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**PROPOSALS** 



Ananya awaits her big commercial

QUOTE OF THE DAY the pioneer

KTR and Harish Rao are competing with each other to occupy KCR's place. KTR and Harish Rao are not doing anything for the people except conducting press conferences to get photos published in newspapers. The BRS is not a political party. The BRS means KCR, KTR, Kavitha, Harish and Santhosh. KTR, Harish, Kavitha and Santhosh functioned with the objective of looting. The KCR family should release a white paper on their assets before and after 2014

- Kadiam Srihari, Station Ghanpur MLA p7

#### **Govt prioritises** welfare of ...

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy laid the foundation stone for the Young India Police School at Manchirevula village in Rangareddy district on Monday. Minister D Sridhar Babu, MP Konda Vishweshwar Reddy, Chief Secretary A Santhi Kumari, Special Chief Secretary Ravi Gupta, Director General of Police Jitender, Hyderabad Commissioner of Police CV Anand, Intelligence DGP B Shivadhar Reddy, CID DGP Shikha Goel, and other dignitaries participated in the programme. Minister Sridhar Babu addressed the gathering ...

#### 'No opposition party can stop ...

Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkata Reddy has made it clear that no opposition party can stop Musi river cleaning River Musi rejuvenation will be carried out under any circumstances, he has asserted. Speaking at a meeting, shortly after laying the foundation stone for the construction of panchyat building in Madugulapalli mandal in the district, he emphasised that the State government is committed to the welfare of all sections of people. He came down .

-PAGE: 4

#### When scammers cloned Mittal's...

Scammers often use Al voice clones to con commoners to transfer money or disclose financial information but it's rare when they try to impersonate a billionaire. This is exactly what telecom czar Sunil Bharti Mittal's voice to scam his executive in Dubai to transfer money. Fortunately, the executive was smart enough to realise Mittal won't ask for such a huge money transfer and the scam was stopped in its tracks. On Monday, speaking at the NDTV World...

-PAGE: 8

#### Pressure on Siraj after only 19...

Indian skipper Rohit Sharma believes in consistency when it comes to team selection but he will have to take a leap of faith to retain speedster Mohammed Siraj in the playing eleven for the second Test against New Zealand considering his poor run in home conditions. The match starts in Pune from October 24 and inclusion of spin bowling allrounder Washington Sundar as the fifth slow bowler is an indication that coach Gautam Gambhir and Rohit might go for the jugular on a spin-friendly track..



## Group 1 exams begin amid tight security

## 72.4% attendance

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana Public Service Commission (TSPSC) successfully conducted the Group-I Mains Examination for the General English (Qualifying Test) on October 21 amid tight security across 46 exam centres located in Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy and Medchal-Malkajgiri

A total of 31,383 candidates were eligible to take part in this examination. Notably, 20 sports candidates were permitted to write the exam as per the orders

of the High Court. The attendance recorded for the General English paper was 22,744 candidates, amounting to a 72.4% attendance rate. The examination was held in the afternoon session from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

While these figures are tentative and subject to minor variations, the overall attendance indicates a significant turnout for the exam. Dr E Naveen Nicolas, Secretary of TSPSC, confirmed the smooth conduct of the examination in all centres and appreciated the cooperation of all

### 'One Minute Rule' made many candidates cry

KOLISHETTY VENKATESHWARLU venkat.k.warlu@gmail.com HYDERABAD

They had worked hard for years staying in Hyderabad and spending a lot of money at coaching centres to qualify for the Group-I Mains examination

However, the 'One Minute Rule' dashed their lifetime dream of appearing for Group-I Mains. The 'One Minute Rule' brought tears to the eyes of Group-I candidates on Monday, the day the Group-I Mains exams started.



Officials did not allow many candidates inside examination centres at several places although the candidates requested the authorities to let them in saying that they had qualified for the mains.

## SC refuses to stay Group 1 exam

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to stay the examination being conducted by the Telangana Public Service Commission (TGPSC) to fill up 563 Grade-1 posts in various government departments, saying such an order will lead to "chaos"

The examination will commence at 2 pm... There will be chaos if we stay the exam at this stage," a bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B

## Says it will lead to chaos

Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, had exam centres," the bench said during the hearing earliunderlined. er when senior lawyer Kapil The bench noted in its Sibal, appearing for a petiorder, "Any interim order tioner, pressed for an interwould lead to the substantial dislocation of Students have already the conduct of the entered the

which we are disinclined to do."

Sibal submitted the aspirants would lose out on the chance to appear in the exam being conducted for the first time in the state.

Sibal, at the outset, sought an interim stay on holding of the examinations.

The examination is being held after 14 years, he said, adding that the reorganisation took place in 2014. "These are Group-1 posts and they will never be filled again. I am only asking for postponement," the senior lawyer urged the bench.

#### ATTACKS ON TEMPLE ISSUE

## 'Plot to divide people'

## CM alleges some forces trying to create rift

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said that some forces were trying to create rifts among people by attacking places of worship and called for foiling their designs by cooperating with the police.
Stating that Telangana society is

enlightened, he said that he was confident that it would not encourage provocative acts and would cooperate with the government.

Addressing the Police Flag Day Parade at the Police Martyrs Memorial in Hyderabad on Monḋay,

recent act of vandalism at the Muthyalamma Temple in Secunderabad and subsequent incidents.

He said the police would act firmly against those engaging in such attacks and trying to vitiate the peaceful atmosphere. He urged people to cooperate with police in dealing with those whose actions are detrimental to

the CM expressed concern over the the culprits themselves by taking the law and order.

be no difference between them and those resorting to the heinous acts," he said. Declaring that the police

law into their hands there will

are dealing firmly with those engaging in crimes, the CM said no one should have any doubts about this. He emphasised the importance of peace and security for development and said no state can

"If some people decide to punish attract investments without proper

## **BJP** plans maha dharna

**MUSI ISSUE** 

PNS HYDERABAD

The BJP decided to stage a Maha Dharna at the Indira Park Dharna Chowk on Friday (October 25) under the leadership of Telangana BJP President G. Kishan Reddy.

Before that, BJP leaders

would tour the Musi River's catchment area on October 23 and 24 with nine teams.

Speaking to the media on Monday, Telangana BJP General Secretary Kasam Venkateshwarlu said that teams of MPs and MLAs would

visit places and that the BJP will not remain silent

if the government troubles people living in the Musi catchment area.

Criticising Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for telling a different story regarding the name Musi, Kasam Venkateshwarlu said that the name Musi came

hukunda M He asked the CM how he would conduct an all-party meeting without giving the DPR and that the BJP would support the government if it beautifies the Musi area without troubling the people. He said that the CM should construct a retaining

## 'Reject power tarriff hike move'

## BRS asks ERC, says it will impose Rs 18500cr burden on people

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

BRS Working President KT Rama Rao (KTR) has expressed concern over the proposed electricity tariff hike by the Congress government, which could impose a burden of Rs 18,500 crore on the public.

KTR urged the Electricity Regulatory Commission (ERC) to reject the proposals put forth by the Congress government through power distribution companies (Discoms).

He along with BRS MLA Jagadish



Reddy, other MLAs and senior BRS leaders met Hyderabad and handed over a letter on behalf of the BRS. KTR expressed apprehension about the nine

proposals made by Discoms, which he believes would severely impact the public. One key proposal suggests increasing fixed charges for households consuming more than 300 units per month raising it from Rs 10 to Rs 50. KTR termed this Continued on Page 5

## wall on both sides of the Musi instead of troubling the public.

## 'Conflicting stands on Musi'

## Harish blasts CM for contradictory statements

PNS HYDERABAD BRS MLA Harish Rao strongly criticized Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's contradictory remarks regarding the Musi River Musi River Redevelopment He pointed out that on July 20, Revanth

plan to invest Rs 1.5 lakh crore over five years for Musi River redevelopment. This was reiterated in the 'Telangana Growth Story: The Road to a One Trillion Dollar Economy' document, released by the CM on September 6, which clearly outlined a budget of Rs 1.5 lakh crore (approximately USD 18 billion) for the Musi Riverfront Redevelopment.

However, in a recent press conference, Revanth denied announced a making such claims, prompt-

ing Harish to point to the inconsistency. "Even a chameleon would blush at such flip-flopping," Harish said. He criticised the Congress-

style governance of making tall claims without a Detailed Project Report (DPR), calling it an attempt to deceive the public and misuse public funds.

"We will not allow the Musi Rejuvenation and Riverfront project to become a front for looting public money," Harish

## Congress top brass upset with Deepadas?

**NAVEENA GHANATE** naveena.ghanate@gmail.com

■ HYDEŘABAD

The AICC seems to be running a parallel governance structure in Telangana, with local rumours indicating that the party's state in-charge, Deepadas Munshi, is playing the central role in it.

AICC in-charges make periodic visits to states, but she has set up a de facto gov-

Munshi's extended presence ernment. and the renting of a house, reportedly costing lakhs, have raised eyebrows among political observers.

What began as private accusations has now become a shop here and is a topic of open debate. Congress leaders themselves have dubbed Munshi the 'Viceroy of Telangana,' a ref-As per convention, the erence to the colonial administrators claiming that

Some have accused her of channelling money and the opposi-

tion BRS and BJP have said, "She has opened sending money The charge of

creating extra-constitutional

#### 'Have more than 2 kids' BC Commission briefs Congress, BRS fight over foreign trips Guv on caste survey

### AP CM Naidu appeals to women

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Flagging Andhra Pradesh's falling birthrate, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has called upon women in the state to bear at least two children to stabilise its population, remarks welcomed by the AP Congress unit while ruling TDP's rival, YSRCP questioned the CM's 'vision' on the matter.

South India was witnessing an ageing problem, Naidu said, adding each woman should give birth to recent public meeting in Amaravati. more than two children in their life-

Incidentally, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin also touched upon the population issue on Monday in Chennai, linking it with

the delimitation exercise. Andhra's birthrate is under the replacement level of 2.1 live births per woman.

There is a need to manage our population. Till 2047, we will have the demographic dividend, there will be more youngsters. After 2047, there will be more old people...if less than two children are given birth (per woman), then population will reduce. If you (each woman) give birth to more than two children, then the population will increase," the CM said during a

Noting that the southern state's birth rate has plummeted to 1.6, he feared the continuation of the current situation could lead to further decline of the birth rate to 1 or lower, where only "old people will be visible in the society.

Continued on Page 5

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana BC Commission Chairman G. Niranjan informed Governor Jishnudev Verma about the upcoming comprehensive household survey aimed at assessing the social, economic and political condition of all castes across the State to determine BC reservations.

A delegation from the BC Commission, including its Chairman G. Niranjan, Members Rapolu Jayaprakash, Thirumalagiri Surender, Bala Lakshmi Rangu and officials U. Srinivasa Rao (Deputy Director), G. Satish Kumar (Assistant Secretary), and the Chairman's staffer G. Srinivas, met the Governor at the Raj Bhavan to provide detailed updates on the survey schedule.

Continued on Page 5

#### PNS HYDERABAD A fresh political spat has erupted between the

Congress and the BRS over foreign trips.

The controversy began when BRS Working President KTR criticized Congress ministers' recent visit to South Korea, suggesting that the trip brought no benefit to Telangana. His



## foreign trips 24 times in last 10 months Congress accuse KTR of hypocrisy over his own

Cong claims KTR went abroad 24 times, BRS lists out ministers went to

travel history. Responding to KTR's criticism, the Telangana government, through CPRO B. Ayodhya Reddy, released a document listing the 24 foreign trips undertaken by KTR during the last decade on X.

The document revealed that since 2014, KTR had travelled to Dubai, the US, Japan and the UK, allegedly at public expense. The timing of the release was seen as an attempt to deflect criticism by pointing out KTR's extensive travels. However, Dileep Konatham, the former Director of Digital Media for Telangana, took

to X to counter the Congress attacks. The list of Congress leaders' 24 foreign trips includes Revanth Reddy's visits to Switzerland,

remarks sparked a backlash, making the Britain, Dubai, and the US, along with other senior leaders like Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, who has also travelled to the US, Japan, and Dubai. Leaders like Jupally Krishna Rao, Duddilla Sridhar Babu, and Ponnam Prabhakar are also on the list with multiple foreign tours over the past few months. Continued on Page 5



# Conspiracy to stage terror attacks in Hyd: Eatala

The BJP's Malkajgiri MP, Eatala Rajender, said that a conspiracy is going on to carry out terror attacks in Hyderabad like the ones that killed many in the past.

Telangana BJP leaders Eatala Rajender, Konda Vishweshwar Reddy, M. Raghunandan Rao, Alleti Maheshwar Reddy and others submitted a memorandum to Governor Jishnu Dev Varma on Monday regarding

attacks on Hindu temples.

They appealed to the Governor to take steps to stop the attacks on Hindu temples and to protect them.

Later, speaking to the media, Eatala said that some people are attacking Hindu temples, but the state government is not responding to the attacks. He said the government tried to create the



rule is back in the state, he said the culprits are conspiring to stage attacks in 100 cities and asked the government to explain what the Intelligence wing is doing in the state. impression that the attack on the

BJP asks DGP to probe attacks on TG shrines Muthyalamma Temple was carried out by a madman.

The DGP should order a comprehensive probe into the attacks on shrines in Telangana, the BJP demanded. The BJP leaders submitted a memorandum to the DGP on Monday regarding this. Later, speaking to the media, Medak MP Raghunandan Rao

said that some people are giving training in the name of 'personality development' to destroy society.

incidents do not repeat. BJLP leader Alleti Maheshwar

Reddy criticised Chief Minister

Revanth Reddy for not con-

demning the attack on Hindu

temples. Declaring that Nizam

Raghunandan wondered why the DGP is silent even after coming to know details about the Muthyalamma Temple attack.

## KCR govt executed only projects that yielded 'commissions:' Srihari

PNS HYDERABAD

Declaring that the KCR government executed only projects in which they got 'commissions,' Station Ghanpur MLA Kadiam Srihari said that the KCR family had looted the state indiscriminately during the last 10 years.

He said that KCR and BRS Ministers KT Rama Rao, T. Harish Rao, MLC Kavitha and former Rajya Sabha Member I. Santhosh Kumar functioned only with the objective of looting public funds. He demanded that the KCR family should release a white paper on their

assets before and after 2014. Srihari said that KTR and the KCR family had no right to speak about ethics and added that KCR did not release a single DSC notification during his

"KCR did not spend even an hour reviewing the education

department. He never cared about the education department," he said.

Addressing the media after participating in the Jangaon Agriculture Market Chairman's oath-taking ceremony on Monday, Srihari said that nobody knows when KCR



would come out from his farmhouse.

"Cousins KTR and Harish Rao are competing with each other to occupy KCR's seat. KTR and Harish Rao are not doing anything good for the people except addressing press

conferences to get their photos published in newspapers. The BRS is not a political party. It just means KĈR, KTR, Kavitha, Harish and Santhosh," he said.

Criticising Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar for staging dharnas on roads, Srihari said Sanjay staged dharnas shamelessly forgetting the fact that he is a Union Minister. "Is it correct on the part of Sanjay to stage dharnas on roads instead of trying to speak to the Chief Minister to

solve the problem," he said. Srihari said that the BRS and the BJP have no love lost for the development of Telangana. They are just competing for

power, he added. He said that Revanth Reddy is providing good governance even though the state is facing financial problems. The people would be the losers if they believe the words of the BRS and the BJP, Srihari added.

#### Mahesh happy with SC order on Group-1 exam

PNS HYDERABAD

Declaring that the Congress welcomes the SC verdict, TPCC President B. Mahesh Kumar Goud said he is happy with the Supreme Court order not to postpone the Group-I examination. He reiterated that candidates eligible for reservation will not suffer any injustice due to GO. No: 29.

Speaking to the media at Nizamabad on Monday, Mahesh said the Supreme Court and the High Court have upheld the good intentions of the Telangana Government to give high-ranking jobs to youth. He said that students should write exams happily after the Supreme Court verdict. Mahesh said that students have a good opportunity after 13 years and they should use it. He said the Congress supports Group-I candidates and that he

## BRS to fight until GO 29 is scrapped, says KTR

He said that some people are

trying to wreck law and order

and that plain cloth policemen

provoked people who took

part in the Secunderabad rally

so that the police could lathi

charge them. He asked the gov-

ernment to punish the culprits

and ensure that these kind of

PNS HYDERABAD

BRS Working President KT Rama Rao (KTR) said GO: 29 is unconstitutional and that the

BRS will fight it. "Students had approached us, expressing concerns over GO: 29 and we engaged senior advocate Kapil Sibal to challenge the order in the Supreme Court. Although we expected a hearing on Friday, it was postponed to Monday. The Supreme Court did not object to any points we raised and has directed that no results should be declared until a verdict is passed on GO 29. The court also asked for a speedy hear-

ing," KTR said. He said that the BRS government had issued GO: 55 in accordance with the rule mandating quotas for SCs, STs, BCs, and EWS.

"We ensured merit-based opportunities for all under the open category, but GO: 29 limits the opportunities for

ing them from their categories if they secure open-category seats, which is unfair. Since February, we have been raising our concern about the injustice of GO: 29," KTR

He also accused Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of using the issue to create divisions among students and weaken the reservation sys-

"Our leaders Harish Rao, Dasoju Sravan and RS Praveen Kumar have spoken out against this injustice. Students who are preparing for Group-1 Mains have been left without a conducive atmosphere due to the uncertainty caused

by the government," he added. KTR emphasized that the BRS would continue to support the students until the case is resolved.

"The students' demands are simple. Why hasn't the government addressed their out that GO: 29 is unconstitutional? KCR has fought for 95% reservation for locals. but now there are conspiracies to bring in non-locals,"

he said. He questioned the govern-ment's stubborn refusal to reschedule the exams until

the issues are resolved.

This government is not only undermining reservations for SC, ST, and BCs through GO: 29, but it is also conspiring to help non-locals. We will fight for the students in court. This isn't just about GO: 29. Students and Group 4 employees affected by GO: 46 also deserve support," KTR

KTR warned the government not to be arrogant and said, "In a democracy, one must know when to compromise and when to fight. Undermining constitutionally guaranteed reservations is the worst form of injustice."

## **'CM misleading** people on job creation'

PNS HYDERABAD

BRS MLA Harish Rao has sharply criticized Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's remarks and compared his misleading claims to the propaganda of Joseph Goebbels,

Hitler's publicity minister. He ridiculed Revanth's assertion that the BRS government hadn't created a single job in the last 10 years, calling it absurd for someone in such a high position to spread such

blatant lies.

"In the last 10 years, the BRS government filled 1.61 lakh posts in government service, including 30,731 posts in the police alone. Another 16,337 posts were identified, notifications were issued, exams and physical tests were conducted and certificate verification was completed. The only reason appointment letters couldn't be issued was due to the election code. Yet, as soon as you took office, you shameless-

ly claimed credit for these jobs. Do you think the police attending the Martyrs' Day event are unaware of the truth, Revanth?" Harish slammed the Chief Minister for boasting about creating 30,000 jobs in just 90 days.

"Repeating a lie doesn't make it true, Revanth. If you need details, get them from the Finance Department. Stop spreading lies and lowering the dignity of your office. The entire recruitment process — from issuing notifications to announcing results — was handled by KCR. You just handed out the appointment letters at the last moment and are now trying to take credit." He also criticized the Congress, stating that the people of Telangana are no longer fooled by their empty promises

You promised two lakh jobs in a year, but after coming to power, you delivered nothing. Telangana's youth won't forget your betrayal.

## GO. No 29 will mark beginning of Cong govt's doom: Mallanna

PNS HYDERABAD

The MLC representing the Nalgonda-Khammam-Warangal graduates' constituency, Teenmar Mallanna, said that GO. No: 29 will mark the beginning of the Congress government's doom.

He said that BCs have joined hands and that they will follow the ideals of their leader Rahul Gandhi in Telangana.

Mallanna warned that BCs will not remain silent if the government or anyone in the government works against the ideals of Rahul Gandhi and that they will not accept anything that will make him lower

"Rahul has been saying that reservations should be proportion to population, but that is not being done in Telangana.

PNS NEW DELHI

Foreign

following negotiations by

the two sides over the last

several weeks and that it

will lead to a resolution of the

issues that had arisen in

External Affairs Minister S

Jaishankar said Indian and

Chinese soldiers will be able

We will not keep quiet if injustice is done to BCs in Telangana," Mallanna said.

Speaking to the media after submitting a memorandum to Governor Jishnu Dev Varma

on Monday along with BC leaders under the leadership of BC Association Intellectuals Forum, Mallanna said the government has been conducting Group-I Mains

examination as per GO. No: 29

PATROLLING ALONG LAC

India, China reach

even though the candidates have opposed it.

He said that he thinks that the Group-I exams may not move forward and it may go to where it began.

Mallanna said they had explained to the Governor about the injustice taking place against BCs and the way the government had handed over posts reserved for SCs, STs and BCs to upper castes through the EWS quota.

He said that it is against the

Constitution to provide a 10 per cent quota for OCs when they are just three per cent of the state's population.

BC leader Jajula Srinivas warned the Congress government that it will face the BRS government's fate if it does not change its anti-SC, ST and BC

## Jadcherla MLA warns AP govt on TTD darshan

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress's Jadcherla MLA Anirudh Reddy, warned Andhra Pradesh that the Telangana government will take strong action if the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) fails to consider the recommendation letters for Lord Sri Venkateshwara darshan.

Speaking to the media at Tirumala after having darshan of Lord Sri Venkateshwara on Monday, Anirudh said that it is painful that the TTD is not allowing darshan for devotees who come with recommendation letters from Telangana. Naidu used to say that the two Telugu states are his two eyes. Has Chandrababu removed one of his eyes? The Telangana government is allowing AP devotees who come with recommendation letters to have darshan at Yadadri and Bhadrachalam. But the TTD is not allowing even the relatives of public representatives and is not giving them rooms in Tirumala," he said.

Krishna Paksha

Oct 22 02:29 AM

Oct 23 01:29 AM

Oct 22 05:51 AM

to Oct 23 05:38 AM

to Oct 24 06:15 AM

2:53 PM to 4:19 PM

9:07 AM to 10:34 AM

05:57 PM to 07:35 PM

12:00 PM to 1:26 PM

07:44 PM to 09:19 PM

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:37 AM to 12:23 PM

**Updated:** October 21, 2024 5:00 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Scattered Showers

to Oct 23 01:29 AM

to Oct 24 01:19 AM

TODAY

Saptami:

Nakshatram

Punarvasu

Rahukalam

Yamaganda

**Temp:** 31°

Humidity: 74%

Sunrise: 6:11 AM

Sunset: 5:50 PM

Gulika:

**ALMANAC** 

#### **WANGCHUK BREAKS FAST**

## HM to resume talks on December 3

Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk on Monday ended assured them that the talks on Ladakh's demands will be resumed in December.

Join Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Prashant Lokhande met the activists, who were sitting on an indefinite fast at Delhi's Ladakh Bhawan since October 6, and handed them a letter from the home The letter said the high-powered committee of the

ministry, which was holding talks with representatives from Ladakh, will meet them next on December 3. Following this, Wangchuk and his supporters decided to break their fast and called off the sit-in.

"On the 16th day of our fast, I am happy to say that our main appeal has been resolved. Just now, the joint secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, came here at the Ladakh Bhawan and handed me this letter, which says the talks going on between the apex body of Leh and the KDA in Kargil with the central government will be resumed very soon, by December," Wangchuk said.

He hoped that the outcome of the talks between the ministry and the Leh Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance, the two socio-political organisations from the two regions of Ladakh, will be positive.

#### Bhutan a very special friend of India: PM



PNS NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday described Bhutan as a "very special friend of India" and said the cooperation between the two countries will get even better in time to come.

He made the comments on X following a meeting with his Bhutanese counterpart Tshering Tobgay.
Tobgay said, "Always happy

to meet my friend Prime

Minister Narendra Modi ji. Expressed my gratitude to the Government & people of India for their steadfast goodwill & cooperation. We reaffirmed our commitment to advancing our special bond of friendship from strength to strength."

Modi replied, "Glad to have met you in Delhi this morning, PM Tshering Tobgay. Bhutan is a very special friend of India's and our cooperation will continue to get even better in the times to come.

'Won't let 'vested interests' prevent benefits of

CM Omar Abdullah on migrant labourers, dead.

Talking to reporters here, Abdullah said he will ensure that no obstacles impede the flow of developmental benefits to the people of J&K.

breakthrough agreement India on Monday announced it has reached an patrolling along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, in a major breakthrough in ending the over four-year-long military standoff ahead of a likely meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Russia this Vikram Misri said the agreement was finalised

> way they had been doing before the border face-off began and the disengagement process with China has been

completed. Prime Minister Modi and President Xi are likely to hold he said.

a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in the Russian city of Kazan either Tuesday or It is understood that the

agreement will facilitate patrolling in Depsang and Demchok areas as there were major unresolved issues in these two areas. "Over the last several

weeks, Indian and Chinese diplomatic and military negotiators have been in close contact with each other in a variety of forums," the foreign secretary said at a media briefing.

'As a result of these discussions, agreement has been arrived at patrolling arrangements along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China border areas, leading to disengagement and a resolution of the issues that had arisen in these areas in 2020.

### **MEMBERSHIP DRIVE** 61% of those who joined BJP aged below 35: Nadda

Sixty-one per cent of those who joined the BJP during its ongoing membership drive are aged under 35, BJP MP and national spokesperson Sambit Patra said on Monday quoting party President J Nadda made the revela-

tion at a meeting of BJP leaders held at the party headquarters here to discuss the upcoming organisational polls, Patra said at a press conference. "At the meeting, the BJP

President said 61 per cent of

those who joined the party

so far during the ongoing membership drive are below

35 years of age," Patra told reporters. The party will share the



total number of BJP members enrolled so far later, Patra said while replying to a media query on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to the youth from "nonpolitical" background to join politics.

Addressing an event in Varanasi on Šunday, Prime

Minister Modi accused the

and Congress Samajwadi Party of practising nepotism to the extent that they overlooked Varanasi's development, and called on the youth from non-political background to join politics. He also said the "dynasts' have harmed the country's

vouth the most.

## development' **PNS** ■ SRINAGAR

Monday said he will not allow "vested interests" to prevent the benefits of peace and development from reaching the people of Jammu and Kashmir, who "enthusiastically" participated in the recent elections. The statement comes a day after a deadly terror attack at a tunnel construction site in Jammu and Kashmir's Ganderbal left seven people, including a doctor and six

The top court was informed

## to resume patrolling in the SC stresses on uniform standards at coaching centres

Dave, who is assisting the top

court as an amicus curiae,

about the broad areas that

PNS NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday stressed on having "uniform standards" to the extent possible to ensure safety and security of students studying at coaching centres.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan was hearing a matter related to the deaths of three civil service aspirants at a coaching centre in the national capital in July due to the flooding in the building's basement.

On July 27, the three students drowned in the basement library of Rau's IAS Study Circle in Delhi's Old Rajinder Nagar area after it was flooded following heavy rains.

Dave referred to the aspects

required attention.

of fire safety, fee regulation, student to classroom area ratio,

counselling for those studying

student to teacher ratio, installation of CCTVs, medical facilities, mental health care and

by senior advocate Siddharth at coaching centres. He suggest ed that all states be impleaded as parties in the matter. The amicus further referred to the legislation dealing with coaching institutes in seven states.

When Dave suggested some sort of an oversight, the bench said it should be permanent.

"It can't be that an unfortunate incident occurs and then suddenly one become aware of everything," the bench observed. The apex court pointed out the need to have uniform standards on the issue.

The respondent authorities were asked to offer suggestions to the amicus on the desirability of a comprehensive policy for coaching institutes, initially with respect to the National Capital Region (NCR).

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Latest collection, curated

Kunal Rawal Flagship Store, Ground Floor, Inhabit Building, 8-2-601/1, Road No. 10, Zahara Nagar, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad. Hosted by Deepika Reddy. October 24, 25. 11 am

to 7 pm.

Fizzy Goblet

Fizzy Goblet, 1st floor, Sarath City, Capital Mall

October 25. 4 pm

to 8 pm.

Standup Comedy

Vivek Muralidharan brings in his signature show

"Death by Laughter", where he brings his newest material to stage.

Multiple venues.

November 24

Toxic

By Abhishek Upmanyu

Venue

Shilpakala Vedika

November 2

Prateek Kuhad

Slhouettes tour.

Hyderabad international convention centre

November 8

**HYDRAA** 

begins to focus

on rejuvenation

of lakes

After multiple demolition

drives, permissions and pub-

lic panic, HYDRAA shifted

its focus to rejuvenating

HYDRAA announced that

it began the initial works of

rejuvenating the water bod-

ies in and around Hyderabad

ments from lakes in

Hyderabad, it has turned its

attention to rejuvenating the

water bodies. The HYDRAA

has started with Errakunta

Lake in the Nizampet

Municipality. The cleanup is

expected to be finished in

two to three days and there

are plans for rejuvenating

Errakunta Lake, with locals

welcoming the efforts, said

HYDRAA Commissioner

In a release, it stated that

on Monday.

PNS HYDERABAD

Venue

Grand opening of third store in Hyderabad to be hosted by Kamini Saraf.

## the pioneer hyderabad tuesday | october 22, 2024

#### GHMC Commissioner llambarithi taking petitions from the public at the Prajavani programme on Monday

#### **PRAJAVANI**

#### **Call to control illegal** constructions in city

PNS HYDERABAD

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Cor pora-tion (GHMC) Com missioner Ilambarithi has directed the officials of the concerned department to pay special attention on controlling illegal con-

structions in the city. He took part in the public address programme held at the GHMC head office on Monday and assured that they will take steps to solve the problem by asking the people who came from all over the city to solve their problems. On this occasion, Comm issioner Ilambarithi said that the authorities should take the initiative in solving the

problems of the peo-

ple. It has been clari-

fied that HODs must attend the Prajavani programme.

"Most of the com-plaints related to the town planning department were received in public and appropriate measures should be taken to control the illegal constructions completely.

How many complaints were received? How many notices have been issued as

per the rules? What action was taken must be explained," said Commissioner Ilambarthi.

The legal officer was advised to review all court cases. Officers of all departments were advised to look into the complaints received in the Pajavani and take steps to solve them quickly.

## Inter student dies in Narayana College hostel

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

An Intermediate first year student has been found dead in the hostel of Narayana College at Bachupally late night on Sunday.

The student, who had returned to her hostel Sunday afternoon after her Dussehra vaca-

tion, was dropped off by her parents. While her parents were still on the outskirts of the city, the college administration informed them that the student had lost consciousness. By the time they reached the college, the administration told them that the student had passed

Upon their arrival, the college staff had already transferred the student's body to Gandhi Hospital. The Police are investigating the case on knowing the reasons for the student's

## Water supply shut down in several areas

PNS HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) has announced a 24-hour shutdown of water supply in multiple areas as part of leakage repair work on the 2375mm diameter MS Pumping Main of KDWSP

The shut down will begin at 6:00 am on October 24 and will last until 6:00 am on October 25. As a result, several localities will experience a complete disruption in water supply for the duration of the

The areas affected by this shutdown include Shastripuram, Bandlaguda, Bhojagutta, Shaikpet, Allabanda, Jubilee Hills, Filmnagar, Prashasannagar, Thattikana, Lalapet (partial), Sahebnagar, Autonagar, Saroornagar, Vasavi Reservoirs, Sainikpuri (partial), Moula-Ali, Gachibowli, Madhapur, Ayyappa Society, Kavuri Hills, Snehapuri, Kailasgiri, Devenderanagar, Madhuban, Durganagar, Budvel, Sulemanagar, Golden Heights, Kismathpur, Gandhamguda, Boduppal, Mallikarjunanagar, Manikchand, Chengicherla, Bharatnagar, Peerzadiguda, Peddamberpet (partial) and Dharmasai (Shamshabad).

Residents in these areas are urged to store sufficient water in advance to meet their needs during the shutdown period. The repair work is part of ongoing efforts to ensure the efficiency of the city's water supply infrastructure, said an official from HMWSSB.

## Govt prioritises welfare of policemen

City Pioneer

## CM lays foundation stone for Young India Police School

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy laid the foundation stone for the Young India Police School at Manchirevula village in Rangareddy district on Monday. Minister D Sridhar Babu, MP

Konda Vishweshwar Reddy, Chief Secretary A Santhi Kumari, Special Chief Secretary Ravi Gupta, Director General of Police Jitender, Hyderabad Commissioner of Police CV Anand, Intelligence DGP B Shivadhar Reddy, CID DGP Shikha Goel, and other dignitaries participated in the programme.

Minister Sridhar Babu addressed the gathering and stated that since coming to power, this government has prioritised the welfare of policemen, recognising their tireless service, often without a single day off. In this regard, the foundation stone of the Young India Police School has been laid, marking a step towards providing highquality education to the children of police officers, enabling them to grow to international stan-

In addition to prioritising

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

Professor

There is significant increase in

seats for agricultural degree

courses at Professor

Jayashankar Agricultural

University.
For the current academic

year (2024-25), Professor

Aldas Janayya, the newly

Telangana State Agricultural

University (PJTSAU), has

announced an additional 200

seats under a special quota for

the BSc. (Hons) Agriculture

Presently, the university

offers 615 seats under the

general category and approx-

imately 227 seats with a spe-

cial fee structure. The newly

increased 200 seats will also be

filled through the regular

Jayashankar

Significant hike in seats for

agricultural degree courses

counselling process.

Rs 5 lakh.

Moreover, the Vice-

Chancellor has announced a

fee reduction for the B.Sc.

(Hons) Agriculture course

under the special quota. The

total fees for the four-year

course, previously set at Rs 10

lakh, has now been reduced to

payment required at the time

of admission has been slashed

from Rs 3 lakh to just Rs

65,000, providing a significant

selling for general category

admissions has already con-

cluded. The decision to

increase seats was made in

response to the unexpectedly

high demand from students,

especially those from rural

backgrounds.

The first round of coun-

financial relief to students.



police welfare, the government has also established the Young India Skill University, the first of its kind in the State. This institution aims to equip youth with

industry-relevant skills, creating employment opportunities across various sectors, regardless of caste or religion. Plans are underway to set up Young India

Schools in every constituency to further this inclusive vision.

The Young India Police School is envisioned as an exemplary institution, focusing not only on

initiatives reflect the government's dedication to fostering a prosperous and inclusive future for all.

MP Konda Vishweshwar Reddy congratulated the police on the occasion of laying the foundation stone for the Young India Police School, Director General of Police Jitender welcomed the dignitaries, and the vote of thanks was delivered by Additional DGP (Greyhounds) Stephen Ravindra.

academics but also on sports and extracurricular activities, fos-

tering the overall mental and

physical development of students. The Chief Minister has directed officials to prioritise

sports, recognising its role in supporting holistic growth.

Furthermore, in a significant achievement, the government successfully conducted the

Group 1 Mains exams for the

first time since formation of

With the Supreme Court's

approval and the peaceful con-

clusion of the exams, the govern-

ment is committed to imple-

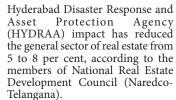
menting a clear 10-month vision

to provide employment opportu-

nities for the unemployed. These

## Property show aims to boost TG real estate amid HYDRAA concerns

PNS HYDERABAD



Announcing the upcoming 14th Property Show of Naredco from October 25 to 27 at Hitex, the members have anticipated that there will be a boast to the real estate sector of Telangana, especially Hyderabad as Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has made a categorical statement that constructions with legal permissions will not be ov HYDRAA

On Monday, the members have detailed that in an invitation to interact with Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka and Uttam Kumar Reddy, the associations have detailed that there is a fear among developers and buyers about HYDRAA and a decision supporting the requests of people who have legal permissions would see a change in the real estate sector.

Vijaya Sai Meka, president of Naredco explained, "We have met the ministers and explained to them

In a high-level review meet-

ing, Minister for Medical

and Health Damodar Raia

Narasimha instructed doc-

tors to work towards

improving the brand image

of government hospitals,

ensuring they instill greater

trust and confidence in the

public. The meeting

focused on the perfor-

mance of teaching hospitals

affiliated with medical col-

leges, particularly their out-

patient and inpatient ser-

vices, bed capacity and

other key areas.

the current scenario of fear in the ments will be attracted to the city. public. We are planning to encourage developers and buyers that said R Venkateshwara Rao, treasurage developers and buyers that there is no fear as Chief Minister Revanth Reddy made a categorical statement that assets with legal permissions will not be disturbed. It is an ongoing issue for real estate busi-

nessmen in Telangana. However, the downfall of 5 to 8 per cent will be improved once the people visit the property show and understand that it is the right time to invest in Telangana as the government is planning to develop the city and HYDRAA is an advantage to the developers who follow the rules. With the Musi River Front Development project, more investgeneral, Naredco.

which announced the budget of Rs 10,000 crore for infrastructure in Hyderabad and developing lakes is a welcome idea. The association involves a robust

permission process for constructions and no developer from our association was involved in illegal con-

We only inform them that if the project is in litigation then the developer suffers. So, we restrain ourselves from going with an unethical process," they added.

## Docs urged to enhance image of govt hospitals

These vehicles, designed like any interruption in power suply has 57 sub-divisions, and one vehicle will be allocated to each division. He emphasised that the growing demand for electricity and the increasing number of consumers require expanded services to address ower outages quickly.

ductors, cables and other nec-

These vehicles also have the capacity to tow transformers, allowing the staff to transport and replace them in a short

in identifying the exact location of emergencies, helping the teams reach the affected areas faster. These vehicles can be called

and other officials.



Minister Raia Narasimha emphasised the need for government hospitals to operate in a manner that enhances public confidence. He directed officials to address any hospital-related issue promptly and assured them that the government is prepared to provide all necessary facil-

ities. He also warned that hospitals' performance will be regularly reviewed and that action will be taken if patients face any difficulties. The Minister stressed the importance of strict sanitation and security measures. He instructed DME and the secretary to conduct surprise inspec-

tions and take immediate action against responsible personnel if sanitation are found. issues Additionally, he emphasised the need for timely repairs of hospital equipment and discouraged referring patients elsewhere due to non-functioning equipment.

Regarding maternity and child health centres, the Minister mentioned complaints about long waiting time for scans and recommended increasing the number of scanning machines to reduce delays.

#### Trend of managers pressuring staff to resign emerges In such a situation faced by (name changed) explains, "My project is yet to be completed.

The employees are unable to

**DEEPIKA PASHAM** deepikapasham2015@gmail.com ■ HYDERABAD

A growing trend has emerged where managers are pressuring employees to resign voluntarily rather than being terminated. Employees are often counselled that if they are fired, their record will state they were laid off, which could negatively impact future job prospects. However, if they choose to

resign, they can leave without any formal remarks on their employment history, making it easier to move on to new

employee T Ravi (name changed) with an E-commerce company explained, "I am just married and I have shifted to the present company with better opportunity, but as the project is completed. I have been involved in conversations where my manager was forcing me to resign.

"I was advised that with a limited time period of work no further company will be interested to hire me if I am fired in the upcoming recession, then it will impact on my performance certificate.

The employees understand the adversity of the situation



fight for their rights of being later when they are not finding jobs in the market. They paid for three months when are in search of jobs in the fired by the organisation withmarket by being unemployed.

out notice. Another employee Srikanth

salary brackets of a few employees. The communication has started that we are being approached to leave the organisation before it will commence removing employ-A few of the employees have

but I was informed earlier

that I need to look out for jobs

and also begin discussing the

advised that youngsters who are joining through placements to be vigilant in reading the guidelines and approach a redressal committee if any manager is stressing them to resign forcibly.

## Special emergency vehicles for power restoration launched

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

AV Ranganath.

In a first-of-its-kind initiative, Telangana government has inaugurated special vehicles in Greater Hyderabad to handle emergency power restoration

ambulances, aim to ensure immediate response and restoration of electricity during ply across the city. Speaking to the media after the inauguration, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu said that the vehicles will be deployed in all divisions under the Central Breakdown (CBD) department and will operate round-the-clock. "Whenever there is a disruption in power

supply, consumers can call the toll-free number 1912, and emergency response teams will be sent out immediately," he

Greater Hyderabad current-

Each vehicle will be equipped with an assistant engineer and three linesmen, who will be on standby 24/7 with essential materials. The vehicles are fully fitted with advanced tools, including thermal vision cameras, power ramps, ladders, insulators, conessary safety gear.

The TGAIMS app will assist

power ambulances, and they will significantly enhance our ability to respond to electrical emergencies, ensuring better services for our consumers. The event was attended by Energy Secretary Sandeep Kumar Sultania, CMDs Musharraf Ali, Varun Reddy

#### Woman falls to death while escaping troop of monkeys

PNS NIRMAL

A tragic incident happened at Vidyanagar in Khanapur town, where a 50-year-old woman died after falling while trying to escape an attacking troop of monkeys on Monday.

Bongoni Laxmi, a beedirolling worker, sustained severe head injuries from the fall, resulting in her instantaneous death.

According to police, the monkeys created a disturbance on the tin roof of her house, waking her from sleep. Her husband, Ganga Goud, has since filed a complaint with the police, leading to the registration of a case.

Locals have expressed their distress over an increasing monkey menace in the area, citing fears of venturing into the streets due to the aggressive behavior of the monkeys. They have urged Khanapur municipality officials to take action to mitigate this prob-

## 'No opposition party can stop Musi river rejuvenation'

HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | OCTOBER 22, 2024

PNS NALGONDA

Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkata Reddy has made it clear that no opposition party can stop Musi river cleaning. River Musi rejuvena-tion will be carried out under any circumstances, he has assert-

Speaking at a meeting, shortly after laying the foundation stone for the construction of panchyat building in Madugulapalli mandal in the district, he emphasised that the State government is committed to the welfare of all sections of people. He came down heavily on those who were coming in the way of restoration of Musi river. He also laid foundation stone for pancyat building to be built at a cost of Rs 20 lakh at Khajiramaram village.

Venkat Reddy expressed confidence that the Musi river project would be completed successfully. Additionally, he announced that in Madugulapalli Mandal, offices for the Tahsildar, Police Station, and the Mandal Parishad Development Officer (MPDO)



Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy speaking at a meeting at Madugulapalli in Nalgonda district on Monday

holds consuming less than 200

units, LPG gas connections for

Rs 500 and loan waivers for loans

below Rs2 lakhs. He further

added that loan waivers for

farmers with loans above Rs 2

lakhs would be initiated by

December 7 or 9.

Additionally, the Minister announced that Rs 4 crore had

been allocated for the construc-

tion of roads at Cheruvupalli and Tippaparthi, while Rs 60 crore

had been approved for the roads

would be built on one-acre plots with state-of-the-art facilities and modern landscaping for the convenience of the people and employees.

He also mentioned that additional funds would be allocated if required to complete the construction of these offices.

He highlighted several welfare initiatives undertaken by the state government, including free bus services for women, zero electricity charges for houseat Indugula, Tirumarti, Mamidala, and Nakirekal. A double lane road from Kurumarti to Suryapet would soon be approved, and 75 Indiramma houses would be constructed in Madugulapalli, with the goal of providing affordwith the goal of providing affordable housing for the poor.

The Minister also mentioned that, using his own funds, he had

undertaken activities to remove silt and overgrown vegetation from canals to provide irrigation water to the last acre of land through AMRP canals. He emphasised that the SSB-C Subterranean Drainage project in Nalgonda district would be completed within the proposed

The minister criticized the previous government for neglecting the SSB-C Subterranean Drainage project, stating that after coming to power, they had obtained the necessary funds to complete the project within 24 months.

The event was attended by Nalgonda In-charge RDO Sridevi, District Panchayat Officer Murali and others.



## DLAS employee booked under POCSO ACT

PNS YADADRI BHUVANAGIRI

In a shocking at Bhuvanagiri, a case has been registered against a District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) employee for allegedly misbehaving with a minor girl at Balasadan. The incident came to light after the victim lodged a formal complaint with the police. The employee as booked under Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses (POCSO) Act. The accused is identified as Venkat Reddy

On International Girl Child Day held on October 14, an awareness programme was organised by the District Legal Services Authority. During the event, the employee, who was the only attendant present, allegedly engaged in inappropriate behavior towards the

minor girl.
Following the complaint, District
Child Protection officials launched an inquiry on Sunday and subsequently reported the matter to the Bhuvanagiri town police.

## Farmers allege short supply of urea, DAP

Farmers have been making a beeline to the godown of the Primary Agricultural Cooperative Society, Mudhol, as the PACS has failed to keep stocks of the DAP and urea bags in Basara.

The farmers have been standing in the queue since 4 am in the morning and biding their time placing their san-dals in the queue. In spite of it, the farmers allege that they are not able to get the urea and DAP fertilisers. They are blaming the PACS officials for the phe-

nomenon. The farmers say that they are in need of DAP fertiliser to sow the seeds of the ground nut during the current rabi season. Agricultural authorities are well aware of t he fact, but took no care to keep them ready, forcing the farmers to buy urea and DAP from Dharmabad in neighbouring Maharashtra state and Nizamabad dis-

trict by paying more price.
The farmers charged the PACS officials with giving the fertilisers to those favoured by them creating an artificial



Nirmal District Collector Abhilash Abhinav at Prajavani progreamme in Nirmal on Monday

## **Need to redress public** grievances swiftly stressed

PNS NIRMAL

District Collector Abhilash Abhinav has directed officials to take steps to swiftly redress grievances of people.

During the Prajavani programme held on Monday at the Collectorate meeting hall, She received applications from people across various regions of the district.

People submitted petitions regarding issues such as education, healthcare, agriculture, pensions, land problems, and housing. Following the Prajavani programme, the Collector instructed officials to resolve the applications within a specified deadline. The Collector suggested that all

pending applications should be examined and resolved without any delay.

The Collector emphasised the need to provide applicants with information regarding the redressal of their griev-

Subsequently, the Collector directed officials to raise awareness among the public about the Prime Minister's Jana Suraksha Yojana. She stressed the importance of explaining the benefits of the scheme to people.

The Prajavani programme was attended by Additional Collector Kishore Kumar, DRO Bhu Bhujanga Rao, various department officials, staff,

## MLA pledges support to Arya Vaishya community

PNS RANGAREDDY

Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar reaffirmed his commitment to the welfare of the Arya Vaishya community during a function held in Shadnagar on Monday.

The event was held to honuor Gande Suresh, the newly elected president of the District Arya

Speaking at the gathering, MLA Shankar urged the Arya Vaishya community to excel across all fields and emphasised the importance of unity in addressing the community's challenges. He pledged his unwavering support and cooperation in resolving their

Suresh, in his address, called

PNS KUMRAMBHEFM

AalamSailaja, Asifabad Tribal

Sports School ninth class stu-

dent, won bronze medal in the

javelin throw event for under

14-years category at the South

Zone National level Athletics

Competitions held at Acharya

Nagarjuna University in

Sailaja and her coach

Vidyasagar were felicitated by

tribal welfare deputy director

R Ramadevi, MCMO P

Uddhav, ATDO Chiranjeevi,

GDCO Sankuntala here on

Monday and wished the

sportswoman to grow to the

**ASIFABAD** 

Bronze medalist in SZ

national athletics felicitated



Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar felicitating Arya Vaishya Sangam president Gande Suresh in Shadnagar on Monday

upon the MLA to continue working diligently to address the issues faced by Arya Vaishyas.

good name to the district.

Sports official Banda Meena

Reddy, high school head mas-

ter Jangu, KomramBheem dis-

trict atheletic association pres-

ident and secretary Kotnaka

Vijay and S Sankar, handball

coach Aravind, Kho-Kho

coach Tirumal and others

were present.

Prominent figures in attendance included former municipal chairman Anganuri Viswam and

MLC Professor Kodandaram

emphasided that education is the key

to social change and it would help

laying function for a new state-of-the-

art Government Junior College build-

ing in Shadnagar,. The event, led by

local MLA Veerlapalli Shankar, was

made possible with the generous

contributions of donors for the col-

lege building estimated at a cost of

Rs10 crore. In his address, Professor

Kodandaram highlighted the signif-

icance of education in achieving

social respect and personal growth.

He remarked that society would hon-

our educated individuals and called

He was speaking at the foundation

people attain their goals.

Stone laid for junior college building

Arya Vaishya Sangam leaders Palabatla Mohan Rao, Gajawada Venkatesh, Bejagam Rámesh, Kumar, Rammohan, Yamsani Srinivas, Malipeddi Srinivas, and other Vaisĥya dignitaries.

In a remarkable show of generosity, several individuals came forward to donate towards the construction junior College. Yugandhar Reddy of Penjarla village contributed Rs 25 lakh, Somireddy Narendra Reddy announced Rs 6 lakh, Advocate Basappa and Dandu Vasu each pledged Rs 5 lakh, and MD Khader Gori Nawaz Gori Brothers donated Rs 1,08,000 in cash. Palabatla Pandurangam will set up a RO plant in the college.

MLC Prof Kodandaram speaking at a function in Shadngar on Monday

for education to be prioritised over

everything else. He also expressed

concern that education has become

commodified in today's world, urg-

ing students to focus on learning as

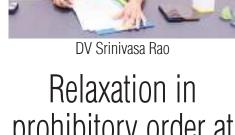
Kodandaram praising MLA

Veerlapalli Shankar for spearheading

this initiative. Shankar hailed the pro-

ject stressing that it is a significant step

a tool for societal improvement.



prohibitory order at Jainoor announced

PNS KUMRAM BHEEM ASIFABAD

District Superintendent of Police DV Srinivasa Rao has announced that prohibitory orders banning the assembly of more than five persons in public at Jainoor was relaxed. The relaxation is from 9 am 5 pm. The relaxation was given to enable students to attend classes, he explained.

It was mentioned that Section 144 CrPC was imposed last month due to violent clashes, and the decision to relax it was taken in response to

However, the Superintendent of Police warned that Section 144 CrPC would remain in effect from 5 pm to 9 am the next day. Strict action would be taken against anyone who organises rallies or protests during the restricted hours.

He urged the public to resolve any issues through peaceful means by contacting the police. He emphasised that strict measures would be taken against anyone engaging in illegal activi-

## Tributes paid to police martyrs

Anil. District Collector Adwait Kumar Singh and District Superintendent of Police Sudheer Ramnath Kekan were the chief guests at

lives waging a fight against terrorism and protecting the nation. He urged everyone to police martyrs and contribute to the nation's defense. He During the ceremony, the SP spoke about the 214 police officers who sacrificed their lives and paid tribute to them.

## Farmers told to focus on profitable crops

PNS KHAMMAM

Farmers should focus not only on traditional crops but also on profitable crops, said Agriculture Minister Tummala

On Monday, the Minister inaugurated a cotton procurement centre established under the Agricultural Marketing Department at Gurralapadu under Khammam Rural mandal. Additional Collector P Sreeja was also present.

Speaking on the occasion, Nagaswara Rao said that due to weather issues, there is moisture in the crops. He advised farmers to patiently dry the crops and ensure the moisture content is between 8 and 12 per cent. Such a measure will help farmers secure support price. He also instructed the officials to check the weighing machines with the private traders.

He acknowledged that farmers are facing difficulties due to a slid in yields due to heavy rains. He said that the government is taking steps to procure the entire cotton yield at the support price by alerting the Cotton Corporation of India

The Minister urged CCI officials and Marketing and Revenue officials to coordinate efforts to ensure that farmers secure the support price for their produce. He advised farmers to sell their produce only if private traders pay more than the support price and dry the cotton at home



Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao speaking at a meeting after inaugurating the cotton procurement centre at Gurralapadu in Khammam district on Monday

before bringing it to the centre.

Farmers cultivating cotton and chilli should also focus on profitable crops like oil palm, he suggested, stating that oil palm cultivation does not face weather and marketing issues as traditional farming. He encouraged farmers to move towards more lucrative crops and consider growing two to three crops in the same field rather than suffering losses from tradition-

agriculture. The Minister assured farmers that even if the government incurred loss, it would

purchase all types of crops cultivated by farmers at the support price. He mentioned that steps are being taken to procure crops like soybean, pulses, and corn and advised farmers to immediately bring any issues regarding support prices to the attention of District Collectors and

Revenue Divisional Officers. The program was attended by State Warehousing Corporation Chairman Rayal Nagaswararao, Muddulapalli Market Committee Chairman Harinatha Babu, and Khammam RDO G Ganesh

PNS MAHABUBABAD

A ceremony was held at the Mahabubabad District Police Office to observe Police commemoration Day. The event started at 8 am with a memorial parade under the leader-ship of Parade Commander

forward for society.

continuously remember these

## Enumamula Agricultural Market witnesses increase in cotton price

PNS WARANGAL

In the Warangal Enumamula Agricultural Market, Minister Surekha, along with local MLA Nagaraj, inaugurated a cotton procurement centre. The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) established the centre.

District Collector Satya Sharada Devi inspected the procurement centre and enquired about the farmers' issues. The Minister mentioned that a committee has been formed to ensure farmers do not incur losses this year. The cotton price will be determined based on its moisture content, and the Congress government is working to support farmers in all ways, she stated. The



Minister for Endowments Konda Surekha speaking after inaugurating cotton procurement centre at Enumamula Agricultural Market in Warangal on Monday

Minister emphasised the effort to increase the procurement at Enumamula Agricultural Market, the second largest market in Asia. She stressed the need to ensure every farmer brings his cotton crop to the market.

Previously, it took 15 days for farmers to receive payments from the CCI. However, this time, an online payment system has been introduced to pay farmers within three days of selling their cotton, which the

tive sign. She highlighted that former Congress Chief Minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy developed the agricultural sector, and now Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is providing all facilities to instil confidence in farmers. In the State, cotton, often

referred to as 'white gold,' is experiencing a significant price surge. On Monday, at the Warangal Enumamula Agriculture Market, the price for cotton reached a record high of Rs 7,521 per quintal,

according to officials.

This situation reflects the growing demand for cotton and the efforts of the government to support local farmers by ensuring fair pricing and minimising the influence of intermediaries

**BAY OF BENGAL CYCLONE** 

25 teams of NDRF on

standby in Odisha, WB



#### ACROSS THE STATES



#### **Cong dependent on** SP in Utter Pradesh: Brij

ormer BJP MP from Kaiserganj Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh on Monday said the Congress is dependent on its alliance with the Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh. "Congress has no status in UP. It is dependent on Samajwadi Party's crutches. The day Congress party gets separated from SP, it will know its status," Singh said. On Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Singh said he does not want to become the prime minister. "That is why he does things and gives statements that show he does not know where he wants to go and what his path is," Singh added. When asked about his son Prateek Bhushan Singh's letter to BJP general secretary (organisation) on candidate selection for committees of sugarcane cooperatives, Brij Bhushan Singh said this was not his subject. Prateek Singh, MLA from Gonda, had alleged that Brahmins were being ignored while selecting candidates for sugarcane committees. "Whatever the party did was right. I am satisfied with the party's decision," Singh said.



#### Can't allow sale of firecrackers: Delhi HC

he Delhi High Court on Monday said it cannot allow the sale of firecrackers when there is already "enough" pollution in the national capital. The court's oral observation came while dealing with a petition by the 'Delhi Fireworks Shopkeepers Association', a group of traders with a "permanent" licence to possess and sell crackers. The petitioner's counsel said the grievance of the traders was with respect to the ban on the storage of firecrackers as it was allegedly resulting in harassment. During the hearing, the court said it would ask authorities to seal the traders' premises being used for storage of firecrackers to ensure that there is no pilferage. "The state must be involved in the sealing process so that there is no pilferage," said Justice Sanjeev Narula. "We are not going to allow you to sell. There is enough pollution in this city," added the judge orally.



### **Navy chief on UAE visit to** boost defence cooperation

Navy Chief Adm Dinesh K Tripathi will visit the UAE from October 21-24 to strengthen defence cooperation between the two countries and explore new avenues of cooperation between their navies, an official statement said on Monday. Adm Tripathi will also witness the conduct of the third edition of the India-UAE bilateral naval exercise, the defence ministry said in the statement. The Chief of the Naval Staff is scheduled to hold discussions with Rear Admiral Pilot Saeed Bin Hamdan Al Nahvan, Commander of the UAE Naval Forces and other senior government officials of the UAE. it said. Adm Tripathi is visiting the UAE from October 21-24, the ministry said. "This visit aims to strengthen the defence cooperation between the two countries, in line with the deepening Comprehensive Strategic Partnership across all sectors, and consolidate bilateral maritime relations between India and UAE, and to explore new avenues of cooperation between the two navies," the statement said

## 'Plot to divide people'

Continued from page 1

He said that criminals are adopting new methods and claimed that Telangana Police became a role model for the country by establishing units

like the SIB and Grevhounds. Voicing concern over the increase in cybercrimes, he said the police should observe

closely the changes in society. He also said that drug abuse has increased in the state in the last 10 years and ganja is being smuggled into al standards will be established

states. The government took strong measures to curb drug trafficking by setting up the Anti-Narcotics Bureau, he

Referring to the traffic problem in Hyderabad, he called for using Artificial Intelligence for better traffic management.

Stating that the government is taking steps to boost the image of the police, the CM said the Young India Police School of internation-Telangana from neighbouring on a campus of 50 acres.

## 'India does not believe in 'taken-for-granted' relations'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Monday that India does not believe in "taken-for-granted" relations, and the world is realising that trust and reliability make the foundation of the country's

His comments at the NDTV World Summit came amid deepening chill in India's ties with Canada as New Delhi recalled six of its diplomats including the high commissioner, and expelled as many Canadian envoys.

In his address, Modi made no direct reference to the incidents involving Canada. The bilateral ties have soured over Canada's allegations of India's hand in the killing of a radical Khalistani activist, a Canadian citizen. India has denied the

**BJP** invites

manifesto

suggestions for

drafting Maha

charge and asserted that Canada had been unable to provide any evidence to back its claim.

The prime minister said, "India does not form taken-forgranted relations. Our relations are grounded in trust and reliability. The world is also realising this. India is a country whose progress causes happiness in the world."

The world celebrated India's

Commemoration Day, Shah

said the sacrifice of police mar-

tyrs will not go in vain and the

country will definitely become

a fully developed nation by

peace has been established in

Jammu and Kashmir, the

Northeastern region and LWE-

affected areas due to the dedi-

cation and efficiency of our

security forces. However, our

against emerging threats like

drones, narcotics trade, cyber-

crime, attempts to spread unrest

through Artificial Intelligence

(AI), conspiracies to incite reli-

gious sentiments, infiltration, nuggling of illegal weapons

"We will continue to fight

fight is not over.

"In the last 10 years, relative

that Canada had been unable to provide any evidence to back its claim. successful Chadrayaan mission like a festival, he said. India's growth, he added, does not incite envy because its

Modi made no direct reference to the incidents

involving Canada. The bilateral ties have soured

over Canada's allegations of India's hand in the

killing of a radical Khalistani activist, a Canadian

citizen. India has denied the charge and asserted

world. "The world draws happiness from India's rise." Citing the country's growth in various fields, from infrastructure to digital know-how and the quality of research, he said the all-round changes taking place have become a source

progress benefits the entire

of the global trust in India. It is taking lead in driving

the direction of "global future" in many sectors, he said. The world realises that India

is a friend in crises, he said, noting its supply of medicines and vaccines during the Covid period out of humanitarian concerns. India could have earned crores of dollars but it would have at the cost of

PNS NFW DFI HI

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has kept 14 teams in West Bengal and 11 teams in Odisha on standby for deployment in the wake of an impending cyclonic storm in the Bay of Bengal which is likely to make a landfall between Puri and Sagar Island on Thursday, a government statement said Monday.

In a meeting of the National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) to review preparedness for the impending cyclone on Monday, Cabinet Secretary T V Somanathan was also informed that additional rescue and relief teams of the Army, Navy and Coast Guard along with ships and aircraft have been kept in readiness.

Besides central agencies, the chief secretaries of Odisha and West Bengal also attended the

During the meeting, the Director General of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) briefed the committee about the current status of the deep pressure area on the Bay of Bengal which is likely to turn into "a cyclonic storm by 23rd October 2024 over east-central Bay of Bengal."

"...it is very likely to move northwestwards and reach northwest Bay of Bengal off Odisha-West Bengal coasts by 24th October morning.

"Continuing to move northwestwards, it is very likely to cross north Odisha and West Bengal coasts between Puri and Sagar Island during the night of 24th and early morning 25th October 2024, as a severe Cyclonic Storm with a wind speed of 100-110 kmph gusting to 120 kmph," the statement from the government said.

## Fight against terror will continue: Shah

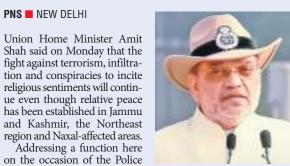
PNS NAGPUR PNS NEW DELHI

The BJP has invited developmental suggestions from various sections of society for incorporating them in the manifesto for the November 20 Maharashtra assembly elections

The draft plan for the "inclusive and dynamic" development of Maharashtra will be included in the man-

The saffron party has appealed to social workers, farmers, journalists, doctors, professors, teachers, engineers, businessmen, technicians, women activists and others to submit their suggestions, BJP's poll manifesto committee president Sudhir Mungantiwar stated on Monday. "You are an expert and practitioner in an important area of society. We intend to utilise your experience, knowledge, and expertise to

develop Maharashtra," it said. The draft plan for all-inclusive and dynamic development is inspired by PM Modi's "spectacular achievements" in various sectors that our on the global stage, the



The home minister said since independence, 36,438 police personnel have laid down their lives for the safety and security of the country, with 216 of them

He said the country will remain forever grateful for their sacrifice in the nation's develop-

"I want to assure the family members of the martyrs that their sacrifice will not go in vain. The country will remain safe and achieve its goal despite any challenge which may come in the way and India will definitely become a developed nation by 2047," he said.

Referring to the three new challenges we face now," he said. to establish the infrastructure for rain, or cold waves.

the implementation of the new laws had started five years ago and the remaining work will be completed in the next three "I want to tell the country that

India's criminal justice system will be the most modern in the world and full justice up to the Supreme Court could be delivered within three years of the registration of an FIR," he said. Giving details about the steps

taken for the welfare of the police personnel, the home minister said the police personnel and their family members can now avail treatment in any Ayushman hospital after the implementation of the 'Ayushman CAPF' scheme.

To enhance the housing satisfaction of the CAPF personnel, he said approval has been given for the construction of 13,000 houses of which 11,276 will be ready by March next year. Shah said jawans of the police

forces safeguard India's borders from Kashmir to Kanvakumari and from Kutch to Kibithu. He said the personnel of the

forces are always guarding the nation and the borders, whether and terrorism which are the force on July 1, Shah said work vals or disasters, in extreme heat,

### 'Work on 10 more nuclear reactors underway in country'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

At least 10 nuclear reactors are being installed in the country while two reactors in Gujarat's Kakrapar have started generating power commercially, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology was informed on Monday.

According to sources, the new nuclear reactors coming up in states like Gujarat, Rajasthan and Haryana are of 700 MW capacity and will start operating in the next few years.

The details of the new

nuclear reactors were provided to the members of the Standing Committee of Parliament on Science and Technology, Environment, Forests and Climate Change

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, who is a member of

the committee as well as its former chairman, said members of the panel were informed during the meeting that the Kakrapar-3 and Kakrapar-4 nuclear reactors in Gujarat have been fully synchronised with the grid and are generating power commercially. "This is a major accomplishment since these are indigenously designed 700-megawatt reactors that were approved in 2007. Construction had begun in 2010. More such reactors are being installed at different locations," he said in a post on

"Another example of how much continuity there is in our development - which is never acknowledged by 'El Supremo'," Ramesh said, stressing that it was during the two nuclear reactors in Kakrapar were approved.

## 'One Minute Rule' made many...

Continued from page 1

The actual time of the exam was 2 pm but the authorities allowed in only candidates who reached before 1.30 pm as announced earlier. Some candidates came just one minute late, but the authorities did not allow them inside.

Many candidates requested the authorities to let them in with tears saying, "Sir we worked hard for the mains exam. Please open the gates." The videos of crying candidates went viral on social One woman jumped over a

wall at Begumpet as she was coming late.

Continued from page 1

"To avoid such a situation in

the future, everybody should

consider having more chil-

dren as a responsibility. This

work I am doing (calling for

more children) not only for

you but also for the nation, for

the greater good. We can earn

money by doing any work but

we will work only when we

have children or when there is

population," said Naidu,

adding, that he will take up this

Citing Europe, Japan and

other regions as countries fac-

ing an ageing problem where

increased and youngsters

decreased, Naidu argued that

south India is also staring at

Recalling his past call for

population control, stressing the finite availability of land,

issue as a mission.

such a situation.

Have more than..

the number of old people reverse those norms and

water and air resources, he control. Now the time has

not allowed inside the exam centre. However, the police

The officials told candidates who came late that they would not allow them in even if they cried. The officials said that there were CCTV cameras and they would face trouble from higher officials if they allowed in candidates who came late. They said that the rules are clear and it is not proper for candidates to come late. Candidates staged protests at many examination centres like Koti, Secunderabad and Begumpet as they were not allowed inside exam centres for

claimed people heeded his

word and reduced AP's

which now risks the "danger of

Further, he recollected he

birthrate within 10 years,

its population falling com-

had barred people with more

than two children from con-

testing local body polls but

vowed to remove those condi-

tions and introduce legislation

on enabling only those with

Unlike earlier times when he

restricted government benefits

to families with more mem-

bers, the CM promised to

extend more benefits to fami-

You should remember that

I am thinking about the future.

We are very clear, we want to

go for population manage-

ment, instead of population

lies with more members.

more than two children to con-

test such polls.

One candidate who came late said that officials follow rules only at examination centres but not in doing their jobs. Conditions would have been better if they had followed rules everywhere, she said.

Another crying candidate appealed to the government to scrap the 'one minute rule' at least from Tuesday onwards as no one comes late intentionally. However, at some places, the authorities allowed late candidates inside exam centres.

It may be recalled that the government Congress removed the 'One Minute Rule' for Class 10 examinations after drawing heavy flak.

come, every family has to

think how to manage the pop-

ulation, then only there will be

If proper population plan-

ning could be achieved, then

Indians can do wonders at the

global level for centuries, espe-

cially by becoming service

providers in the knowledge

Responding, senior YSRCP

leader Jupudi Prabhakar Rao

questioned the efficacy of

Naidu's 'vision' of asking peo-

ple to have fewer number of

children about 10 years ago

and more now. "What about

himself (Naidu). He has only

one son and his son (Nara

Lokesh) also has only one son.

He is a visionary right," Rao

asserted that the people of the

state did not follow birth con-

trol heeding Naidu's advice, advising the CM to refrain

from comparing himself to some erstwhile Chinese leader

who had given such successful

Further, the YSRCP leader

told PTI.

calls in the past

economy, Naidu said.

#### Congress, BRS fight over .. Continued from page 1

Dileep defended KTR's travels, stating that they had resulted in significant investments in Telangana. He emphasized that KTR's trips were focused on securing international partnerships, which brought in billions to the state. "Every trip KTR took brought investments. and details of that are in the public domain. Can Congress leaders reveal similar outcomes from their foreign travels?" Dileep challenged and questioned the purpose of their visits and their benefits for Telangana.

#### BC Commission briefs..

Continued from page 1

The team informed the Governor about the progress of the programmes already undertaken by the Commission and shared the comprehensive data collected about various castes.Niranjan said that the Commission will begin touring erstwhile district headquarters from October 28 to November 8 and will coordinate with Collectors to gather detailed, caste-specific data.

# Reject power tarriff hike..

Continued from page 1

proposal as "highly dangerous" and warned that it would push ordinary households into financial problems.

Criticizing the proposals, KTR pointed out that grouping all industries under a single category for tariff purposes is an ill-conceived, unfair idea, which could harm the industrial sector.

KTR said that even Foxconn, a leading tech company, has not mentioned Telangana in its expansion plans and opted for states like Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

He attributed this to the government's misguided policies, noting that some com-

panies have already shifted out of Telangana after the Congress administration took

KTR also criticized the state government for its silence on the central government's proposal to install meters on agricultural pumps. He recalled that during KCR's administration, proposals for tariff hikes were

rejected.
"When Discoms proposed a True-Up charge of Rs 1,200 crore, KCR ensured that the government absorbed the cost without burdening the public," KTR said.

KTR concluded by urging the ERC chairman not to approve the arbitrary hike in power tariffs.

## Congress top brass..

Continued from page 1

power centre was fuelled by reports of Munshi allegedly attending government meetings held at the secretariat.

BJP leaders also accused her of accepting expensive gifts in exchange for political favours, with one incident involving a Mercedes leading to legal action against Munshi.

The Congress itself is divided on the matter. While no former AICC in-charges have established a permanent base in Telangana, Munshi's move to rent a house has drawn sharp comments from within her party. "No in-charge comes and stays here. But renting a house costing lakhs is some-

thing unheard of," a Congress source said. The Telangana government is finding it increasingly difficult to manage the narrative being pushed by the opposition. Even though the government is trying to implement its programmes, Munshi's presence has undermined it, with critics dubbing her as an alternative power centre.

Some leaders, initially close to Munshi, have now started speaking out against the government. Amidst this political tug-of-war, it remains to be seen whether the AICC will step in to clear the air. The allegations and rising tensions have cast a shadow over the Congress's strategy in the run-up to the Assembly elections in

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

## **Dastardly strike**

As terrorists kill seven people in Central Kashmir, concerns grow over the effectiveness of security measures

disturbing pattern of targeted violence has resurfaced in Jammu and Kashmir, with seven killed in a cowardly terrorist attack. The people killed were part of the construction team working on the Z-Morh tunnel, which connects Gagangir to Sonamarg in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. Yet another bomb blast occurred in the capital though no one was injured, which raises concerns about potential coordination between terrorist groups and the spread of violence beyond the Valley. While there is no direct evidence linking the incidents, the possibility of a broader security threat cannot be ignored. This latest attack is part of a troubling trend of escalating violence against migrant workers in the region, marking the fifth such incident this year. The recent killings underscore a persistent threat to life in Kashmir. This latest tragedy follows a series of deadly incidents in the Valley. The recent wave of terrorist attacks exposes critical vulnerability of security apparatus. While authorities, including J and K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah



and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, have condemned these acts and pledged to bring the perpetrators to justice, the recurrent nature of these attacks reveals deeper challenges in counter-terrorism measures and security protocols. The targeted nature of these attacks suggests a deliberate strategy to instill fear among migrant workers and disrupt ongoing development projects. By targeting migrant labourers involved in infrastructure work, terrorists aim to deter economic activities that could stabilise the region. These incidents not only hamper development but also erode the confidence of workers who play a crucial role in key infrastructure projects. Moreover, the attacks signify a broader

attempt to undermine the relative peace that has been maintained in recent years. Despite heightened security measures and the presence of the military in sensitive areas, the perpetrators have managed to carry out attacks on civilians, highlighting significant intelligence gaps and the ability of militants to exploit weaknesses in the security grid to target rather easy groups. A comprehensive review of security measures in Jammu and Kashmir is urgently needed. While military action remains essential, it needs to be complemented by robust intelligence gathering, better coordination between different security agencies and community-based approaches to countering extremist elements. The current situation also points to the need for upgrading the security apparatus around camps housing migrant workers and ensuring that projects with a high number of migrant labourers receive adequate protection. Another pressing issue is the socio-political narrative surrounding such incidents. There is a need for a unified political strategy that addresses not only the immediate security concerns but also the long-term socio-economic challenges that contribute to unrest. Investing in local economic opportunities, countering extremist ideologies through educational initiatives and strengthening intelligence network can make a lot of difference.



A potter arranges freshly-made 'diyas' (earthen lamps) ahead of the Diwali festival, in Hyderabad

# Global Hunger Index: Misleading metrics



SANTHOSH MATHEW

The accuracy and intent behind GHI rankings are suspect. Does the GHI truly reflect India's reality, or is it a motivated attempt to malign India's image?

he recent Global Hunger Index (GHI) report, which places India at a dismal 105th position out of 127 countries, has raised eyebrows and sparked considerable debate. While hunger and malnutrition remain pressing global issues, the methodology and conclusions of the GHI, co-authored by two non-governmental organisations-Irish-based Concern Worldwide and German Welthungerhilfe—have drawn criticism, particularly from the Indian government and sections of society.

There is a growing concern that such reports may not just reflect statistics but also carry political and geopolitical undertones aimed at tarnishing India's image on the world stage. The GHI is based on four key indicators: the revalence of undernourishment, child wasting, child stunting, and child mortality. The scores from these factors are compiled to place countries on a scale from ero (no hunger) to 100 (extreme hunger), with countries scoring closer to zero seen as having little or no hunger issues. India's score of 27.3 puts it in the "serious" hunger category, alongside 42 other countries. Critics of the GHI have raised several concerns about the methodology used in calculating India's score. Firstly, the reliance on child mor-

tality and child stunting indicators as primary components of the hunger index is problematic. India is a country with a large population, and while child malnutrition is a valid concern, this issue is not unique to India but rather shared by other developing countries. By focusing heavily on this aspect, the report seems to disproportionately penalise India. Additionally, the GHI report uses outdated data from global sources such as the World Health Organisation and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). India, like going significant improvements in food security through government initiatives such as the National Food Security Act, the Midday Meal Scheme, and public distribution system reforms. However, these efforts do not



about shaping narratives. By positioning India in such a negative light, the report seems to overshadow the country's genuine achievements. India's economy is among the fastestgrowing in the world, and its agricultural output has been consistently high. The country's food production is more than sufficient to meet the needs of its population. India has become a net exporter of food grains and has successfully launched programs to improve access to food for its vast population. Given this backdrop, how can India be ranked lower than countries facing severe internal strife, economic collapse and war, such as Afghanistan or even smaller nations like Bangladesh and Nepal?

It's essential to question the intentions behind these rankings. Are they an honest reflection of hunger, or do they serve other interests? Reports like the Global Hunger Index can have far-reaching consequences, not just for the countries they assess but also for

The fact that the organisations behind the GHI-Concern Worldwide (Irish) and Welthungerhilfe (German) hail from Western countries has not gone unnoticed. It raises the question of whether the



THE RELIANCE ON CHILD MORTALITY AND CHILD STUNTING INDICATORS AS **PRIMARY** COMPONENTS OF THE HUNGER INDEX IS PROBLEMATIC. INDIA IS A COUNTRY WITH A LARGE POPULATION, AND WHILE CHILD MALNUTRITION IS A

VALID CONCERN,

UNIQUE TO INDIA

THIS ISSUE IS NOT

index is truly impartial or if it subtly reflects geopolitical biases. India has made significant strides in addressing hunger and malnutrition, but it seems that these efforts are often ignored or underplayed by such indices. For instance, the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, which provided free food grains to over 80 crore people during the COVID-19 pandemic, is one of the world's largest food security initiatives. The fact that India could provide this level of support during a global crisis contradicts the narrative of widespread hunger and undernourishment. To deny that hunger exists in India would be dishonest, but the situation is far more complex than a single ranking can capture. Hunger is not a static issue; it is deeply intertwined with poverty, access to education, healthcare, and infrastructure.

The Indian government has been tackling these root causes of hunger through a multipronged approach that includes social welfare schemes, employment generation programmes like MGN-REGA, and nutrition programs targeted at women and

Programmes such as the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) aim to provide supplementary nutrition to millions of pregnant and lactating women, along with children under six years of age.

Meanwhile, the Midday Meal Scheme, which serves nutritious meals to school children, has had a significant impact on reducing malnutrition.

Despite these efforts, it is undeniable that India still faces challenges. The legacy of poverty, the vast size and population of the country, and regional disparities make it difficult to eliminate hunger overnight. The concerns raised by the Indian government about the Global Hunger Index are not without merit. The index, while claiming to provide an objective measure of hunger, fails to capture the ground realities of individual nations. India, being the second-most populous country in the world, is bound to face issues that smaller nations with more homogeneous populations do not.

By painting India as a country where hunger is rampant, the GHI risks creating a false narrative that undermines the substantial progress made by the country. It also risks discouraging the efforts of those working tirelessly on the ground to ensure that no one goes to bed hungry.

What is needed is not biased rankings or politically motivatoration between nations to tackle the global hunger crisis. As we reflect on the GHI, one thing is clear: statistics alone do not tell the whole story.

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

## The quiet struggles and shifting realities of ageing



Having left the traditional joint family behind, we now face loneliness and the stark realities of ageing in a world that moves rather fast

ecently, I sat sipping Ry cup of tea in quiet contemplation as life moved around me. Unbidden, a strange thought struck me. In my younger days, I often felt that the old were more rigid in their approach. I am in my mid-sixties. I still judge those older than me. In the olden days, at my age, I would have been expected to move out of the household to spend time in quiet meditation.

Not any longer. We continue to enjoy the worldly pleasures of life, with the added baggage of rigidity in attitude. We are more selfcentred. There are many like me in the age group that we call seniors. I did not have to look far to seek reasons for these changes. I was in the hospital a few months back attending to the admission and discharge formalities for my father. I was told it was essential for an attendant to be present to sign various documents at different stages of the hospitalisation. I do not know if these are mandated rules or if hospi-



These have serious implications for many ailing single seniors with children in distant lands.

We do not contemplate a life of dependence on others when we are young. Having led a life on our terms for decades, it is difficult to adjust to a life with rules not set by us. We belong to the generation that has moved out of the age-old joint family milieu to set up unit families. The interaction with even the immediate family is limited to meeting at festivals.

One gets to meet the extended family only during family weddings, busy as they are in the daily grind of their units. It is not surprising that we now find ourselves at a crossroads. The young have their own tals do this to comply with lives and cannot be expect-friend expounded, the

ache and pain. A few years back I met a younger acquaintance over coffee. The seniors within his community encouraged young professionals to join the governing body of the community welfare association extending unconditional support. As things settled, the young lot no longer needed to consult the old for each decision. The seniors felt rebuffed, and relationships soured. I recently flew with a medical professional who established a thriving chain of ers feel loved and cherpathology clinics. ished.
Approaching 60, he has American author and motivational speaker, Felice sold his business. He is now working towards establishing old age homes

for the seniors. I was apprehensive because of the stigma attached to these facilities. The old feel a sense of abandonment; others, sharing what we the young feel guilty. To face these challenges, he is starting daycare centres for seniors, to spend a few hours engaged in activities of their choice, with adequate medical facilities available. As my medical

ed to be available for each major challenge for the old is loneliness resulting in inadequate communication, which in time may lead to dementia.

I would have attributed obsession with self to insecurities over the advancing age, had I not witnessed the same even in the young. A feeling of inadequacy can strike anyone irrespective of

We are yet to evolve into a society that respects and cares for all. It is the responsibility of each member of the community to help oth-

vational speaker, Felice Buscaglia, known as 'Dr Love', said, "It is not enough to have lived. We should be determined to live for something. May I suggest that it be creating joy for have for the betterment of personkind, bringing hope to the lost and love to the

(The author is an electrical engineer with the Indian Railways and conducts classes in creative writing; views are personal)

#### **OMAR ADVOCATES STATEHOOD**

Madam —Apropos of 'We will not give Kashmir' (October 20), the demand of the newly elected government of J and K under Omar Abdullah for full statehood is not at divergence with the vow of the Modi government on the floor of the Parliament for granting the statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. The only difference is the time factor looking at the highly volatile and inflammable borders infested with Pakistan-sponsored terrorists and Pakistan's propaganda against India on all international platforms.

Omar Abdullah government should not vie to show down with the Centre under the political pressure of those who lost elections and whom people rejected in Assembly elections. The National Conference, while keeping Congress at bay, has a better opportunity of coordination with the Modi government for betterment and all-round growth of the State as Congress has turned itself into a sworn enemy of PM Modi and is prone to confrontation with him. People have elected the National Conference for development, education, health, industry and job creation, not for confrontation with the Centre. Terrorism is the biggest threat to the State for destabilising it, and it comes from across the border. Since the Indian army and paramilitary forces are well equipped to combat terrorism and neutralise the terrorists, the State government should restrict itself

to the state administration. Vinod Johri | Delhi

**INDIA'S HUNGER CHALLENGE** Madam — The 2024 Global Hunger Index report, in which India ranks 105 among 127 countries, must not be ignored. The nutrition indicators for children under 5 years show that 1 out of 3 children (35.5 per cent) is a victim of stunting. Now, how can a country compete with others when the growth of more than one third of its future workforce has been stunted for not getting

enough food to eat? A study says that

## **Mitigate climate Change**

limate change refers to a long-term shift in temperature and weather conditions. These shifts may be natural but since the 1800s, human activities have been the main driver of climate change. Burning coal, oil and gas to structure and renewable energy by cregenerate electricity and heat or to make goods like cement, steel and electronics produces carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that pollute the air to

many gig workers in India have to work this victory is so special since they won for 10 to 14 hours daily for their employers to earn less than Rs 10,000 per month. While overwork damages their health, the poor wage makes their children and family members compromise on food

This is nothing but exploitation. The Centre should allocate more funds for introducing breakfast in addition to the midday meal for all government and aided schools from the nursery level. It is highly commendable that some states and union territories provide additional items such as milk, eggs, and fruits to students from their own resources. But why should not the centre itself allocate the funds for the same for giving those nutritious food items to students all over the country? Otherwise, students of all the states in India will not get those additional, nutritious food items.

Madam — It's double the joy of winning

overseas and certainly for New Zealand

**Sujit De** | *Kolkata* 

**KIWIS STUN INDIA** 

a large extent. As temperature rises, more moisture evaporates, which exacerbates extreme rainfall and flooding causes more destructive storms. Climate change also changes water availability, making it scarcer in more regions.

According to the Climate Change Act 2017, local bodies must consider climate change when preparing their municipal health and wellbeing plan. Local bodies must raise awareness about climate change and how to adopt and mitigate its effects. They must encourage electric vehicles within city limits. Establishing minimum energy for housing infraating ordinances and bylaws to help the community adopt climate change is the urgent work of the urban local bodies. P Victor Selvaraj | Tirunelveli

a test after 36 years to claim 1-0 up in this series at Bengaluru. When Indians were dismissed for a paltry 46 in the first inning, the hope of skipper Rohit Shama was diminished, but the ray of hope was enlightened by the scintillating 150 by young Sarfaraz Khan along with the swashbuckling knock of 99 from Rishab

Pant in the second inning. Though the Indian scored 462, the later order failed to capitalise on their complacent batting. A target of 107 for the Kiwis to chase became a customary one and Rachin Ravindra's high-powered 134 in the first and an unbeaten 39 in the second innings brought the Kiwis a comfortable win at the end. The gesture from Ravindra's father came by way of his thanksgiving to CSK Academy, where Ravindra took his week-long practice just before this series is worth observing for this young gun's success.

A P Thiruvadi | Chennai

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## **FIRST COLUMN**

## THE FEAR OF LOSS AND THE **QUEST FOR INNER PEACE**

Accepting life's impermanence may be the key to transcending fear



RAVI VALLURI

umans are intrinsically fearful of loss. Misplacement can assume several dimensions. Say mislaying of property, wealth, recognition, position, power, pelf, health and most importantly, life. John's (name changed) steely voice suddenly trembled and quivered as he answered the pretentious cell phone. Rachel (name changed), his daughter had met with a grievous car crash and was wheeled into the ICU of an estimable hospital, Death is the action or fact of dying or being killed, the end of life of a person or an organism.

Several years ago, a Japanese warrior was captured by his adversaries and was confined to a dungeon. That fateful night he tossed and turned restlessly and was unable to sleep, fearing the following day when he would be interrogated, tortured and eventually executed. He was staring death in its face. Then suddenly he remembered the priceless words of his Zen Master. "Tomorrow is not real. It is an illusion. The only reality is now." Heeding these esoteric words, the warrior overcame the exacting condition he was encountering and soon his mind became tranquil and he fell asleep. Suffering and fear arise in our minds when humans confront ailment or impending death. No one wishes to pass from being to non-being.

The credo of the human mind is the desire to remain eternally immortal. Millions of cells in the human body perish and are regenerated. But we are not mindful or wakeful of this reality. Do humans compose dirges or elegies like Catullus or Propertius for the dead cells? Or do we carouse and indulge in delirium on the birth of new cells and recite 'Happy Birthday'



songs? "No one wants to die. Even the people who want to go to heaven do not want to die to get there! And yet death is the destination we all share. No one has ever escaped it." Be it Rachel or the Japanese warrior no one has ever attained perpetuity or everlastingness; however bare-knuckled a person may be, he remains a glass jaw to the

Yet youngsters today cannonaded by gizmos and technology become weary and bored of life at the young ages of twenty, thirty and hotfoot to snuff out their lives. Life is indeed holy and hallowed, too valuable and will remain a mystery that should not be recklessly given up. Yet there is no covenant or magic potion which guarantees deathlessness. Identifying and unravelling this mystery has confronted the minds of spiritualists, religious congregations and those of scientists and technocrats alike. A Zen Master was unwell and desired to cast away his body. His pupils implored him that he ought to live longer and disseminate the profound knowledge. It so happened that one disciple remarked. "Whether it is life or death, let it be." The Master was ecstatic with the response and passed away. "Let it be" is much more than a mere aphorism, it is a state of mind.

Our shastras impress that the human mind is influenced by place, time, food, past impressions and associations and the actions of individuals. The footprints bear both efficacious and antipathetic impacts on the human mind. Humans are enslaved by the above-mentioned factors and habits and, as a result, involuntarily superintendents our perceptions, attitudes and behaviour.

And over a period if we are not aware of these negative emotions they compound into anxiety, anger, aggression, covetousness, low self-esteem, and fear. Knowledge about the impermanence of life and variegated dimensions can be gained only through regular practice of pranayama, Sudarshan Kriya, meditation, or mindful observation of breath. This is the secret and the only truth.

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)

# Unlocking the full potential of GatiShakti



The PM GatiShakti initiative is revolutionising India's infrastructure by integrating digital planning tools to expedite project completion and improve multimodal connectivity

ccording to the Secretary of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Amardeep Singh Bhatia, as many as 208 big-ticket infrastructure projects including roads (101), railways (73), urban development (12) and oil and gas (4) worth Rs 1539,000 crore have been recommended for approval under the PM GatiShakti initiative so far. These projects have been recommended by an inter-ministerial group known as the Network Planning Group (NPG) constituted under the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (NMP). Launched in October 2021, the PM Gati Shakti NMP is a transformative Rs 100 lakh crore initiative aimed at revolutionising the infrastructure in India over the next five years.

Its vision is to create a world-class integrated infrastructure that improves the ease of living, boosts economic growth and makes Indian businesses more competitive. It does so by expediting project completion, reducing timelines, enhancing multimodal connectivity, boosting efficiency across sectors, benefiting logistics (a jargon for handling, storage and transportation) creating jobs and fostering innovation. How does it work? The PM GatiShakti NMP has been developed as a Digital Master Planning tool. It works on a dynamic Geographic Information System (GIS) platform wherein data on specific action plans of all the 16 Ministries/Departments dealing with infrastructure sectors as well as of the States have been incorporated within a comprehensive database.

The NMP portal has over 1,600 layers of geospatial data, showing all physical and social infrastructure of an area viz land, ports, forests, and highways and so on. The NMP revolves around seven primary sectors that are fundamental to economic growth and ensuring seamless connectivity. These sectors are roads, railways, ports, airports, mass transport, waterways and logistics infrastructure.

These are further supported and complemented by sectors like energy (all fuels such as petrol, diesel, ATF, natural gas and power etc) transmission, IT communication, bulk water and sewerage, and social infrastructure. The inter-ministerial NPG has representations from the connectivity infrastructure ministries/departments, involving their heads of network planning division to ensure unified planning and

integration of the proposals. The NPG meets every fortnight and appraises infra projects to ensure multi-modality (a term used to connote several different modes of transportation to get cargo from the factory/port/warehouse to a client's front door), synchronisation of efforts, and comprehensive development in and around the project location. All logistics and connectivity infrastructure projects worth over Rs 500 crore are routed through the NPG. The NPG's approval is required even before making a DPR (Detailed Project Report) at the planning stage. Thereafter, the project follows the normal procedure of approval by the Public Investment Board (PIB) or Department of



AS MANY AS 156 GAPS IN INFRASTRUCTURE TO PORTS AND FOR MOVEMENT OF BULK

COMMODITIES CEMENT, FERTILIZERS AND FOOD GRAINS, HAVE BEEN **IDENTIFIED FOR** INTERVENTION UNDER THE PM **GATI SHAKTI** INITIATIVE Expenditure under the Ministry of Finance (MoF) and the Cabinet.

Put simply, NMP provides on a centralised portal, a 360-degree view of all the existing projects/initiatives, those under implementation as well as projects under planning stage across all ministries and departments and offers visibility into all critical data relevant to efficient planning and execution. It helps in the identification of critical gaps in infrastructure, helping to select the most efficient routes for transportation, reducing costs, and minimising delays.
As many as 156 gaps in infra-

structure to ports and for movement of bulk commodities like coal, cement, fertilisers and food grains, have been identified for intervention under the PM GatiShakti initiative. The plan also helps in prioritis-

ing projects more effectively by eraging cross-sector interac tions, ensuring that the min-istries work in harmony to align the projects and allocate resources optimally - based on national priorities - avoiding duplication and redundancies. The upfront approval by the NPG even before the ministry prepares the DPR can help it in making the RIGHT choices, prevent delays and avoid colossal wastage of resources that were germane to the earlier dispensations when the ministries and departments were working in silos - in an uncoordinated manner - unaware of the happenings and work in progress in other departments and bereft of the crucial data on KEY parameters. The PM GatiShakti is a robust system working on real realtime basis in a dynamic frame-

work to guide project planning

and execution (monitoring

through satellite imagery ensures

that the ministries can track

progress and make necessary

adjustments to keep projects on schedule). The phenomenal increase in the

capacity in all crucial areas such as ports, airports, railways, highways, roads and so on is a testament to the success of efforts made under PM GatiShakti. But, we have a long way to go

The target of Rs 100 lakh crore investment for building the infrastructure over five years was set by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her maiden Budget for 2019-20 (out of this, 39 per cent or Rs 3900,000 crore was to come from the Centre and an equal amount from States and the balance Rs 2200,000 crore from the private sector).

Against this, the investment covered under PM GatiShakti is Rs 1539,000 crore which is just about 15 percent. Even when we take this as a proportion of the investment commitment by the particularly true of rural road Centre (presumably all projects under PM GatiShakti are central ly sponsored), this works out to 40 per cent. As for the States, they are far behind in meeting their overall investment target of Rs 3900,000 crore.

And, very few of them such as Uttar Pradesh, and Gujarat have boarded the PM GatiShakti plat-

The platform by ensuring visibility, identification of bottlenecks and better coordination can help expedite approvals but it can't be a substitute. The approvals have to be given by the concerned authorities at the central and State levels. Here, projects face long delays especially when it comes to getting environmental and land clearances.

Local protests exacerbate the delays. 'Working in silos' syndrome doesn't go away just because Modi has given a platform to the bureaucrats in various Ministries to sit together and thrash out issues. Sticking to their stance, especial-

claim to resources (such conflicts are seen more in major projects like roads and railways) often leads to delays. Further, a lack of coordination with the states, as seen in the Sagarmala and Bharatmala projects, has led to

ly when it comes to staking their

slower progress. Outdated or incomplete data is a major bottleneck. For instance, while land records are digitised in 13 states, the rest lag.

This hampers the implementation of projects in states where land records are not digitised as well as roads/highways projects, power transmission lines, and oil and gas pipelines passing through these states.

Even as the PM GatiShakti platform allows for real-time tracking, the authorities don't always make project updates regular, which delays completion. This is projects in many districts leading

The investment by the private sector is nowhere near the target of Rs 2200,000 crore set by Sitharaman. In the roads/highways sector, even as the government has asked private players to come under public-private partnerships (PPPs) mode, the latter's response isn't encouraging leaving it to the former to take on the load.

The bottlenecks lead to continuing project delays and cost overruns which cause high tariff/service charges across all sectors highways, railways, ports, airports, power transmission, fuel transportation etc.

These come in the way of making Indian businesses more competitive and ease of living for the common man. All Stakeholders particularly the States should work to surmount the bottlenecks to enable PM GatiShakti to deliver its full potential.

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

## How India's workforce can benefit from the world's growing demand

## Tapping into this opportunity requires a systematic approach to connect Indian talent with international employers

ndia's labour force is one of its greatest assets, with millions of skilled workers spread across various industries, including healthcare, construction, information technology and engineering. However, despite this abundance of talent, many of these workers struggle to find suitable employment within the country. The global labour market, on the other hand, is increasingly facing shortages in these same sectors. Bridging this gap has been a significant challenge.

Global Skill Shortage and Demand for Indian Talent over the past decade, countries across Europe, the Middle East, and parts of Asia have been facing critical shortages in skilled



labour. Factors like ageing populations, changing work preferences, and evolving technological needs have driven these regions to seek out talent from countries like India. Healthcare, construction, IT, and logistics are some of the industries experiencing the

most pressing shortages. We need to recognise this

professionals with global This will help in aligning the

skill sets of Indian workers with international standards and job requirements, offering thousands secure employment overseas.

A Systematic Approach to Global Mobilisation. The workforce mobilization model should ensure that the process is smooth and transparent for both the workers and the employers. The organisation focuses on several key stages: Talent and Skill Gaps: We should conduct thorough assessments of candidates, ensuring they meet international job requirements. By collaborating with top training institutes, they also provide demand early on and respond upskilling opportunities to by connecting skilled Indian candidates who need it.

Job Matching: With established relationships with employers in countries such as Germany, Canada, and the UAE, organisations can ensure that candidates are placed in roles that match their qualifications and aspirations.

Navigating Complexities: Overseas job placement is fraught with regulatory hurdles, but offering complete support with visas, documentation, and legal compliance, ensures candidates can focus on building their careers without administrative delays.

**Supporting Worker Welfare:** The organisation provides post-placement assistance, offering support with reloca-tion and helping candidates adjust to new cultural environments. This ensures long-term success



for workers abroad. Shaping the Industry's Future Beyond individual placements, the organisation's work is in shaping the broader landscape of international labour migration. There has to be a system for fair recruitment practices and the protection of workers' rights. This is critical in an industry that is often plagued by stories of worker exploitation and unethical recruitment agencies.

A transparent process ensures that workers are fully informed of the terms of their contracts before they travel abroad. This approach not only safeguards the interests of Indian workers but also builds trust with glob-

al employers. The global demand for skilled labour is at an all-time high, and India has the talent to meet this need. Many organisations have pitched in to fill this gap. 'Magic Billion' creates dignified, well-paying employment opportunities for Indian workers overseas. Since starting in 2018, it has facilitated over 4,000 Indian workers being placed in global roles. It is just not helping individuals find jobs; we're building sustainable careers that elevate both the worker and their

particularly noteworthy aspect of such an organisation's work is its focus on women and young professionals. The global job market offers unique opportunities for these groups, particularly in industries like healthcare and hospitality. Targeted programs need to aim at empowering women to enter these fields and secure high-paying jobs abroad. This is especially significant in a country like India, where barriers to women's employment are still prevalent in many sectors. The organisation's efforts to provide training and certification for nursing professionals, for example, have opened up opportunities for hundreds of women to work in countries where there is a growing

demand for healthcare work-

Women Empowerment: A

individual but also creates ripple effects for their families and communities.

Economic Benefits: India's skilled labour force is not only contributing to the economies of the countries where they work but also bringing significant benefits to India itself. Remittances sent home by overseas workers are a major source of foreign exchange and play a crucial role in the economic development. By placing workers in global jobs, we can help alleviate some of the domestic unemployment pressures. This is especially important for sectors like construction where there is a surplus of skilled labour in India.

> (The writer is CEO & Co-Founder of Magic Billion; views are personal)

HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | OCTOBER 22, 2024

## IN BRIEF



#### **Rupee ends flat at 84.07** against US dollar

he rupee on Monday settled flat at 84.07 (provisional) against the US dollar amid strong American currency against major rivals overseas and relentless foreign fund outflows. Investors remained cautious and stayed away from riskier assets due to geopolitical uncertainties, forex dealers said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 84.06 against the greenback and stayed almost flat throughout the session. The unit finally settled at 84.07 (provisional) against the dollar, unchanged from its previous session's closing level. On Friday, the rupee slipped 1 paisa to close at 84.07 against the US dollar, a tad higher from its alltime low of 84.09 recorded on August 5 this year. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.19 per cent to 103.50.

**Emaar India to invest** 

Rs 2,000 cr in Mumbai

Monday. The group, known for projects like Burj Khalifa, has

stayed away from the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR)

Emaar India's Chief Executive Kalyan Chakrabarti said there

is no specific reason to stay away from Mumbai for so long.

despite being present in India for nearly two decades

He added that the group is attracted to the megapolis because it considers it as the deepest and strongest realty

The company is aware about the market realities in the space-crunched city, and is open for looking at both

societies and slum redevelopments along with any fresh

development proposals, he said. The company plans to

invest USD 1.85 billion (around Rs 15,500 crore) in realty

developments across the country in the same time period.

he said, adding that capital is not a constraint for it given the

Therefore, it is not keen to aggressively pursue opportunities

on the capital markets, including an initial public offering or

market which will be vibrant for decades to come.

backing of a parent company willing to invest.

sponsoring a Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT).

i'm a dal stree

zomato

AE-based realty developer Emaar is planning to invest up to Rs 2,000 crore in Mumbai and its surrounding

areas in the next six-seven years, a top official said on

## **'Robust domestic engines** back India's growth outlook'

PNS MUMBAI

India's growth outlook is supported by robust domestic engines and private investment showing some encouraging signs despite geopolitical tensions, the Reserve Bank's October Bulletin said on Monday.

The global economy remained resilient in the first half of 2024, with declining inflation supporting house-

hold spending.
Stable growth momentum amid monetary policy easing is becoming the prevailing theme across most economies, according to an article on 'State of the Economy' published in the Bulletin.

"In spite of geopolitical tensions, India's growth outlook is supported by robust domestic engines," it said.

It also noted that some high-frequency indicators have, however, shown a slackening of momentum in the second quarter of 2024-25, partly attributable to idio-



syncratic factors like unusually heavy rains in August and September.

Looking ahead, private investment is showing some encouraging signs in terms of lead indicators while consumption spending is shaping up for a festival season revival," said the article authored by a team led by RBI deputy governor Michael Debabrata Patra.

After remaining below target for two consecutive months, inflation surged in September, as an adverse statistical base effect was compounded by a resurgence in

food price momentum.

The central bank said the views expressed in the Bulletin article are of the authors and do not represent the views of the Reserve Bank

#### VFS Global to offer new Indonesia e-Visa to Indians

PNS MUMBAI

VFS Global on Monday said it has been appointed to offer a new Indonesia e-Visa on Arrival service to Indians and 96 other nation-

The services are expected to commence in the first half of December 2024.

The Directorate General of Immigration under the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, Indonesia has appointed VFS Global as the exclusive private service provider for Électronic Visa on Arrival (e-VoA) to make the process seamless, promote inbound tourism and increase investments into Indonesia, the company said in a statement.

"Indonesia is a very popular destination for travellers across the globe, and we are excited to unveil a service that will make their visa application process quicker, simpler and much more convenient.

#### 'Will work towards designing, manufacturing planes in India'

PNS NEW DELHI

The government will work towards designing and manufacturing aircraft in India with the help of the industry players, Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu said on

Monday. The Bhartiya Vayuyan Vidheyak Bill 2024, which was passed by the Lok Sabha in August, includes provisions to regulate

t h e design and manufacturing of aircraft, supporting the Aatm anirbhar Bharat initiative.

'We want to design and manufacture planes in India. We are taking help from HAL (Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd) and NAL (National Aerospace Laboratories) and other industry partners we have.

"In the foreseeable future, we want to also have a situation where we manufacture planes not for domestic demand only but also for the demand of the entire world... we are going to move towards it," the minister said.

State-owned HAL is already into manufacturing small civilian planes but on a smaller scale.

> of the world's fastest growing civil aviation mar kets and Indian carriers have more than 1,200

India is one

The country is a key market for aircraft manufacturers - Boeing and

planes on order.

Last month, Naidu said the government will set up a special purpose vehicle to push ahead with plans to start manufacturing commercial aircraft in India.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS**

## FinMin seeks expenditure proposals

The finance ministry has sought expenditure proposals for the first batch of supplementary demands for grants from various ministries and departments ahead of winter session of Parliament.

The first batch of supplementary demands for grants for 2024-25 is proposed to be placed before Parliament in the ensuing session, the ministry said in an office memorandum dated October 21.

The month-long winter session of Parliament usually begins in the last week of November.

The pre-Budget meetings to finalise the Revised Estimate for 2024-25 and Budget Estimate 2025-26 are currently underway and conclude would November 11.

The ministries and departments whose pre-Budget meetings with the Finance Ministry will be concluded by October 29 are therefore, required to submit their supplementary proposals by November 6 and the remaining ministries within one week of completion of meeting or by November 15, it



The cases that would be eligible to be incorporated those where advances from the contingency fund of India have been granted.

Besides, payments against court decree would be included as well as cases where the finance ministry has specifically advised moving of the supplementary demand in

the winter session, it said.
"While processing proposals for supplementary grants, the grant controlling authority must invariably identify savings within the grant so that the infructuous or inflated supplementary demands are weeded out and the eventuality of surrender after

obtaining supplementary grant is avoided," it said. The Budget 2025-26 is like-

ly to be presented on February 1. Previously, when the

Budget was presented at the end of February, the threestage Parliament approval process used to get completed sometime in mid-May, weeks ahead of the onset of monsoon.

This meant government departments would start spending on projects only August-end September, after the monsoon

#### 'India's first coal exchange soon'

PNS NEW DELHI

Union minister G Kishan Reddy on Monday said that India's first coal exchange would be set up soon.

A coal exchange is likely to facilitate more sellers and buyers to trade coal as a commodity. Talking to reporters on the sidelines of an event in New Delhi, Minister Kishan Reddy, said that coal exchange is likely to come up soon. The plan for setting up the coal exchange was discussed in a recent meeting. The draft note for the Cabinet for setting up of coal exchange in the country was circulated for inter-

## Coking coal import cannot be substituted fully: CIL

PNS NEW DELHI

CIL Chairman and Managing Director P M Prasad on Monday said coking coal import cannot be substituted fully, but some part of it can be Coking coal, also known as

metallurgical coal, is used to produce coke, a key component in steel-making process. As per the data compiled by mjunction services ltd, India's coal import in 2023-24 was

268.24 MT, which includes

Coal Mines Award Ceremony,

the CMD said coking coal import cannot be substituted fully, but some part of it can be reduced.

The coking coal import can be brought down if its production through domestic sources He further said achieving

coal production of 1.5 billion tonne in the next four to five years is not a small thing and in order to achieve this output, mining projects have to be awarded to MDOs. Import of thermal coal can be reduced to a larger extent, once coal pro-

## Gold jumps Rs 750, silver skyrockets

Gold prices surged by Rs 750 to hit a record high of Rs 80,650 per 10 grams while silver skyrocketed by Rs 5,000 per kg in the national capital on Monday, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

Extending its gains for the fourth straight day, silver prices spurted by Rs 5,000 to hit a fresh record high of Rs 99,500 per kg from the previous close of Rs 94,500 per kg on Friday.

According to commodities market experts, the ongoing bullish sentiment in the silver market is primarily driven by industrial demand and gold's rally. Silver's upward momentum appears strong. Investors dips as buying opportunities, keeping the white metal wellsupported in the coming ses-

are likely to continue to view dips as buying opportunities, keeping the white metal well-keeping the white white well-keeping the white well-keeping the wh grams on Friday. Bullion

traders attributed the

jump in gold prices due to

pick-up in buying by local

ewellers to meet increased

demand in the festive and

wedding season which sup-ported the upside in the yel-

low metal prices. Further, a positive trend in the overseas markets as well as a fall in equity markets boosted the gold's safe-haven appeal, they added. In futures trades on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold contracts

for December delivery jumped Rs 493 or 0.63 per cent to Rs 78,242 per 10 grams. During the

day, the precious metal had surged Rs 591 or 0.76 per cent to Rs 78,340 per 10 grams on Monday.

Silver contracts for December delivery bounced Rs 2,822 or 2.96 per cent to hit a high of Rs 98,224 per kg. "Silver prices have gained strong upward momentum.

#### 57.22 MT coking coal and 175.96 MT non-coking coal. duction of 1.5 billion tonne is Speaking during stakeholdachieved. "To achieve 500 milers' consultation on mining lion tonne in next five years is operators-cum-developers a huge task. When we work together it will be possible," he (MDO) and Star Rating of explained.

#### 'Zomato not venturing into any new space' \_ood delivery platform Zomato is not venturing into any new space and will continue to focus on its four existing

businesses, the firm clarified on Monday amid reports of Founder Deepinder Goyal registering a new health and wellness firm 'Continue'. Separately, Goyal in a social media post said the 'Continue' health and wellness initiative was his "personal" venture "7omato isn't venturing into any new space, and will continue to focus on its four businesses (Food Delivery, Blinkit, Hyperpure and District)," a Zomato spokesperson said on 'Continue'. In a social media post on X, Goyal said: "Been getting a lot of curious messages since the morning, so here's an update on Continue. It is as of now, my personal health and wellness team, entirely funded by me. which tracks and researches how to keep me running at my peak performance". He shared that spending time with the Continue team is like going to the gym for him. "Or you can also say that it helps me avoid visits to doctors. We are developing new things, we have some new insights,

and it will be super cool if one day, we are able to gather

enough evidence behind what we have found, to share with

nologies like AI.

a fraudulent call that seemed to

## Sensex, Nifty close lower on selling, FII outflows Adani Ports, UltraTech Cement,

PNS MUMBAI

Erasing initial gains, benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty closed lower on Monday due to a sharp fall in Kotak Mahindra Bank and relentless foreign fund outflows.

The 30-share Sensex declined by 73.48 points or 0.09 per cent to settle at 81,151.27 with 21 of its constituents ending lower and nine closing higher. The barometer shot up 545 points at the opening but succumbed to selling pressure later and hit a low of 80,811.23. The index gyrated 958.79 points between



the day's high and the low level. The NSE Nifty dipped 72.95 points or 0.29 per cent to

From the 30 Sensex firms,

Kotak Mahindra Bank tanked over 4 per cent after the company's quarterly earnings failed to cheer investors. Bajaj Finserv, IndusInd Bank,

Services, Infosys, Bharti Airtel, Hindustan Unilever and ISW Steel were the other big lag-HDFC Bank climbed nearly

Bajaj Finance, Tata Consultancy

Additionally, gold

of 99.5 per cent purity climbed Rs 750 to hit a new record

high of Rs 80,250 per 10

grams. The metal of 99.5 per

cent purity had ended at Rs

3 per cent after the firm 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.

## India needs Rs 32 lakh cr investment in renewable by 2030: IREDA CMD

India will require about Rs 32 lakh crore of investment in the renewable energy sector by 2030 to meet its targets, Indian Renewable **Energy Development** Agency's (IREDA) Chairman Managing Director Pradip

Kumar Das said on Monday. Speaking at the 23rd India Power Forum 2024, Das called on needs.

lenders to adopt a more customer-centric and sectorfocused approach, emphasizing the need for timely financial solutions and innovative offerings tailored to the renewable energy sector.

He stressed the pivotal

role of renewable energy in India) by 2047.

India's journey towards creating a net-zero-compliant power sector.

Das pointed out that India will require an estimated investment of approximate-ly Rs 32 lakh crore in

the renewable energy sector by 2030 to meet its tar-

This phase will focus on ramping energy generation to meet immediate

From 2031 to 2047, the focus will shift towards developing the necessary infrastructure to support a fully decarbonized economy, creating a strong and sustainable pathway to a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed

## When scammers cloned Mittal's voice to con his executive a scam, Mittal said admitting that

PNS NEW DELHI

Scammers often use AI voice clones to con commoners to transfer money or disclose financial information but it's rare when they try to impersonate a billionaire. This is exactly what scammers tried to do by cloning telecom czar Sunil Bharti Mittal's voice to scam his executive in Dubai to transfer money Fortunately, the executive was smart

the world," Goyal informed.

enough to realise Mittal won't ask for such a huge money transfer and the scam was stopped in its tracks. On Monday, speaking at the NDTV

World Summit, Mittal cited the incident to caution people about the risks posed by misuse of emerging tech-



mimic his voice and tone and direct-Mittal recounted how the said ed that a large fund transfer be done. executive stationed in Dubai received The official who was vigilant and

"sensible" immediately realised it was

been vigilant may have done something about it," Mittal said and warned that in future misuse of technology would enable fraudsters to go a step ahead and misuse digital signatures, even replicate faces on zoom calls to

those companies, and nations that will

not adopt AI will be left behind. So

this is a conundrum for every time

when he heard the voice recording

himself he was completely "stunned"

as "it was perfectly articulated just as

"And anyone who would not have

I would speak".

perpetrate such acts. "We'll have to protect our societies from the evils of AI, and yet we have to use the goodness of AI, because

you get a new technology into place, there are pluses and minuses. I remain very optimistic about the benefit of AI that the human race will achieve and be able to do jobs which are otherwise very difficult to perform," Mittal

It is pertinent to mention here that advent of tech era, powered by AI and digital tools, has armed economies and businesses with transformative powers. That said, it is also being misused blatantly by online scammers and fraudsters to dupe unsuspecting

There are umpteen instances of fraudsters nudging victims to click on malicious links, or using deepfakes and voice cloning for scams.

🔞 GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION 🙈 TENDER NOTICE NIT No. EE/24/DIV-XI(RJNR)/GHMC/2024-25

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Tuesday October 22, 2024

# BREAKING BARRIERS IN CLASSICAL DANCE

Embodying the soul of Mohiniyattam, Gopika Varma's pursuit of this classical dance is marked by an insatiable curiosity, passion and dedication to unravelling the hidden layers of stories, emotions and cultural significance. In an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*, renowned Mohiniyattam exponent delves into the intricacies of her artistic journey, where dance becomes a profound exploration of the soul



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opika Varma's pursuit of Mohiniyattam is a journey steeped in curiosity and passion, where dance becomes a living, breathing dialogue with history and mythology. Her search isn't confined to perfecting a graceful step or mastering a delicate expression; it's about uncovering the hidden layers of stories, emotions and cultural significance that lie beneath each performance. She constantly seeks more—more knowledge, more understanding and more connection. Whether she's collaborating with scholars, experimenting with new interpretations, or blending ancient tales with contemporary relevance, her artistic path is one of endless discovery, where every performance is not just an expression of dance but a profound exploration of the soul of Mohiniyattam.

In the world of classical Indian dance, she resonates with grace, storytelling and an undying dedication to her art form, Mohiniyattam. Reflecting on her journey, she describes it as a continuous learning process, one that blends tradition with modernity, demanding both passion and discipline. "It's very important for me that we announce and explain what I've choreographed at the beginning of every performance," she shares, emphasising the need for clarity in storytelling. For her, performing, feels like returning to her artistic roots. "Dancing is beautiful—there's a unique energy here. The staging, the audience, the backstage, everything is wonderful. And Shovana ji's festival, in particular, brings out the best audience," she says, praising the festival's impact on the

Her Mohiniyattam performances have always placed a strong emphasis on *abhinaya* (expressive storytelling), which she considers the soul of this classical dance form. "In Mohiniyattam, while footwork is important, the focus is on *abhinaya*—and that too, mature *abhinaya*. Only through refined expressions can we tell stories that resonate," she explains. Her recent performance at the *Spandan* festival showcased the stories of three strong women from the *Mahabharata*, characters that she believes continue to live among us today. "Draupadi is a powerful figure. Her life wasn't designed by her own desires; she lived for others, for *dharma*. In many ways, women today still live lives that aren't designed by them, much like Draupadi."

Reflecting on the evolution of the dance world, Gopika acknowledges how the digital age has transformed not just the way we teach and perform but also how classical dance forms like Mohiniyattam reach a broader audience. "The digital age has been a beautiful moment for us, especially when it comes to sharing classical dance styles. Online performances, teachings, and discussions have bridged the gap between distances. It's important, though, to use these resources wisely, ensuring the art's essence is preserved." Her journey with Mohiniyattam hasn't been easy, especially when she first arrived in Chennai. "When I came to Chennai, Mohiniyattam was practically nonexistent. It was a rare form to see, but now I have over 200 dancers performing in the city." The pride she feels for reviving the art form in Chennai is palpable, especially when she recalls receiving the state award from J Jayalalithaa, the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. "Receiving that honour from someone who understood and had learned both Mohiniyattam and Bharatanatyam was a great moment for me, particularly as a non-Tamil artist."

As she shares her experiences, it's clear that her art is deeply personal. "When you dance, especially when you embody a character, it always reflects your own mindset. I can't perform something that doesn't resonate with me. It won't feel personal, and the performance won't connect with the audience. To be successful, there has to be a reflection of yourself in your art." For her, learning from maestros has been key to her growth. "When you train with maestros, you don't just learn the dance; you learn everything—the backstage, the management, the intricacies of every moment. It's like working with a great lawyer. There's a big difference between learning from a good teacher and a maestro. That experience is invaluable."

Despite her success, she continues to learn and evolve, which in turn inspires her students. "It's important that we keep upgrading ourselves to inspire the next generation. Mohiniyattam is a relatively young art form, revived only about 250 years ago. So it's vital to give it as much exposure as possible by presenting strong characters at major festivals."

Even during the pandemic, she found ways to keep the art alive. "We had online performances, classes and discussions. The distance between us reduced, but we had to make sure we used the resources well." For her, storytelling remains at the heart of Mohiniyattam. "We have to read, understand, and constantly be in touch with scholars to make sure the stories we tell reach the audience. Not every story does, but it's our responsibility to ensure they do." Through her performances, teachings and endless dedication to the dance, Gopika Varma continues to breathe life into the ancient stories of Mohiniyattam, ensuring they resonate with today's audiences.



# Sports drinks after short training? More harm than help!

ports drinks are often marketed as a quick way to replenish electrolytes and energy lost during exercise. However, they aren't always the best option after short training or competition sessions.

#### Here are a few reasons why:

#### **EXCESS SUGAR**

Sports drinks typically contain high amounts of sugar. After short sessions, the body does not need the excess sugar, which can lead to unnecessary calorie intake and may contribute to weight gain over time.

#### **ADDED CALORIES**

For brief workouts (less than an hour), water is usually sufficient for rehydration. Consuming sports drinks adds unnecessary calories without significant benefit, especially when the exercise wasn't intense enough to burn many calories.

#### **ELECTROLYTE LEVELS**

Short training sessions generally do not deplete electrolytes significantly. The sodium, potassium, and other electrolytes in sports drinks are designed for longer, intense sessions where sweat loss is substantial. For most people, typical diet intake is sufficient to replenish these electrolytes after a brief workout.

#### **DENTAL HEALTH**

The sugar and acidity in sports drinks can contribute to dental problems, including tooth decay and enamel erosion. Regular consumption, particularly when it's not needed, may increase this risk.

#### HYDRATION NEEDS

For moderate activities lasting less than 60 minutes, plain water is typically adequate for rehydration. Drinking water is the healthiest way to maintain fluid balance without the added sugars and artificial ingredients found in many sports drinks.

#### ARTIFICIAL INGREDIENTS

Many sports drinks contain artificial flavors, colors, and preservatives, which provide no nutritional benefit and may not be ideal for those seeking a clean, healthy recovery option. Over time, the consumption of these additives can have unknown or potentially negative long-term effects on health.

#### LACK OF NUTRIENT REPLENISHMENT

Sports drinks lack important nutrients like vitamins, minerals, and protein, which are crucial for muscle recovery and repair. After a short workout, it's better to focus on a balanced meal with essential nutrients rather than sugary drinks that offer minimal post-exercise recovery support.

#### INCREASE IN INSULIN LEVELS

Consuming a sports drink that is high in sugar post-workout can cause a rapid spike in blood sugar levels, leading to an insulin surge. For people looking to maintain steady energy levels and metabolic balance, this sudden rise and fall of blood sugar might hinder recovery rather than aid it.

> (The author, Dr Aabid Amin, is the Medical Director and Consultant Internal Medicine of Ujala Cygnus Group of Hospitals.)

## Transforming Kartik Aaryan from flab to fab

In an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*, **Tridev Pandey**, the mastermind behind Bollywood's most stunning transformations, reveals the secrets behind his success, his approach to fitness and his unwavering commitment to shaping India's sports and fitness landscape

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simple journey that began with playing basketball on the national level, Tridev Pandey's life took an unexpected turn when a knee injury forced him to give up basketball, a sport he had excelled in, earn-

ing three national-level medals.

Determined to stay in the sports arena, Pandey turned to boxing, a passion he had nurtured since his school days. Under the guidance of renowned coach Chote Lal Yadav, Pande's boxing journey began, yielding gold medals in state and regional tournaments and eventually landing him a spot in the India camp. However, a nationwide ban on boxing due to administrative issues left Pandey uncertain about his future. It was during this challenging period that he discovered his true calling—coaching. With the encouragement of a fellow boxer, Pandey decided to pursue coaching, and his life changed forever.

And now here he is, 10 years later, working with several celebrities to transform



into the unbelievable. Who did he first start working with, you wonder? Well, it was the extremely talented Sanya Malhotra.

Satyaprem Ki Katha. He used to not get proper time because he was shooting for 12 hours straight. The time was a challenge and

A remarkable work that has currently made him the talk-of-the-town is the mind-boggling transformation of Kartik Aaryan for *Chandu Champion*. We hark back to how it all happened and he shares, "I got a call from the production house of *Chandu Champion* that we are making a film like this, where the lead actor is supposed to play a boxer and they asked me to send my resume"

asked me to send my resume."

Right from Slow Cheeta, Vikrant Massey, to his coaching with Sanya, he shared all of it, and post that, he got a call from the team asking how much time is it going to take for the training since they had to make a proper boxing movie. "I later got to know that I had to train Kartik Aaryan and transform him into an athlete. It was not just for the sake of showing the audience but as a proper boxer. When I met Kabir sir, I assured him that whatever sessions I would take for the training, I didn't want anyone else to body dub on his behalf but teach him boxing completely. Thanks to Kartik bhai that he took it seriously. In fact, he used to also send me videos about how we can try the training." Not just the training, but fitness was something that they were keen on with the push-ups, pull-ups, headstands and all of it.

They had no big goals but the small ones. But how? It was post-Freddy that he had to begin transforming into *Chandu Champion*. While back then, he was of 90 kg, he shares, "We wanted to start with 85 kg first. We had to look into what all we are supposed to do and how much intake of calories is required. I did not really want to exhaust him since the beginning; he was also shooting for

Satyaprem Ki Katha. He used to not get proper time because he was shooting for 12 hours straight. The time was a challenge and then the injuries because your body is not recovering completely, not getting a proper 8 hours of sleep, so we really had to be alert about the techniques we wanted to learn. We used the AM/PM routine. Then, of course, I was maintaining the discipline, but slowly things came in track. We are proud that without any steroids or injections, we came up with this body. It was a result of pure hard work."

While in Kartik Aaryan's case, it was much clear that he had to do all of it for the role; on the other hand, he was working with Shweta Tripathi Sharma, with whom the goal was to get fit. "She hadn't done any training or any such sort of thing earlier. She just wanted to workout and that's how we began the training. Simultaneously, *Mirzapur 3*'s shooting was also supposed to start where she had to use a gun and do some actions. That's how we began and you can see the result. As compared to Golu in Season 1 and Season  $\frac{1}{3}$ , we made a strict diet and heavy lifting. Her weight is about 48 and she was lifting a 50-55 kg deadlift and 40 kg squats. It was not that the story wanted Golu to look in a certain way. It was all her wish to do all of it that could be visible on-screen with her confidence."

While he continues to train Kartik Aaryan, Shweta Tripathi, Shivani Raghuvanshi and Sanya Malhotra on a regular basis, he is also working on a Dharma project. As Pandey looks to the future, his goal remains clear: to continue making a meaningful impact in the lives of his clients and contributing to the growth of Indian sports and fitness.













# what's brewing?

Taruni, in partnership Phoenix Mall of Asia and She for Society has today flagged off the bike rally - "Her Ride, Her Rules," at Phoenix Mall of Asia. This inspiring event aimed at breaking stereotypes and celebrating the multifaceted nature of femininity. The uniqueness of this event was to showcase women from diverse backgrounds, with a special focus on women bikers who embody strength, independence and grace.





The 15th Indian National Memory Championship 2024 took place at The Manohar Hotel, Begumpet, Hyderabad, on Monday, organised by the Indian Memory Council. Chief guest Dr. Jayaprakash Narayana emphasised the importance of such events for boosting cognitive abilities. Prizes were distributed by Indian Memory Council President Squadron Leader Javasimha and sponsors.



Satyajit Tripathy, Member (Distribution) at the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), inaugurated the two-day Insurance Conference 2024 with a lamp-lighting ceremony at IIRM Campus, Nanakramguda, Gachibowli, Hyderabad, on Monday.



Hodd's Cocktail Bar at Hyatt Gachibowli hosted a vibrant and exclusive bar takeover event featuring the spirits from Suntory Spirits. Led by Portfolio Advocate Tanvi Dandekar, the event unfolded amidst an ambience of sophistication and style, captivating cocktail enthusiasts and



KLH Bachupally Campus hosted the ACM India Regional Chapter Summit, bringing together the brightest minds and influential leaders in computing to encourage a dynamic platform for innovation, discussion and networking.

#### ARCHIE









#### **CALVIN AND HOBBES**









#### **GARFIELD**

NANCY



THAVE HIGH

STANDARDS FOR MY CLASS



BUT IT'S ONLY

BECAUSE I'M CONFIDENT YOU CAN RISE TO MEET THEM



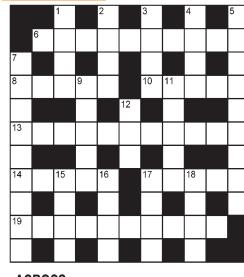


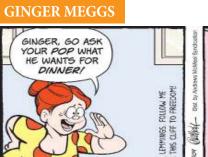
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with this

- working properly (3,2,5) 8 A word for a taxi driver 12 The number of years 10 A sung musical drama someone has lived 13 Saying you are sorry 15 Use these when running
- 14 Light soft modelling wood 16 Small busy insects 17 Part of a poem or song 17 An opinion

1 A round underground part

of some plants 2 A small type of horse 3 A toy that spins around a held string (2-2)

5 Three-sided figures

7 A way of cooking eggs

19 Follows seventeenth 18 Animals like large mice **DOWN** SOLUTION



'TELUGU AMMAYI' ANANYA NAGALLA IS RECEIVING ACCLAIM FOR HER PERFORMANCE-ORIENTED ROLES AND IS NOW AIMING FOR A BIG



Hyderabad | Tuesday October 22, 2024

**ANANYA AWAITS HER BIG COMMERCIAL SUCCESS** 

homework or research for this role. "Whatever

sureshkavirayani@gmail.com

nanya Nagalla left her job at an MNC to enter the film industry. She initially thought she would land some cute roles, but her experience turned out quite different. "When I entered the industry, I didn't have maturity. But once my debut film Mallesham happened, people saw me in a different light. Maybe they thought I was suited for mature roles, so they started offering me those kinds of roles. I feel happy that I connected with different sections of the audience, especially when they think of performance-oriented actresses. So, I am happy with what I am doing right now," said Ananya Nagalla.

The actress has been receiving more villagebackdrop characters and even in *Pottel*, she is portraying a similar role. She plays a young mother living in a village. "When the director narrated this role, I had done a web series with a similar character, so I thought it was repetitive. But the two directors' thought processes were not alike, so when the shooting began, I found that this role was completely different. The film has a good story and concept and not only my role, but every character in this film is going to be highlighted," said Ananya.

The actress expressed that she is not concerned about playing a mother role again, as her focus is on being an actor. "I never felt that way because I wanted to be an actor. Some may enter the industry wanting to do glamorous roles, but I stepped in because I wanted to be a good actor," she explained

Perhaps the filmmakers noticed her in *Mallesham*, where she played a village girl with a Telangana backdrop. "In this film too, it relates closely to my first film, so they did a look test and tried a different approach. More than my look, I feel that the colour grading has given more depth to the Ananya mentioned that she didn't do any

'Samudrudu depicts

struggles of fishermen'

director Sahith told me, I simply followed him and did what he wanted. I didn't do any homework. My first scene is with Ajay, where he kicks me in the stomach! You can see it in the trailer too. It was a serious moment in the film, but while the director was preparing to shoot, I was playing with the kid," she recalls. She added that director came to her a few times, asking if she could remember her dialogues. "I told him not to worry about it. When the shot was ready, I did it and the director was very happy," said Ananya. After that scene, the director never came to her with concerns about dialogues or anything else, as he became fully confident in her abilities.

The film's story revolves around a father struggling to provide a good education for his daughter. Reflecting on the current education system, Ananya shared her views. "Nowadays, education feels like a business because of the high fees. People from the lower-middle class are losing interest in sending their children to school, opting instead to earn a few thousand rupees when they go to work. After this film, I hope people understand how someone struggles to ensure their child is educated. Some people don't know the value of education; we need to create awareness," she said.

Ananya stated that she has no regrets at the moment. "When I entered the industry, I did a film, and then the pandemic struck. The success vanished with Covid and I had to stay at home because there was no work. At that time. I felt bad," she said. She added that later, work began to come in continuously. "But now, frankly speaking, I haven't had any commercial success," admitted Ananya.

Ananya is currently receiving three to four scripts and is selecting projects that interest her. "I am not sitting idle now as I am working continuously," she said. She added that she is not concerned with **PRABHAS' 'KING** competition, as

she is not in that mindset. She shared that while she doesn't receive great support from her parents, they haven't discouraged her either. "I love acting, so they didn't say 'no,' but they haven't fully supported me either, as they didn't particularly like it. However, whenever I go out, they say, 'take care of yourself, be careful," she said about her parents. The actress expressed her hope that her mother will be pleased after the release of Pottel. "After Pottel releases, my mother should feel proud after seeing my performance. She will definitely say that her daughter did a good film," she said. Speaking about Telugu girls in the industry, she noted it is only about 30 percent. "If you look at the Tamil, Malayalam and Kannada industries, they choose local girls

70 percent of the time and they give outsiders a chance only 30 percent of the time. But here in the Telugu industry, they give 80 percent of the opportunities to outsiders and only 20 percent to Telugu girls," said Ananya. Discussing her upcoming projects, she mentioned that she has signed a film titled Kathakeli with director Satish Vegesna. She also has two other projects, Srikakulam Sherlock Holmes and a comedy film Lechindi Mahila Lokam.

**OF SWAG' AVATAR** 

**CREATES ONLINE FRENZY** 

ebel Star fans are eagerly anticipating updates from the highly

As Maruthi ventures into the romantic horror genre—a first for

Prabhas—curiosity about the film is growing. In the poster

released during the update announcement, Prabhas looks

ultra-stylish. His new look and makeover for The Raja

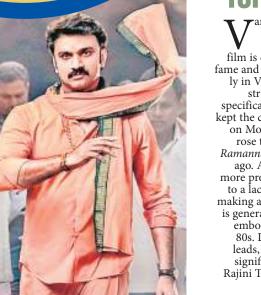
in its final stages.

anticipated film *The Raja Saab*, directed by the talented Maruthi and starring Prabhas. On Monday, the makers announced that they would release an update in celebration of Prabhas's birthday on Wednesday. The Raja Saab is produced by TG Vishwaprasad under the People Media Factory banner.





titled *Matka*, alongside Meenakshi Chaudhary and Nora Fatehi. The film is directed by Karuna Kumar of *Palasa* fame and its story is set in the 1980s, primarily in Visakhapatnam. The filmmakers constructed the famous Poorna Market set specifically for this film. Until now, they had kept the character of Salloni under wraps, but on Monday, they revealed her look. Salloni rose to fame after the success of Maryada Ramanna, directed by Rajamouli many years ago. After that film, she appeared in a few more projects before taking a long break due to a lack of good opportunities. Now, she is making a comeback with *Matka* and her look is generating interest. She appears in a saree, embodying the style of a woman from the 80s. Despite there being two other female leads, Salloni's role in the film seems to be significant. Vijayender Reddy Teegala and Rajini Talluri are producing this film, which is set to release on November 14.





irector Nagesh Naradasi is helming a film titled Samudrudu; as the title suggests, it centers on the

lives of fishermen. "I depicted the struggles and

lives of fishermen in this film, but I didn't approach it like

a documentary. I added all the commercial elements and

blended them with the fishermen's stories," said director

Nagesh. Senior actor Suman plays a pivotal role in this film, alongside lead actors Ramakanth, Avantika and

detail is portrayed intensely in this film," explained the director. He also praised lead actor Ramakanth for his performance. Produced by B Kishan, the film is scheduled

The pre-release event was held recently, where Suman commended the director. "After *Annamayya* and *Sriramadasu*, I didn't want to take on mythological roles,

but director Nagesh Naradasi came to me with a mytho-

logical film Satyanarayana Swami which I liked and took

part in. Now, the same director has brought a different

for release on October 25.

"When the fishermen ventured deep into the sea, their struggles and what happened to them afterward, every

## Akash Puri launches **Taskarinchuta**

The movie *Taskarinchuta*, featuring Sunny as the lead, was launched on Monday. his introduction as a hero. I wish the entire movie team all the best and hope the film achieves great Produced by Shake Afrin under the Rachel Pictures banner, this crime comedy thriller is directed by Shivaprasad Chaluvaadi. The event was held at Ramanaidu Studios in Hyderabad, with young hero Akash Puri and producer Bellamkonda

Suresh as special guests.
During the ceremony, Akash Puri presented the script and switched on the camera, followed by the movie's poster launch. Producer Bellamkonda Suresh clapped for the muhurtham scene.

Akash Puri said: "The title poster of Taskarinchuta looks great. Congratulations to Sunny for success.

Meanwhile, Sunny expressed his gratitude to Akash Puri for attending the launch event. "We are making a good effort with this project, which will be a crime comedy. We will make a film that everyone will

Director Shivaprasad at the event stated, "We are set to create Taskarinchuta as a fresh crime comedy thriller. Regular shooting will begin on the 15th of next month, and we are working on a unique presentation. Well-known artists will be part of our film, and their details will be revealed soon."

## 'Pasupu Danchatam' ritual marks beginning of Sobhita-Naga's wedding

the town. On October 21, the actor from *Made in Heaven* posted images from 'Pasupu Danchatam', a traditional Telugu pre-wedding ritual symbolising the start of wedding celebrations. Shortly after Sobhita posted the



The marriage of Naga Chaitanya and Sobhita Dhulipala is the subject of much discussion in dering about their wedding date. The

dering about their wedding date. The pair became engaged in a private ceremony on August 8 of this year.

Sobhita Dhulipala posted photos from the 'Pasupu Danchatam' ceremony held at her residence on Monday. She donned a pink-orange saree adorned with a border of gold and green for the ceremony. The women in her family are all around her.

Sharing the photos, she wrote, "Godhuma Raayi Pasupu danchatam. And so it begins! (sic)."

'Pasupu Danchatam', also called 'Pasupu Kottadam', is a ritual practiced in Telugu traditions. During the ceremony, turmeric is crushed using

ceremony, turmeric is crushed using the traditional method, which involves a stone grinder. It is the same as the haldi ceremony.



# **HEATRES THIS**

fter a long hiatus, director Virinchi A Varma is returning with a film titled *Jithender Reddy*. He previously directed *Uyyala Jampala* with Raj Tarun and later *Majnu* with Nani. Both films performed well, but Virinchi Varma did not direct any further films for a considerable time. Now, after a lengthy break, he is back with *Jithender* Reddy starring Rakesh Varre in the lead role. The makers have announced that they are planning to release the film on November 8.

The story of Jithender Reddy is inspired by real incidents that took place in Jagityal during the 1980s. The film is produced by Muduganti Ravinder Reddy. produced by Muduganti Ravinder Reddy. The promotional videos of the film have been intriguing, generating curiosity. The movie portrays *Jithender Reddy*'s struggles with Naxalites and his fight for public issues since his college days. The trailer also depicts his entry into politics and interactions with a senior political leader who was the chief minister at the time. Vaishali Raj, Riya Suman, Subbaraju and Ravi Prakash play significant roles in the film.





## NEW ZEALAND WHITE FERNS SPLIT \$ 2.3 MILLION AFTER WINNING T20 WORLD CUP

**AP** WELLINGTON

embers of the New Zealand White Ferns cricket team which beat South Africa by 32 runs in the final of the women's Twenty20 World Cup in Dubai on Sunday will split prize money of around USD 2.3 million.

That works out at around USD 155,000 or NZD 256,000 per team member, a life-changing windfall for players who for years have struggled for years to achieve financial parity with their male counterparts.

New Zealand's first-ever victory in the World Cup of cricket's shortest format was a massive surprise. The White Ferns had lost 10 consecutive T20 matches before beating South Africa in a warm-up match.

That pre-tournament success proved a turning point for New Zealand who beat India, Sri Lanka and

Pakistan, losing only to Australia on the way to the semifinals.

South Africa ousted six-time champion Australia in a massive upset in the semi in which New Zealand beat the West Indies.

New Zealand made 158-5, batting first in the final, helped by Suzy Bates who made 32, Amelia Kerr who made 43 and Brooke Halliday who made 38. Kerr then took 3-24 and Rosemary Mair 3-25 as New Zealand restricted South Africa to



"Pretty unbelievable to be honest," Mair said. "Coming into the tournament all the odds were against us so for the group to bounce back like they have is unbelievable. "We just care so much about each

other. We've been through a lot of lows in the last 18 months, and we've just stuck by each other and kept working hard for each other."

Captain Sophie Devine was leading the New Zealand team for the last time. She and Bates have played in said. "When you play team sport,

DRERMI

all nine T20 World Cups since the first in 2009. New Zealand reached the final of the first two tournaments in 2009 and 2010, losing to Australia

on both occasions.
"This means everything to us," Bates

you want to be a world champion. you want to be a world champion. "We've fought our way back to the top. (Devie) has been so outstanding leading this team... So calm and believing in us. We'll probably have a cuddle for even longer later because there's been some dark times that only the people in the (locker room) people in the (locker room) understand."

New Zealand was coached to victory by Australian Ben Sawver and former Black Caps batters Dean

and former Black Caps batters Dean Brownlie and Craig McMillan.
The White Ferns' success was praised Monday by New Zealand Sports Minister Chris Bishop. It came at the end of a weekend in which New Zealand also retained sailing's America's Cup and in which New Zealand most's griedest town. the New Zealand men's cricket team beat India in a test in India for the first time in 36 years.

"And then to round out a truly amazing sporting weekend, at 3am Monday morning (NZT) the White Ferns, led by Sophie Devine, stepped up to face South Africa in the women's T20 World Cup final in Dubai and absolutely smashed it, historial and absolutely smashed it, bringing home their first World Cup since the One Day International in 2000," Bishop said.
"Amelia Kerr's 43 runs off 38 balls

and then taking 3 wickets for 24 set our team up for their magnificent

movement, you are in business for both outside

edge, bowled and leg before.

"Siraj is bowling around eight metre length and in India

with that length, you can't hit top of off (stump). He isn't

pitching it up enough," he further explained.

However, the coach is confident that once Siraj goes Down Under, for the five-

match series starting

November 22, he will again

November 22, he will again find his mojo as the length. Which he is hitting here, will work like magic in those conditions. "When you are hitting eight metre length on Indian tracks which are devoid of pace, the batter has more time to gauge the line.

## I am pain-free, need to play domestic cricket to make strong case for Australia tour: Mohammed Shami

**PTI** ■ GURUGRAM

Seasoned India pacer Mohammed Shami on Monday declared himself pain-free but insisted on proving his fitness in domestic cricket by playing at least "one or two" games to make a strong case for selection for the marquee tour of Australia starting next month.

Shami, who has not played since the ODI World Cup final last November, bowled full tilt in the nets after India's opening Test against New Zealand in

Bengaluru on Sunday. This was a few days after skipper Rohit Sharma revealed that he had swelling in his knees which has affected his rehabilitation from an ankle

injury sustained last year.
"I am very happy with how I bowled yesterday. I was bowling from half run-up before that because I didn't want to take too much load. But yesterday, I decided to go full tilt, and I bowled at a 100 per cent," the 34-year-old told reporters on the sidelines of an event organised by Eugenix Hair Sciences.

"The result was good. I am 100 per cent pain-free. Everyone has been wondering for a long time about whether I will make it for the Australia series but it is still some time away."

India are expected to leave for Australia two weeks before the series opener in Perth beginning November 22, leaving Shami just about enough time to feature in two Ranji games for Bengal.

Bengal take on Kerala at home from October 26 before travelling to Bengaluru to face Karnataka from November 6. Is he ready for Bengal's next

game? Shami, Jaspirt Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj still have a next match. But the day I feel I can bowl 20 to 30 overs, Asked about his thoughts on doctors give me the clearance, I will go. I want to spend maximum time on ground before Australia series. "I don't want that I clear fitness

here in India and something happens there (in Australia). I want to be totally sure about my fitness before going there," said Shami, who was only part of the Adelaide Test on the previous Australia tour in 2020-21.

India would be glad to have Shami's services on the bouncy pitches Down Under though Rohit has already said that he is not in favour of taking an "undercooked" Shami to

Australia. Shami, who played substantial role on the 2018 tour of Australia, realises that he is important to the team's overall plans.

"If I get fit, we will need to have the same package that we had on the last two tours. I might not be there but, if you see what happened in 2020, everyone was injured and still we won.

"The only thing on my mind is to ensure that I am fit and how strong I can be for the Australia series. I can see what kind of

attack we need in Australia."

INJURIES TEACH YOU

PATIENCE: Shami was forced out of action for more than a year after suffering a knee injury during the 2015 ODI World Cup. The 34-year-old is now in a similar phase and he feels injuries only make you

stronger. "2015 also I was away for that long. Injury teaches you to fight against yourself, you have to keep frustration at bay, focus on fitness and game. It is difficult to get back on track after an injury.
"Injuries teach you patience

and add purity to your game. After your comeback the main thing is if you can maintain your fitness. Yes rhythm is important but your skills won't leave you.

"You need to fight for regaining fitness," said Shami, who has taken 229 wickets in 64 Tests and 195 wickets in 101

While he was recovering from his ankle injury, India were able to end their ICC trophy drought in the Caribbean. Did Shami, who was the standout bowler for India in the ODI World Cup at home last year, miss being part of the triumphant T20 World Cup

"It depends on luck as well. I feel one should not be disappointed as you gave your best for the country. You can't fight your luck. If you get injured there is nothing you can do about it," he said.

India have already started preparing the next line of pacers though the likes of Shami, Jaspirt Bumrah and

the transition, Shami had only one advice for the next generation of fast bowlers.

It is a circle and will keep going on. Whether it is Mayank Yadav, Akash Deep Mukesh Kumar, Harshit Rana, I would only advise them to talk at length with the seniors in the nets, that teaches you a

"Last 8 to 10 years, we have bowled as a unit. Before that, we never had 140 plus pacers playing at the same time.

From those to the ones on the bench also bowl at 145kmph. So opponents don't get to relax and that creates fear. We all have different skills and that is what we have shown at home and overseas conditions."

Can India win their third series in a row in Australia?

The conditions suit us. All our fast bowlers are different type and if we get bounce it only makes us better. Batters need to score a bit, rest we will manage (laughs)," Shami added.

## nine-wicket win over Maharashtra to earn full points

PTI MUMBAI

Defending champions Mumbai got their Ranji champions Trophy campaign back on track with an emphatic ninewicket win over Maharashtra in their second group A league game here on Monday, offsetting the heavy loss to Baroda in the opening game. Needing 74 to win, Mumbai went into the final day at 13 for

While Ayush Mhatre's (15) dismissal robbed them off a bonus point, Prithvi Shaw (39 not out off 36 balls) and Hardik Tamore (21 not out off 26 balls) earned six points for the team in just 13.3 overs.

This was after the 42-time champions lost to Baroda by 84 runs in the opening Ranji Trophy fixture but in the second match at the BKC ground, Mumbai excelled in all departments of the game.

The match was won and lost on the first day itself when Mumbai bowled out Maharashtra for 126 in their first innings and then rode on 17-year-old Mhatre's smashing 176 and Shreyas Iyer's belligerent 142 to score 441.

While Maharashtra fared much better in the second innings with centuries from Ruturaj Gaikwad and veteran Ankit Bawne, apart from a 98 from former India U-19 batter Sachin Dhas, the damage was already done.

#### **BRIEF SCORES**

In Mumbai: Maharashtra 126 and 388. Mumbai 442 & (Target 74) 75/1 (Prithvi Shaw 39 not out). Points: Mumbai 6; Maharashtra 0.

In Shillong: Tripura 1st Innings 377/8. Meghalaya 222 and 138. Tripura won by an innings and 17 runs.

## Mumbai cruise to Pressure on Siraj after only 19 wickets from 13 Tests in India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian skipper Rohit Sharma believes in consistency when it comes to team selection but he will have to take a leap of faith to retain speedster Mohammed Siraj in the playing eleven for the second Test against New Zealand considering his poor run in home conditions.

The match starts in Pune from October 24 and inclusion of spin bowling allrounder Washington Sundar as the fifth slow bowler is an indication that coach Gautam Gambhir and Rohit might go for the jugular on a spin-friendly track.

The 30-year-old Hyderabadi has so far taken 80 wickets in 30 Test matches but 61 of those scalps have come in 17 away Test matches in three of the SENA countries (South Africa, England, Australia). Only 19 wickets after bowling 192.2 overs in 13 home Tests

are figures that imply that

Siraj has struggled in sub-

continental conditions unlike

Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami, who have had the ability to throw pitch and conditions out of equation.

To be fair to Siraj, in those 13 Tests, he went wicket-less in four with a couple of them against Australia last year match. played on rank turners in

Indore and Delhi where he got to bown one overs respectively. got to bowl only 10 and six

disappointing is that the last seven home Tests have yielded only 12 wickets for him which is less than two per

hasn't been

consistent enough to get initial breakthroughs leaving Bumrah with all the heavylifting to do with the new ball. PTI spoke to a coach, who has worked extensively with some of the current national team bowlers, and he thinks that Siraj's length is erroneous for Indian conditions. He explained the technical flaw that has cropped up in his bowling.

"If you see Siraj's record, he has five-wicket hauls in Australia and South Africa where there is more bounce. The six to eight metre length away from the batter is considered to be ideal Test match length. But it varies match length. But it varies from country to country depending on the bounce," the coach, who was a top domestic performer during his time, told PTI on condition of anonymity.

"The ideal length in Australia is sight maters, it is ground six

is eight metres, it is around six metres in England and on low bounce Indian wickets, it is 6.5 metres. If you pitch it conditions can still fetch you around 6.5 metres and get

more time to gauge the line and it becomes hittable. "I am not sure how effective he will be in Pune or Mumbai although latter was the only venue where he looked menacing against New Zealand in 2021. Problem is when you play white ball, this back of length in Indian

# wickets," he reasoned

## Reports say hockey set to be axed from Glasgow CWG; CGF, FIH mum

**PTI** ■ MELBOURNE

Hockey is set to be axed from the 2026 Commonwealth Games as the host city of Glasgow looks to cut costs, several media reports here stated but both the International Hockey Federation (FIH) and the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) remained tight-lipped on the

Hockey has featured in each CWG since making its debut in 1998, but according to reports here, the Glasgow Games organisers want to drop it from the schedule along with net ball and road racing to ensure a trimmed programme that would be easy on the

Scotland stepped in to save the 2026

Games after the Australian state of Victoria pulled out due to rising costs. The schedule is due to be unveiled on

Tuesday. When reached out by PTI, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) declined comment till the roster was officially out.

"In a couple of days, the situation will be clear - you will get the information accordingly. From our side, until there is any official communication from CGF, we are not in a position to provide you any comment," an official said.

The CGF also gave a similar response. "The sports programme for the 2026 Commonwealth Games will be confirmed tomorrow," read a statement from the body when it was approached for a clarification on the media reports.



Hockey's probable omission could also be down to the fact that the Games, to be held from July 23 to August 2, are being organised close to the World Cup that is scheduled two weeks later from August 15 to 30 in Wavre, Belgium and Amstelveen, Netherlands.

To cut costs, the Glasgow Games organisers have reduced the number of

sporting disciplines from 19 (in 2022 Birmingham) to 10 with only four proposed venues — Commonwealth Arena and Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome, Scotstoun Stadium, Tollcross International Swimming Centre and Scottish Events Campus.

None of these venues have a hockey turf.

Hockey's exclusion from the Games would be a major blow for India as their men's team is a three-time silver-winner and two-time bronze-medallist in the sport. The women have won three medals, including a gold in the 2000 edition.

The biggest hit would be to Australia, which has won the men's gold for a record seven times and the women's top honours in four editions.

## Ronaldo and Al-Nassr's ACL game moved amid Iran security fears

**AP W**ASHINGTON

Cristiano Ronaldo and Al-Nassr's AFC Champions League Elite game with Esteghlal of Tehran on Tuesday will be as closely watched in India as it is in Saudi Arabia and Iran.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) said in a statement released last Tuesday that Esteghlal had to move its home fixture with Al-Nassr to the United Arab Emirates city of Dubai due to the security situation in Iran.

The decision was greeted by surprise in India as, on Oct. 7, the AFC ruled that Mohun Bagan Super Giants of Kolkata had been "considered to have withdrawn" from the second tier AFC Champions League Two for refusing to travel to Iran to play its Oct. 2 fixture against Tractor SC in the northwestern city of Tabriz. It is not only Al-Nassr's game that has been relocated. Tractor's home game against Ravshan of Tajikistan, scheduled for

Wednesday, has been switched to become an away tie. Iran's national team also had to move its Oct. 15 World Cup qualifier against Qatar to Dubai.

..(Mohun Bagan) notes that the AFC has indeed recognised the volatility of the situation in Iran and as such, has rescheduled or shifted venues for several games," a spokesperson for Mohun Bagan told Associated Press, adding that the confederation had taken the same geopolitical instability into account that the club had. "Failing to apply the same standard to Mohun Bagan would result in unequal treatment by the AFC." According to the spokesperson, Mohun Bagan had made a request to the AFC that the game's date or venue be changed before it decided not to travel.

"We consistently communicated concerns about the volatile and unsafe conditions in and around Iran, particularly regarding the safety of players and staff," the official added.



The Indian Super League club said first and the four-time winner that it had appealed the decision meets defending champion Al Ain to the relevant AFC committee of the United Arab Emirates and and hoped to be reinstated into the tournament.

The AFC did not reply to an invitation to comment.

Al-Nassr has four points from the first two games and can take a big step towards the second round with a win. The revamped tournament now consists of two groups of 12 - divided into west and east geographic zones - with the top eight from each advancing to the Round of 16.

Nassr is going well in the Saudi Pro League with a 97th minute penalty from Ronaldo giving the team a 2-1 win over Al-Shabab on Friday to stay in third place.

"There are a lot of games at the moment and it is not easy," said Stefano Pioli, Al-Nassr's coach. "We will do our best to maintain our performances in the Asian Champions League."

Saudi Arabia has three of the four top teams in Group A. Al-Hilal is

could welcome Neymar back to action after a year out through injury. Jeddah club Al-Ahli also has maximum points and travels to Qatar to face Al-Rayyan.

FRONT RUNNERS MEET IN EASTERN ZONE: In the eastern zone the top two meet. Gwangju FC of South Korea is making its first ever appearance in Asian competition and is the only team with two wins from two. It takes on Johor Darul Ta'zim of Malaysia. Australia's Central Coast Mariners

has lost both games so far and head to China to take on Shanghai Port, coached by former Australian international Kevin Muscat, also seeking a first win. Last season's defeated finalist Yokohama F. Marinos also travels to China and meets Shandong Tiashan while three-time winner Pohang Steelers of South Korea faces Thailand's Buriram United.