the film. Directed by Smaran Reddy, the film is produced by Sunanda B. Reddy and Hemalatha Reddy.



All We Imagine as Light to hit theatres on Nov 22

All We Imagine as Light is set for its Indian release on November 22, with Rana Daggubati's Spirit Media distributing the film across India. After receiving acclaim at film festivals and enjoying a successful theatrical run in France and Italy, the film is gaining momentum as it heads to Indian theatres. It will also be released in the UK and the United States in November.

Rana Daggubati expressed his enthusiasm, saying, "We are very excited to bring this incredible film to Indian theatres. At Spirit Media, we are committed to bringing unique and meaningful stories to audi-

ences across the country. Payal has made a beautiful film, and we can't wait to share it with Indian audiences."

Speaking about the India theatrical release, Payal Kapadia, the film's director, said, "This film has been years in the making, and with our partnership with Rana Daggubati, I am incredibly excited for the next phase. It is the first time that a film of mine will be released in theatres, and Indian audiences will finally be able to buy tickets and experience it on the big screen, where cinema truly comes to life." *All We Imagine as Light* is an official Indo-French co-production.

ROHIT, KOHLI, SARFARAZ FIFTIES TAKE INDIA TO 231/3 AT CLOSE ON DAY

PTI ■ BENGALURU

A counter-attacking India kept alive the hopes of a miracle turnaround through free-flowing fifties from the trio of Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Sarfaraz Khan, reaching 231 for three in their second innings on the third day of the first Test against New Zealand here on Friday.

Kohli (70), who completed 9,000 Test runs during the course of his knock, got out to Glenn Phillips off the last ball of the day, edging him to Tom Blundell, leaving Sarfaraz (70) at the crease at close. The deficit at the end of an overcast day was a less intimidating 125. Kohli and Sarfaraz added 136 runs for the third wicket after skipper Rohit did the early running with a fluent 52.

This was after New Zealand posted a total of 402 all out to gain a massive lead of 356 runs thanks to Rachin Ravindra (134) and Tim Southee (63), who added precious 134 runs for a flowing eighth wicket stand.

The largest deficit India has overturned to win a Test in their cricketing history is 274 during the iconic Kolkata Test against Australia in 2001.

Such an epic is still some distance away, but hopes will be flickering after the day's effort with the bat.

Amid the more coruscating fifties by Rohit and Sarfaraz, Kohli's effort still stood out for its personal and situational significance.

It was his first Test half-century of 2024, and he could not have timed his 31st in the longest format better -- literally and figuratively.

Seldom a shot describes the touch of Kohli better than the cover drive, and the moment he executed one off pacer William O'Rourke, the 35-year-old was in full flow. He took 15 balls to get off the mark.

Kohli brought up his fifty with a single off Matt Henry but at the other end, Sarfaraz resembled a race car on the tarmac.

The Mumbai man punished all bowlers with disdain and left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel was shunted off the park for two successive sixes.

Then there was a daring upper cut for maximum off O'Rourke and fortune also blessed him as a couple of edges fell inches short of Ajaz at gully and wide of third slip.

Before Kohli and Sarfaraz ran

RESURRECTION AFTER COLLAPSE



roughsho, another old-young combination of Rohit and Yashasvi Jaiswal (35) gave India a solid start.

Jaiswal went through an early uncertain play-and-miss phase but he overcame that to play some sparkling shots.

Rohit had no such issues. The right-hander flicked and drove New Zealand pacers to reach a fifty off just 59 balls, and also thrilled the crowd with that patented swivel pull on one leg. But his tenure in the middle ended in unfortunate circumstances. Rohit offered a forward defensive shot to Ajaz, but the ball trickled back onto his stumps after taking a deflection from his bat.

A few minutes before that, Jaiswal's decision to give a charge to Ajaz resulted in him getting stumped by Tom Blundell, after adding 72 for the opening wicket with Rohit. The recovery was impressive but it could not overshadow what New Zealand accomplished earlier in the day.

Resuming the day at 180 for three, the Kiwis were halted to an extent by Ravindra Jadeja (3/72) and the other Indian bowlers who took some early wickets to reduce them to 233 for seven.

They lost Daryl Mitchell, Glenn Phillips, Blundell and Henry in this period.

Jasprit Bumrah snaffled Blundell while Mohammed Siraj had the number of Mitchell. Phillips and Henry perished to the crafty Jadeja.

The Blackcaps were ahead by 187 runs at that point and it was imperative for them to stretch the lead at least till the 250-mark to maintain their edge.

Ravindra and Southee exceeded the expectations during their partnership to take the lead past the 300-run mark.

Ravindra started cautiously but unfurled his full range once he and the pitch settled down past the first-hour mark.

The 24-year-old, who has his family roots in Bengaluru, showed the correct method of playing Indian spinners, either staying on the front foot or making a shimmy down to nullify the turn. A cleanly swept four off Ravichandran Ashwin carried him to his second Test hundred.

Southee, who hammered a couple of his trademark sixes, gave solid company to Ravindra and duly completed his seventh Test fifty immediately after the lunch.



Pakistan seals 152 run win in second test

AP ■ MULTAN (PAKISTAN)

Noman Ali and Sajid Khan claimed all 20 wickets on a recycled turning pitch as Pakistan ended a long wait for a home win with a 152-run victory over England in the second test on Friday.

Left-arm spinner Ali took 8-46 to finish with a match haul of 11 wickets and England was bowled out for 144 inside the first session on Day 4 on a tailor-made dry wicket.

Off-spinner Khan took 2-93 to go with his 7-111 in the first innings as both spinners bowled unchanged and ran through the tourists' batting lineup after Pakistan had set up a daunting target of 297 runs.

The win was first for captain Shan Masood, who lost six tests in a row since being elevated as red-ball skipper last year and also ended Pakistan's winless 11-match home run that included four losses against England.

England capitulated against Khan and Ali for the second time in the match after it

resumed on 36-2 and needed a further improbable 261 runs for victory of a tricky turning wicket.

Khan gleefully accepted a return catch from Ollie Pope on his second ball of the day before Ali cut through by claiming all the remaining seven wickets as the tourists failed to counter the spin through their sweeps and reverse sweeps.

Captain Ben Stokes, who returned to lead the side after recovering from a torn hamstring, top-scored with 37 before falling in a bizarre fashion. Stokes charged down the wicket to Ali, but the bat flew out of England captain's hand and he was stumped.

Brydon Carse smashed three sixes against Khan and scored 27 before he edged Ali in the slips as England couldn't counter the spinners on a wicket which had plenty of cracks and turn.

England won the first test by an innings and 47 runs last week after posting a record-breaking 823-7 declared.

Arjun crushes Maxime to win WR Chess Masters

PTI ■ LONDON

Indian Grandmaster Arjun Erigaise secured the WR Chess masters title after defeating Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France in the Armageddon game following two draws in Classical chess during the final.

Arjun displayed great form and precision throughout the event to bag the winner's prize of 20000 Euros. He defeated his friend R Praggnanandhaa in the semifinals of the knock out event before eventually getting past Vachier-Lagrave. The 16-player tournament

saw Arjun scoring a 2-0 victory over Sivananda Bodhana of England who is known to be the youngest ever to play in the Chess Olympiad for her country.

Fellow Indian Grandmaster Vidit Gujrathi also fell to Arjun, who won the second game in the two-games mini-match by 1.5-0.5 margin.

Against Praggnanandhaa in the semis, Arjun took an early lead by winning the first game as white and did well to draw the second game to win the match 1.5-0.5.

In the final, Vachier-Lagrave put up stiff resistance against



the World number four Indian but eventually crumbled in the Armageddon.

The first game ended in an easy draw for Arjun as black, while the second game

featured wild complex play out of a Sicilian Najdorf opening where the Indian played white.

The dust subsided on the 21st move leading to a tricky endgame post the queen trade and the game was drawn.

Vachier-Lagrave had 10 minutes on his clock with white pieces in the finale against Arjun's 6 minutes and 58 seconds. However, as is the law, the Frenchman needed a win.

Arjun navigated the opening well despite less time out of a Petroff defense and reached a balanced position.

Vachier-Lagrave sacrificed two minor pieces for a rook to make some threats around Arjun's King but the Indian remained on guard. The game could have been a draw through repetition but that would have won the match for Arjun anyway.

The Queens were traded but Arjun was never in trouble as Vachier-Lagrave fought in vain for 69 moves before calling it a day.

With this victory, Arjun moved closer to the coveted 2800 ELO rating mark, though he will need to wait for his next event to achieve it.

Indian junior team, guided by Sreejesh, faces Japan in Sultan of Johor opener

PTI ■ JOHOR (MALAYSIA)

Two-time Olympic medal-winning stalwart P R Sreejesh will face his first major test as India's new junior men's hockey coach when the under-21 team aims for a fourth title triumph at the 12th Sultan of Johor Cup, beginning with a clash against Japan here on Saturday.

The 36-year-old former goalkeeper, who retired after the bronze-winning campaign in the Paris Olympics earlier this year, took over the reins of the junior group soon after.

India triumphed over Japan in their last encounter at the Junior Asia Cup in May last year, securing a 3-1 victory and also defeated them 5-1 in the 2022 Sultan of Johor Cup.

"The team has been training well under the new head coach



PR Sreejesh and we are excited to play our first tournament with him," captain Amir Ali said in a release.

October 22 and then Australia on October 23.

India will conclude the group stage against New Zealand on October 25, aiming to finish in the top two to advance to the final on October 26.

"We have been training hard over the past few days to be in the best shape ahead of the Sultan of Johor Cup," vice-captain Rohit said.

"This time around, the team has several new players who are excited to demonstrate their abilities on the field. All of the players are encouraging one another to improve in preparation for a busy time for us, which includes the men's junior Asia Cup Muscat in November."

After the Paris campaign, Sreejesh had stated that he always harboured coaching ambitions and wanted to be the Rahul Dravid of Indian hockey by shaping the younger generation of players.

Dravid, before serving as the senior team coach, mentored the under-19 players for a significant duration.

India, who have previously won the title in 2013, 2014 and 2022, will face Britain on Sunday. The side is also a four-time second-place finisher in the event.

Following a day off, the Indians will take on hosts Malaysia on



Chelsea, Lyon and Roma stay perfect with victories in Womens Champions League

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Chelsea, Lyon and Roma all stayed perfect in the Women's Champions League by cruising to away victories.

Roma routed Galatasaray at Istanbul 6-1, Chelsea beat Twente in the Netherlands 3-1 and eight-time champion Lyon won 2-0 at Wolfsburg.

Real Madrid claimed its first victory of the campaign by easing past Celtic 4-0.

Roma and Lyon both have six points in Group A. Two-time champion Wolfsburg and Galatasaray, the first Turkish team to reach the group stage, have no points.

In Group B, Chelsea leads with six points, with Madrid and Twente on three and Celtic last bottom without a point.

Renard strikes on Popp's day/Wolfsburg striker Alexandra Popp made her 100th competition appearance - becoming only the second player to reach the mark but it was Lyon defender Wendie Renard, the only one who has played more, who stole the show.

Renard's header found the back of the net early on in her 118th game in the competition.

U.S. International Lindsey Horan netted from the penalty spot in the second half.

Lyon is the competition's record eight-time champion but last won the trophy in 2022. It was runner-up last season to Barcelona.

Roma routed In a matchup between the Italian and

Turkish champions, Roma dominated in Istanbul.

Summer signing Hawa Cissoko scored in the seventh minute to mark her debut game in the competition.

France defender who transferred from West Ham headed home off Manuela Giugliano's corner.

Valentina Giacinti made it 2-0 in the 24th minute when she was left unmarked near the spot to head in Verena Hanshaw's cross.

Giugliano failed to convert from the spot in the first-half stoppage time but Emilie Haavi got Roma's third with a right-footed blast past goalkeeper Gamze Yaman early in the second.

Giugliano finally found the back of the net from close range for a 4-0 lead before Andrea Stankova scored the consolation goal for the hosts.

Roma substitutes Marta Pandini and Alice Corelli also scored.

Blues win again under Bompastor/Chelsea struck early in another winning performance under new coach Sonia Bompastor, who joined from Lyon.

Agnes Beyer-Jones put the Blues ahead with a long-distance deflected strike in the seventh minute and Maika Hamano made it 2-0 a short time later by lifting the ball over goalkeeper Olivia Clark from outside the area.

Substitute Guro Reiten added the third in the second from the spot just past the hour mark.

Nadal loses to Alcaraz at Six Kings Slam exhibition event

AP ■ RYADH

With an eye on the Davis Cup, Rafael Nadal said he was pleased with his performance despite losing 6-3, 6-3 to Carlos Alcaraz at the Six Kings Slam.

Jannik Sinner beat Novak Djokovic 6-2, 6-7 (0), 6-4 in the other semifinal at the exhibition event that awards money but no ATP ranking points and is Saudi Arabia's latest foray into tennis.

The match against Alcaraz was Nadal's first 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 the Davis Cup.

"I have the Davis Cup in front (of me) in a month so every day is an opportunity to be better and better and be ready for this final tournament of my career," Nadal said. "I want to try my best to be ready for that and help the team in some way."

Thursday's match was the first contest for Nadal since his exit at the Paris Olympics in July.

"Carlos was too good. I haven't been on the competitive stage since a couple months ago," Nadal said. "So yeah I think it was a good performance, even if it was not enough to play against an animal like him. But it was a positive match for me and I'm happy."

Nadal will play Djokovic on Saturday in a third-place match before Sinner faces Alcaraz.

The top-ranked Sinner was cleared in a doping case shortly before winning last month's U.S. Open, although the World Anti-Doping Agency



has appealed that exoneration. Djokovic and Sinner met for real on Sunday, when the Italian won in straight sets for the Shanghai Masters title.

Iga Swiatek has hired Wim Fissette as her new coach

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Iga Swiatek is hiring Wim Fissette to be her new coach, announcing via social media that she is bringing aboard someone who has worked with a long list of top players that includes Naomi Osaka, Kim Clijsters and Victoria Azarenka.

"I'm excited and motivated to start a new chapter," posted the No. 1-ranked Swiatek, who parted ways with Tomasz Wiktorowski two weeks ago after three years together.

Swiatek hasn't competed since Sept. 4, when she lost in the U.S. Open quarterfinals to eventual runner-up Jessica Pegula. Since then, Swiatek withdrew from the China Open and Korea Open.

Next up for Swiatek is the season-ending WTA Finals, which will be held in November in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

"As you know, I'm preparing for the WTA Finals but my perspective is, as always, long-term, not short-term. I said many times that my career is a marathon for me, not a sprint, and I'm working, operating



and making decisions with this approach," Swiatek wrote on Thursday. "I want to say that I'm very excited and looking forward to working with Wim. He seems to have a great attitude, vision and huge experience at a very top level of tennis. It's always crucial to try and get to know each other better but we're off to a good start and I can't wait to compete soon."

haul to five Grand Slam trophies. Four of those came with Wiktorowski as her coach.

