

the pioneer

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Published From: HYDERABAD DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL RAIPUR CHANDIGARH BHUBANESWAR RANCHI DEHRADUN VIJAYAWADA

QUOTE OF THE DAY
The pioneer

The Congress has become the biggest fake news peddler in the country. Congress FAILED Telangana farmers by every measure. In Telangana, 40 lakh farmers did not get their loans waived. The state government also knows that its scheme is a complete flop. Prime Minister Modi saw through Congress's fake propaganda and recently exposed the truth behind their false claims. Rythu Bandhu has not been given for the Kharif crop for the first time since the scheme's launch. Shame

- Bandi Sanjay Kumar, Union Minister



'Cong, SP followed policy of nepotism, overlooked Varanasi'

DESERT ROOTS BUT GLOBAL BEATS!



Sustaining 25 years is not a joke; it's a big GIFT: AJAY



DON'T MISS...

Focus on benefits of advanced ...

The Symposium on Advanced Gynaecological Ultrasound was held with over 200 doctors of various fields from across the country here on Sunday. The Fernandez Hospital Educational and Research Foundation organised this event, highlighting advanced gynaecological ultrasound, titled "Ultrasonography of the Adnexa and Endometrium: Optimising Diagnosis in Everyday Practice". The event, led by Dr Mala Sibal, an expert in gynaecological ultrasound, focused on how modern ultrasound ...

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Citizens in revulsion as officials ...

Recent raids by the State Food Safety Task Force have uncovered alarming instances of food adulteration at several well-known hotels in Nizamabad. Investigators discovered that rotten meat was being prepared and served to patrons, in blatant disregard for safety regulations. The food safety officials inspected hotels on Saturday. Led by Zonal Assistant Food Controller V Jyotirmayi, the task force found that many hotels were using expired chicken, mutton, prawns, and other meats. Additionally, the kitchens ...

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Many firms see AI as key to...

A significant percentage of organisations see Artificial Intelligence as key to competitive advantage and said they have experienced a notable boost in productivity through AI integration, according to a new report. According to the "Industry 5.0 and AI report", compiled by BML Munjal University, 44 pc of organisations have experienced a significant boost in productivity through AI integration. Additionally, 21 pc reported that AI can play a pivotal role in driving innovation, enabling ...

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New Zealand win by eight ...

New Zealand survived a hostile Jasprit Bumrah spell to foil India's attempt to add a final-day twist to an absorbing series-opener, slaying the cricketing giants at home by eight wickets and ending a 36-year long wait to taste Test success in the country, here Sunday. This is Kiwis' first Test win on the Indian soil after the John Wright-led outfit toppled India by 136 runs at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai, way back in 1988. Even hunting a modest 107 on the fifth day against a world-class attack could ...

-SPORTS

All set for Group 1 exam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Everything is ready for conducting Group-1 exams. The Telangana State Public Service Commission (TGSPSC) said that all arrangements are in place for conducting the Mains exams from Monday (October 21 to 27).

Around 31,382 candidates are expected to write the exams. The exams will be held at 46 centres on Monday from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm. TGSPSC officials said the examinations are being conducted at 46 centres in Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy districts.

The Telangana Government has appointed special staffers to check the biometrics of all Group-1 Mains candidates. CCTV cameras have also been installed at examination centres and in surrounding areas. Section 144 will be in force at the examination centres.

IPS officials have been entrusted with the responsibility to conduct the exams at the centres in Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy and Medchal districts. The police have asked the public not to gather at examination centres.



Section 144 in force near exam centres

The police have announced that Section 144 will be in force at all Group-1 exam centres in the city from Monday to ensure the smooth conduct of the exams.

There are 46 Group-1 exam centres in Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy and Medchal districts. Candidates will not be allowed into the exam centres after 1:30 pm. An additional hour will be granted to differently-abled candidates.

CCTV cameras have been installed in all exam halls and staff

has been deployed to register the biometric attendance of all candidates appearing for the exams.

Around 31,383 candidates are appearing for the Group-1 Mains examinations at 46 examination centres in Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy and Medchal Malkajgiri districts.

TGSPSC Chairman Dr M. Mahender Reddy said that the Group-1 Mains examinations are being conducted after a gap of 13 years. The last time the Mains exams were held was in 2011.

'Make TG a trillion dollar economy'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Highlighting the need to make Hyderabad a US\$ 600 billion city to achieve the objective of making Telangana a US\$ 1 trillion economy, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy delivered the keynote address as the chief guest at the Indian School of Business (ISB) Leadership Summit 2024 on Sunday.

Addressing the gathering, the CM appreciated the students of ISB and said that they are learning leadership at one of the best institutions.

He said that he learned leadership through politics and life and added that the Congress has the beautiful DNA of great leaders like Mahatma Gandhi. He emphasised that courage and sacrifice are the two values that define great leaders and said, "If you have the guts and are willing to sacrifice, you will succeed."

Revanth asked the students to

Hyd needs to be made as a US\$ 600 billion city

CM Revanth stresses at ISB summit



connect with people directly, treating everyone with respect, love, openness and friendship, and to

always speak for a larger vision. Stating that no dream is too big for the new

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Musi project meant to fund Cong: KTR



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has taken up the Musi Project to send money to the Congress leaders in New Delhi, BRS Working President KT Rama Rao said.

Addressing the Dasara Alai-Balai gathering organised by former BRS Padam MLA Manchireddy Kishan Reddy on Sunday, KTR said the Congress came to power by giving false promises.

He said that Revanth has been stating time and again that he will demolish my house.

"Revanth has been saying that he will demolish my house. If my house has been built illegally, and if Revanth wants to demolish it, let him demolish it. If you want to tear down my houses, tear them down. But don't go near the houses of the poor," KTR said.

He said that STPs were established for treating sewage. "We have done the work of bringing Godavari water. What else is needed to spend so much money on the Musi Project? You have taken up the job of Musi cleaning only for sending the money to your Delhi bosses," he

said. KTR said that KCR worked hard to build a green Pharma City without pollution.

"After eight years of hard work, the BRS government convinced farmers and acquired 14,000 acres. Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, M. Kodanda Reddy, Seethakka and Revanth Reddy then spread the lie that BRS leaders are grabbing farmers' lands. Congress leaders then promised farmers that they would give Pharma City lands back to the farmers. However, after coming to power, the Congress government cancelled Pharma City. Shouldn't your lands be given to you," KTR asked the farmers.

"Revanth said something about the Fourth City. It is for Revanth Reddy's four brothers and their real estate business. After the Congress came, the real estate business completely crashed. As per law, the land acquired for the pharma project cannot be used for any other purpose. That is why the CM is misleading the court," KTR said.

"This government can be understood from what it told the court. This government is nothing but a government of

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Bomb threats delay 24 flights

PNS ■ MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

As many as 24 flights of Indian airlines received bomb threats on Sunday, according to sources.

IndiGo, Vistara, Akasa Air and Air India and Akasa Air are among the airlines that received bomb threats, including international flights, they added.

Six flights each of IndiGo, Vistara and Air India received the threats.

So far this week, more than 90 flights have received bomb threats and most of them have turned out to be hoaxes.

In separate statements, an IndiGo spokesperson said the airline is cognisant of a situation involving flight 6E 58 (Jeddah to Mumbai), 6E87 (Kozhikode to Dammam), 6E11 (Delhi to Istanbul), 6E17 (Mumbai to Istanbul), 6E133 (Pune to Jodhpur) and 6E112 operating (Goa to Ahmedabad).

Vistara said it got security threats for six flights -- UK25 (Delhi to Frankfurt), UK106 (Singapore to Mumbai), UK146 (Bali to Delhi), UK116 (Singapore to Delhi), UK110 (Singapore to Pune) and UK107 (Mumbai to Singapore).

"In line with the protocols, all relevant authorities were immediately notified, and security procedures, as directed by them, are being carried out," a Vistara spokesperson said in a statement.

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Revanth is now anti-Hindu: Kishan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has turned anti-Hindu, Telangana BJP President G. Kishan Reddy who is also the Union Minister of Coal and Mines said.

He said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Congress leaders didn't condemn the Muthyalamma Temple issue. However, the Congress govern-

ment made its police lathi charge the people who took part in a rally from Mahankali Temple to Muthyalamma Temple in Secunderabad, Kishan said.

He asked the government to reveal whether people taking part peacefully in a rally were terrorists to be lathi-charged. He said that this kind of attack did not take place even during the Telangana movement.

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Indiramma Rajyam nothing but 'Nafrat ka bazaar': Sanjay

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress opened its 'Nafrat ka Bazaar' in the name of Indiramma Rajyam, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar said in a social media post on Sunday along with a photo of a Group-I candidate sitting on the ground and crying.

"The Congress admin in Telangana has opened a 'Nafrat ka Bazaar' in the name of Indiramma Rajyam. If this suffering doesn't move you, is the Congress admin 'for the people.' Is this Praja Palana? You have no right to talk about reconstruction of the state when our future generation is crying on the streets, suffering lathi

blows and police brutality," Sanjay said. He also re-posted Congress posts on social media and asked how long the Congress will deceive farmers. The Congress had recently claimed that it had waived the loans of 40 lakh farmers.

"The Congress has become the biggest fake news peddler in the country. Congress FAILED Telangana farmers by every measure. In Telangana, 40 lakh farmers did not get their loans waived. The state government also knows that its scheme is a complete flop. Prime Minister Modi saw through the Congress's fake propaganda and recently exposed their false claims. Rythu Bandhu has not been given for the Kharif crop for



the first time since the scheme's launch. Shame. The promise to pay Rs 500 bonus on MSP is nothing but a cruel joke the Congress played on farmers. How long will the Congress continue to deceive the nation with its lies?" Sanjay said in his post.

Good days foreseen for KCR

He will become CM in 2028, says astrologer

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

There is good news for BRS leaders on the astrological front, particularly for the Kalvakuntla family, as the famous astrologer, Prashanth Kini, has predicted that former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao would become the Chief Minister of Telangana once again in 2028.

Prashanth Kini, who foretold the downfall of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and that Hasina may face an assassination attempt in future, said that BRS supremo KCR would make a comeback in the 2028 Assembly elections.

He also predicted that KCR



would fall ill in October 2026 and that after January 2027 his fortunes would change. KCR would become active in politics from then onwards till May 2029.

Prashanth Kini, who describes himself as the Devil's Astrologer, time traveller, astrologer, palmistry expert and an

Continued on Page 5

Losses due to GO No 29 just myth, asserts Mahesh

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Stating that the impression that 'GO No: 29 would result in losses is just a myth,' TPCC chief B. Mahesh Kumar Goud said that candidates eligible for reservation would not suffer any injustice in the Group-I selection process.

He said that this is the assurance he is giving from the party as well as the Congress government.

Addressing the media at the Gandhi Bhavan on Sunday, Mahesh said that the BJP has created suspicions in the public mind in league with the BRS regarding the Group-I examination. The BJP has misled Group-I applicants, he said.

"As a person hailing from a BC



group, I promise Group-I candidates that no injustice will be done to them regarding reservations. I don't know with what objective the BJP is conducting sit-ins. The BRS came to power citing jobs. The BRS should tell me how many jobs the TGSPSC has given in the last 10 years. In the

last 10 years, the TGSPSC gave a mere 35,000 jobs during the tenure of the BRS government," Mahesh said.

He said the BRS which failed to publicise accurate Intermediate exam results is now talking about the Congress government. "Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar should reveal how many jobs the BJP's Central Government gave," he said.

The TPCC President asked whether the BRS which gave 35,000 jobs in 10 years has any sincerity. "The Congress gave 50,000 jobs in the last 10 months. Did the BRS give even one Group-I job," he asked. The BRS has not been given any job for many years and now they are staging dharnas, he added.



Cabinet panel submits report on 317 GO

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Cabinet Sub-Committee submitted its final report on GO No: 317 to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Sunday in a sealed cover.

The Cabinet Sub-Committee headed by its Chairman Health Minister Damodara Raja Narasimha and comprising members D.

Sridhar Babu and Ponnamp Prabhakar held lengthy discussions with employees, teacher unions and intellectuals. The Cabinet Sub-Committee also received the appeals of employees and teachers directly and through websites. It had also conducted review meetings with the top officials of various departments to solve issues and prepared a final report.

'BRS leaders looted TG'

Tummala says previous govt did not implement Rythu Bandhu fully

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Lashing out at the state-wide dharna on Sunday by the BRS regarding Rythu Bharosa, Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageshwara Rao said that the BRS government did not implement all the schemes under Rythu Bandhu.

He said that BRS leaders looted the state indiscriminately during their 10-year rule and so the people voted the Congress to power.

He said that BRS leaders are enacting dramas shamelessly by staging dharnas after losing power. He said the Congress government waived farm loans up to Rs 2 lakh taken by farmers and it has not been done anywhere else in the coun-



try. BRS Working President KT Rama Rao launched a campaign of lies against the Congress government fearing that it may get a good name as it is implementing social welfare schemes, he said.

Monday Mirchi

CRPF PERSONNEL FLEX MUSCLE, STATE COPS TASTE DOSE OF THEIR OWN MEDICINE

Cops are pushy; the higher the rank, the greater the power that they pack in their punch. This treatment is typically for aam admi, who may be protesting an unaddressed grievance. But when a Union Minister chooses to be street smart, and there is a pecking order among central forces and state forces that are out to maintain law and order, you get the rare chance of witnessing state police officers being pushed aside. This exactly is what happened when the Central Reserve Police Force personnel flexed their muscle on Saturday while state cops were attempting to approach Bandi Sanjay whose solitary protest at Ashok Nagar shook the state police force for its grave implications. They were forcefully pushed aside, including the brass. The message was loud and clear: he is no longer the man who could be man(handed) like in the past. One cop was overheard saying, "If he wants to be arrested, then we can arrest him. It's not in our hands". Clearly, the power dynamics have shifted, and the state police seemed taken back by the sheer authority that Bandi Sanjay displayed. But not everyone walked away unscathed. Seethayya, Chikkadpally Sub-Inspector and a known admirer of Sanjay, faced the axe for manhandling a group of Group I aspirants, after Sanjay reportedly complained directly to the Commissioner of Police. The swift transfer for Seethayya sent across another message that even loyalists among the uniformed forces will not be spared when the lines are crossed.

HEARTBURN IN ADMIN CIRCLES OVER ED NOTICE TO BABU

There has been a lot of heartburn among bureaucratic circles after Amoy Kumar received a notice from the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with land irregularities. The ED notice, many are saying, is a classic example of what happens when bureaucrats get caught in the crossfire of political one-upmanship. A little bird tells us that this particular move stemmed from a complaint lodged by a key Bharatiya Janata Party leader from Telangana with clout enough to shift gears at the Centre. None expected the Chief Minister to step in with 'Ahoy Kumar'; for, Revanth Reddy's relationship with the babu who has landed in trouble was not exactly smooth, considering his posting came much later than expected. Still, the timing of the ED notice has caused quite a stir. Some insiders suggest that this might be a signal to other bureaucrats: pick sides, and face the consequences. Already many within the bureaucracy are reportedly shying away from visibly pledging their support,

unwilling to risk being singled by power struggles between the big fish. It seems amid the constantly shifting political dynamics, no overactive babu's job is secure.

TELANGANA'S SPECIAL REQUEST FOR TWO BUREAUCRATS RAISES EYEBROWS

It looks like a bureaucrat may attain 'special category status' (SCS) for reasons that may not be obvious. Despite the diktat of the Central Administrative Tribunal and the orders of the High Court to 'go and report for duty in AP', at least two of the four TG IAS officers who obeyed the orders seem to belong to SCS. The buzz in the corridors of power is all about the latest move by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy-led Telangana government. The whispers in informed circles suggest that Revanth Reddy has nevertheless approached the Centre, specifically requesting the return of two bureaucrats-Amrapali Kata and Ronald Rose-to Telangana. Maybe Kata is cut out for TG and Ronald has a rosy future in the state. Meanwhile, in a not-so-subtle career update, Srijana Gummala has announced that she is making Hyderabad her new base. Let us wait and see if the cadre change is permanent or allows for detour by SCS officers.

TOUGH COP'S HEART BEATS FOR THE ELDERLY

Tough cop VC Sajjanar, known for his non-sense and extra-judicial approach to deviant youths, in a heartfelt post on Twitter took a strong stand against the rising cases of elder abuse. He posted: "I'm deeply troubled by how some people are treating their elderly parents/in-laws these days. The videos circulating on social media are really disturbing, boss." Sajjanar's words struck a chord as he reminded everyone of the sacrifices parents make: "We must never forget that whatever we achieve in life is because of our parents' support and sacrifices." His post called out the attitude of those who see their elderly relatives as burdens who would be better off only in old age homes. He passionately urged errant members of society to rethink their attitude, emphasizing that mistreatment of the elderly can never be justified. "What kind of example are you setting for your children, who are quietly observing how you treat the elderly at home?" he questioned, while urging strict legal action against those responsible. While exhorting enlightened members of the public to report any incident of elder abuse by visiting the nearest police station or dialing 100, he offered to personally back them, saying "You can also reach out to me or my team here for additional support."

--Yours truly

90% of Group-I candidates downloaded hall tickets

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud said that 80 to 90 per cent of candidates are ready to write the Group-I examination being held from Monday onwards and that the candidates have already downloaded their hall tickets from the official website.

He said the government will take action if officials cause any problems for the candidates.

Mahesh said that SCs, STs, BCs and Minorities will be in the general quota and they will get reservation quota jobs only if their marks are less.

He said there is no need for Group-I candidates to get confused regarding this and that they had discussed the matter with officials.

However, some people are inciting the candidates to do politics, Mahesh said. He said that 75 per cent of

SCs, STs, BCs, women, sports and minority candidates have qualified in the prelims.

He appealed to Group-I candidates to write the mains peacefully and added that problems would arise if the exams were postponed.

There is a chance that some candidates may cross the age limit and some may lose concentration if the exams are postponed, Mahesh said.



Doctor, 5 labourers killed in terror attack in J&K

PNS ■ SRINAGAR

A doctor and five labourers were killed when terrorists struck a tunnel-construction site on the Srinagar-Leh national highway in Jammu and Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Sunday, officials said.

The unidentified terrorists carried out the attack when the labourers and other staff working on the tunnel project at Gund in Ganderbal had returned to their camp late in the evening, the officials said.

They said the terrorists -- believed to be at least two -- opened indiscriminate fire on the group of labourers that included both locals and non-locals.

While two labourers died on the spot, three others and the doctor succumbed to their injuries subsequently, the officials said, adding that five people are undergoing treatment for injuries.

Security forces have cordoned off the area and launched a search operation to track down the attackers, they said.

Top security officials, including Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir, V K Birdi, have reached the spot to assess the situation.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the number of casualties in the attack may go up.

The casualty figure from the Gagangir attack is not final

as there are a number of injured labourers, both local and non-local. Praying that the injured make a full recovery as the more seriously injured are being referred to SKIMS, Srinagar," he said in a post on X.

Abdullah condemned the attack, which came barely four days after he was sworn in as the chief minister of the Union Territory.

"Very sad news of a dastardly and cowardly attack on non-local labourers at Gagangir in Sonamarg region. These people were working on a key infrastructure project in the area. 2 have been killed and 2-3 more have been injured in this militant attack. I strongly condemn this attack on unarmed innocent people and send my condolences to their loved ones," he said in another post on the microblogging platform.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha strongly condemned the heinous terror attack on civilians. "I assure the people that those behind this despicable act will not go unpunished. We have given full freedom to J&K Police, Army and security forces," Sinha said in a post on X.

Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister and People's Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti also condemned the attack.

BRS protests over govt denying Rythu Bharosa to farmers

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

In a massive show of dissent, former minister V. Srinivas Goud and other Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leaders led a dharna on Sunday, protesting against the Congress government's failure to uphold its pre-election promise of a Rs 15,000 farmer assurance. The demonstration took place in front of the Mandal Parishad office in Shadnagar, alongside the old national highway, with heavy police presence ensuring security.

During the protest, V. Srinivas Goud expressed his disappointment, stating that farmers, who had trusted the Congress government and taken loans based on their promises, now face severe financial distress. He criticized the Congress for raising hopes before the elections and then abandoning the farmers, leaving them without support.

V. Srinivas Goud further accused the Congress of false campaigning, recalling that they once claimed land prices would fall if Telangana was formed, but instead, land values soared, leading to significant development in rural areas. He warned that the return of the Congress govern-



ment would result in regression, urging the people to unite and overthrow the current regime through public movements.

Joining Srinivas Goud in the protest, Member of Legislative Council (MLC) Naveen Kumar Reddy and former Shadnagar Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Y. Anjaiah Yadav harshly criticized Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. They alleged that the Chief Minister's unfulfilled promises have left the state in turmoil, particularly in rural areas where farmers are suffering.

According to them, the Congress government has not only failed to implement its election pledges but has also neglected the welfare of the agricultural community.

The leaders vowed to continue their struggle until the government reinstates the farmer's assurance, insisting that the future of Telangana depends on reversing the Congress's current policies. Municipal Chairman Konduti Narendar, Vice Chairman M. S. Natarajan, Mandal Party President Laxman Naik, and several other local leaders participated in the protest.

The BRS leadership also lamented their inability to fully implement the Dalit Bandhu scheme due to bureaucratic delays, which they believe contributed to their defeat in recent elections. Nevertheless, they affirmed their commitment to staying with the people and mounting further challenges against the Congress government.

Most of healthcare workers feel their workplace is 'unsafe'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

More than half of the healthcare workers who participated in a survey feel that their workplace is 'unsafe', particularly in state and central government medical colleges.

Led by experts from the Vardhman Mahavir Medical College (VMMC), Safdarjung Hospital and AIIMS, New Delhi, the study highlighted "significant gaps" in the security infrastructure within Indian healthcare settings. The "Workplace Safety and Security in Indian Healthcare Settings: A Cross-Sectional Survey" published in a recent issue of the journal 'Epidemiology International' underscored the urgent need for improving the prevailing safety and security measures in healthcare settings.

The survey is a collaborative effort of Dr Kartik Chadhar and Dr Jugal Kishore from the VMMC and Safdarjung Hospital along with Dr Richa



Mishra, Dr Semanti Das, Dr Indra Shekhar Prasad and Dr Prakash Gupta from All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi.

The cross-sectional survey was conducted among 1,566 healthcare workers from diverse medical institutions across India using a pre-tested, self-administered online questionnaire, which assessed various dimensions of workplace safety.

Logistic regression was used to find differences among groups. The survey participants consisted of 869 (55.5 per cent) females and 697 (44.5 per cent) males.

About one-fourth (24.7 per cent) of healthcare workers were from Delhi and around half of them were resident doctors (49.6 per cent), followed by undergraduate medical students, including interns (15.9 per cent).

Congress' CEC meeting for Maharashtra, Jharkhand polls today

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress' Central Election Committee will hold its meeting on Monday to finalise candidates for the upcoming Maharashtra and Jharkhand Assembly polls.

The CEC meeting for Maharashtra was to take place this evening but was postponed with party leaders citing various reasons from Karwa Chauth to holding of meetings for both states on the same day, as the reason for the deferment.

Some leaders said that the BJP had declared its first list of candidates for Maharashtra and some discussions were needed for particular seats, and the seat-sharing talk among Maha Vikas Aghadi constituents was in the final phase.

Leaders of the three Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) parties are involved in the ongoing seat-sharing talks to break the impasse as the state is set to go to polls on November 20.

The Congress' panel for screening candidates for the Maharashtra Assembly polls had cleared names on 62 seats last week for consideration of the CEC. The party has announced the candidature of Ravindra Chavan -- the son of Vasantrao Chavan, who passed in August this year, necessitating a by-election on the Nanded parliamentary constituency.

In the wake of tensions between the Shiv Sena (UBT) and Congress over seat-sharing for the Maharashtra assembly polls surfacing, Congress' state in-charge Ramesh Chennithala on Saturday met former chief minister Uddhav Thackeray and NCP chief Sharad Pawar.

While Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT), and NCP (SP) are yet to declare their seat-sharing arrangement, their INDIA bloc ally and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Singh Yadav has declared candidates for five of the 12 seats he is demanding.

India's envoy accuses Canadian PM of destroying bilateral ties

PNS ■ OTTAWA

India's envoy to Canada has accused Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of destroying the ties between the two countries, asserting that he had nothing to do with the killing of a Khalistani separatist and that the charges against him are "politically motivated". India recently expelled six Canadian diplomats and announced that it was withdrawing its High Commissioner in Canada Sanjay Kumar Verma after dismissing Ottawa's allegations linking the envoy to the probe into the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

Canada, however, said it had expelled six Indian diplomats.

In an interview with Canada's private broadcaster CTV News aired on Sunday, Verma said that Trudeau's alle-

gations over Nijjar's killing were based on intelligence inputs rather than concrete evidence.

"The problem is that when he accused, he himself admitted there was no hard evidence. There was intelligence. On the basis of intelligence, if you want to destroy a relationship, be my guest. And that's what he (Trudeau) did," Verma said.

Testifying before the public inquiry into foreign interference in federal electoral processes and democratic institutions last week, Trudeau admitted that he had only intelligence and no "hard evidentiary proof" when he alleged the involvement of Indian government agents in the killing of Nijjar.

"Nothing at all. No evidence was presented (by Canada). (This is) politically motivated," the outgoing Indian envoy said when asked by the anchor if he had anything to do with

Nijjar's killing. Nijjar, who was declared a terrorist by India, was shot dead outside a gurdwara in Surrey, British Columbia, on June 18 last year.

The Indian diplomat said Canada didn't follow the practice which should have been there.

"Evidence should have been shared first, but someone decided to stand in the Parliament and talk about a thing for which he himself has said there was 'no hard evidence,'" he said, referring to Trudeau's address in the Canadian Parliament in September last year when he alleged involvement of Indian government's agents in the killing of Nijjar.

"And the day on which he did that, since then, he has made it sure that the bilateral relation with India only goes downwards, spiralling down," the diplomat said.

Maharashtra polls: Kin of influential leaders find place in BJP's first list

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The BJP's move to retain 71 MLAs in the first list of 99 candidates for the Maharashtra assembly polls and field relatives of influential leaders in some segments reflects its risk-aversion approach in the wake of the poor show in general elections in the western state.

Sreejaya Chavan, daughter of former CM and Congress turncoat Ashok Chavan who joined the BJP ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, is among the kin of regional satraps picked by the BJP for the November 20 contest.

Sreejaya, who holds a law degree, will make her electoral debut from the home turf Bhokar segment, represented by the senior Chavan, in Nanded district.

The BJP has renominated Nitesh Rane, son of former Union minister and Konkani strongman Narayan Rane, from the Kankavli

seat in Sindhudurg district.

Another political dynasty who secured the ticket is Amal Mahadik, the younger brother of BJP's Rajya Sabha member Dhananjay Mahadik. He will try to reclaim the Kolhapur South assembly constituency he had won in 2014. The BJP has also approved the candidature of Santosh Danve, sitting MLA from Bhokardan constituency and son of former Union minister Raosaheb Danve, in Jalna district.

Sambhaji Patil Nilangekar, former BJP minister and grandson of ex-chief minister Shivajirao Patil Nilangekar, has been renominated from Nilanga in Latur district.

Other candidates related to prominent politicians include Rana Jagjitsinha Patil, son of senior politician Padmasinha Patil closely related to Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar. Rana's wife, Archana Patil, had unsuccessfully contested from the Dharashiv Lok Sabha seat as the NCP candidate.

Will not allow dilution of AIIMS brand: J P Nadda

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister J P Nadda on Sunday said he would not allow any dilution in the standards of teaching and faculty at all the new AIIMS set up across the country as he vowed to protect the institute's brand.

Addressing the BJMFCON 2024, a forum of doctors from Bihar and Jharkhand practising in Delhi-NCR, Nadda said AIIMS-Delhi was set up in the '60s but it was only in the '80s that it became a brand name.

"It takes 10 to 20 years for any institution to grow and function in full swing. I will not allow the dilution of the standards of AIIMS and will protect its brand name," Nadda



said, adding that no compromise will be made in the faculty recruitment.

The health minister also said that the groundbreaking ceremony for AIIMS-Darbhangha will be held soon, while the commissioning of AIIMS-Deoghar has been done and recruitment of staff is presently underway.

Stating that several policy interventions have been made to transform medical education in the past 10 years, Nadda said, "In the 2017 health policy, we tried to make it comprehensive and holistic. Earlier, the stress was on the curative aspect but now the focus is on preventive, promotive, curative palliative and

rehabilitative aspects -- a holistic approach."

Underlining the government's efforts on preventive aspects of healthcare and early detection of diseases in the country, he said there are 1.73 lakh high-quality Ayushman Arogya Mandirs in India that go through a high-quality digital assessment.

Out of these, 10,716 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs have been set up in Bihar which have witnessed a footfall of 8.35 crore so far while there have been 4.36 crore screenings for non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

There are 3,825 similar facilities in Jharkhand witnessing a footfall of 2.33 crore and 2.12 crore NCD screenings.

CITY EVENTS

Standup Comedy

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

Venue

Multiple venues. till November 24

Toxic

By Abhishek Upmanyu

Venue

Shilpakala Vedika November 2

Prateek Kuhad

Shouettes tour.

Venue

Hyderabad international convention centre November 8



T-Sat to hold online coaching for constable posts

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Skills, Academic and Training (T-SAT) announced online coaching for the recruitment of police constables by the Staff Selection Commission (SSC).

T-SAT CEO Bodanapalli Venugopal Reddy stated that online coaching will be available from October 21 to January 31 next years through T-SAT network channels.

The SSC has opened applications for 39,481 GD constable posts, with 35,612 positions for men and 3,869 for women.

Especially, 718 positions are reserved for youth from Telangana and 908 for Andhra Pradesh.

T-SAT plans to broadcast quality content, including 448 episodes of 30 minutes each, covering subjects like general intelligence, general knowledge, elementary mathematics, and English and Hindi.

Venugopal noted that this content will be available on the T-SAT Nipuna channel from 5 pm to 7 pm and on the Vidya channel from 5 am to 7.

Additionally, T-SAT will provide two hours of content for Group-3 competitive exams ahead of the test on November 17.

City Pioneer



HYDERABAD MONDAY | OCTOBER 21, 2024

03



Toy train

Toy Train Ride restarts at Nehru Zoo Park

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The only toy train in the city and a popular ride at Nehru Zoo Park resumed operations on Saturday afternoon after being closed for four months for engine repairs.

This toy train was a gift from BHEL in 1968. Dr Sunil S Hiremath, Director and Curator of Nehru Zoological Park, flagged off the train from its original starting station. Many visitors expressed joy over the toy train's return to the Zoo Park.

Dr Sunil mentioned that the children were especially thrilled after riding the train, noting that around 400 visitors enjoyed the Toy Train Ride.

Focus on benefits of advanced gynaecological ultrasound

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Symposium on Advanced Gynaecological Ultrasound was held with over 200 doctors of various fields from across the country here on Sunday.

The Fernandez Hospital Educational and Research Foundation organised this event, highlighting advanced gynaecological ultrasound, titled "Ultrasonography of the Adnexa and Endometrium: Optimising Diagnosis in Everyday Practice".

The event, led by Dr Mala Sibal, an expert in gynaecological ultrasound, focused on how modern ultrasound techniques improve diagnosing and treating gynaecological conditions.

Ultrasound is essential for identifying issues like ovarian cysts and uterine growths, which can indicate cancer. Early detection significantly enhances patient outcomes.

Dr Sibal also emphasised that Ultrasound is the best choice for diagnosing gynaecological issues, including cancers. Despite advances, quality ultrasound services remain limited in many areas. There is great potential to improve women's healthcare through teaching and sharing



Expert in gynaecological ultrasound Dr Mala Sibal addressing a symposium in Hyderabad on Sunday.

knowledge, a key goal of today's symposium.

The symposium also discussed using ultrasound to distinguish

between benign and malignant growths. Specialists shared insights on enhancing patient care through collaboration among

gynaecology, radiology, and pathology experts, ensuring patients receive the latest health-care advances.

Five cases registered in connection with violence at Muthyalamma

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad City Police has registered five cases in the aftermath of lathi-charge at Muthyalamma in Secunderabad on Saturday.

There have been four cases filed at Market Police Station and one at Gopalapuram Police Station, a source confirmed to *The Pioneer*.

Among them are three complaints from RTC bus drivers regarding attacks on the buses.

A complaint from a Sub-Inspector regarding stones, water bottles, and shoes thrown at police near the Muthyalamma temple. Based on the SI's complaint, cases were registered under sections 195, 192, 121, 132, and 299 of BNS. A Home Guard has also raised a complaint over the attack on Metro Police Hotel, leading to cases under sections 189, 191, 195, 126, and 132 of BNS.

In regard to the RTC bus driver complaints about the attacks on buses at Regimental Bazaar Road cases were registered under Section 3 of the Prevention of Damage to Public Property (PDPP Act.)

In all cases, the police mentioned members names who have conducted protests at the Muthyalamma temple on Saturday.

LATHI-CHARGE AT MUTYALAMMA TEMPLE

VHP demands suspension of police officers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

At a press conference held at the Vishva Hindu Parishad

Telangana state office here on Sunday, prominent spokesperson

Pagudakula Balaswami demanded immediate suspension of police officers involved in a brutal lathi charge on Hindu devotees and Bajrang

Dal activists near the Muthyalamma temple in Secunderabad. He condemned the police's actions against peaceful protesters, who were demonstrating without provocation, and announced plans to submit a petition to the state governor on Monday.

Balaswami criticised the state Chief Minister and Home Minister, Revanth Reddy for their inaction regarding ongoing attacks on temples,

calling it reprehensible. He also condemned the lack of response from the Minister for Endowments Konda Surekha, describing it as an extremely disgraceful act. He urged the government to consider the sentiments of Hindus, instead of focusing solely on temple revenues.

He called for the Director General of Police (DGP) to take the initiative and act against the officers responsible for the lathi charge. The Vishva Hindu Parishad has given the state government 48 hours to suspend these officers; otherwise, they will announce future actions.

He mentioned that injured activists were forcibly discharged from Gandhi Hospital and criticised this as a barbaric act.

Realtor relieved over CM's statement

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy addressed a public meeting, reassuring residents and real estate professionals about the impact of HYDRAA operations on real estate developments. He urged people not to be misled by misinformation circulating on social media regarding the operations.

Revanth Reddy emphasised that individuals with valid permissions for their properties have nothing to fear from HYDRAA.

The government will ensure their protection, and those with proper documentation should present it to the authorities without concern.

He criticised the spread of false information aimed at hindering the state's development and the real estate sector, stating, "The government will stand against this misinformation."

In a subsequent post, HYDRAA reaffirmed: "All real estate ventures with legally valid permissions should remain confident."

False claims suggesting that HYDRAA will demolish structures near lakes—regardless of their legal

status—are unfounded. The Chief Minister has clearly stated that no structures with valid permissions will be affected. HYDRAA will strictly follow this directive."

Real estate professionals expressed their relief in conversations with *The Pioneer*. "We're grateful for the CM's announcement; the uncertainty surrounding HYDRAA's actions has been stressful. Now we feel more secure about our properties," they said.

K. Chakradhar, a real estate businessman, noted, "Previously, I worked with a company facing multiple legal issues for selling villa properties near lakes. However, I believe the government's stance is changing.

Our responsibility is to sell land, and buyers need to be informed about their surroundings. We've always complied with designated areas, but discussions about factors like FTL and Buffer Zones were rare. One of my clients has been persistently contacting me, but I've reassured them that our documentation is in order.

This announcement has certainly brought us relief."

First Map Walk of the year draws 25 participants

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Deccan Archives Foundation and INTACH-Hyderabad (Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage) began their first Map Walk and took 25 participants including a foreigner to historical places of Hyderabad on Sunday.

The History walkers utilised the Munn Maps and stitched seven maps into one together for today's walk.

The first walk explored the locality of Jahanuma and the Qutb Shahi-era sanctuary and Bibi Ka Chashma.

Sibghatullah Khan, Founder of the Deccan Archives who led the walk speaking with *The Pioneer* said that they covered a 3.5 kilometer walk on Sunday. There are next five walks planned for every weekend. The timings are 8 am to 10:30 am.

These maps were created by the Hyderabad Municipal Survey between 1912 and 1915, following the devastating Musi River flood of 1908.



Walkers exploring monuments in Hyderabad on Sunday

They are on the public domain available for people and we take from there to explore the locations.

Apart from Charminar there are many historical locations such as Qutb Shahi era sanctuary Bibi ka Chashma (The Lady's Spring) and Falaknuma.

All these places need restoration because the monument which is 100 yr old is considered to be restored.

"We do not conduct the walk to invade property but be helpful to walkers, students as we see the monuments from road side view and let our walkers create their path so that they can recognise the monuments while they pass by in future," said Sibghatullah Khan.

Last year they conducted six walks of different monuments and this year they are exploring others.

Kishan inspects Cherlapalli satellite terminal station

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Union Minister G Kishan Reddy on Sunday inspected the newly developed satellite terminal station at Cherlapalli near here.

The Union Coal and Mines Minister said the Cherlapalli Satellite terminal has been developed at a cost of Rs 430 crores, and will have the capacity to handle 25 pairs of trains.

Ten new lines have been added with a total of 19 line capacity.

Kishan Reddy noted that 98 per cent of the works at Cherlapalli station have been completed and the remaining work is expected to be completed shortly.

The Cherlapalli station has been provided with modern amenities and facilities such as executive lounge, waiting halls, Sleeping pods, cafeterias, restaurants, ticket booking counters, lifts, escalators, Foot over Bridges, EV charging points etc., a release from South Central Railway (SCR).

Kishan Reddy said that the government has undertaken development of various Railway projects in Telangana state on a mission mode including new lines, dou-



Union Minister G Kishan Reddy inspecting the newly developed satellite terminal station at Cherlapalli on Sunday

bling, tripling, quadrupling, electrification etc.

He said that 40 Railway stations in Telangana state are being redeveloped under the Amrit Bharat station scheme. The indigenously developed 'KAVACH' protection system is also being installed across Railway network in Telangana state and will enhance the safety of train operations.

The Union Minister listed various environmental friendly initiatives taken up during the development of the station such as translocation of 500 trees, setting up of

rain harvesting pits, sewage treatment plant, Solar panels, LED lights and compensatory afforestation of 5,500 trees etc.

The Cherlapalli station will be highly beneficial to the people in the twin cities (of Hyderabad and Secunderabad) and will ease the congestion at Secunderabad, Hyderabad and Kacheguda stations.

BJP MP Eatala Raiender and SCR General Manager Arun Kumar Jain spoke and other senior Railway officials were present, the release added.

Silicon Labs Works event concluded

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Silicon Labs Works With 2024 event concluded at Park Hyatt on Saturday, providing a platform to explore innovations in materials, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE), and smart city technologies. Industry experts, developers, and tech enthusiasts attended with keynotes, panels, and workshops throughout the day.

The event began with a keynote on the transformative role of IoT, energy-efficient connectivity, and smart cities. A panel on Low Power Wide Area Networks (LPWAN) discussed its potential for India's smart city development.

Workshops offered hands-on experiences with technologies like Arduino Nano Matter, Wi-Fi, and BLE. Topics included energy efficiency, IoT applications, and smart city tech.

Attendees also participated in networking sessions, bringing collaboration and future innovation in connected technologies.

Ross Sabolcik, Senior Vice President at Silicon Labs, and Manish Kothari, Senior Vice President of Software Development participated in the event.

Jilted youth attacks woman

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

An engineering graduate was arrested for attacking a 21-year-old woman by slashing her throat with a blade at SR Nagar.

According to the Police, the accused, Madhusudhan Reddy who is just 22 years old, from Ameerpur and a native of Chodavaram village in Andhra Pradesh, had been a friend with the victim. They studied together at an engineering college in Nellore and later joined an IT training institute in Hyderabad.

Over time, the woman began avoiding Madhusudhan due to his drinking and bad habits. He invited her to SR Nagar, pretending to resolve their issues.

Instead, he argued with her and attacked her with a blade. Locals and nearby police quickly overpowered and caught him.

The Police rushed the woman to the local hospital where she received first aid and was released to her family. The Police stated that Madhusudhan was arrested and is now in custody.

AMRIT BHARAT STATION SCHEME

38 Railway Stations in TG to be developed at Rs 1830.4 cr

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The South Central Railways (SCR) announced that under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, 38 railway stations in Telangana are being developed with a budget of Rs 1,830.4 crores. The Cherlapalli railway station will be transformed into a satellite terminal with Rs 430 crores allocated for its development. The redevelopment aims to provide comfort and world-class facilities to passengers.

SCR announced that Modernization efforts are focused on turning these stations into growth centers for local populations. The foundation stones for these projects were laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2023, with completion expected by February 2024. This includes major upgrades at Secunderabad station and Cherlapalli terminal to ease congestion. The SCR highlighted that



Secunderabad Railway station's major upgrades in progress

the plan includes facade improvements, better pedestrian pathways, parking, lighting, local art displays, and greenery. Facilities such as high-rise platforms, waiting halls, and enhanced public announcements are also prioritized. These stations will function as city centers, promoting smooth traffic flow and connectivity. Development work is ongoing, with Kachiguda and Lingampally stations undergoing feasibility studies.

Bhoomi Puja for Government Junior College in Shadnagar to be held today

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar's dream of revamping his alma mater, the Shadnagar Government Junior College, is set to begin. On Monday at 9:30 AM, MLA Veerlapalli will perform the Bhoomi Puja, marking the start of the college's construction. The initiative, funded through contributions from MLA Shankar, alumni, and public entrepreneurs, is estimated to cost Rs. 5 crore. Veerlapalli Shankar, an alumnus of the college, studied there between 1986-88. The college, which started in the 1970s, was once a hub of education in the region. However, over the years, it fell into disrepair with crumbling walls and inadequate facilities, leaving rural students struggling to continue their education. After assuming office, MLA Veerlapalli Shankar prioritized the restoration of the college. He secured government funds and rallied former students and local entrepreneurs to support the initiative. In a meeting held on 15th August, alumni and local leaders such as former MLA Pratap Reddy and Former ZPTC Shyam Sundar Reddy pledged significant donations to the cause.

Citizens in revulsion as officials flag unhygienic conditions in hotels

PNS ■ NIZAMABAD

Recent raids by the State Food Safety Task Force have uncovered alarming instances of food adulteration at several well-known hotels in Nizamabad. Investigators discovered that rotten meat was being prepared and served to patrons, in blatant disregard for safety regulations. The food safety officials inspected hotels on Saturday.

Led by Zonal Assistant Food Controller V Jyotirmayi, the task force found that many hotels were using expired chicken, mutton, prawns, and other meats. Additionally, the kitchens at these establishments were found to be in a state of poor hygiene.

On Saturday, the State Food Safety Task Force conducted raids at two star hotels, a sweet shop, and spice shops within the Mirchi compound.

During an inspection of a hotel, officials discovered 122 kg of meat improperly stored in plastic bags. They also identified and destroyed spoiled meat worth Rs 30,000, along with harmful coloring agents used in cooking, masala mirchi paste, and fungus-infested vegetables. Notices were issued to the hotel management by the Zonal Assistant Food



State Food Safety Task Force officials inspecting a hotel in Nizamabad on Saturday

Controller.

At another big hotel, inspectors found non-vegetarian dishes made with harmful colors, and the refrigerator contained expired chili powder and masala powder. The kitchen was deemed unsanitary, lacking proper lighting and ventilation, leading to a notice being served to the management.

A sweet shop was also found to be preparing sweets in unsafe conditions. The owner received a warning that failure to improve

kitchen cleanliness could result in criminal charges.

Additionally, spice shops in the area were raided, with samples collected for laboratory testing.

The Assistant Food Controller stated that actions would be taken against the hotels and restaurants based on the lab results. "Food safety is our priority, especially regarding perishable items. Our teams are conducting regular inspections at hotels,

she emphasized.

At Vamsi International Hotel, they destroyed meat mixed with harmful colors, boiled chili paste, and expired spice powders found in the fridge. Notices related to FSSAI were issued to the owners. In the Mirchi Compound area, raids were conducted at spice, chili, and turmeric production centers, collecting samples and issuing notices to the operators.

The findings have left residents of Nizamabad town in shock.

Tahsildar Naresh arrested for illegal land registration

PNS ■ RAJANNA SIRISILLA

Chandurthi Circle Inspector Venkateswarlu stated that Tahsildar D Naresh was arrested on Sunday on charge of facilitating illegal registration of an agricultural land belonging to one person in the name of another.

Elaborating on the case, the police officer said that the agricultural land belonging to Salendra Mallesham, who hailed from Ananthapalli village under Chandurthi mandal, was transferred without the his knowledge to Salendra Lakshmi and Salendra Venu. The Tahsildar allegedly facilitated the process to be completed.



Circle Inspector Venkateswarlu

Mallesham filed a complaint stating that his land had been registered in name of two other persons using fake documents in Ananthapalli village and

those who were benefited even took a loan from Chandurthi Gramena Bank on July 254 using these fraudulent documents.

As part of the investigation, it was found that Tahsildar Naresh uploaded false documents onto the Dharani portal when he was Tahsildar in Chandurthi and thus facilitating the illegal land registration. Evidence from the back-end data of the Dharani portal confirmed that the Tahsildar had uploaded fake documents to assist the accused, the police officer said.

Tahsildar Naresh was arrested and produced before Vemulawada Court.

BRS protests demanding release of Rythu Bharosa

PNS ■ MEDAK

In reaction to Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao's announcement regarding investment support under Rythu Bharosa scheme, the BRS party organised a protest in Medak under the leadership of former MLA Padma Devender Reddy. The BRS activists burnt an effigy of the Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.

Speaking on the occasion, Padma Devender Reddy alleged that the Congress government is adopting anti-farmer policies. She demanded immediate payment investment support at the rate of Rs 7,500 per acre during the current Vanakalam (Khari) season. She accused the Congress party of



BRS activists burning an effigy in Medak on Sunday to protest against non-release of Rythu Bharosa funds

deceiving farmers with false promises that were impossible to be fulfilled. Without providing any investment support of Rs 7,500 per acre, the government has reduced the farmers to tears. BRS president K Chandrashekar Rao's warning that the Congress, if elected to power, would put an end to investment support to farmers came true, she said.

Former Municipal Chairman Batty Jagapati, former ZP Vice Chairperson A Lavanya Reddy, city party convenor Mamilla Anjaneyulu, co-conveners Krishna Goud, Lingareddy, Jubber Ahmad, Municipal Councillors Jayaraj, R.K. Srinivas, Viswam and others were present.



Bhadradri-Kothagudem Superintendent of Police Rohit Raju releasing a leaflet on 'stress management' in Kothagudem on Sunday

Workshop on stress management held for police personnel

PNS ■ BHADRADRI-KOTHAGUEM

The District Superintendent of Police Rohit Raju has called upon the police officials and personnel to become mentally tough to face any problem, however big it might be, boldly.

Delivering his address as the chief guest at the workshop on stress management, organised by DSP Rehman, here on Sunday, he asked them to bring to his notice the problems they come across during the discharge of their duties.

Further, he asked them not to trigger health problems unduly worrying over minor problems.

He advised them to stop postponing their tasks and complete them in time to avoid tension.

He suggested to the participants to make it habit to work out daily.

Kothagudem DSP Rehman on Sunday organised a stress management workshop at the PR function hall here for the police officials and personnel in Kothagudem sub-division.

It explained them how to reduce stress in their professional as well as personal lives.

The workshop was organised in the wake of some incidents that had taken place in the police department for boosting the morale of the police officials and personnel. The event was organised on directions from the SP, he added.

Expert Javvadi Venkateswara Rao explained various techniques to manage stress to the participants.

Chunchupalli CI Venkateswarlu, kothagudem three-town CI Siva Prasad and police and others were present.



Former minister T Harish Rao addressing a media conference in Gajwel on Sunday.

Congress' love for displaced persons is sham: Harish

PNS ■ SIDDPET

Former minister and Bharat Rashtia Samithi MLA T Harish Rao on Sunday termed the love shown by the Congress government as a sham.

At a media conference held at Gajwel, Harish Rao alleged that the Congress party's concern for farmers was a sham. He stated that the displaced farmers by the Mallanna Sagar and Kondapochamma reservoirs made immense contributions by giving their lands.

He clarified that the Mallanna Sagar and Kondapochamma displaced persons Rs 694 crore for their old houses and Rs 7.5 lakh under the livelihood scheme. Furthermore, the then government provided Rs5 lakh for each unmarried girl who is 18 years old and above.

The government allotted 2 BHK houses in the heart of the upmarket area of Gajwel and sanctioned 250 square yards of house site for the

unmarried children of the displaced persons.

He criticised Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for ordering the demolition of houses in the name of Musi beautification and allotted double-bedroom houses built by former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao.

Harish Rao stressed that whether KCR did injustice to the displaced persons in the construction of projects, CM Revanth Reddy is doing injustice under the guise of Musi beautification. He acknowledged that the credit for providing houses to displaced persons on 675 acres goes to KCR.

In Tuniki Bollaram, an industrial park was set up on 400 acres for the displaced persons, he said, alleging that the Congress leaders have been resisting the development of industries in the Vargal area.

He demanded that the Congress regime extend compensation to displaced persons and offer attractive packages instead of misleading them.

'Steps taken to prioritise development of new colonies, merged villages'

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao on Sunday announced that measures were being taken to prioritise the development of new colonies and villages merged with Khammam City.

On Sunday, he laid the foundation stone for cement concrete road construction in the 16th division here. The Telangana Urban Finance and Infrastructure Development Corporation provided Rs 1.95 crore for the works.

Speaking on the occasion, Nageswara Rao emphasised that funds are being allocated for the development of basic facilities in newly established colonies and villages merged with the Khammam Municipal Corporation.

He pointed out that residents are facing issues like mosquito menace and a water stagnation in vacant lands. He instructed the Municipal Commissioner to talk to landowners to tackle the problem. If the landowners failed to respond, he asked the Commissioner to issue notices to them.

He mentioned that officials and public representatives need to work to ensure justice for the people who reposed trust in them. He acknowledged that some flood victims had not yet received compensation, and he assured them that a survey would be conducted to provide assistance to all the eligible families.

He criticised the previous government for neglecting farmers' welfare for 10 years and mentioned. He highlighted the current government's commitment to



Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao laying the foundation stone for cement concrete road works in Division in Khammam on Sunday.

financial discipline, stating that they are now providing loan waiver benefits to farmers.

He announced that Indiramma houses would be allocated to the

government had spent nearly Rs 50,000 crores on farmers in the first year of their administration. He asserted that previous governments had not invested any funds

for farmers' welfare.

Municipal Commissioner Abhishek Augustya stated that the cement concrete road construction works for which the foundation stone was laid on Sunday would be completed on schedule. He mentioned that the work order had been issued, and the construction would begin within two days. He also noted that flood compensation had been provided to about 1,500 families in Division 16, and the remaining families would receive assistance within a week. The event was attended by State Warehousing Corporation Chairman Rayala Nageswara Rao, RDO G. Ganesh, Division 16 Corporator Medarapu Venkateswarlu, municipal corporation corporators, public representatives, and relevant officials.

Tampering with weighing machines rampant in Nirmal

PNS ■ NIRMAL

Beware of short weight of goods in grocery shops, according to common people and farmers. Tampering with the weighing machines has allegedly led to the short-weight of goods.

The officials of Legal Metrology, however, are conspicuous by their absence to punish those who are cheating the consumers using the tampered weighing machines.

In the past, there were instances where cotton traders in the Dilawarpur mandal in the district reportedly duped the farmers by short-weighting the produce by 10 to 20 kg and it led to protests by farm-



It is suspected that some unscrupulous persons are putting litre mode in electronic weighing machines instead of grams mode and it would lead to short-weight of goods. This cheating is allegedly being perpetrated and 50 to 100 grams of short-weight is reportedly observed, it is said.

Boys kidnapped from GGH premises

PNS ■ NIZAMABAD

Nizamabad district has acquired the dubious distinction for child lifting. In all, five children have been stolen in the district, including two episodes child lifting from Government General Hospital in the city bringing the security at the government hospital under a scanner.

On Friday night, a one year boy - called Manikantha -- who was sleeping by the side of his parents went missing. His parents who slept on Friday night on the hospital premises with the idea of seeing the doctor on Saturday morning got up on Saturday morning, but found their son

missing.

The police upon verifying the CCTV footage, which is not clear, suspect that it could be the handiwork of a woman, seen loitering on the hospital premises along with two other women, from Maharashtra.

The police are optimistic to find some lead as early as possible in the kidnap case. Two teams have been constituted to investigate the boy missing case.

The theft of a three-year-old boy from the hospital premises in July by two unidentified youth was still green in the memory of the public here. The two incidents taking place in a span of just three months expose the chinks in the hos-

pital security.

According to the police, the child lifters conduct recce at the hospital from evening onwards watching the movements of children visiting the hospital along with their parents. When the parents plunge into deep slumber, the child lifters, in a true filmi style, carry on with the lifting of the babies from the hospital premises. On the basis of CCTV footage, the police apprehended the culprits and restored the boy to their parents.

Two incidents taking place in a gap of just three months left the hospital and police officials disturbed.

In the latest case, a couple

from Madnur Raju and Lakshmi visited the GGH here on Friday evening for the treatment of Lakshmi. They visited the hospital along with three year old daughter and one year old baby boy. As there was no OP when the couple visited the hospital, the couple slept on the premises of the hospital for the Friday night with the idea of seeing the doctor on Saturday morning. Meanwhile, their son - Manikantha - was stolen by child lifters prowling in the area. With their son went missing, the couple lodged a complaint with the police.

The police scanned through the CCTV footage and observed a suspicious looking

woman loitering on the premises of the hospital along with two other women. The footage showed that the women leaving the hospital around midnight along with a child. When the trio moved about in the hospital, there was no boy with them. But, the footage is not clear to identify their faces. The police have been checking the CCTV footage at bus stand and main road.

On January 30 this year, 7-year-old Mohammad Minhaz of Malapalli area of the city was kidnapped while he was playing in front of his house in the city and sold to a gang in Hyderabad for Rs 3 lakh. The police divided into four teams and investigated the case.

On February 6 this year, a woman kidnapped a boy belonging to Mendora and boarded a bus for Metpalli in Armoor bus stand. As the boy was continuously crying, the fellow travelers suspected the woman's credentials and the commuters handed her over to Kammarpalli police station.

On february 4, a woman along with her two year old son went to a toddy shop on the outskirts of Nizamabad where a couple accosted her. The couple fled the place with the boy when his mother got tipsy under the influence of the toddy. The police traced the boy at Palem X roads in Mortadmandal.

ACROSS THE STATES



Fake call centre busted in Lucknow, 12 held

A fake call centre has been busted here and 12 cyber fraudsters were arrested, police said on Sunday. On October 19, the surveillance team of the Deputy Commissioner of Police, East, and the police team of PGI police station, Lucknow, successfully apprehended 12 cyber fraudsters operating from a flat in Everest Enclave, Sector 18 of Vrindavan Yojana in Lucknow. The accused were arrested following a tip-off. During the raid, cops seized a substantial amount of electronic equipment, including 11 laptops, a Samsung tablet, two airfibre units, two routers, five headphones, two mice and 17 mobile phones. The cyber criminals employed a sophisticated technique to target foreign nationals, primarily from the United States and Canada. They would intentionally introduce errors or bugs into the victims' laptops or computer systems, causing pop-up messages to appear. When the affected individuals attempted to resolve the issue, the fraudsters would contact them, posing as technical support agents, the statement said.



18.9% overall prevalence of diabetes in Jammu

The overall prevalence of diabetes in Jammu is 18.9 per cent, with an alarming 26.5 per cent in urban areas and 14.5 per cent in rural areas, a study has revealed. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), in collaboration with the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF), has released critical data from the ICMR-India Diabetes (ICMR-INDIAB) national study, which includes data for Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. This first-of-its-kind study in the region also revealed that 10.8 per cent of the population in Jammu is affected by prediabetes, with 13.4 per cent and 9.3 per cent in the urban and rural areas respectively, emphasising the urgent need for action against the growing burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in the region. According to the study, 40 per cent of individuals had undiagnosed diabetes and the overall prevalence of hypertension, generalised obesity, and abdominal obesity in Jammu is 27.1 per cent, 41.7 per cent and 62.7 per cent, respectively.



MoS attends Indonesian Prez's inauguration

Minister of State for External Affairs, Pabitra Margherita, on Sunday attended the inauguration ceremony of Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto and Vice President Gibran Rakabuming Raka at the Parliament complex in Jakarta. Margherita conveyed warm greetings to President Prabowo on behalf of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a press release. "President Prabowo conveyed his gratitude to Prime Minister Modi for his wishes," it said. Prabowo, 73, was inaugurated as the eighth president of Indonesia. He was the former defence minister of the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation. As part of his visit to Jakarta, Margherita also held discussions with CEOs of leading Indian companies operating in Indonesia, reinforcing India's engagement with its comprehensive strategic partner, the MEA said. The visit reaffirms India's strong commitment to its relations with Indonesia, a close maritime neighbour and strategic partner in the region, it said.

Prayed to God for a solution to Ayodhya dispute, says CJI Chandrachud

Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud on Sunday said he had prayed to God for a solution to the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute and asserted God will find a way if one has faith. He was addressing residents of his native Kanheras village in Khed taluka where he was felicitated. "Very often we have cases (to adjudicate) but we don't arrive at a solution. Something similar happened during the Ayodhya (Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute) which was in front of me for three months. I sat before the deity and told him he needs to find a solution," he said. Asserting that he prays regularly, the CJI said, "Believe me, if you have faith, God will always find a way."

'Cong, SP followed policy of nepotism, overlooked Varanasi'

PNS ■ VARANASI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday accused the Congress and Samajwadi Party of practising nepotism and the policy of appeasement, to the extent that they overlooked Varanasi's development. The PM, who kickstarted developmental projects worth over Rs 6,700 crore in his parliamentary constituency, also said that till 10 years ago scams worth billions used to be in the headlines, "but it is no longer the case." "What was the mentality due to which Kashi was deprived of development? Remember the situation 10 years ago, Varanasi had to yearn for development," he said. "Why did those who ruled the government for a long time in Uttar Pradesh and for decades in

Modi said his government has two major goals – to increase the convenience of the people and to give people jobs. "Today, new highways are being built in the country, railway tracks are being laid on new routes, and new airports are being built. This is not just a work of stone and iron, but it is increasing the convenience of the people and creating jobs for the youth,"



Delhi take no care for Varanasi? The answer is – nepotism and politics of appeasement." "Be it the Samajwadi Party or the Congress, the development of Varanasi was neither their priority nor will it be in future. The BJP government runs on the ideal-

ogy of 'sabka vikas,' the PM said. "Today, in just 125 days, the start of work worth over Rs 15 lakh crore is being discussed in every house-

hold," he added. Modi said his government has two major goals – to increase the convenience of the people and to give people jobs.

NDA is 'Narendra Damodar Das ka Anushasan': Shankaracharya

Shankaracharya of Kanchi Kama Koti Peetha Sri Shankar Vijayendra Saraswati Swami on Sunday said that God has blessed Narendra Modi and his government is 'NDA', which means 'Narendra Damodar Das ka Anushasan'. Addressing a function after the inauguration of RJ Sankara Eye Hospital in Varanasi, Shankara

charya said, "God has blessed Narendra Damodar Das Modi and his government is 'NDA' Narendra Damodar Das ka Anushasan (discipline of Narendra Damodar Das)." He said that the government is doing beautiful work for the welfare of everyone as an ideal government in the world.

PM announces projects worth Rs 6,700 in Varanasi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday announced or inaugurated developmental projects worth Rs 6,700 crore here. He made the announcements from Sports Complex, Siga, in his parliamentary constituency. Earlier, Modi inaugurated RJ Sankara eye hospital being run by the Kanchi Math. The hospital will benefit people of 20 districts of eastern Uttar Pradesh as well as those living in the border areas of Bihar,

Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh, according to people associated with the Kanchi Math. Among the projects, 16 development projects worth over Rs 3,200 crore are in Varanasi. The PM also laid the foundation stone for extension of runway, construction of a new terminal building and allied work to be done Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport in Varanasi at a cost of approximately Rs 2,870 crore.

1.5 lakh wellness centres being set up across country : Jitendra

PNS ■ JAMMU

About 1.50 lakh health and wellness centres are being set up across the country with a focus on prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, including diabetes, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Sunday.



The minister of state in the PMO, who is also a renowned diabetologist, released the Jammu-related data of the "first of its kind" the world's largest survey -- 'ICMR-India Diabetes (INDIAB) Study' to assess the prevalence of the disease in the country. "The government is setting up nearly

1,50,000 Health and Wellness Centres all over the country with a focus on prevention and control of NCDs like diabetes, hypertension and some forms of cancer," Singh said. He credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi with bringing

in a preventable healthcare ecosystem in the country, saying before the Covid pandemic, this concept was alien to India.

"The credit goes to Prime Minister Modi for awakening the nation to the virtues of preventable healthcare, using traditional medicines like Ayurveda and Unani, and practising yoga for health," the minister noted. Singh called for tapping the vast expanse of unexplored Himalayan resources of Jammu and Kashmir, saying these resources have a huge potential for making value addition to India's economy.

Will explore more possibilities of mutual interest with Singapore: Pradhan

PNS ■ SINGAPORE

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Sunday said he will explore enhanced cooperation and mutual interests in the education sector with Singaporean ministers during his upcoming meetings here.



Pradhan is in the city-state on the first leg of his seven-day two-nation visit to Singapore and Australia from Oct 20 to 26 to foster collaboration, participation, and synergy in areas of mutual interest in education. "I am here to explore more possibilities of mutual interest

members of the Indian diaspora over lunch. Singapore is a natural correlation with the Indian market, and "we will engage with the city state in a big way in the future", the minister said. During his two-day Singapore visit, Pradhan will meet Prime Minister Lawrence Wong, Deputy Prime Minister Gan Kim Yong, Education Minister Chan Chun Sing and Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan. He will also visit the prestigious National University of Singapore as well as a local secondary school to discuss the scope of syllabus integration, keeping AI in focus.

Even if we go solo in J'khand polls, won't sabotage INDIA bloc: RJD

PNS ■ RANCHI

Expressing its disappointment with the JMM and Congress over seat-sharing for the Jharkhand assembly polls, the Lalu Prasad-led RJD on Sunday said it would not settle for less than 12 constituencies, but would not sabotage the prospects of the INDIA bloc even if it goes solo. The JMM and Congress on Saturday announced that the two parties would contest 70 of the state's 81 assembly seats, leaving the rest for their allies, including the RJD.

"Less than 12-13 seats are not acceptable to us as the RJD has a strong hold on 18-20 seats. If we are asked to contest three-four seats, we are not ready to make any sacrifices," Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) spokesperson Manoj Kumar Jha said.

"Less than 12-13 seats are not acceptable to us as the RJD has a strong hold on 18-20 seats. If we are asked to contest three-four seats, we are not ready to make any sacrifices," Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) spokesperson Manoj Kumar Jha said. "Our sole aim is

to defeat BJP, we will not sabotage the INDIA bloc," he said. Jha, a Rajya Sabha MP, said even if the party decided to go solo in the elections, it would extend support

to INDIA bloc candidates on 60-62 seats. Last time, RJD contested seven seats and won one. Its MLA Satyanand Bhokta is a minister in the Hemant Soren cabinet. Jha said

Influx of buses from other states increasing pollution in Delhi: Atishi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Atishi on Sunday said one of the biggest contributors to pollution in the Anand Vihar area is the influx of buses from other states, adding the Delhi government will engage with the Uttar Pradesh government to implement anti-pollution measures at their bus depot near the national capital.



She made these remarks while inspecting pollution control measures at the Anand Vihar bus depot along with Environment Minister Gopal Rai. Highlighting the issue, Atishi said, "Anand Vihar, which lies on the Delhi-UP border, remains a hotspot where AQI levels are the highest. This area sees a large influx of buses from outside Delhi, and there is also the Kaushambi bus depot nearby. While Delhi

runs CNG and electric buses, the Kaushambi bus depot receives diesel buses. We plan to engage with the UP government to implement pollution control measures there as well. Constructions by the NCRTC and RRTS has also contributed to pollution levels in the area, she said, adding the Delhi government is utilising all available resources, including 99 teams for dust control and over 315 smog guns, to mitigate the issue.

Revanth is now anti..

Continued from page 1

He said the Congress government is doing all this only to appease a particular group and wondered why the police attacked people who were protesting peacefully instead of punishing those who attacked the Muthyalamma Temple.

ple gathered in the name of motivational classes besides the Muthyalamma Temple but no action was taken by the government. Kishan asked the government whether Hindus have no right to protest. Kishan said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, went to the Ashok Nagar library without security and told cock and bull stories to the youth before coming to power. Both Revanth Reddy and Rahul Gandhi should go to Ashok Nagar library now with the help of the police at least now, he said.

Make TG a trillion..

Continued from page 1

India, he invited ISB students to work with the TG government for 2 to 3 years although salaries were not so big. Revanth reminded them that they are brand ambassadors of Hyderabad and Telangana and requested their help in interacting with investors and business leaders to achieve the ambitious goal of making Telangana a US\$ 1 trillion economy. He concluded by emphasizing the role of youth in his vision.

Musi project meant to..

Continued from page 1

thieves. It is said that Pharma City has been cancelled. They say that the Pharma City issue is in court. Not even four inches of land was acquired for the Fourth City. And if Pharma City is cancelled, how will the Fourth City be built? These are the words of a thief," KTR said.

City, the BRS will approach the Supreme Court. Let's explain Revanth Reddy's scams to the people again," KTR said. "If Revanth has the guts, then let him establish Pharma City. Otherwise, give back the lands to farmers. But the BRS will not remain silent if Revanth says he will do real estate business with Pharma City lands and hand over the lands to his relatives. The BRS will explain to the people the Congress government's deception regarding Pharma City. There are many Revanth Reddy-type frauds all over the place," KTR said.

Bomb threats delay..

Continued from page 1

Security alerts were received for six Akasa Air flights -- QP 1102 (Ahmedabad to Mumbai), QP 1378 (Delhi to Goa), QP 1385 (Mumbai to Bagdogra), QP 1406 (Delhi to Hyderabad), QP 1519 (Kochi to Mumbai) and QP 1526

(Lucknow to Mumbai). "Following defined procedures and thorough inspections of six aircraft, they have been released for operations," an Akasa Air spokesperson said in a statement. The sources also said there were threats for at least six flights of Air India flights.

There was no comment from the airline. Against the backdrop of bomb threats, mostly through social media, to airlines, the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) held a meeting with representatives of airlines on Saturday. The civil aviation ministry plans to put in place strict norms to prevent incidents of hoax bomb threats to airlines, including placing the perpetrators in the no-fly list.

Section 144 in force near..

Continued from page 1

He asked officials to discharge their duties carefully while conducting the examinations. Mahender said that conducting exams is a challenging task now as social media is active. Precautions must be taken to avoid misconceptions and rumours, he added. DGP Jitender said that fool-proof arrangements have been made at all examination centres where Group-1 exams are being held and that everything has been taken to ensure peaceful conduct of the examinations.

Good days foreseen..

Continued from page 1

expert in tarot, politics, bakchodi and geo-politics predicted on Saturday (October 19) that KCR would become the Chief Minister of Telangana once again after the 2028 elections. He posted on his X account regarding this saying, "My prediction about K. Chandrasekhar Rao. He lost his Chief Minister post when Rahu Dasha Mars Anterdasha started. In his Horoscope Mars sits 12th from Rahu. Jupiter Dasha started in September 2024. He may fall ill in October 2026. After January 2027 his fortunes will change. From January 2027 to May 2029 he will become active in politics. 2029 is a good year for him and he will make a comeback."



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PAPER WITH PASSION

A path to democracy

Amid Bangladesh's political turmoil, the possibility of general elections in 2025 presents an opportunity for renewal

After a long wait, the possibility of general elections taking place in Bangladesh in 2025 is now on the horizon. Bangladesh's Law Adviser Asif Nazrul has said the next election could be held in 2025 after completing the pre-election preparations, including the formation of a new Election Commission. Amid the escalating crisis in Bangladesh, there is growing pressure for a new general election to restore democratic order and bring stability. The possibility of holding general elections in 2025 has become a central topic of discussion in political circles. Many see the election as a necessary step to establish a legitimate government that can address the country's economic woes, restore law and order, and guide Bangladesh towards a more stable future. However, there are significant hurdles to overcome before an election can be held. The interim government, currently tasked with maintaining order, must establish a conducive environment for free and fair elections. This involves addressing concerns about electoral fraud, ensuring the safety of voters and candidates, and reforming the Election Commission, which has been criticised for its partisanship in recent years. International pressure, especially from the United States, and the European Union, is likely to play a role in pushing for transparent and credible elections. The international community's involvement may be instrumental in mediating dialogue among political factions and overseeing electoral reforms.



While the potential for a general election in 2025 offers a glimmer of hope, it is by no means a guaranteed solution. The path to stability will require a series of complex and delicate steps, including effective power-sharing arrangements, accountability for past political abuses, and economic policies aimed at alleviating the financial burden on citizens. The emergence of populist rhetoric and extremist groups could also pose threats to a peaceful electoral environment. Moreover, with Sheikh Hasina in exile and her Awami League party in disarray, a sizable section of Bangladesh's political milieu is likely to be away from the election process. Under Sheikh Hasina's leadership, the country experienced substantial economic growth. However, her tenure was also marred by accusations of authoritarianism, suppression of dissent, and manipulation of democratic institutions. The deterioration of democratic norms and crackdowns on opposition parties, including the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), exacerbated political polarisation and unrest. As Bangladesh teeters on the edge of a political precipice, the possibility of holding general elections in 2025 brings a mixture of hope and apprehension. The nation's future will largely depend on how the interim government manages the political transition and whether it can pave the way for a truly democratic process. The coming months will be crucial in determining whether Bangladesh can emerge from this turmoil with renewed democratic vigour or if it will remain mired in chaos and instability.

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PICTALK



Visitors at the Virasat Mahotsav 2024, an art and heritage festival, in Dehradun

The changing dynamics of Bihar politics

As Bihar prepares for the 2025 Assembly elections, Prashant Kishor launches his new party. The big question is, can it make a difference?

Prashant Kishor has entered Bihar politics with a clear message: his role is that of a guide, not a contender for power. "My work is like that of a potter who shapes the best with the right tools. We aim to bring forward the best people in society," he stated, dismissing speculations about his ambitions for the Chief Minister's post. He reiterated that his newly launched party, 'Jansuraj', will be run by its members, not him, and he would only contest elections if the party deemed it necessary. Kishor's move has stirred the political waters in Bihar. His party's announcement to contest the upcoming Assembly elections has sparked debates on its potential impact on major alliances, the NDA, and the India Alliance. A former election strategist for both PM Narendra Modi and Bihar CM Nitish Kumar, Kishor has not aligned with the Congress or the RJD. Some political analysts even suggest that his presence might benefit the BJP by weakening the RJD's support base, an idea that



gained traction following the rally and Muslim unity meeting in Patna. Despite his history with the BJP, Kishor has not held back from criticising Nitish Kumar's governance. The Janata Dal (United) (JDU), however, remains firm on its stance, with leaders affirming that Nitish Kumar is still Bihar's true leader. In a recent meeting, JDU's acting national president Sanjay Jha dismissed any doubts about Kumar's relevance, pointing to the party's

resilience despite various narratives circulating before the elections. Ahead of the 2025 Assembly elections, Kishor has strategically targeted the Muslim and backward caste communities, which represent a significant portion of the electorate—17.7 per cent and 36.1 per cent, respectively. He has announced plans to field more candidates from these communities and has emphasised inclusivity by appointing a Dalit as party's working president.

This move has been seen as a counter to JDU's long-standing Mahadalit outreach. Kishor has been preparing the ground for his political venture for the past two years, conducting a 'padyatra' across Bihar and engaging with the public through discussions in villages and towns. Drawing on the philosophies of Gandhi and Tagore, he has sought to resonate with the masses, though his stance on lifting the liquor ban has invited criticism for contradicting Gandhian ideals. The launch of 'Jansuraj' represents Kishor's effort to offer a new political alternative in Bihar. However, significant questions remain: can he address Bihar's pressing issues such as unemployment and crime? Will his strategies translate into a viable solution for the state's enduring challenges? As Bihar gears up for the next election, the answers to these questions will determine Kishor's political fate. (The writer is a senior journalist; views are personal)



RAJESH KUMAR SINGH

India-Canada relations sink over Khalistan issue

As both countries grapple with domestic politics and external pressures, the ties are now at its most fragile point, threatening trade, security and people-to-people connections



PARUL CHANDRA

Two of the world's leading democracies, India and Canada, are currently engaged in a rather unseemly, explosive diplomatic row over Ottawa's refusal to rein in Khalistani elements thriving on Canadian soil. New Delhi believes these elements, all Canadian nationals, have been allowed unfettered freedom, imperilling India's security interests. With Ottawa paying no heed to New Delhi's concerns, a traditionally close relationship nurtured over a long period now lies torn into shreds. The spat with Canada could also impinge on India's geopolitical equations with members of the powerful intelligence-sharing 'Five Eyes' alliance. The Justin Trudeau-led government has approached the alliance and got the backing of the other four members – the US, UK, Australia and New Zealand – on its allegations linking the Indian government's "agents" to "criminal activities" in Canada, including the killing of Khalistani separatist Kuldeep Singh Nijjar in June last year. All these alliance partners have their eyes firmly set on the crucial Indo-Pacific. So does India. Surely, none would want the imbroglgio to adversely impact their geostrategic alignment to counter China's aggressive expansionism in the region. If Ottawa's charges on the Indian government's involvement do turn out to be correct, New Delhi would have an egg on its face. While covert operations to carry out hit jobs in foreign lands to take out elements inimical to a country's interests are nothing new, being caught with proof of overt involvement can prove to be a major embarrassment. It's noteworthy that the US, unlike Canada, has been far more discreet in its approach while seeking India's cooperation in investigating a plot to kill Khalistani separatist leader and its national Gurbatwant Singh Pannun, who leads Sikhs for Justice. The US strategy is driven in no small measure by its desire to not cause any major rift in bilateral strategic ties with India, even though it continues to put pressure on New Delhi on the issue. Trudeau, on the



other hand, is driven by his desire to woo for his domestic political gains a section of the Sikh diaspora who support Khalistan. Discretion in such a sensitive matter, therefore, has been thrown to the winds. The Trudeau government's sovereignty concerns over the Nijjar killing, however, do not extend to alleged Chinese interference in Canadian federal elections both in 2019 and 2021. The crucial Indo-Pacific. So does India. Surely, none would want the imbroglgio to adversely impact their geostrategic alignment to counter China's aggressive expansionism in the region. If Ottawa's charges on the Indian government's involvement do turn out to be correct, New Delhi would have an egg on its face. While covert operations to carry out hit jobs in foreign lands to take out elements inimical to a country's interests are nothing new, being caught with proof of overt involvement can prove to be a major embarrassment. It's noteworthy that the US, unlike Canada, has been far more discreet in its approach while seeking India's cooperation in investigating a plot to kill Khalistani separatist leader and its national Gurbatwant Singh Pannun, who leads Sikhs for Justice. The US strategy is driven in no small measure by its desire to not cause any major rift in bilateral strategic ties with India, even though it continues to put pressure on New Delhi on the issue. Trudeau, on the

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IT'S NOTEWORTHY THAT THE US, UNLIKE CANADA, HAS BEEN FAR MORE DISCREET IN ITS APPROACH WHILE SEEKING INDIA'S COOPERATION IN INVESTIGATING A PLOT TO KILL KHALISTANI SEPARATIST LEADER AND ITS NATIONAL GURPATWANT SINGH PANNUN, WHO LEADS SIKHS FOR JUSTICE

Gandhi's assassination in processions to mark the 40th anniversary of 'Operation Blue Star', and recently even published posters issuing death threats to senior Indian diplomats, stoking New Delhi's concerns. Trudeau's Liberal Party has thrived on support from the Sikh diaspora that exercises significant influence in some important parliamentary seats. A pro-Khalistani Canadian politician, Jagmeet Singh, who leads the New Democratic Party, has played a crucial role in enabling Trudeau's minority government to remain in power by signing a deal supporting it in no-confidence votes. Singh called off this deal last month but elections in Canada are slated to be held next year anyway if Trudeau's government can survive until then. New Delhi, in any case, will be happy to see the back of Trudeau. Now, with his government even threatening "sanctions" against India, it's fairly evident that Ottawa is willing to jeopardise even vital trade and economic ties with India. It halted negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in September last year as bilateral relations soured. Canada's own Indo-Pacific strategy had earlier recognised India as a "critical partner", seeking deeper trade and economic ties.

Bilateral trade was pegged at \$9.36 billion in 2023. The turbulence in ties can have a deleterious impact on trade and economic links. What could also take a hit are people-to-people ties, especially with Canada being a favoured destination for Indian students for higher education. An estimated 4.27 lakh Indian students are studying in Canada, helping its educational institutes earn much-needed revenue. Canada is also home to a huge Indian diaspora of 1.8 million – Trudeau will only alienate himself from them while allowing Khalistani radicals to flourish. Trudeau would do well to remember that it was Khalistani separatist elements who carried out the bombing of AI Kanishka Flight 182 in June 1985, killing 329 persons of whom a majority were Canadian citizens of Indian origin. Allowing radical elements to thrive for the sake of political expediency has never done any nation good. As two mature democracies who have often cited this fact as one that underpins their bilateral ties, both India and Canada need to pull back from the diplomatic war they are engaged in. A sour relationship can only cause further damage in the long run. (The writer is a senior New Delhi-based journalist who writes on foreign affairs; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SECTION 6A STAYS VALID

Madam — The Supreme Court's judgment on the validity of Section 6A of the Citizenship Act on Thursday not only put an end to concerns about an old issue reviving, but it also shed light on numerous factors that can help shape the current debate. In this regard, the ruling confirms the methodology established in the Assam Accord to address the issue of illegal immigrants in Assam. The Supreme Court's five-member constitutional bench ruled Section 6A of the Citizenship Act statutory, clearing the door for the implementation of the 1985 accord reached by the Rajiv Gandhi government and the All-Assam Students Union (AASU). According to this agreement, by adding Section 6A to the Citizenship Act, those who came from Bangladesh before March 25, 1971, would be eligible for citizenship. Previously, this day was January 1, 1966. After the challenge to the constitutionality of this section of the Citizenship Act is dismissed, those who arrived in Assam from Bangladesh before March 25, 1971, will be permitted to petition for citizenship, but those who arrived after that date will be identified and deported. This ruling provided solace to all individuals who had arrived from other places and were living in Assam, feeling stuck in uncertainty. The verdict made it clear whose citizenship is safe, who can obtain citizenship, and who must be identified as illegal migrants and returned properly. In this sense, there is no room for ambiguity. Politics driven by immediate interests can be more harmful in this situation. The decision may have been made in the context of Assam, but the issue of illegal immigration is significant in many other locations. Abhijit Roy | Jamshedpur

NEW JUSTICE STATUE UNVEILED

Madam—In a symbolic shift, a new statue of Nyay ki Devi (Lady of Justice) at the Supreme Court (SC) replaces the traditional blindfold (serves as a reminder of

Senior citizens get relief



The decision of the Group of Ministers to reduce GST on insurance policies (health insurance and life insurance) is certainly beneficial to many citizens who intend to have insurance cover for them or their families for meeting unexpected expenses of hospitalisation or even deaths. At the same time, the decision to recommend

a total waiver of GST on health insurance policies for senior citizens is definitely laudable. However, these recommendations will be put up in the GST Council meeting for a decision after October 30, which is too long a period. In fact, many of the health insurance policies involving senior citizens under group cover expire by 30th October itself, and they have to be renewed well in advance to continue the coverage. Therefore, the senior citizens, especially, are more concerned immediately and the waiver of GST as decided and recommended in the GOM meeting recently held, if implemented earlier, will certainly benefit the senior citizens who have to renew their policies by making premia payments. K Durga Prasad Rao | Hyderabad

become more evident. Bidyut Kumar Chatterje | Faridabad

GATISHAKTI BOOSTS CONNECTIVITY

Madam — PM Modi celebrates GatiShakti's success in streamlining India's infrastructure development for multimodal connectivity. PM Modi has praised the achievements of the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan for Multimodal Connectivity, which has significantly enhanced infrastructure efficiency over the past three years. Launched in October 2021, the initiative integrates various infrastructure schemes from different ministries and state governments, improving seamless movement of goods and addressing supply chain bottlenecks. The plan has identified numerous infrastructure gaps and aims to develop sustainable solutions, ultimately fostering entrepreneurship and innovation across India. Jayanthy Subramaniam | Mumbai

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FIRST COLUMN

THE ART OF SAYING NO

Setting boundaries allows employees to focus on high-value tasks and protects their well-being



SAKSHI SETHI

In the modern workplace, professionals are often expected to handle a variety of tasks and responsibilities, making it easy to become overwhelmed. While many employees adopt a yes-boss mentality to stay in good favour or advance their careers, the ability to say no can be just as important. Learning to decline certain requests, combined with the effective use of delegation, is the key to managing time, preserving mental well-being and ensuring tasks that are completed efficiently and effectively. Looking at today's fast-paced and highly competitive work environment, learning to say no can be one of the most valuable skills for any professional. While the workplace often rewards the individual with a can-do attitude but the ability to refuse certain tasks or requests is equally essential to maintain productivity, well-being and professional integrity. There is often an underlying fear of being seen as uncooperative, damaging relationships with colleagues, or missing out on future opportunities.

The result of this is an overloaded schedule, which can lead to decreased productivity, poor work quality and even burnout. It can negatively impact both the individual and the organisation, as overstretched employees may struggle to meet deadlines or produce substandard work. The ability to refuse is not just about rejecting requests rather it's about setting boundaries that protect one's time and energy, ensuring that the most important tasks get the attention they deserve. Saying no to unnecessary or low-priority tasks allows professionals to focus on higher-value work, leading to better outcomes, a stronger contribution to the organisation and helps prevent individuals to maintain focus on their core responsibilities.



Despite its clear benefits, saying a no is often easier said than done. Many employees find it difficult to refuse tasks due to cultural or organisational pressures that equate being helpful with taking on as much work as possible. Some even fear that saying no could label them as difficult or unwilling to be a team player, leading to missed promotions or opportunities.

Moreover, individuals often grapple with personal barriers to saying no. Perfectionism, fear of conflict or a desire to please others can make it hard to set boundaries resulting in employees worrying that a simple refusal to additional tasks reflects their inabilities or lack of dedication towards the job. But in reality, saying no in the workplace brings several important benefits, both for the individual and the organisation.

Effective delegation can offer a constructive alternative when refusing a task outright is not an option for it allows work to be distributed across a team, which can increase overall productivity, help build confidence and foster a sense of ownership and responsibility within the team. It even helps concentrate on strategic tasks and high-priority responsibilities that require their attention and most importantly demonstrates trust in the abilities of individuals, which can improve team morale and encourage a more collaborative working environment.

While learning to say no and delegating effectively are two critical skills for success in the workplace. Saying no helps protect time and energy for the most important tasks, while delegation allows leaders to distribute work more effectively and empower others. By mastering the art of saying no and delegating, professionals can not only manage their workloads but also foster a more efficient and empowered team.

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

Indian immigrants to Canada bear brunt of diplomatic row



K S TOMAR

The fallout threatens to disrupt visa processes, immigration pathways, and opportunities for Indian workers and students in Canada



The fallout of the current diplomatic tensions between India and Canada, particularly in the wake of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's accusations and expulsions of diplomats by both countries, could have significant consequences for Indian citizens working, studying, or planning to immigrate to Canada. Trudeau's Liberal Party has been facing declining support, and his minority government has been kept afloat by the New Democratic Party (NDP), led by Jagmeet Singh, a prominent Sikh politician.

The NDP's support base includes a significant portion of Canada's Sikh population, and Trudeau may be attempting to retain their support by taking a tough stance against India, which is perceived by some Sikhs in Canada as being hostile to their interests. The deteriorating relations between the two countries may affect several key areas:

Impact on Indian Workers in Canada: Indians form a significant part of Canada's skilled workforce, especially in sectors like IT, healthcare, engineering and finance. Over the years, Canada has become a top destination for experienced professionals from India due to its immigration-friendly policies. Visa and Work Permit Issues: While the immediate impact on Indian workers in Canada has been limited, any prolonged diplomatic standoff could lead to delays in the processing of work permits, visa renewals and permanent residency (PR) applications. The processing times might increase, and stricter scrutiny could be imposed.

Uncertainty for Future Migrants: Potential immigrants or those awaiting work permits may face hurdles in terms of visa approvals. If relations continue to sour, Canada might impose tighter immigration controls on Indian workers, which could hamper the flow of professionals into the country.

Impact on Indian Students in Canada: There is large Indian Student Population in Canada as it has become a major destination for Indian students, with nearly 320,000 Indian students enrolled in Canadian universities as of 2023. The country's world-class education system, relatively easier immigration pathways



THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO MITIGATE THE FALLOUT IS THROUGH DIPLOMATIC DIALOGUE. BOTH GOVERNMENTS MUST FIND COMMON GROUND AND WORK TOWARDS DE-ESCALATION. DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS SHOULD PRIORITISE RESOLVING MISUNDERSTANDINGS WHILE PROTECTING THE INTERESTS OF CITIZENS ON BOTH SIDES

post-graduation, and diverse work opportunities have made it attractive for Indian students.

Visa Delays: The current diplomatic tension may lead to delays in student visa approvals or increased scrutiny of applications. While there is no immediate indication that Indian students will face outright rejections, the uncertainty could cause stress and delays in admission procedures, particularly for new applicants. Post-Graduation Work Opportunities: Many Indian students stay in Canada after completing their studies under post-graduation work permits (PGWP) and eventually apply for permanent residency.

The growing tension could complicate this process, making it harder for students to transition smoothly from education to employment.

Impact on Immigration Pathways: Canada's Express Entry programme, which has been highly favourable for Indian professionals and students seeking permanent residency, might slow down or become more stringent if the diplomatic rift deepens.

There could be longer processing times, more rigorous background checks, and even potential policy changes affecting Indian applicants.

Family Reunification: Indian citizens who have family members in Canada and are in the process of family reunification (sponsorship programmes) could face delays in their applications due to the diplomatic standoff.

Trade and Bilateral Agreements: Professional Mobility: If diplomatic tensions continue, professional exchanges, joint ventures, and corporate partnerships involving Indian and Canadian companies might slow down. This could reduce job opportunities for Indian professionals working for Canadian companies in sectors like IT, telecommuni-

cations, and consulting. Impact on New Immigration Streams: The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), which India and Canada had been discussing, could be put on hold.

This would affect initiatives meant to streamline immigration for Indian professionals and create pathways for smoother trade and employment relations.

Solutions to Mitigate the Fallout: Diplomatic Resolution: The most effective way to mitigate the fallout is through diplomatic dialogue. Both governments must find common ground and work towards de-escalation. Diplomatic channels should prioritise resolving misunderstandings while protecting the interests of citizens on both sides.

Temporary Shift to Alternative Countries: While waiting for the situation to stabilise, students and professionals might consider alternative countries such as the UK, Australia, or Germany, which offer similar educational and work opportunities for Indian nationals.

Vote Bank Politics and the Sikh Community's Role in Canada: Canada has one of the largest Sikh populations outside of India, with an estimated 770,000 Sikhs, making up about 2 per cent of the total Canadian population.

Many of these Sikhs are concentrated in electoral districts in British Columbia, Ontario, and Alberta. In some constituencies, Sikhs represent a significant voting bloc, which can influence election outcomes.

Upcoming Elections: With elections expected by 2025, Trudeau needs to consolidate his support among key communities. Given the current minority government status, he must rely on alliances, such as with the NDP, and maintain his standing in immigrant-rich constituencies, including those dominated by

Sikhs. His recent diplomatic actions appear designed to shore up this support by aligning himself with issues important to these groups. The Sikh community has historically supported the Liberal Party, particularly under Trudeau. Many high-profile Sikh leaders, including ministers in his cabinet, are from this community.

Thus, maintaining their support is crucial for the Liberal Party's prospects in the next election. **Khalistan Issue:** While not all Sikhs in Canada support the Khalistan movement, those who do have formed influential advocacy groups that have pushed the issue into Canadian politics.

Trudeau's overtures to this section of the electorate have been interpreted as efforts to protect his vote base, especially as his government faces increasing political pressure ahead of future elections.

Experts say that Trudeau may also be positioning himself as a defender of Canadian sovereignty by alleging foreign interference, a move that could resonate with voters concerned about national security.

This fits with broader concerns in the West about foreign interference in domestic politics, even though India has categorically denied the allegations. India-Canada ties are indeed at their lowest ebb following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's accusation that Indian agents were involved in the killing of Khalistani leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar on Canadian soil.

This extreme diplomatic move, which has severely strained relations between the two countries, is seen as a combination of vote bank politics and Trudeau's handling of domestic pressures, especially in light of upcoming elections.

(Writer is a strategic columnist; views are personal)

India's strides towards the design and component ecosystem in telecom

The telecom sector is evolving from a service-led growth model to a robust manufacturing ecosystem

The telecommunications sector in India has grown to become the world's second-largest, contributing around 6.5 per cent to the nation's GDP and emerging as a key economic growth engine. While we take pride in this impressive growth, there is something even more exciting - the rise of the telecom manufacturing ecosystem. India's growth as a telecom equipment manufacturing destination can be attributed to the 'Make-in-India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives launched by the Government in recent years.



S P KOCHHAR

facturing at an additional incentive rate with an allocated sum of Rs 4,000 crores also provided a major boost to telecom manufacturing in India. As per the latest update by the Ministry of Communications, sales of telecom equipment have surpassed the Rs 50,000 crore milestone under the PLI scheme, with exports at about Rs 10,500 crore. During this

period, India exported mobile phones worth Rs 1.28 lakh crores and with 300 million units produced, it has emerged as the second-largest producer of mobile phones in the world.

On the telecom equipment front, India has become almost self-reliant in antennae, Gigabit Passive Optical Network (GPON) and Customer Premises Equipment (CPE). As a result, India's status has turned from importing telecom equipment worth Rs 74,116.21 crore in FY 13-14 to exporting equipment worth over Rs 1.49 lakh crore in FY 23-24.

Though we are still importing certain products, the gap between imports and exports has gone down significantly. Apart from fostering self-

reliance, indigenous manufacturing of telecom equipment national security concerns associated with telecom imports.

Manufacturing has emerged as an important aspect of the telecom sector's contribution to the GDP through the creation of substantial employment opportunities across the value chain, from manufacturing to research and development.

So far, telecom manufacturing has created more than 17,800 direct jobs and several indirect jobs. The Indian telecom industry is likely to attract investments in the areas of core competency and cutting-edge technologies; ensure efficiencies and create economies of scale, in turn, enhancing



exports and making India an integral part of the global value chain. Government's Push for 'Atmanirbhar' Under the government's 'Atmanirbharta Abhiyan', the Department of Telecom (DoT) aims to promote the ecosystem for research and development, transforming India into a glob-

al hub of technology development and telecom equipment manufacturing. The Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia recently announced the Government's ambitions to set up telecommunication equipment manufacturing zones as the country expects more inflow of foreign direct investments (FDI). Prime Minister Narendra Modi too emphasised the need for "Design in India, Design for the World", calling for indigenous design capabilities and urging the citizens to create products that cater to both domestic and international markets. The Government has further established several task forces to ensure the smooth functioning of the telecom ecosystem. These include initiatives for

creating a component ecosystem, developing telecom chips from design to production, training skilled workers and designers, aggregating the demand for manufacturing from different departments and allocating them to eligible manufacturers, and optimising the use of test beds for product testing and certification. Following the Government's decision to allow 100 per cent FDI in telecom, the sector has attracted USD 39 billion in FDI for manufacturing, further boosting the momentum and solidifying India's role as a global telecom manufacturing hub.

Thanks to these concerted efforts, India has been able to bring down the trade deficit in telecom from Rs 68,000 crores to Rs 4,000 crores, over the last

five years. Focus on design and creation of IP is crucial to fulfilling India's ambitions as a product nation as design elements add substantial value to products. To build a strong ecosystem for 5G, DoT has sanctioned 17 companies under design-led manufacturing within the PLI scheme.

Further, global telecom equipment manufacturers like Cisco and Nokia have set up their manufacturing units in India, fostering world-class manufacturing prowess. These efforts, among others, emerge as a testament to the country's indigenous engineering and entrepreneurial capabilities, as well as manufacturing prowess.

(The writer is Director General, COAI; views are personal)

IN BRIEF



EPFO net new member additions rise to 18.53 lakh

Retirement fund body EPFO's net new member additions increased 9.07 per cent to 18.53 lakh in August, compared to a year ago, according to payroll data released on Sunday. EPFO enrolled around 9.30 lakh new members in August 2024, representing an increase of 0.48 per cent from August 2023, a labour ministry statement said. This surge in new memberships can be attributed to growing employment opportunities, increased awareness of employee benefits, and EPFO's successful outreach programs, it stated. According to the provisional payroll data for August 2024 released by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), there was a net addition of 18.53 lakh members in August 2024, representing a 9.07 per cent year-on-year growth. A noticeable aspect of the data is the dominance of the 18-25 age group, constituting a significant 59.26 per cent of the total new member additions in August 2024.



601 routes, 71 airports operationalised under UDAN

The civil aviation ministry on Sunday said as many as 601 routes and 71 airports have been operationalised under the regional air connectivity scheme UDAN, which was introduced eight years ago. UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) is aimed at enhancing regional air connectivity and making flying more affordable. In a release, the ministry said 601 routes, including helicopter routes, have been operationalised, and that around 28 per cent of these routes serve the remotest locations. "A total of 86 aerodromes -- comprising 71 airports, 13 heliports, and 2 water aerodromes -- have been operationalised, facilitating the travel of over 1.44 crore passengers across more than 2.8 lakh flights," it added. Meanwhile, the number of operational airports in the country has doubled from 74 in 2014 to 157 in 2024 and the aim is to increase the count to 350-400 by 2047.



Borosil Group expects to cross Rs 7,000-cr revenue

Borosil, which operates in glassware, laboratory equipment and solar glasses, is expecting to double its revenue to Rs 7,000 crore in the next four years, led by double-digit growth from across its business verticals, its Executive Vice Chairman Shreevar Kheruka has said. The Kheruka-family promoted Borosil Group, which operates with three listed entities under its fold -- Borosil Ltd, Borosil Renewables Ltd, and Borosil Technologies Ltd -- expects to reach a revenue close to Rs 3,500 crore in FY25. It plans to invest Rs 250 crore for expansion and capacity augmentation to meet the demand, in which it intends to invest about Rs 150 crore on a new plant in Gujarat for Borosil Ltd, which is in the business of products such as glassware and cookware, said Kheruka.

'Renewable energy target may push solar equipment imports'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The country's target of installing 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030 may push solar equipment import bill to about USD 30 billion per year and increase dependence on Chinese goods, think tank GTRI said in a report on Sunday.

It said developing a self-reliant solar manufacturing industry in India will require significant investment to create an integrated supply chain, especially in areas like polysilicon and wafer production.

Without this, India may continue to face high import costs and struggle to meet its renewable energy goals.

India installed 15 GW of solar capacity in 2023-24, raising the total to 90.8 GW by September, compared to just 2.8 GW in 2014, it said.

To meet the government's target of installing 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030, India needs to significantly ramp up installations to 65-70 GW each year, with over 80 per cent of this target expected to come from solar power, according to the Global Trade



Research Initiative (GTRI).

"This target seems ambitious, particularly given India's reliance on imports, which could push solar import to USD 30 billion annually," it said.

In 2023-24, India imported USD 7 billion worth of solar equipment, with China supplying 62.6 per cent.

China controls 97 per cent of global polysilicon production and 80 per cent of solar module manufacturing, making it difficult for India or any country to compete due to lower prices from China.

GTRI Founder Ajay Srivastava said while initiatives like the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme aims to boost local manufacturing,

impact is limited as it relies on large scale use of imported inputs.

The report said India's solar manufacturing industry is in early stages, with most projects relying on imported ready-to-use modules.

During the last fiscal year, ready-to-use solar modules imports reached USD 4.4 billion. The country also imported solar cells worth USD 1.9 billion and USD 1 billion worth of other essential parts such as inverters, and cables, junction boxes, transformers, and other electrical components needed for solar installations.

"Local production is import-dependent and mainly focuses on the final two

stages. 90 per cent of solar manufacturing in India involves assembling solar modules from imported cells with 15 per cent local value addition," it said.

It added that few Indian companies manufacture commercial scale solar cells from imported polysilicon or wafers that add 30-40 per cent value locally and no one produces solar cells from scratch using silica sands.

"To cut down on imports, India needs to produce solar cells starting from silica refining, which involves costly and energy-intensive polysilicon production and requires advanced technology," Srivastava said.

He added that cheap imports disrupt local pricing and the country has to also locally produce aluminum frames, glass, and other materials, which will require strong R&D efforts and government support.

According to the report, China is India's largest supplier, providing USD 3.89 billion worth of solar cells and modules, which accounts for 62.6 per cent of total imports.

'US's 'Freedom to Fail' crucial as India emerges as powerful economy'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A characteristic that sets apart the United States, world's largest economy, is its "Freedom to Fail" concept, and India closely aligns with this mindset as it positions itself as a burgeoning global economic leader, said private equity firm Black Dragon Capital's CEO Louis Hernandez Jr.

In an interview with PTI, Hernandez, Founder and CEO of Black Dragon Capital, emphasised that embracing failure can lead to groundbreaking achievements, especially in a country that is rapidly emerging as a global technology leader.

"I feel like the US's primary advantage is its 'freedom to fail'. It's not there in the education system or healthcare. It's just that in our country, it's okay to fail. And you'll still be celebrated if you are innovative and come up with new ideas. And I think India most closely matches that," he said, suggesting that India is beginning to adopt this mindset.

Hernandez, a former advisor to Infosys founder Narayana Murthy, said he believes that India's emerging economy,



combined with its robust educational framework, creates an environment ripe for technological advancements.

He noted that when he first engaged with the Indian market, it was primarily known for providing cost-effective technology solutions. Today, it stands as a "beacon of innovation", producing talent that leads major US tech companies, he said.

"India is growing faster and it's an emerging economy that emphasises education. And I think these ingredients create a country that will be leading in some time. The world is coming towards India's strengths," Hernandez said.

BSE, NSE to conduct one-hour Diwali 'Muhurat Trading' on Nov 1

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Leading stock exchanges BSE and NSE will conduct a one-hour special 'Muhurat Trading' session on the occasion of Diwali on November 1, marking the start of the new Samvat 2081.

The symbolic trading session will be held between 6 pm and 7 pm, the stock exchanges said in separate circulars.

The session also marks the beginning of a new Samvat -- the Hindu calendar year that starts on Diwali -- and it is believed that trading during the 'Muhurat' or auspicious hour brings prosperity and financial growth for the stakeholders.

The market will remain closed for regular trading on Diwali, but a special trading window will be open for one hour in the evening. The exchanges announced that the pre-opening session will take place from 5:45 pm to 6:00 pm.

Market analysts said that Diwali is considered to be the ideal time to start anything new. Investors are said to benefit from trading during this session all through the year.

Since the trading window is only open for an hour, markets are known to be volatile. The focus might not be on profitability as much as it might be on the gesture, they added.



Automobile exports from India rise 14 pc

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Automobile exports from India in the first six months of the current fiscal year rose 14 per cent year-on-year, led by gains in shipments of passenger vehicles and two-wheelers.

According to Siam data, the overall exports in the April-September period stood at 25,28,248 units, up 14 per cent as compared with 22,11,457 units in the year-ago period.

"Key markets like Latin America and Africa, which had slowed down for various reasons, have bounced back. This has been the main reason for exports coming back," Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) President Shailesh Chandra said.

He was replying to a query on the reasons for the bouncing back of vehicle exports in the April-September period.



Various African nations and other regions faced challenges due to devaluation of currencies. This impacted the vehicle shipments as the nations focussed on import of essential items.

Automobile exports declined 5.5 per cent in FY24 due to the monetary crisis in various overseas markets.

Overall exports stood at 45,00,492 units in the last fiscal year as compared with

47,61,299 units in FY23.

Total passenger vehicle shipments rose 12 per cent year-on-year to 3,76,679 units in the first half of the current fiscal year as against 3,36,754 units in the September quarter of FY24.

The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki led the vertical with shipments of 1,47,063 units, an increase of 12 per cent over 1,31,546 units in the year-ago period.

Hyundai Motor India exported 84,900 units, a drop of 1 per cent, as against 86,105 units in April-September period of the previous fiscal year.

Two-wheeler exports rose 16 per cent year-on-year to 19,59,145 units in the April-September period this fiscal year as compared with 16,85,907 units in the year-ago period.

Scooter shipments increased 19 per cent to 3,14,533 units while motorcycle exports rose 16 per cent to 16,41,804 units during the period under review. Commercial vehicle exports rose 12 per cent year-on-year to 35,731 units in the first six months of the fiscal year. Three-wheeler shipments, however, declined 1 per cent during the period to 1,53,199 units as compared with 1,55,154 units in the April-September period of the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Q2 earnings, global trends, key drivers for markets

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Quarterly earnings from corporates, global trends, and trading activity of foreign investors will guide market sentiment this week, analysts said, adding that benchmark indices may face volatile trends.

"The upcoming release of Q2 results will be closely watched, providing insights into corporate performance. Meanwhile, the escalating tensions between Israel and Iran introduce a significant geopolitical risk, potentially leading to increased oil prices and market volatility. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) have been a key driver of the Indian market's performance, and their stance will depend on factors such as global economic conditions, and domestic political developments," said Praveesh Gour, Senior Technical Analyst, Swastika



Investmart Ltd. HDFC Bank on Saturday reported a 6 per cent increase in September quarter net profit to Rs 17,825.91 crore on a consolidated basis.

On a standalone basis, the largest private sector lender's post-tax net grew to Rs 16,820.97 crore during the reporting period, as against Rs 15,976.11 crore in the year-ago period.

"In the absence of any major triggers, market participants will focus on upcoming earnings for direction. First, they will react to the results of banking heavyweights such as HDFC Bank and Kotak Bank. Later, companies like ITC, Hindustan Unilever, BPCL, HPCL, and Ultratech Cement will also announce their earnings," said Ajit Mishra, SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

Bajaj Housing Finance, Adani Green Energy, Bajaj Finance, One97 Communications, Zomato, Bajaj Finserv and Bank of Baroda would also announce their earnings this week.

Kotak Mahindra Bank on Saturday posted a 13 per cent growth in September quarter profit to Rs 5,044 crore, helped by performance of its subsidiaries.

On a standalone basis, the private sector lender's net profit for the quarter grew 5 per cent to Rs 3,344 crore, limited by a jump in provisions.

Reliance Infra's Rs 6,000-cr fundraising plan gets nod

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Shareholders of Reliance Infrastructure have approved the company's plan to raise Rs 6,000 crore through preferential issue of shares and qualified institutional placement (QIP) route.

Both proposals have received shareholders' approval, with over 98 per cent voting in favour of the resolutions via postal ballot, the company informed in a stock exchange disclosure.

Reliance Infrastructure's board, on September 19, had approved a Rs 6,000-crore fundraising plan. Of this, Rs 3,014 crore was to be raised through preferential allotment of shares or convertible warrants, while Rs 3,000 crore will be raised by QIP.

UCO Bank recovery in bad loans through NCLT improves

PNS ■ KOLKATA

UCO Bank has recovered Rs 414 crore from 26 accounts through the NCLT mechanism during the second quarter of the current fiscal, an official said on Sunday.

Of the recovered amount, Rs 393 crore came from 14 accounts resolved, and Rs 21 crore from 12 under liquidation, he said.

"During the July-September quarter, Rs 414 crore was recovered from resolution and liquidation combined. Recovery through the resolution process during the period was Rs 393 crore, significantly higher than the year-ago figure of Rs 82 crore and the June quarter's Rs 34 crore," a senior bank official said.

Recovery under the National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL) -- the government-backed bad bank -- during the quarter was negligible, with only one account worth Rs 4 crore resolved, he said.

As of September 30, 2024, UCO Bank had exposure to 238 accounts, referred to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) process, totalling Rs 18,163 crore, the official said.

By the end of September

2024, the lender had identified six accounts under NARCL with a total exposure of Rs 878 crore.

The Kolkata-headquartered bank maintained a 100 per cent provision coverage ratio across stressed assets referred to NCLT and NARCL.

The bank's gross NPA (non-performing asset) ratio decreased to 3.18 per cent for the September 2024 quarter, down from 4.14 per cent a year ago, reflecting improved asset quality.

The net NPA ratio year-on-year was reduced by 38 basis points to 0.73 per cent during the quarter, the lender said. Meanwhile, domestic advances grew significantly by 21.62 per cent year-on-year from Rs 1,42,953 crore in September 2023 to Rs 1,73,866 crore in September 2024.

The retail segment saw robust growth, particularly in home and vehicle loans, with advances rising 29.36 per cent year-on-year, the official said.

This growth was driven by an 18.98 per cent increase in home loans and a 38.66 per cent surge in vehicle advances. UCO Bank had posted a 50 per cent jump in its net profit to Rs 603 crore for the second quarter of the current fiscal.



Many firms see AI as key to competitive advantage

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A significant percentage of organisations see Artificial Intelligence as key to competitive advantage and said they have experienced a notable boost in productivity through AI integration, according to a new report.

According to the "Industry 5.0 and AI report", compiled by BML Munjal University, 44 per cent of organisations have experienced a significant boost in productivity through AI integration.

Additionally, 21 per cent reported that AI can play a pivotal role in driving innovation, enabling the development of new products, services and business models, particularly in sectors like finance, health-

care, manufacturing and marketing.

"Approximately 33 per cent of organisations focus on product development, while 29 per cent leverage AI for customer service through chatbots and robotic process automation (RPA). Marketing teams, representing 19 per cent of businesses, utilize AI for trend analysis, while 13 per cent apply AI to improve supply chain management. Financial planning, though less prominent (6 per cent), benefits from AI's efficiency-boosting capabilities," the report added.

Based on responses from 1,000 professionals and in-depth interviews with 50 industry experts, the report highlighted a significant shift in how businesses are integrat-



ing AI into their strategies.

While AI has delivered numerous benefits, the report also highlights some key challenges.

Around 34 per cent of organisations face a critical shortage of AI-trained personnel which hinders their ability to fully leverage AI's poten-

tial. This skills gap highlights the need for better AI education and continuous learning programmes. In fact, 31 per cent of organisations have started mentorship initiatives to help develop talent," the report said.

AI's impact varies by sector; in mergers and acquisitions, 28

per cent have seen benefits in personalized campaigns, but data privacy remains a hurdle for 22 per cent. IT and augmented reality sectors report enhanced productivity (44 per cent) but struggle with talent shortages.

"In finance, AI improves risk management, though 18 per cent face regulatory challenges. Healthcare has seen advancements in diagnostics, yet ethical concerns remain significant for 18 per cent of professionals. In manufacturing, 23 per cent recognize process optimization benefits from AI, but 21 per cent struggle with legacy system integration," it said.

Qualitative interviews with industry professionals reveal that transparency in AI decision-making is crucial, with 21

per cent expressing concerns about the "black box" problem.

"There are also ethical concerns, with 20 per cent of respondents mentioning algorithmic bias and 22 per cent expressing worries about data privacy. These issues show the need for responsible AI governance, prompting 38.3 per cent of organisations to adopt ethical AI guidelines to ensure transparency," it said.

According to Pratik Modi, Dean School of Management, BML Munjal University, AI enhances human-machine collaboration.

"As organisations embrace this new era, the report's findings offer a roadmap for integrating AI while prioritizing ethical standards and fostering human creativity," it said

DESERT ROOTS BUT GLOBAL BEATS!

WITH THEIR UNIQUE BLEND OF DESERT BLUES, ROCK AND AFRICAN RHYTHMS, TAMIKREST HAS BEEN CAPTIVATING AUDIENCES WORLDWIDE WHILE CHAMPIONING ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION. IN THIS EXCLUSIVE CONVERSATION WITH THE PIONEER, THE RENOWNED TUAREG BAND FROM MALI, SHARES THEIR INSPIRING STORY OF HARMONISING MUSIC AND SUSTAINABILITY

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Since their beginning, band *Tamikrest* has placed a strong emphasis on sustainability. The band hopes to demonstrate how events like theirs may strike a balance between environmentally friendly activities and significant, life-lasting experiences! This is a significant step in the ongoing dedication to protecting the environment while honouring music and culture. These Tuareg musicians aim to invite Green Seekers to re-establish their connection, enjoy the genuine experiences of nature and practice mindful living in order to create a more colourful and peaceful future. "We are already struck by the festival's presentation of a diverse range of performers and musical styles. We have always enjoyed working with artists from all backgrounds and styles! Furthermore, being members of the minority in each of the five countries where the Kel Tamasheqs (the Tuaregs' true name) reside—Algeria, Mali, Niger, Libya and Burkina Faso—we find resonance in the festival's focus on performers from cultural minorities." Ousmane Ag Mossa, the main songwriter, shares this inexcusable experience; the band was formed in the Kidal desert region.

For those who don't know, they sing in 'Tamashek' while fusing Western rock and pop elements with traditional African music. So, it has always been about finding new sounds and providing a venue. Band members provided evidence for this by saying, "Being in such a harsh environment—the largest and driest desert in the world, the Sahara Desert—our ability to maintain a connection to nature is vital to our survival. Since the Sahara Desert is one location where climate change is most noticeable, it goes without saying that our connection to and protection of nature is very important to us. However, we don't often discuss it on stage. We briefly discuss our way of life and surroundings. People will go seek out the facts on their own if they are moved or piqued. Everything is available on the internet."

As their relationship progresses, they notice that a growing number of today's varied audiences are clearly moving toward mindful living. Nestled in the picturesque region of Arunachal Pradesh, the festival presented an exceptional lineup, immersive experiences, farm-to-table food and environmentally aware programs for them.

The leader of the band continues, "I think that the original wellspring is where all human cultures have their roots. Therefore, no matter where your audience is from, if you are firmly rooted in your heritage, your message will speak to them all. We have always sought to convey our cultural legacy while bringing it into contact with other cultures and the modern world, no matter where we have lived."

Electric guitars, youyous, bass, drums, djembé and other percussion instruments are what define their sound! What actually thrills them about playing in a place like Ziro Valley? People respect cultural expression and are surrounded by nature, which is what excites them the most. We hear one of them say! "First of all, learning about a new nation, area, or culture is always a wonderful pleasure. In this place, nature truly is the antithesis of what we are used to. It is humid, extremely green and not overly hot or cold. With all these rice fields around the festival location, it is very gorgeous. It is quite amazing how different artists from all over the world and India are blending their cultures together. We are very grateful for all of this."

The musicians of *Tamikrest* were all in their early twenties when the group was established in 2006. They are native to the area surrounding the northern Mali city of Kidal. They all went to the Les enfants de l'Adrar school, which was supported by European foundations and located in Tinzwaten, a tiny oasis in the middle of the desert. So, "You can only imagine how important water is to the 'Kel Tamasheqs'. In an area where it is exceedingly uncommon. It takes us frequently 10 to 20 kilometers or more to find water. Thus, for us, protecting the environment goes beyond simple morality. It is essential to our survival as a whole. There is an adage that goes, "Water is life, milk makes us live" (Aman Iman, Akh Issouard).

"The Saharan regions have a great impact on humans as well as the setting in which we play. We perform a different show in the middle of nature than we do at an indoor festival in Berlin in front of 5,000 stoners. We began with a few pieces performed on acoustic guitar for this reason. The assouf, our music, has a deep connection to the heart, soul and emotions. We so genuinely desired to enjoy this moment with the natural world. Because of this mood, we actually altered the set list mid-concert in order to play more introspective and tranquil pieces. Nothing stays the same all the time.



If not, we turn into robots," shares *Tamikrest's* leading band member.

The civil war that raged in their country between 1990 and 1995 affected their early years. Throughout their struggle for independence, the Tuareg lost a great deal of friends and relatives. In 2006, when fresh riots broke out, Ousmane Ag Mossa and his buddy Cheick Ag Tigla chose to use music to draw attention to the Tuareg cause

rather than using force. And now for the twist! "From what we have observed, India is a nation where tradition-based modernism is the foundation for the future. Thus, I believe that the audience is prepared to hear a wide range of topics. And the enthusiastic response we got from the Ziro Fest attendees proved that. It was really heated. Seeing that our music is enjoyed in Australia or Japan, as well as in Chile, Canada, Europe,

or Africa, inspires optimism for the future. This includes India. All around the world, good-willed people can communicate and show appreciation for one another."

In addition, when they were younger, they performed songs by the Tuareg band Tinariwen, who in the 1980s had already blended western rock music with traditional African music under the name Kel Tamashek. The members of *Tamikrest* were introduced to bands and performers such as Jimi Hendrix, Bob Marley, Pink Floyd and Mark Knopfler through the internet and mp3 culture, which had an impact on the creation of the unique *Tamikrest* sound. Thus, "Music is a vector for us, similar to books, poetry and movies. We strive to communicate values that are important to us. We also work to increase public awareness of the issues and suffering experienced by our people, who have been denied their own land to live freely and independently for more than 60 years due to discrimination and conflict. Of course, living freely and controlling our own fate is what we want if we want independence. However, it's also necessary to prevent foreign corporations from purchasing our desert, our beloved desert and destroying it while destroying the local inhabitants. As is the situation, for instance, in Arlit, where uranium mining contaminates soils, wells and other areas."

Tamikrest's openness and cross-cultural interactions are truly essential to who they are. They have incorporated Indian tabla (*Chatma*) and European classical violin (*Toumastin*) into their music. Or on the traditional Japanese musicians' most recent album, *Tamotait!* You never know what may come of an interaction, but they were really interested in the musicians they heard and spoke with at the festival site or hotel. Providing us with a thought-provoking story, "I have always been a huge fan of Ibrahim, the main guitarist for *Tinariwen* and his poetry as well as the poetry of people like Japonais, a former member of *Tinariwen* who is now deceased. I aspired to represent my people's interests as a diplomat when I was a teenager. But under the 1990s Mali school system, learning was incredibly difficult for a 'Kel Tamashek'. We were able to unite these two passions during music. The guitar and the Kel Tamasheqs' defense. We are able to communicate with individuals and the media who are unable to learn about what is occurring in the desert because of our music. Right now, there is a conflict going on in Azawad, close to the Algerian border. The

encampment of shepherds and refugees who have escaped the fighting farther south is being attacked by the Wagner group and the Malian armed forces. Additionally, there are bandits, traffickers, terrorist groups who traverse our country, etc. There, things get harder and riskier all the time. Particularly for women, kids and senior citizens..." Still, he frequently spends a few days in the desert by himself. Then he returns carrying a theme, a tune. It will motivate him to compose a text! The band then collaborates on it with the other members of the ensemble. Frequently, it's with their bassist, Cheikh, a childhood friend. The rehearsals follow. However, after 2012, when absolute violence returned to their nation, rehearsals have become extremely difficult.

However, "Ibrahim from *Tinariwen* is undoubtedly our greatest influence. His voice is so deep and his guitar is so wonderful. I also enjoy Turkish music a lot and the ney flute in particular. Generally speaking, we enjoy learning about new musicians and musical genres (like Dr Ramprasad, whose Carnatic singing really struck me). Rather than trying to emulate other artists, we aim to allow their influence to seep into our own work. Thus, things occur organically."

There have always been multiple uses for music. It has the power to express the indescribable and the invisible, yet it may also unite people or raise the spirit. According to Ousmane, events like Ziro, which showcase a wide variety of performers from many cultural backgrounds, are ideal for fulfilling these functions. Not only do tradition and modernity coexist there, but they also witnessed the coexistence of generations, nations and cultures. That seems like a lot already to him.

"We sincerely hope to spread the word about our people and preserve our culture and language, which is why we value singing in our native tongue, the 'Tamashek', wherever we are graciously invited. More specifically, *Tamotait!*, our previous album, was released in March 2020. Currently, we are working on a new record. Just as Earth was about to stop, Corona immobilised it. Its life was therefore not what it should have been. And we want to be able to offer our upcoming record a better start in life."

It was a wonderful pleasure for us to talk with the band *Tamikrest*, who are leading the way in a field where music and environmentally aware living come together to produce an immersive and powerful experience that promotes deep relationships with nature!

EVENT COVERAGE

A night of 'Nagamese' flavours in Hyderabad

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The Tribal Exotica event at The Sicca Bar, located in The Park, Somajiguda, was an evening that brought a fusion of cultural flavours and drinks to Hyderabad.

Collaborating with the House of Suntory, the event featured signature cocktails and Nagamese starters, providing a taste of the northeastern palette. The food was like taking a trip straight to the hills of Nagaland—whether or not your palate was ready for the ride! One of the stars of the menu, Smoked Chicken with Bamboo Shoot, brought tender chicken pieces slow-cooked in fermented bamboo shoots, delivering a sour, tangy punch that paired well with the smokiness—though perhaps a bit too earthy for my taste buds. Then there was the Boiled Bamboo Shoots with Ghost Pepper Dip, a seemingly innocent dish that turned into a fiery affair, thanks to the famous *bhut jolokia* (ghost pepper) chutney on the side. One bite and I knew: Naga spice is not for the faint-hearted! Of course, no *Nagamese* spread is complete without Smoked Pork with Bamboo Shoot, where tender pork and sour bamboo shoots once again took center stage. Flavourful, yes, but between the smoke and sourness, let's just say my palate wasn't quite ready for the wilderness! As for the Naga Chicken Curry, fresh herbs and fiery chilies brought boldness to the plate, while *Axone* (Fermented Soybean) Salad packed a pungent punch—its strong flavor hitting you right from the first bite. These dishes stayed true to their roots, offering an authentic taste of Nagaland's culinary soul, though I have to admit, authenticity can sometimes be an acquired taste. For me? Perhaps a bit too authentic, but perfect for those who can appreciate bold, unfiltered flavours! Tanvi Dandekar, the portfolio advocate for the House of Suntory, took charge of the bar, curating a unique cocktail menu that highlighted the elegance of Haku.

The featured drinks included the crisp and refreshing Haku Soda, the vibrant Yugen Highball, a perfect balance of yuzu puree and lemon juice and the Haku Lychee Martini, delicately blended with triple sec, lychee and orange blossom. For something more adventurous, the Haku Lavender Citrus mixed with green tea offered a herbal twist, while the Haku Miso Caramel Espresso Martini provided a rich, savoury-sweet experience.

The ambiance at the event was like stepping into a hidden gem—a snug, intimate space bathed in soft, golden light that seemed to wrap everyone in a warm embrace. The cozy, dim-lit atmosphere created a sense of exclusivity, as though the evening had been crafted just for the select few who wandered in. Every corner flickered with a gentle glow, casting long shadows that made the compact space feel even more inviting, almost like a secret den for the night's adventurers. For those craving a breath of fresh air, the open-air section outside enticed, offering a peaceful escape where guests could step out, sip their cocktails and let the cool city breeze brush away the heat of the evening. The sounds of the city hummed in the distance, but within the event's bubble, time slowed as flavours mingled and conversations flowed.

MANAGING INHERITED DISEASES:

Crucial role of family history in heart health

Congenital heart disease (CHD) is the most common type of birth defect, affecting nearly 1% of all live births worldwide. It refers to structural problems of the heart that develop during fetal development. While environmental factors, maternal health conditions and other unknown causes can contribute to CHD, one of the most significant risk factors is family history and genetic inheritance. Understanding the role of family history and inheritance patterns can provide valuable insights into the diagnosis, prevention and management of congenital heart disease.

Genetic basis of CHD

CHD can arise due to genetic mutations, chromosomal abnormalities, or multifactorial inheritance, which is a combination of genetic and environmental factors. When CHD runs in families, it suggests a potential hereditary component. Various forms of inheritance patterns are observed in familial cases of congenital heart disease, each influencing the likelihood of the condition appearing in future generations.

Inheritance patterns in CHD

Single-gene mutations: Some forms of CHD are caused by single-gene mutations, meaning that an alteration in one specific gene can result in a heart defect. These mutations can be inherited in an autosomal dominant or autosomal recessive manner.

Autosomal dominant inheritance: In this case, only one copy of the mutated gene is required for the disease to manifest. If a parent has a congenital heart defect due to an autosomal dominant mutation, there is a 50% chance of passing it on to their offspring. Some well-known CHDs associated with autosomal dominant inheritance include Noonan syndrome and Holt-Oram syndrome, which can lead to structural defects in the heart.

Autosomal recessive inheritance:



In autosomal recessive inheritance, both parents must carry a copy of the mutated gene, even if they do not have the disease themselves. If both parents are carriers, there is a 25% chance that their child will inherit the condition. Though rarer than autosomal dominant inheritance, certain forms of CHD like Ellis-van Creveld syndrome can be inherited in this manner.

Chromosomal abnormalities:

Structural heart defects are often seen in individuals with chromosomal abnormalities such as Down syndrome (trisomy 21), Turner syndrome (monosomy X), or DiGeorge syndrome (22q11.2 deletion syndrome). In such cases, the risk of recurrence in future pregnancies depends on whether the chromosomal abnormality is inherited or occurred spontaneously. Chromosomal defects may be passed down in a family, but more often they occur as sporadic events.

Multifactorial inheritance:

In many cases, CHD is the result of multifactorial inheritance, which involves a combination of multiple genetic mutations and environmental influences. This means that while genetics play a role, factors

such as maternal diabetes, obesity, smoking, and certain infections during pregnancy can increase the risk of the baby developing a heart defect. In families where multiple members have CHD, the likelihood of future generations being affected is higher, though predicting this risk is more complex than with single-gene mutations.

Importance of family history in CHD

Family history is a critical factor in assessing the risk of CHD in newborns. When a parent or sibling has a congenital heart defect, the likelihood of recurrence in subsequent children rises, with the risk varying based on the specific type of defect and the inheritance pattern. For example, if a parent has a CHD, their offspring have a 2-15% chance of being born with a similar defect, depending on whether the defect was isolated or part of a syndrome.

Healthcare providers often recommend genetic counseling for families with a history of congenital heart disease to assess their risk factors. Genetic testing may also be offered to identify specific mutations or chromosomal abnormalities that could increase

the likelihood of CHD in future pregnancies.

Advances in genetic research and screening

Over the past decade, advances in genetic research have significantly improved our understanding of the inheritance patterns in congenital heart disease. Innovations such as next-generation sequencing (NGS) and chromosomal microarray analysis (CMA) allow for the identification of genetic mutations and chromosomal abnormalities that were previously undetectable. These techniques enable early diagnosis and better risk prediction for families with a history of congenital heart disease.

Prenatal screening methods, such as fetal echocardiography, can help detect heart defects during pregnancy, allowing families and healthcare providers to prepare for necessary medical interventions after birth. In addition, genetic testing of both parents and the fetus can help in identifying specific risks and planning for the care of the newborn.

The role of family history and inheritance patterns in congenital heart disease cannot be overlooked. Genetic factors significantly contribute to the development of heart defects, and understanding the inheritance patterns allows for better risk assessment and management. For families with a history of CHD, genetic counseling and prenatal screening are essential tools that can help identify risks and provide peace of mind. As research continues to uncover more about the genetic underpinnings of CHD, the potential for early intervention and improved outcomes for affected children grows.

By gaining a deeper understanding of how CHD is inherited, healthcare professionals can work more effectively with families to reduce the burden of congenital heart disease and offer personalised care based on individual genetic profiles.

(The author, Dr. Aravind Badiger, is a Technical Director at BDR Pharmaceuticals.)



Sri Krishna Jewellers is celebrating the auspicious occasion of Dhanteras and Diwali by hosting the city's largest jewellery exhibition of the year. The exhibition will be open at their Banjara Hills store until November 1.



Actress Krystle D'Souza walked the runway for designer Pooja Rajpal Jaggi at the Bombay Times Fashion Week 2024, presenting her debut collection "Ibtida".



Karan Johar and Maheep Kapoor

Tyaani By Karan Johar marked a grand festive celebration with the opening of its flagship store in Hyderabad's Jubilee Hills. The event was attended by Karan Johar, Maheep Kapoor, co-founder Shравan Satyani and Hyderabad business head Rishabh Harjani.



Miheeka Daggubati



Richie Raffle Biotech, has been honoured with the coveted India Excellence Award - Environmental Enterprise of the Year 2023-24. The award was presented to Pidintla Chandrasekhar Reddy, Director of Richie Raffle Biotech Pvt. Ltd., by legendary cricketer Sunil Gavaskar, at a glittering ceremony hosted at Hotel The Park.



Asia Prime Media hosted its Global Tourism Awards at the Hotel Taj Deccan, highlighting excellence and innovation within the global tourism sector. The event was attended by Jupally Krishna Rao, Minister for Tourism and Culture, Excise and Prohibition.



India Yamaha Motor (IYM) Pvt Ltd. orchestrated a distinctive Track Day occasion at the Chicane Circuit, in Hyderabad. This event, a pivotal component of the dynamic *The Call of The Blue* campaign, saw an enthusiastic turnout of over 300 dedicated Yamaha enthusiasts and over 120 Yamaha owners from Hyderabad and its vicinity, marking it a remarkable triumph.

Roots College of Hotel Management and Culinary Arts organised a heartwarming event, "Lunch with Love," at Asha Kuteer Home for the Blind on the eve of International Chefs Day. Students and faculties of the college prepared and served delicious meals to students with visual disabilities, promoting empathy and inclusivity.



The League Hyderabad's largest sports arena was launched at Financial District Hyderabad.

FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



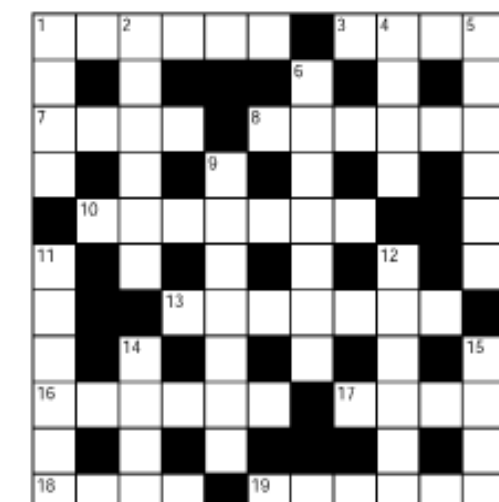
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



NANCY



SUDOKU



Yesterday's solution
7 5 2 8 4 9 1 6 3
9 8 6 3 5 1 2 7 4
1 3 4 7 6 2 5 8 9
2 4 9 6 1 7 8 3 5
3 6 1 5 2 8 9 4 7
5 7 8 9 3 4 6 1 2
4 1 7 2 9 6 3 5 8
6 9 3 4 8 5 7 2 1
8 2 5 1 7 3 4 9 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 Begins
- 3 A worshipped statue
- 7 Keep a pet bird in this
- 8 Yells
- 10 A citizen of Israel
- 13 Took no notice of
- 16 People invited
- 17 A large public building for meetings, functions
- 18 One third of twenty-seven
- 19 A pie's covering

DOWN

- 1 Umwell
- 2 A month
- 4 A musical instrument played with sticks
- 5 Use your ears
- 6 Opposite of deep
- 9 Badly behaved
- 11 We need this gas to stay alive
- 12 Leave
- 14 Very unkind
- 15 Potters use this



GINGER MEGGS



SUSTAINING 25 YEARS IS NOT A JOKE; IT'S A BIG GIFT: AJAY

SURESH KAVIRAYANI
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Ajay has been known for the different personas, be it character, lead or the villainous roles, most notably the beloved 'Titla' character in Rajamouli's *Vikramarkudu*. Lately, he had also worked on projects like *Mathu Vadalara 2* and *Devara*. Now, he will be seen playing a prominent character in *Pottel*, which is going to release on October 25.

"After playing the character Titla, this is going to be the best one I will be doing," said Ajay.

The actor further said that though he has done many films after *Vikramarkudu*, in *Pottel*, he has got a character that showcases multiple shades. "When director Sahith narrated the story, I took it up casually. But once he completed the narration, I decided that I should not miss this role. The Titla character is rare and doesn't come along regularly, but I felt this *Pottel* character gives me happiness as an actor," said Ajay about his role.

Ajay explained that the story of this film revolves around education. "A father wanted to provide a good education for his daughter, so how he struggled for it is the narration. Though it's message-oriented, the director narrated it in a more commercial way. If you narrate it in a preachy way, people won't watch it. That's what I liked and there are many elevated scenes where the audience will clap," he said.

Ajay mentioned that he worked hard for this



film. "I had to get the language because the story is set in the 1980s in interiors, so I did homework during dubbing to get the right slang. Another challenge was for the 'Pothuraju' get-

Ajay is known for his character and villainous roles, especially the popular 'Titla' in Rajamouli's *Vikramarkudu*. The actor is now comparing his upcoming role in *Pottel* with Titla!

up. There are some superstitious scenes for which I had to take references from people for 'Pothuraju'," he said.

The actor has almost completed 25 years in the industry. "Sustaining this long is not a joke and that itself is a big gift. I am still busy with multiple films in different languages. Every film is new and I have to put a lot of effort and energy into every character. I don't take any role lightly, as I want to give my best, whether it's a small or big one," said Ajay.

The actor started his career with small roles, and then Rajamouli gave him a big opportunity as a villain in his *Vikramarkudu* film. "After that, I did a couple of films as a lead actor, then I had one scene in a few films and then again I got into good roles. It hasn't been easy for me, as I struggled a bit. There were a lot of ups and downs in my career, but I'm still here and that makes me happy," said Ajay about his entire film journey.

The actor said that he has done many films, but only a few have given him satisfaction. "The Patel role in *Pottel* is one of them because this role has aggression, cunningness, villainy and

many other shades," said Ajay. He added that he is now more selective and not accepting whatever comes his way. "Once you reach a certain level, you have to choose your films and I am doing the same," he said.

The actor is very close to director Koratala Siva, whom he considers a well-wisher. "I asked Siva Garu to watch this film and he saw it during the release time of *Devara*, even though he was busy with that film. He liked it and appreciated the film," said Ajay. Another director, Sandeep Reddy Vanga, also watched the film. "I wasn't there, but Sandeep appreciated the film very much and he even said that the film would definitely win many awards," said Ajay.

Talking about his upcoming films, he said that he is doing the Hindi film *Singham Again*. "It's a huge star cast and I played a small role in it. *Pushpa 2* is coming and I have signed another film, which is a remake of *Garudan*," said Ajay. He also signed a Malayalam film and a couple of Tamil films.



Rocking Rajesh turns lead actor with *KCR*

Rocking Rajesh has been popular with his comedy show *Jabardasth*. Having played comedic roles in films earlier, he has now taken up the role of the lead actor in the upcoming film *KCR: Keshava Chandra Ramakanth*. It is worth noting that Rajesh is not just producing the film but also taking on the roles of screenwriter for this project.

The film has Anji donning the hat of a director and also the cinematographer. "I

wanted to show this film at film festivals," said Rajesh about the film, adding that he has been grateful for the support that he has received.

"After I wrote this story, I had narrated it to a few producers, but they asked me to direct the film with their sons. I wanted to do the film with actor Srikanth's son. Later, I decided to produce this film," said Rakesh, explaining why he entered into production. Talking about the title of the film *KCR*,

Rakesh said that the protagonist's name is *Keshava Chandra Ramakanth*, aka *KCR*. It is interesting to know that Rakesh is also a huge admirer of BRS Leader K Chandrasekhara Rao. "This is not a political film or aimed at any political party; this story tells about the Telangana cult," said Rajesh.



Naga posts picture with his bride-to-be

Akkineni Naga Chaitanya is soon to get married to actress Sobhita Dhulipala. While the official announcement of the wedding date is pending, a source has revealed that the marriage is scheduled to take place in the first week of September in Hyderabad. The engagement ceremony took place in Hyderabad on August 8 discreetly, with no announcements about the wedding date.

Meanwhile, Naga Chaitanya posted a picture with his would-be wife Sobhita on his social media page and said, "Everything Everywhere all at once (sic)," said the actor in his caption.

Additionally, it was disclosed that a minor event took place at Sobhita's residence in Visakhapatnam. Typically carried out in South India, this traditional ritual marks the beginning of all wedding preparations. It was named *Muhurtapu Raata* or *Pandiri Raata* by them. Before beginning the marriage preparations, they invoke the blessings of Lord Vigneshwara to ensure a smooth ceremony, starting first with the *Pandiri Raata*.

Following this, they can proceed with marriage preparations such as printing invitations and purchasing necessary items. This indicates that the wedding will take place shortly, with the insider disclosing that it is scheduled for the beginning of September.

Sunny Deol, Gopichand Malineni film titled *Jaat*



Telugu filmmaker Gopichand Malineni is helming a movie with Bollywood star Sunny Deol in the lead role. Mythri Movie Makers are behind the production of this film. Following the success of *Gadar 2*, Sunny Deol is starring in this movie, which is said to be an action-packed film.

Currently, the filming of this movie is taking place in Hyderabad. Director Gopichand has a great opportunity ahead as he embarks on creating a Hindi movie with a Bollywood actor. Sunny Deol also celebrated his birthday on the film set recently.

Now, the makers have revealed that the name of this movie will be *Jaat*. The film's first look poster was revealed by the makers in celebration of Sunny Deol's birthday. It indicates that the movie contains many action-filled settings. The poster displays Sunny Deol in a strong and dramatic character, giving viewers a glimpse of what to anticipate in this action-packed movie.

It also demonstrates that the movie contains numerous action sequences that are larger-than-life and will redefine the genre. *Jaat* stars Randeep Hooda, Vineet Kumar Singh, Saiyami Kher and Regina Cassandra in important roles. Thaman is in charge of the music.

'I am planning to refer Shiva and Nithin in my future projects'

Sudheer Babu praised the upcoming film *Narudi Brathuku Natana* set to be released on October 25. Shiva Kumar and Nithin Prasanna have been cast as the main actors in this movie, which is being directed by Rishikeshwar Yogi. TG Vishwaprasad, a well-known producer, is introducing the movie.

"I met TG Vishwa Prasad ten years ago, before he entered the industry. His passion for cinema is remarkable. I've seen the trailer of *Narudi Brathuku Natana* and both Shiva and Nithin delivered intense performances," said Sudheer Babu at the pre-release event of this film.

On this occasion, Sudheer Babu promised that he would suggest both

of these actors for another film. "I am planning to refer these two actors in my future projects for good roles," said Sudheer Babu. He also appreciated director Rishi for his authentic job. "I auditioned for major films like Krishna Vamsi's film and also *Baaghi* and it's the smaller and medium films that keep the industry thriving. This film is fresh and unique," said Sudheer Babu.

"You can't make films without passion and money. In the beginning, I produced a few films that were showcased on an international stage but couldn't be released theatrically. *Narudi Brathuku Natana* film team reminds me of those early days, which is why I decided to help them," said TG Vishwaprasad.



BALAYYA'S UNSTOPPABLE WITH CHANDRABABU NAIDU

Balakrishna's *Unstoppable* is a well-liked series. Preparations are underway for the upcoming fourth season of this talk show and they have already filmed two episodes featuring Dulquer Salman and Allu Arjun.

The series began streaming on October 25 and the initial episode was filmed featuring none other than N Chandrababu Naidu, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

This is not the first instance of Chandrababu Naidu appearing on this talk show, as he has appeared on it before. He is making his second

appearance while filming is taking place at a private studio in Hyderabad. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh had travelled from Vijayawada to Hyderabad specifically to film this special episode about him. Season 4 is set to kick off with the Chandrababu episode on October 25.

There are news reports suggesting that Pawan Kalyan, the Deputy CM of AP, might also be seen on this talk show. Actor Ram Charan is scheduled to attend the show because his movie *Game Changer* is set to release on January 10, coinciding with the Sankranti festival.

New Zealand win by Eight wickets for first Test win in India in 36 years

PTI ■ BENGALURU

New Zealand survived a hostile Jasprit Bumrah spell to foil India's attempt to add a final-day twist to an absorbing series-opener, slaying the cricketing giants at home by eight wickets and ending a 36-year long wait to taste Test success in the country, here Sunday. This is Kiwis' first Test win on the Indian soil after the John Wright-led outfit towelled India by 136 runs at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai, way back in 1988. Even hunting a modest 107 on the fifth day against a world-class attack could be nerve, and New Zealand did that after some initial scares. Will Young (48 not out) and Rachin Ravindra (39 not out) fuelled their chase with a 75-run stand for the third wicket, handholding their side a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. However, the Indians will not be an entirely despondent lot despite the defeat as they showed admirable spunk to

claw back from the depths of getting bowled out for 46 in the first innings. They will need to build on it and pretty quickly too as the second Test at Pune starts on October 24. The Rohit Sharma-marshalled side will also have to think deeply about retaining Sarfaraz Khan, who made a 150 in the second dig, as Shubman Gill is poised to return after recovering from a stiff neck. The other point they will moot long is whether to go back to the three-pacer strategy or continue three spinners, a move which backfired here spectacularly, in Pune. New Zealand victory did not come without its share of drama once the day's play started at 10.15am, a wet outfield pushing back the proceedings by an hour. Bumrah (2/29), operating from the dressing room end, found appreciable movement and Tom Latham fell in his first over of the day itself for



his overnight naught. Latham was behind the ball to cover the in-dipper but it swung back further to thud on to his pads as umpire Michael Gough raised his finger after vociferous appeal from the

bowler and the crowd. The New Zealand captain reviewed the decision more in hope than in conviction and the DRS confirmed his worst fears as well, and he had to walk back.

India might just have felt the absence of a third pacer as both Bumrah and Siraj found movement and carry to trouble the Kiwi batters under a largely overcast skies. Kuldeep Yadav, who gave

away 26 runs in three overs, had replaced Akash Deep in the eleven for this Test after India went with a three-pronged pace attack against Bangladesh recently. Devon Conway, the other

overnight batter, was shaky throughout his stay and would consider himself fortunate to have found a last-minute edge on a Bumrah skidder that otherwise would have trapped him plumb in front. But as luck would have it, the ball beat the gully fielder and raced to the fence. However, the left-hander eventually reached the road's end when Bumrah, operating from around the stumps, caught him right in front of the wicket with another one that skidded and swung back into him. The on-field umpire did not relent but the DRS upheld India's appeal to send Conway (17) back. New Zealand were 35 for two at that point, and one would say the match in balance as a couple of more strikes could have left the cat among the pigeons. But Young and Ravindra, the first-innings centurion, found some solidity to resist the Indian charge.

Once the sun came out for a while, the ball-movement was much more predictable and the Kiwi batters used favourable conditions to rack in a few boundaries to ease the pressure. Ravindra Jadeja, who started with a no-ball, too did not make much of an impression, conceding 14 runs in his first two overs. There was not much on the Chinnaswamy pitch for him to exploit either as the 22-yard track did not disintegrate on the final day, courtesy rain and cooler climes here. With the margin getting reduced alongside each run, the New Zealand batters became more daring and brought out their shots from the shelf, such as a clean hoist over mid-wicket for a six off left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep. The defining moment came when Will Young turned Jadeja for two to collect the winning runs as Kiwis dressing room turned into a hub of celebration.

India U17 squad picked for Asian Cup Qualifiers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India U17 men's national team head coach Ishaq Ahmed, on Sunday, named a 23-member squad for the AFC U17 Asian Cup 2025 Qualifiers to be held in Thailand from October 23-27. India are placed in Group D, where they will meet Brunei Darussalam (October 23), Turkmenistan (October 25) and hosts Thailand (October 27). There are 10 groups in the qualification phase, from which the group winners and five best second-placed teams will join hosts Saudi Arabia at the AFC U17 Asian Cup 2025. Goalkeepers: Aheibam Suraj Singh, Rohit, Nandan Roy. Defenders: Karish Soram,

Mohamed Kaif, Chingtham Renin Singh, Brahmacharimayum Sumit Sharma, Thougamba Usham Singh, Yaipharemba Chingakham, Jodric Abranches. **Midfielders:** Abdul Salha Sheergojri, Ahongshangbam Samson, Kh Azlaan Shah, Levis Zangminlin, Mahmud Sami, Manbhakupar Malngiang, Md Arbash, Ningshoukhongjiam Rishi Singh, Vishal Yadav, Ngamgouhou Mate. **Forwards:** Bharat Lairenjam, Prem Hansdak, Henneichung Lunkim. Head coach: Ishaq Ahmed; Assistant coach: Ramachandran Govindaraju Mileswamy; Goalkeeper coach: Zakeer Hussain Mohammed Strength and conditioning coach: Chelston Pinto.

That day belonged to Nadeem: Neeraj on Paris Olympics javelin final

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Star Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra says nothing went wrong in his silver-winning performance in the Paris Olympics final earlier this year and Pakistani Arshad Nadeem emerged champion as the "day belonged to him". Chopra became the first Indian track-and-field athlete to win two successive Olympic medals by clinching a silver with a throw of 89.45m on August 8, but the day belonged to Nadeem, who destroyed the field with a new Olympic record effort of 92.97m for his country's maiden individual gold at the showpiece. "Nothing was wrong, everything was right. The throw was also good. Getting a silver (medal) in the Olympics is also not a small thing. There was disappointment. But, I feel that the competition was very

good, and it was tough," Chopra told PTI in an interview. "The gold medal is won by the person to whom the day belongs to. That day was (Arshad) Nadeem's day." Chopra was in Lucknow on Saturday to inaugurate Under Armour's larger, new format brand house store at the Phoenix Palassio Mall. He brushed aside any notion of India-Pakistan rivalry in javelin throw competition replacing the same seen in cricket and hockey. "In javelin, there are no two teams (playing against each other), but there are 12 athletes from different countries, who are competing with each other. I have been competing with Nadeem since 2016, and it is for the first time that he has won," said the 26-year-old athlete from Khandra village in Haryana's Panipat district. "He (Nadeem) is a nice



person, speaks in a good manner, gives respect, so (I) feel good." Chopra said it was a sudden moment when he picked up the javelin for the first time in his life when he was boy. "It (taking up javelin throw) was a sudden moment. I did not know anything about it. When I went to the ground, at that time, it was decided," said

Chopra, who had picked up the javelin for the first time in 2011. Asked what is required the most by a javelin thrower --- strength, stamina, mental endurance ---, he said, "It is the combination of all these things, and one thing will not work. And, with all these things combined, the person who will have the best

technique will perform good." Chopra, who had visited Lucknow earlier as well, said, "I had come to Lucknow earlier in 2012 to play, and after Tokyo Olympics, when I was asked to come by the Chief Minister. This is my third visit (to Lucknow). "There is a lot of difference (between the earlier Lucknow and the current Lucknow). At

that time, I was quite young, and do not remember things much. "At that time, I had come by train. Now, a good airport has been built. Good mall has been built. And, it is for the first time that I am able to see the city so much by travelling. I felt very nice," he said. Chopra also had tea at a famous outlet ("Sharma ke Chai") in Lucknow's Lalbagh area, and took selfies with people. Giving a piece of advice to the youth, Chopra said, "To the youth, I would say that they should not assume in the starting itself that they would be bagging medals. They should exercise patience, because sports consume a lot of your time. "Your body needs time to grow, your muscles become strong in a good manner. Have patience, and work on your techniques."

Juyal's unbeaten century, Rinku's fiery 89 keep UP in game vs Haryana

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Young skipper Aryan Juyal continued his fine form to slam an unbeaten century, while Rinku Singh smashed a brisk fifty as Uttar Pradesh reached 267/6 in reply to Haryana's 453 in their Ranji Trophy Group C match here on Saturday. Rinku hit 89 off 110 balls with 10 fours and three sixes, scoring 25 off 20 balls against Yuzvendra Chahal, who went wicket-less in 11 overs for 57 runs. Juyal, who missed a century by eight runs in their last match against Bengal, got to his fourth first class hundred and was unbeaten on 118

from 196 balls (13x4, 1x6) as UP cut their deficit to 186 runs on the third day. On a forgettable day for Chahal, Aman Kumar, Harshal Patel and Jayant Yadav bagged two wickets apiece for Haryana. Earlier, Chahal added 10 runs to his overnight total before Haryana's innings ended at 453 with Shivam Sharma dismissing the India leg-spinner to return figures of 4/95. At Mullanpur, opener Jaskaranvir Singh Paul shone with an unbeaten 117 on debut, leading Punjab to a commanding position against Madhya Pradesh. Building on their 70-run first

innings lead, Punjab posted 265/3 at stumps on day four, extending their overall lead to 335 runs. Jaskaranvir's patient 273-ball knock, studded with nine fours and one six, was instrumental in keeping MP's attack comprising Avesh Khan, Kumar Kartikeya, and Kulwant Khejroliya at bay. He forged a solid 109-run opening partnership with Abhay Choudhary (46 off 129 balls) before two quick wickets fell. Anmolpreet Singh then provided valuable support with a brisk 72 off 108 balls (7x4), helping Punjab consolidate their position.

Brief Scores
In Lucknow: Haryana 453; 191.2 overs (Himanshu Rana 114, Dheeru Singh 103, Ankit Kumar 77, Sumit Kumar 61, Yuzvendra Chahal 48; Shivam Sharma 4/95, Vipraj Nigam 3/129, Yash Dayal 2/56). Uttar Pradesh 267/6; 70 overs (Aryan Juyal 118 batting, Rinku Singh 89). **In Mullanpur:** Punjab 277 and 265/3; 90 overs (Jaskaranvir Singh Paul 115 batting, Anmolpreet Singh 72, Abhay Choudhary 46). Madhya Pradesh 207. **In Alur:** Kerala 161/3; 50 overs (Rohan Kunnummal 63, Sachin Baby 23 batting) vs Karnataka.

Djokovic tops Nadal before Sinner beats Alcaraz for title at the Six Kings Slam exhibition

AP ■ RIYADH (SAUDI ARABIA)

Jannik Sinner beat Carlos Alcaraz 6-7 (5), 6-3, 6-3 for the championship in the Six Kings Slam exhibition Saturday after Novak Djokovic topped Rafael Nadal 6-2, 7-6 (5) in the third-place match. While Sinner and Alcaraz probably have plenty of future matchups in store, Djokovic and Nadal may have been playing for the final time in one of tennis' great rivalries. Djokovic won the match between rivals who have combined for 46 Grand Slam singles titles. Nadal, who won 22 Slam titles, is planning to retire after playing for Spain next month in the Davis Cup. They shared a warm embrace



at the net after Djokovic's victory. He also beat Nadal in the Olympics and had a 31-29 lead in their head-to-head. "The last dance was an epic one," Djokovic wrote on social media. "And of course emotional. I'll cherish our rivalry forever, (at)rafaelnadal. Tennis will miss you." Sinner then emerged with a victory over Alcaraz in a matchup between the winners of all four major titles this season. The top-ranked Sinner, who had lost all three meetings this season, collected \$6 million for the

win. "Until now, every match was very, very good, but we will always hope this rivalry will last as long as possible," Sinner said. Alcaraz beat the Italian on Oct. 2 to win the China Open in Beijing, along with semifinal victories at the French Open and Indian Wells. The Spaniard has a 6-4 lead in their head-to-head on Tour. "I will try to do my best every day ... To hopefully make this rivalry better and better over the years," Alcaraz said. Alcaraz defeated Nadal and Sinner topped Djokovic in the previous round of the exhibition event that awards money but not ATP ranking points in Saudi Arabia's latest foray into tennis.

Arsenal stunned by Bournemouth and Garnacho sparks Man United comeback

AP ■ MANCHESTER (ENGLAND)

Arsenal blew the chance to go top of the English Premier League after a shock 2-0 loss to Bournemouth on Saturday. In one of the biggest upsets of the burgeoning season, 10-man Arsenal lost for the time. Mikel Arteta's team finished runner-up in the last two years and could have leapfrogged leader Liverpool and defending champion City in second place with a win at Bournemouth. But Arsenal's chances were hit after William Saliba was sent off in the first half at Vitality Stadium. Bournemouth took full advantage with Ryan Christie scoring in the 70th minute and Justin Kluivert converting a penalty nine minutes later. Third-placed Arsenal is a point behind Liverpool and level with City, having played a game more than its rivals, who are both in action on Sunday. Meanwhile, Manchester United picked

up only its third league win by beating Brentford 2-1. Fourth-placed Aston Villa tightened up the top of the standings by moving to within a point of Liverpool and level with Arsenal after beating Fulham 3-1. Brighton was three points off the pace after winning at Newcastle 1-0. Tottenham scored three times in eight minutes in a 4-1 win over West Ham. Garnacho stunner Alejandro Garnacho scored from a brilliant volley as United fought back to beat Brentford. The Argentina international fired home from a tight angle when connecting with Marcus Rashford's cross just after halftime. It sparked a comeback that saw Rasmus Hojlund hit the winner and ease the pressure on manager Erik ten Hag. "In this team you see its togetherness and there is a fighting spirit," Ten Hag said. "And today we add some determination to score goals and that is what we needed." United was reeling from its



worst season start in the Premier League era heading into Saturday's game and it looked like being another disappointing day for Ten Hag, who was angered when

Ethan Pinnock opened the scoring for Brentford in a contentious circumstances in first-half added time. United defender Matthijs de Ligt was ordered off for

medical attention on his bleeding head from a collision. It left the home team down a man as Brentford prepared to take a corner and Pinnock headed

over the line in the fifth minute of added time. United responded quickly after the break thanks to Garnacho's goal in the 47th. Hojlund flicked past

Brentford goalkeeper Mark Flekken for the winner in the 62nd. "We don't score enough, we are not clinical enough. But today we scored two brilliant goals," Ten Hag said. "It's only one win, but it can help us." Villa rises Villa was up to fourth after coming back from going a goal down at Craven Cottage when Raul Jimenez fired Fulham in front in the fifth minute. Morgan Rogers quickly leveled four minutes later and Ollie Watkins made it 2-1 in the 59th. An Issa Diop own goal in the 69th completed the scoring. Southampton collapses Leading 2-0 after 28 minutes at St Mary's Stadium, last-placed Southampton looked on course for its first league win. Leicester had other ideas. Second-half goals from Facundo Buonanotte, Jamie Vardy from the penalty spot, and Jordan Ayew secured an unlikely comeback that left Southampton rooted to the bottom of the table and moved Leicester six points

clear of the relegation zone. Also, Everton won at Ipswich 2-0 to move five points above the relegation zone. Brighton flying Brighton's impressive start under coach Fabian Hurlzeler continued with the win at Newcastle. Hurlzeler, born in Texas, has made his presence felt in England's top flight following his appointment in the offseason. Hurlzeler is also working wonders with Danny Welbeck, who scored in the 35th at St James' Park, his fifth goal of the season. Spurs comeback Tottenham trailed to Mohammed Kudus' 18th-minute goal at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium but powered back with a brilliant second-half performance. Dejan Kulusevski leveled in the 36th and after the break the home team took control. Yves Bissouma struck in the 52nd and Alphonse Areola scored an own goal three minutes later. Son Heung-min added a fourth on the hour mark.