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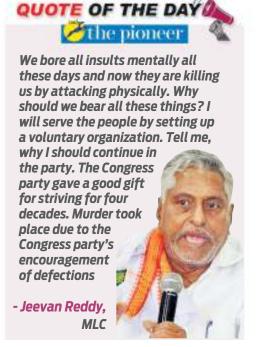
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HOPES GLOBAL OIL PRICES **WILL COOL DOWN**



Shraddha Kapoor to add glamour to *Pushpa 2* with special **SONG**



People cry out for crop loan waiver

People alleged that crop loan waiver was not sanctioned, with bank accounts on hold and no data found on website. In all, 518 people have submitted their grievances at the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Praja Bhavan during Prajavani programmed on Tuesday. When asked, Sambasiva Rao from Kurmalguda village said he has been coming to Prajavani since last month after submitting his

-PAGE: 3

Liquor, drug abuse rampant ...

Liquor addiction is crippling the families. Drunk-driving deaths are also mounting in the district. In most of the road accidents, the victims are aged below 35 years old. Those addicted to alcohol and drugs are driving their families to despair. Young people addicted to drugs are not only committing serious crimes but also losing their lives in alcohol-related crashes. It is heartbreaking for ...

-PAGE: 4

Consumers worried about ...

Consumers are worried about data breaches, and a large number of them are not aware of their rights related to personal data, according to a PwC India survey. The PwC Survey on Data ers vital insig 3,233 consumers and 186 organisations across India, exploring the awareness and implementation gaps concerning the Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDPA), the consultancy firm said. As per the survey report titled 'How

MI, KKR among five IPL...

Mumbai Indians, Kolkata Knight Riders, Rajasthan Royals, Sunrisers Hyderabad and Lucknow Super Giants are among the IPL franchises who have submitted bids to acquire teams in the English Cricket Board-run The Hundred, according to a report. The GMR Group, recently named the new owner of Hampshire, and Avram Glazer. coowner of Manchester United Football Club, also submitted bids before the ECB's October 18 deadline for potential investors, reported

- SPORTS

Ready to provide all possible cooperation'



PM Modi holds talks with Russian Prez Putin

PNS KAZAN

The Russia-Ukraine conflict should be resolved in a peaceful manner and India is ready to provide all possible cooperation towards it, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday during his talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin

Modi held bilateral talks with Putin hours after arriving in this central Russian city to attend the 16th BRICS summit. In his televised opening remarks, the prime

minister conveyed to the Russian leader that New Delhi "fully supports" the early return of peace and stability in the region. Modi also said that his second visit to Russia in the last three months reflected "close"

countries. "We are in constant touch on the issue of As I said earlier, we believe that problems

coordination and deep trust between the two

ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine. should be resolved in a peaceful manner." the prime minister said. Continued on Page 5

Row over TG finances

BRS rule ruined TG: Cong

PNS HYDERABAD

In a fresh round of political sparring, the state unit of the Congress has accused the Bharat Rashtra Samithi party of completely ruining Telangana's finances during its rule, particularly with regard to its handling of deficit and expenditure management.

to claims made by BRS working president KT Rama Rao, who had cited an Economic and Political Weekly (EPW) paper to present his views on the state's fiscal standing.

According to the Congress, the same paper had exposed significant financial mismanagement under the BRS regime. Ayodhya Reddy, CPRO for the Congress, in The Congress responded sharply a post on X, laid Continued on Page 5

State flourished under BRS: KTR

PNS HYDERABAD

Bharat Rashtra Samithi working president KT Rama Rao (KTR) has strongly criticised the Congress party for running a campaign that Telangana is bankrupt. He emphasised that the state continues to lead the country in financial, debt, and resource management, with data published

in Economic and Political Weekly serving as solid proof of

Telangana's strong governance.
According to KTR, these figures stand as undeniable testimonials of the former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao's (KCR) effective governance. He pointed out that the Congress, unable to fulfil its '6 Guarantees' and other promises, had Continued on Page 5

Jagan files plea against Vijayamma, Sharmila in NCLT over shares





PNS VIJAYAWADA

The death of YS Rajasekhara Reddy, affectionately known as 'Sher' (tiger) by his admirers, has cast a significant shadow over his family's legacy, leading to a dispute regarding shares that has attracted public attention.

Renowned for his formidable leadership and deep love for his family, Rajasekhara Reddy's passing has ignited tensions, particularly around the distribution of shares among his heirs.

In a startling turn of events, YS Jagan Mohan Ředdy, Rajasekhara Reddy's son and former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, is embroiled in a legal battle that has seen him drag his own mother, Vijayamma, and sister, Sharmila

Continued on Page 5

Jagan's petition in the NCLT describes a personal and emotional conflict, stating that he initially intended to give the shares to Sharmila with 'sisterly affection'. However, he alleges that Sharmila's recent political opposition has led him to withdraw this offer, reflecting a troubling shift in their familial bond. He referred to the situation using the term 'cheater' without naming Sharmila directly, suggesting deep feelings of betrayal and hurt

Cong MLC Jeevan's aide murdered

Killer makes reel in PS before surrendering

PNS HYDERABAD

Senior Congress leader and MLC T Jeevan Reddy's aide Maru Ganga Reddy (58) was murdered on Tuesday morning, with the killer, Santhosh, first hitting his twowheeler and later stabbing him 20 times along with others. Ganga Reddy died while being taken him Jeevan Reddy rushed to the spot

on coming to know of the incident and later saw the body of Ganga Reddy in the government hospital. He immediately sat on dharna on the road demanding the government to "catch the killer and punish him severely". Speaking to media persons later, Jeevan Reddy observed: "Murder of Ganga Reddy is equal to



The police diverted traffic via the by-pass road to prevent a flare-up of the incident in view of the MLC's dharna. When government whip Adluri Laxman came to the dharna

place, Jeevan Reddy, expressing his anger at the Congress party, remarked: "Salute to you and your Congress party. Leave us at least now. We bore all insults mentally all these Continued on Page 5 days and now

Kaleshwaram inquiry to resume today

NAVEENA GHANATE naveena.ghanate@gmail.com

■ HYDEŘABAD

judicial inquiry into Kaleshwaram project is set to resume on Wednesday. Engineers, retired engineers, and senior officials will be questioned by Justice PC Ghose, who is heading the

Individuals who have previously been investigated will also be called back for further questioning. The cross-exam-

ination is expected to continue until The investigation will rely on the 29th of this month. Earlier this week, Justice Ghose convened a meeting with officials from the Irrigation Department. He has

directed the Director General of Vigilance to submit the final report at the earliest. As part of the inquiry, Justice

Cross-examination in the ongoing Ghosh will also question representatives from the companies involved in the construction of the Kaleshwaram dams. The inquiry commission

will examine all relevant records, including those related to construction and financial transaccompanies. Additionally, V.

Prakash, who has filed an affidavit in the case, will be questioned. reports from the National Dam Safety Authority and the Comptroller and Auditor General

BJP TG unit to get new chief soon

The Telangana unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party is likely to get a new president in January 2025 before the appointment of the party's new national president.

The party has begun the exercise for organizational elections for the sake of naming the new BJP national president.

It may be recalled that the BIP ded the tenures of the BIP national president as well as those of presidents of several state units, including that of Telangana. Now the changes will take place as per the process of the BJP organizational elections.

The BJP named Rajya Sabha member Dr K Laxman as the BJP organizational elections returning Continued on Page 5

69.4% candidates appear for Group-I **General Essay paper**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Public Service Commission has released a note on Tuesday stating that 21,817 candidates appeared for the Group-I General Essay paper with 69.4 per cent.

On the first day, 22,744 candidates appeared out of 31,383 candidates with 72.4 per cent. The candidates' percentage decreased to 3 per cent when compared to the first day's attendance.

Govt hands over Dharani portal to NIC

PNS HYDERABAD

handed over the maintenance responsibilities of land records on Dharani portal to the central government's National Informatics Centre (NIC), keeping aside TerraCIS, a private firm. The government issued orders in this regard on Monday.

TerraCIS supervised the responsibilities of Dharani portal till last month. The government had extended the maintenance responsibilities temporarily even though TerraCIS's contract

ended in the first quarter of 2024. It may be recalled that the Congress The Telangana government has government had appointed a commit-



tee with IT Principal Secretary Jayesh Ranjan, Revenue Principal Secretary Naveen Mittal, TGTS MD and some

IAS officers to study the issue of handing over Dharani portal maintenance to NIC, TGTS or CGC firms. The

Committee gave a report to the government in this regard. However, the government

was inclined to hand over the portal to NIC, which had sought relatively lesser amount for portal maintenance. The government entered into a contract for three years with NIC and the government will extend the contract based on the performance of the NIC. TerraCIS will extend its coop-

eration till November 30 in handing over the technical issues of Dharani portal to NIC.

BJPLP challenges GO 33 in High Court

Notices issued to

of India (CAG).

Government



PNS HYDERABAD

The BJP Legislature Party, represented by its floor leader Alleti Maheshwar Reddy, has filed a petition in the Telangana High Court challenging the recently issued GO Ms No. 33 issued by the state

The petitioner's counsel Akhil Ennamsetty stated that the GO Ms No. 33, which allows the District Collectors to form Indiramma Committees in consultation with the District In-charge Ministers, is an arbitrary process to accommodate the ruling party workers and the same is in violation of Article 243 A of the Constitution and Section 6 of the Panchayat Raj Act.

The High Court heard the matter on Tuesday, following which notices were issued to the state government seeking its explanation on the status of the said G.O. by the next date of hearing i.e., coming Monday.

Council building to be ready within three months: Ministers

PNS HYDERABAD

The new Council building, located within the Assembly premises, is expected to be ready for use within the next three months, according to Roads, Buildings, and Cinematography Minister Cinematography

Komatireddy Venkat Reddy and IT, Industries, and Legislative Affairs Minister Sridhar Babu. The Ministers made

this announcement after reviewing the progress of the heritage

work on the old Assembly building, which is being beautifully restored in line with the architectural style of the Asaf Jahi era. The Ministers, along with Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar, Legislative Council Chairman Gutha Sukender Reddy, and Vice Chairman Banda Prakash conducted a detailed

review in the Speaker's Chamber. They also met with representatives from the Aga Khan Trust. R&B officials, and Assembly Secretary Narsimha Charyulu, instruct 6

Hoaxes keep passengers, security staff on tenterhooks

PNS NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

Nearly 80 domestic and international flights received bomb threats in less than 24 hours that later turned out to be hoaxes, keeping thousands of passengers and security agencies on tenterhooks.

The estimated losses incurred by airlines due to the disruptions



Around Rs 600 cr loss likely for airlines in 9 days

know said.

would be around Rs 600 crore, according to two former airline

On Tuesday alone, around 50 flights, including 13 each of IndiGo and Air India received bomb threats. Akasa Air got the threats for over 12 flights and as many as 11 flights of Vistara also received the threats, the sources in the

Around 30 flights of IndiGo, Air India and Vistara got bomb threats on Monday night, they added.

In nine days, more than 170 flights operated by Indian carriers have received bomb threats, mostly through social media, that also forced the diversion of some of the international flights

On average, disruption to a domestic flight would cost around Rs 1.5 crore while the expenses would be around Rs 5-5.5 crore for

an international flight, an official, who has worked in the finance department of a domestic airline, said.

A back-of-the-envelope calculation shows that the average cost of disruption caused to domestic and international



Ruling parties in AP and TG least bothered about Opposition's voice

it is essential for the ruling party to heed the voice of the Opposition playing a responsible role. That is, the Opposition cannot afford to be lethargic in highlighting public issues and voicing public opinion. Presently, the ruling dispensations in the states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh appear to be unmoved by the efforts of the Opposition to throw spotlight on public issues and air pub-

In Telangana, the principal opposition party Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS) appears attentive towards public issues, though its president

and former TG chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR) is not always in the picture. BRS working president and former minister KT Rama

Rao is now practically the face of the party that ruled India's youngest state for a decade. Even when KCR was in power, KTR had been projected as the former chief minister's political heir, notwithstanding the presence of those much senior to him like T. Harish Rao. Had BRS registered a hat-trick win in the 2023 Assembly elections, KTR would perhaps have been made the Chief Minister. But, apparently due to the anti-incumbency factor, BRS

Presently, the ruling dispensations in the states of **Telangana and Andhra Pradesh** appear to be unmoved by the efforts of the Opposition to throw spotlight on public issues and air public opinion.

lost, and the Congress, which had granted statehood for Telangana, came to power as per the wishes of people. Since then, due to various factors such as desertions of BRS legislators and restricted mobility after a fall and hip surgery, KCR has kept himself

largely away from the public. The Congress unit in TG is now giving KCR a tough time by poaching BRS legis-lators. KCR, who had marginalized the Congress during his rule, is today conspicuous by his absence. This has also created the impression in



M D RATNA KUMAR Senior Journalist

certain circles that BRS lacks effective leadership. The field performance of the political heir does not present the party as an alternative to the

Congress regime, with the the status of principal oppo-Bharatiya Janata Party eager to grab the position of principal opposition at least in the future. So, the Congress government in TG headed by A. Revant Reddy does not feel the presence of an 'effective' and principal opposition

In Andhra Pradesh, the position of YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), which got only 11 seats in the recent Assembly elections, is not satisfactory as an opposition party. It could not get the much-needed status of principal opposition for want of numbers in the House. At least 10% of seats (17) are required (out of 175 in the House) for being accorded

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Ministers.

Bharatiya Janata Party leader

and Member of Parliament

from Malkajgiri Eatala

Rajender has alleged that the

Congress engineers communal

riots in States where it is in

power just to change their

Eatala Rajender said: "The

Congress is known for its ugly

history of creating communal

strife to change CMs.

Communal strife was created

to bring down the Marri

Channa Reddy government (in undivided AP)... Congress

is a party that does politics over

hundreds of corpses. Bombs

exploded in many areas when

the Congress party was in

Speaking to the media at the

sition party. The ruling NDA combine,

consisting of Telugu Desam Party, Jana Sena Party & BJP, seems to be leaving no stone unturned in preventing YSRCP from going strategically against the government in AP. The YSRCP is now in disarray. YSRCP president YS Jaganmohan Reddy is struggling to keep and galva-nize his flock. Facing desertions of his party leaders, he is facing backlash from a section of the cadre whom those leaders had previously motivated to remain in YSRCP. Party leaders who were in the limelight during

the YSRCP regime are now

home-bound, making videos

'Cong triggers communal

on day-to-day affairs of the

Significantly, YSRCP could not utilise the recent flood situation in Vijayawada to win the hearts of people say by involving its cadre in relief operations. Whatever the reasons may be, Jagan skipped the first Assembly session held recently. In a

way, YSRCP is restricting itself from going to people.

Things may change, if the AP High Court's decision goes in favour of granting YSRCP the principal opposi-tion party status. Till then, the Chandrababu Naidu government can afford to give less importance to the efforts of YSRCP to highlight or mirror public opinion.

Min Seetakka urges BJP to withdraw dharna, calls for action on Musi development

PNS HYDERABAD

lic opinion.

Minister Dr Danasari Anasuya Seetakka has strongly criticised Union Minister Kishan Reddy and BJP leaders for their failure to secure funds for the Musi river project. She demanded that BJP withdraw its proposed dharna, scheduled for October 25 at Indira Park, and instead stage a protest in front of the Central govern-ment, which has not allocated even a single rupee for Musi's development over the past decade.

Seetakka pointed out that despite the Musi river flowing through Kishan Reddy's own constituency, he has failed to bring any funds from the Central government for its rejuvenation. She questioned



the need for Kishan Reddy to call for a dharna on behalf of the people of Musi when he hasn't addressed their con-

cerns over the years.
"The BJP should use its influence with the Center to secure Rs 10,000 crore for the rejuvenation of Musi, which is the lifeline of Hyderabad, Seetakka said. She urged the BJP MPs and the Union Minister representing Musi's catchment areas to push for the much-needed funds for the river's revival. Seetakka also recalled the promises made by the BJP during the floods two years ago, where they pledged compensation to every affected household, but never followed through.

Now, the BJP is once again

trying to obstruct Musi's development while openly supporting the Sabarmati Riverfront project in Gujarat," she said, criticising the party's double standards. The Minister also accused the BJP of attempting to hinder Musi's development out of fear that Hyderabad's growth might surpass other cities. She questioned why the BJP remained silent when the Central Water Resources Minister openly admitted in Parliament that no funds had been allocated for Musi's cleaning during the last 10 years.

Seetakka reminded everyone that, under UPA rule, Rs 335 crore had been sanctioned for Musi's cleaning, while in the Modi era, not a single rupee has been allocated. She highlighted the Central government's investments in other river clean-up projects, including Rs 11,000 crore for the Ganga in Varanasi and Rs 6,000 crore for other rivers, questioning why Telangana has been neglected in this regard.

"The BJP should stop their dharnas at Indira Park and focus on bringing funds for Musi's development instead of making false promises," Seetakka urged, calling on Kishan Reddy to reflect on his actions and take meaningful steps for the people of his

CM goes to Kerala to attend Priyanka's nomination

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy went to Kerala on Tuesday night. Revanth Reddy will participate in the filing of nomination by AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi on Wednesday. The Chief Minister went to Wayanad for it. AICC president Mallikarjuna Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, KC Venugopal and several other top leaders would par-ticipate in the nomination filing programme.

It may be recalled that the Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency fell vacant due to the resignation of sitting MP Rahul Gandhi as he also won from Amethi in the Lok

riots for changing CM'

State BJP office on Tuesday, Eatala Rajender observed: "Congress culture is a lousy culture". Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy was against Hindus and Hindu organizations, he said. The Congress party's culture from the beginning had been one of never controlling persons who fanned communal hatred.

nalists by giving shelter to

The Congress party had a habit of trying to portray those questioned about attacks on Hindu temples as 'seditious, fanatical miscreants', Eatala Rajender remarked.

He said, "The Congress is the party that has created communal riots even if it wanted to change their own Chief Ministers. Communal riots arose with the attitude of the then Congress govern-ment in Hyderabad when Rameeza Bee murder took place in 1978. Hundreds of persons lost their lives in communal riots then. Even in 1982-83, the Congress took the lives of hundreds of people while creating communal

Police complaint against CM Revanth over 'bulldozer threats'

PNS HYDERABAD

leaders have filed a complaint at the Banjara Hills Police Station against Chief Minister Revanth Reddy demanding that a criminal case be registered against him for his threatening remarks targeting BRS working president KT Rama Rao and MLA T Harish Rao. The complainants condemned Revanth's statement, in which he allegedly threatened to "crush the BRS leaders with bulldozers", calling it an incitement to violence.

Dr. Errolla Srinivas, former chairman of the SC/ST Commission, who was present during the filing of the complaint on Tuesday, criticized Revanth for behaving like a tered cases against social 'gang leader' instead of dis-charging his functions as the violent rhetoric had gone

Revanth of using incendiary language that disrupted pubgovernance. "Instead of focusing on governance, Revanth is plotting to create unrest out of frustration," Srinivas stated.

Srinivas further remarked, 'Revanth's remarks, where he threatens to bulldoze our leaders like KTR and Harish Rao, are primitive and dangerous. It has been 10 months since he came to power, yet his language has only worsened, showing no signs of

The BRS leaders demanded immediate action against Revanth, urging the police to register a criminal case. They pointed out that in the past the police had swiftly regis-

Harish Rao condemns negligence in Gurukul schools

PNS HYDERABAD

Former minister T Harish Rao has expressed his anger and frustration following an incident in which four students from a Gurukul school in Haveli Ghanpur, Medak district, were injured after suffering electric shocks.

He strongly criticised the negligence of staff, stating that such carelessness is becoming a curse for Gurukul students. Rao lamented the stating, "The government's lack of concern is now endangering the lives of children.' He called the incident 'unfortunate' and urged the government to immediately provide the best medical care to the injured students while also ensuring that precautions are taken to prevent such accidents in the future.

Harish Rao also criticised the Congress government, noting that incidents like snake bites, dog bites, rat bites and food poisoning in Gurukul schools had become common, and now electric

shocks are being added to the list. He demanded that the government wake up and take urgent steps to reform the dysfunctional Gurukul institutions to safeguard the lives

Criticises Cong govt over neglect of farmers

Former Minister T Harish the state's farmers. Rao has strongly criticised for its complete failure in supporting farmers across Telangana. He accused the government of deceiving the farming community by not providing Rythu Bandhu, failing to implement loan waiver and neglecting crop procurement, all of which have turned into a curse for

Harish pointed out that an cotton was cultivated in Telangana this season. The Congress government had made grand announcements of setting up 322 Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) procurement centres across the State, but as of now, not a single cotton bale has been

procured from farmers.

Dalit leaders oppose wall construction around Ambedkar statue

Moreover, the Congress gov-

ernment encouraged commu-

PNS HYDERABAD

The construction of a wall around the famous Ambedkar statue at Tank Bund, reportedly part of the government's junction beautification efforts, has sparked discontent among several groups.

The site, a historically significant spot for protests and representations on various issues, has long been a gathering point for leaders from various segments of society, par-Dalit rights. Some Dalit leaders who visited the site strongly opposed the wall construction, arguing that the location is not merely a monument but a symbol of protest and freedom of expression.

They contended that erecting a barrier around the statue restricts access and diminishes the statue's role as a

public space for peaceful demonstrations. Prominent BRS leader Krishank Manne also voiced his concerns over the wall, criticising the move as an obstruction to democratic protests.



"The Ambedkar Statue at Tank Bund has been a home for the Telangana movement, peaceful protests by SCs, STs, OBCs, students, women, and political parties. Now, with this wall in front of the statue, your right to protest is blocked. Is this Congress government's

democracy?" he questioned. The wall construction has

fueled a debate on whether it undermines the democratic spirit of the space, particularly for marginalised groups who have long used the location to raise their voices on critical issues. Protests are likely to continue as opposition to the structure gains momentum. GHMC said, "As part of

ongoing efforts to enhance key iunctions across the city. GHMC is developing several projects. This development includes a prestigious project bund) to honor Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. This development features a replica of the Parliament building, symbolizing Ambedkar's immense contributions to the Constitution of India and parliamentary democracy and showcasing the core values he championed. This initiative pays homage to

his enduring legacy'

Secularist Eatala now Communalist: Adi Srinivas

PNS HYDERABAD

Government Whip Adi Srinivas alleged that Malkajgiri MP Eatala Rajender, who himself gave an impression that he was a secularist till recent days, suddenly changed to a

communalist now. Srinivas alleged that Rajender made allegations against Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy with jealousy and hatred. Rajender has been indulging in venomous campaigns against CM Revanth Reddy for polit-

ical benefits, he added. Srinivas, on Tuesday, said that Eatala is working with a single agenda that is to provoke communal hatred. BJP leaders have been trying to create differences between the religions in the peaceful Telangana, he slammed.

Chief Minister. He accused unchecked. TODAY **ALMANAC** Month & Paksham Krishna Paksha Saptami Oct 23 01:29 AM to Oct 24 01:19 AM Ashtami Oct 24 01:19 AM to Oct 25 01:58 AM Nakshatram Oct 23 05:38 AM to Oct 24 06:15 AM 12:00 PM to 1:26 PM 7:41 AM to 9:07 AM Yamagandam:

05:57 PM to 07:35 PM Varjyam 10:34 AM to 12:00 PM Gulika: 03:48 AM to 05:26 AM Abhijit Muhurthan

HYDERABAD WEATHER Forecast: Partly Cloudy **Temp:** 31° **Humidity:** 60% Sunrise: 6:11 AM

Sunset: 5:50 PM

Updated: October 22, 2024 5:00 PM

Delhi: Neighbour stabs woman a dozen times for 'avoiding' him

A 30-year-old woman was stabbed a dozen times allegedly by her neighbour in west Delhi's Tilak Nagar area, police said on Tuesday. According to the woman's husband, the accused, Ravinder Singh alias Goldy (36), insisted the victim on befriending him after which she started avoiding him. Ravinder had also misbehaved with the woman on two separate occasions before but the couple did not file any complaint against him because of his sister's intervention, the husband claimed.

Being avoided by the woman angered Ravindra. So, at around 11.30 am on Monday he entered her house when she was alone and stabbed her multiple times, a police officer said. The accused has been arrested and a weapon recovered from him, the police said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Vichitra Veer said the woman was admitted to the hospital with multiple stab wounds. She is undergoing treatment and is under observation. The victim's husband said she was stabbed around 25 times. However, according to the police she got around a dozen stab wounds.

The woman's husband said, "On Monday, when my wife was alone, Ravinder entered the house and tried to force himself on her and when she resisted, he stabbed her 25 times and fled."

Neglect of Malakpet IT Park **Tower construction criticised**

PNS HYDERABAD

The lack of progress in the construction of the IT Park Tower in Malakpet, Hyderabad, has drawn sharp criticism, with concerns raised over the Congress government's indifference to the project.

Despite the foundation stone being laid in October last year, the work on the IT Park has not moved forward by an inch. It has now been 11 months since the Congress government came to power, yet there has been no action on this crucial project. The IT Park, which aims to provide direct and indirect employment opportunities to nearly 50,000 young people from areas like Malakpet, Saidabad, Nagar Santosh and

Dilsukhnagar, was envisioned as a major employment hub for the state's youth. The foundation stone for the IT Park was laid last year by the then IT minister KT Rama Rao, who set a goal to complete the project within three years.

Expressing disappointment, KTR remarked, "I laid the foundation stone for the IT Park last October with the aim of completing it within three years. However, it is disheartening to see the Congress government neglecting this project, which is vital for providing employment opportunities to thousands of youngsters."

The previous BRS government had worked tirelessly to expand the IT sector across Hyderabad and other regions of Telangana.

BRS social media behaving like 'Dandupalyam batch': Jagga Reddy

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Alleging that BRS social media is behaving like a 'Dandupalyam batch', Congress senior leader T Jagga Reddy said that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy is chiding them because BRS leaders are scolding CM as they wished. Jagga Reddy said that Revanth Reddy did not enter into politics using his father's name like BRS working president KT Rama Rao.

Speaking to the media at Gandhi Bhavan on Tuesday, Jagga Reddy said that Revanth Reddy comes from the foot-

path. "I also came from a footpath. However, KTR had grown without knowing all these. KTR is like broiler chicken and we are like natu kodi. KTR should take training from Revanth Reddy. I will tell Revanth Reddy to give time to KTR to teach how to scold," Jagga Reddy said.

Finding fault with KTR for criticising Damagundam Radar Station, Jagga Reddy asked KTR to tell why BRS government gave permission for it? Why KTR, who has been criticising the govern-ment saying that 9 lakh trees will be destroyed, gave permis sion to Damagundam Radar Station while knowing all. He alleged that KTR's work is only to criticise the Congress government. KTR, who enjoyed power for 10 years, is speaking like a mad person

after losing power. Taking serious objection to KTR terming CM Revanth Reddy as 'haule', Jagga Reddy retorted saying KTR is a bewakoof. Jagga Reddy asked KTR to tell whether the BRS didn't send money to Kumaraswamy Karnataka elections.

Odisha, Bengal bracing for cyclonic storm

PNS BHUBANESWAR/KOLKATA

As Odisha and West Bengal are bracing for a severe cyclonic storm, governments of both states have decided to evacuate people and close educational institutions in vulnerable

The Indian Coast Guard on Tuesday said it was on high alert and had mobilised its vessels and aircraft to respond

owing to the cyclone that will bring torrential rain in the two neighbouring states.

IMD DG Mrutunjay Mohapatra said that the entire eastern coast from Puri and West Bengal coast is likely to be impacted by the impending cyclone Dana.

A depression over the Bay of Bengal is likely to intensify into a severe cyclonic storm and

coasts between Puri and Sagar Island in the early hours of October 25 with a wind speed of 100-110 kmph gusting to 120 kmph, according to the IMD.

Odisha, which is likely to bear the brunt of the cyclone, has kept ready around 800 cvclone shelters for people to be evacuated from vulnerable areas, according to a minister.

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Venue

Nexus Hyderabad Mall, KPHB, Kukatpally, Hyderabad October 23 at 10.45 am

Special showcase

Latest collection, curated just for you.

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

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

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

October 25. 4 pm to 8 pm.

Toxic

By Abhishek Upmanyu

Shilpakala Vedika November 2

Prateek Kuhad

Slhouettes tour.

Venue

Hyderabad international convention centre November 8

Standup Comedy

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

> Multiple venues. November 24

Arijit Singh Live in concert

HSBC presale is live for now. General sale on October 23, 1 pm. Get tickets only on insider.in and paytm.

Concert in Hyderabad on December 7.

Man falls to death while chasing a dog **PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

A 23-year-old man died after jumping from the third floor of a building while he was trying to chase a dog at Chandanagar.

The deceased, identified as Uday, a native of Tenali and resident of Ashoknagar, went to a hotel located at Chandanagar on Sunday

CCTV footage shows that he was on the third floor. While walking he saw a dog which initially barked at him and later he chased it. Then in a second round of chasing it, he ran straight to the window and fell down

Chandanagar Police registered the case two days ago and while investigating, the videos have gone viral and the information came to light.

City Pioneer



HYDERABAD WEDNESDAY | OCTOBER 23, 2024

PRAJAVANI

People cry out for crop loan waiver

PNS HYDERABAD

People alleged that crop loan waiver was not sanctioned, with bank accounts on hold and no data found on website. In all, 518 people have submitted their grievances at the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Praja Bhavan during Prajavani programmed on Tuesday.

When asked, Sambasiva Rao from Kurmalguda village said he has been coming to Prajavani since last month after submitting his application. He alleged that the fourth phase of this year's crop loan waiver has not been sanctioned, and Rs 1,80,000 was deducted without any notice or message about renewal fees. His bank account was placed on hold.

He said that the Prajavani officials keep telling him that his bank account must be released from hold for the loan waiver to be sanctioned. However, he said that he is unsure if paying the amount to the bank will guarantee the sanction of the loan waiver.

Rao also expressed frustration, saying previous three loan waiver phases were sanctioned but not this one, and that government announcements have not resulted in

Sambasiva Rao also mentioned that many villagers are facing similar issues, including errors with names and other problems affecting 30% of people in his village. He doubted whether the loan waiver will be granted and urged the government to help farmers, saying he is struggling financially and now has to shift as a daily wager. He criticised the government for poor handling of needed welfare schemes, stating that no other scheme has been done properly rather than unwanted free bus scheme.

According to the officials, 132 applications were received for minority welfare, 82 for electricity, 72 for revenue dept, 55 for PR&RD dept, 29 for social dept, 1 for Pravasi and 150 for other departments.



Pat from Army, Navy, Air Force officers

team of officers from the Indian Army, ANavy, Air Force and All India Services applauded the Prajavani programme. They said that a large number of people are coming to the Praja Bhavan to present their grievances. On Tuesday, the officers met with Dr G Chinnareddy, Vice-Chairman of the State Planning Board and in-charge of the Prajavani programme Divya Devarajan, State Nodal Officer of Prajavani, at the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Praja Bhavan. During the meeting, Chinnareddy and Divya explained to the officers how the Prajavani programme is being conducted. They answered several

questions posed by some of the officers in the team. Chinnareddy and Divya explained that as soon as people submit their grievances, their problems are patiently heard and forwarded to the concerned departmental officers through the CM Prajavani Portal. They mentioned that an acknowledgment is given in the name of CM Prajavani, and continuous follow-up is maintained until the people's issues are resolved. Additionally, they explained that grievances are received, endorsed and phone calls are made to the concerned officers to take action for resolving



NTPC signs MoU with GHMC to illuminate **Hyd's iconic Charminar**

In a significant step towards preserving India's cultural heritage, NTPC has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) to support an illumination project for Hyderabad's iconic

The MoU was signed at NTPC's office in Kavadiguda, Secunderabad, as part of the "Swachh Iconic Places Project" under the Government of India's initiative. This collaboration, which falls under NTPC's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts, aims to restore and beautify the historic Charminar and surrounding areas.

The illumination project will focus on lighting key locations from Nayapool to Charminar, including Laad Bazaar and Four Arches, providing the Pearl City's most recognizable landmark with a much-needed

The MoU was signed by Akhil Patnaik, AGM (HR) of NTPC SRHQ, and G Guruveera, Chief Engineer of the Quli Qutub Shah Urban Development Authority (QQSUDA), who will oversee the execution of the project on behalf of the GHMC.

The initiative reflects NTPC's commitment to promoting and preserving India's architectural heritage. Speaking on the occasion, officials highlighted how the project would enhance the night-time beauty of



Central Minister for Tourism and Culture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat inaugurating the TG's Tourism and Buddhavanam stall at the Travel & Tourism Fair in Patna on Tuesday

TG's tourism, Buddhavanam stall opened at TTF in Patna

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana Tourism and the Buddhavanam stall were inaugurated at the Travel & Tourism Fair (TTF) in Patna by Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Central Minister for Tourism and Culture, at the Samrat

Shekhawat visited the Telangana stall, which showcased Buddhavanam, a Buddhist heritage theme park at Nagarjunasagar, Ramappa temple in Mulug, and

Golconda fort in Hyderabad. He appreciated the beauty of Telangana monuments and expressed interest in visiting Ramappa temple and the Navabrahmeswara and Jogulamba temples in Alampur. The Minister invited TGTDC Chairman Patel Ramesh Reddy to his office in Delhi to disc developing Telangana as a

world-class destination. Ramesh Reddy highlighted Telangana's tourism potential and thanked Shekhawat for inaugurating and visiting the

CRPF school in Jawahar Nagar receives hoax bomb threat

PNS HYDERABAD

Anonymous bomb threat emails were sent to the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) schools across India. Rachakonda and Cyberabad police conducted a thorough check at the CRPF School in Jawahar Nagar, Secunderabad on Tuesday. According to the Rachakonda Police, the anonymous bomb threat email was received by the CRPF School in Jawahar Nagar on Monday night claiming an explosion was timed around 11 am on

Jawahar Nagar Inspector S Pioneer, said that the threat was a hoax and police did not find any suspicious materials on the school premises.

Producer Burugupally arrested in forgery case

PNS HYDERABAD

Osmania University Police have arrested senior Tollywood producer Burugupally Siva Rama Krishna in connection with a forgery case involving fake property documents on Tuesday. Following investigation, it was revealed that he was

involved in the creation and use of forged documents to claim government land as private property in a civil dispute presented before the Supreme Court of India. The case centres around

forged property documents, including Pahani Asal Sethwaru which were created to falsely represent government land as privately owned. The documents were certified and obtained from



the Telangana State Archives & Research Institute, Tarnaka, Hyderabad.

The accused, in collusion with an employee of the institute, used these falsified records to secure favorable court judgments in legal

The fraudulent activities date back to 2019, and the case was first reported by Dr Zareena Parveen, Director of



on these falsified records. The investigation revealed that K Chandra Sekhar, a record assistant at the Telangana State Archives, was the key facilitator of the

forgery.

He admitted to issuing the for money, colluding with external miscreants to mislead courts and create legal disputes over valuable land.



SCR restores four **MMTS trains**

PNS HYDERABAD

The South Central Railway has announced that it has restored four MMTS trains which were cancelled earlier.

On Tuesday, the South Central Railway has said that four trains Medchal-Lingampalli, Lingampalli-Medchal. Medchal-Secunderabad, were restored.

These trains will run as per normal schedule from October 23.

City sees scattered monsoon amid yellow alert across State

PNS HYDERABAD

City sees scattered farewell thunderstorms, with Uppal, Osmania University, Secunderabad, Amberpet and Moulali drenched in heavy rainfall, which further continued to Dilsukhnagar, LB Nagar, Tank Bund, Musheerabad, Himavatnagar Koti Abids Saidabad, Malakpet and spread across central Hyderabad. Ameerpet, and beyond on Tuesday evening, according to Telangana Weatherman. This sudden downpour during peak evening hours after five dry days led to traffic jams and water-logging across the city. The rainfall was called the farewell for the monsoon

thunderstorms, according to the weatherman, mainly in the western parts of the State, with final downpour on Tuesday across the State. The IMD issued a yellow alert on Wednesday for thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds of 30-40 km/h, likely to occur at isolated places in Bhadradri Kothagudem, Khammam, Nalgonda, Suryapet, Mahabubabad, Warangal, Hanamkonda, Jangaon, Siddipet, Yadadri Bhuvangiri, Rangareddy Hvderabad, Medchal Malkajigiri, Vikarabad, Sangareddy, Medak, Kamareddy, Mahabubnagar, Nagarkurnool, Wanaparthy, Narayanpet, Jogulamba Gadwal districts of Telangana.

Hyderabad is set to host one of the most anticipated events celebrating creativity and artistic talent with the 17th edition of Kolor Champ '24, a national-level art

competition. Scheduled for October 27 at the SR Classic Convention in Shamshabad, this event, organised by Global Art, will bring together 800 of the country's most creative young minds to showcase their

Participants, aged between 5 and 15, from seven states and cities such as Hyderabad, Chennai, Bengaluru, Coimbatore, Delhi and Jaipur, will take on the exciting

tial properties, other asset class-

masterpieces on a theme announced on the spot.

showcase of artistic talent

Kolor Champ '24: A grand

In a span of 2 to 2.5 hours, the children will transform blank canvases into vibrant expressions of their imagination, making this the largest event of its kind.

This marks the second time Hyderabad is hosting the event, returning after a gap of several

Speaking about the event, Global Art emphasised the importance of nurturing creativity in the next generation, allowing their ideas to flow freely through art.

Amit Krishn Gulati, an awardwinning industrial designer and visiting faculty at prestigious instiof Design (NID) Ahmedabad and the School of Planning & Architecture (SPA) Delhi, will be the chief guest.

Gulati is also the co-founder of Incubis, one of India's pioneering design companies.

The event will also feature Dinesh Victor, founder and managing director of SIP Academy India, and Ajin Thong, co-founder and COO of Globalart Worldwide, who has been a key figure in the Globalart programme for over 21

Globalart's reach extends across 23 countries with more than 650 centres, impacting the lives of 300,000 children.

OBC Federation seeks solution to demands

PNS HYDERABAD

The OBC Federation for Indian Chambers of Commerce (OFICCI), led by Rama Mohan Manamasa, met with Ganesh Singh, Chairman of the OBC Parliamentary Committee, to address key issues affecting OBC entrepreneurs. During the meeting at Hotel Taj Krishna on Tuesday, the federation submitted a request highlighting the need for support in areas like public procurement, financial access and industrial allotment.

The representation included several critical requests like, preferential treatment in public procurement: OBC enterprises often struggle to secure government tenders through the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) due to limited resources. The committee is urged to recommend quotas or preferential treatment for OBC-owned MSMEs to ensure fair competition.

Support for OBC Entrepreneurs under CGTMSE: There is a lack of awareness and targeted support for OBCs in accessing loans.

Land deal volume in Hyd sees major surge

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a boost for Hyderabad's real estate market, the city accounted for 5% of the land deals in India from January to

September 2024. The latest report by CBRE South Asia Pvt. Ltd., a leading real estate consultancy firm, reveals a remarkable 65% yearon-year (Y-o-Y) increase in land deal volumes across the country, with six major cities— Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai, Bengaluru, and Pune—domi-

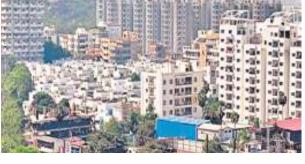
nating the activity.

The surge, which saw total land transactions reach approximately 1,700 acres nationwide, was driven by over 100 land deals during this period, an increase from the 60 deals frame last year.

Delhi-NCR led the pack, capturing 32% of the overall share, with Gurgaon alone contributing around 65%. Bengaluru, Mumbai, and Chennai followed with 22%, 12%, and 10%, respectively, while Hyderabad made a notable mark with a 5% share of the total land transactions.

Residential sector dominates Hyderabad's land deals. The report highlights that residential assets dominated the land deal activity, accounting for 61% of the volume.

This represents a 50% increase in residential land deals compared to the same period in 2023, reinforcing the growing demand for housing. Hyderabad's inclusion in



the top cities involved in these transactions showcases its evolving role as a significant player in India's real estate landscape, especially as it continues to attract both domestic

es also saw growth, with the Industrial and Logistics (I&L) sector making up 13% of the total land deals. Additionally, data centres have and international investors. emerged as a critical segment, Growth in emerging real accounting for 6% of the land estate sectors beyond residentransactions

lowed, reflecting investors' increasing interest in diverse property types. Anshuman Magazine,

Chairman and CEO of CBRE India, South-East Asia, Middle East, and Africa, noted, "The surge in land deals, especially in emerging sectors like data centres, highlights the strength and diversity of the Indian real estate market. Hyderabad, along with other metros, is demonstrating that it can meet the growing demand across these key asset classes."

With Hyderabad's strategic investments and urban development plans, the city is positioned for continued growth, further strengthening its role as a leading destination for real estate investments in India

Delay in LLB backlog results jeopardizes law students' career

PNS HYDERABAD

A social activist has raised concerns about the severe impact on the academic and professional career of law students due to the delay in announcing the results of the 3-year LLB backlog exams, which were conducted in August.

In a letter addressed to the Chief Secretary of Telangana, the activist highlighted the urgent need to address this issue, emphasising that students are at risk of missing critical opportunities due to the prolonged delay.

Writing a letter, activist Lubna Sarwath said that the backlog exams, which were



held for the academic year 2021-2024, were delayed in the first place, having taken place two months after the regular final semester exams. Despite the delayed exams, the results are yet to be declared, leaving many students in a state of uncertainty.

"One of the most pressing concerns is the approaching deadline for the All India Bar

which is on October 25. Many students, despite having good academic record but missing a single paper due to personal reasons like family illness, are now unable to apply for this critical exam. Additionally, students who have qualified for LLM entrance exams are unable to proceed with their admissions for the 2024-25 academic year due to the non-availability of their backlog exam

The activist pointed out that the inability to submit for enrolment in the Telangana Bar Council is further hindering the students' professional progress, leaving them in a state of limbo.

results.'

sniffer dog handler Hussein in Kothagudem on Tuesday

SP felicitates sniffer dog on winning gold medal

PNS BHADRADRI KOTHAGUDEM

District Superintendent of Police Rohit Raju on Tuesday felicitated sniffer dog, Juno, on winning a gold medal at the Telangana State Police Duty Meet.

The Telangana State Police Duty Meet 2024 was held from October 16 to 19 at the Telangana State Police Academy in Hyderabad.

Sniffer dog, Juno, from the district won the gold medal in the explosives detection category. Rohit Raju felici-

ticipating in this category statewide. He also praised Juno's handler, Hussein. He suggested that Juno be provided training to showcase his talents at the national level and win a gold medal for the State. The SP presented a reward to Juno for bringing good recognition to the district by achiev-

tated Juno at the police headquarters. He expressed happiness that Juno

showcased outstanding performance

among a total of 21 sniffer dogs par-

ing the gold medal.

PNS KUMRAM BHEEM ASIFABAD

Under the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) of the Niti Aayog, several schemes have been taken up in the district on six issues, said Additional Collector Deepak Tiwari.

He was replying to NIDC Kumram Bheem Asifabad district's NIDC director Prabhari Rajat Kumar who addressed the district officials through video conference on Tuesday. He asked the district

various government departments.

Deepak Tiwari, DMHO Dr Tukaram,

mented on six issues - health, nutrition, agriculture and irrigation, skill development, economic cooperation, education and medical and health.

With Rs 3 crore released by the Niti Ayog, the walls of the 279 Anganwadi centres were painted with impressive colours and attractive images, procuring games and play equipment for benefit of children, providing drinking water, toilets and development of nutri garden, power supply to anganwadi centers, school development works and development of mini-anganwadi centers are

being implemented. Health of pregnant women, nursing women, teenage girls and children have been examined and necessary medicines, nutritional supplements have been given to them. Besides, proposals have been sent for construction of pucca buildings to house Mandal-level federation of SHGs, establishment of bulk milk centers, sewing training centers, dairy milk

NITI Aayog officials review ADP works in Asifabad dist

officials to implement all works taken up under ADP efficiently. He reviewed the progress of the works in progress. He asked the officials to speed up the execution of the works in coordination with

District Rural Development Officer Dattaram were present at the video conference hall of the integrated district offices' complex in the Collectorate here

Deepak Tiwari said that since 2018 various programmes are being imple-

centers, establishment to centers to ster-

348 illegal layouts identified in Rangareddy district

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

In a significant move to address rampant irregularities in real estate ventures, the government has identified 348 panchayat layouts as illegal. Registration of the ventures was suspended. The crackdown came as a to widespread common and middle-class citizens by real estate tycoons who created unauthorised layouts under the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority

(HMDA). Previously, under past administrations, regulatory standards were often overlooked, resulting in a proliferation of unregulated layouts. The current Congress government has ordered officials to systematically regulate these issues, putting an end to the practices that have plagued the real estate market for years. As part of this initiative, HMDA officials have been directed to halt registrations the layouts. Reports indicating the specifics of these illegal layouts have been circulated on social media platforms, leaving many real estate tycoons in the district perplexed, as they scramble to understand the implications of the The HMDA has provided detailed

reports to the relevant sub-registrars, outlining the 348 panchayat layouts now listed as restricted within the 10 mandals of Rangareddy district. The were primarily unplanned and lacked essential infrastructure such as sewage, water supply, and electricity. Among the affected areas, Shamshabad recorded the highest number of illegal layouts, with officials uncovering a total of 133. Other notable findings included two illegal layouts each in Chevella and Kandukur, three in Shabad, 59 in Moinabad, 40 in Hayatnagar, 41 in Sarurnagar, 35 in Ibrahimpatnam, 27 in Rajendranagar,

and six in Maheswaram. The HMDA has issued orders to ensure that no registrations are processed for the illegal layouts identified in their reports, marking a decisive step towards restoring order in the real estate sector and protecting the interests of the public.

Liquor, drug abuse rampant in undivided Adilabad dist

District administration and police, in coordination with counsellors, are making all efforts to wean away youth from liquor and cannabis, but in vain

PNS ADILABAD

Liquor addiction is crippling the families. Drunk-driving deaths are also mounting in the district. In most of the road accidents, the victims are aged below 35 years old. Those addicted to alcohol and drugs are driving their families to

Young people addicted to drugs are not only committing serious crimes but also losing their lives in alcohol-related crashes.

It is heartbreaking for families to see their children falling prey to drugs and alcohol right before their eyes.

In the undivided Adilabad district, road accidents happen daily, claiming lives. Most of the victims are below 35 years. The undivided Adilabad district has achieved the dubious distinction of witnessing a large number of road

PNS NALGONDA

nity again.

management.

Mahatma Gandhi University

(MGU) Vice-Chancellor Prof

Altaf Hussain expressed his

happiness on being given a sec-

ond chance to lead the univer-

sity, stating, "The Chancellor and the Chief Minister recog-

nised my effective service dur-

ing my previous tenure and

have granted me this opportu-

grade in the upcoming NAAC accreditation, he called upon

faculty members to intensify

their dedication to teaching,

research, and effective time

meeting, Professor Hussain

underscored the critical role

enhancing the university's aca-

demic reputation and fostering

a culture of discipline and

achievements, he mentioned,

"I have built quarters when I

was Vice-Chancellor, and I

will continue to stay here. You

must also remain committed

Prof Hussain highlighted

to this institution."

Reminiscing about his past

inquiry among students.

During a recent faculty

In an effort to secure an A-



under the influence of alcohol or

In the undivided Adilabad dis-

trict, liquor shops have sprung up in every village, making alcohol readily available. Young people are

accident deaths due to driving

consuming it and driving recklessly, which leads to tragic out-

The youth are succumbing to drug and alcohol abuse, filling their families with grief. It is clear that speeding while under the

influence is causing many of the road accidents.

When young people lose their lives due to alcohol or drug abuse, their families are left devastated. There is an increasing involvement of youngsters in crime due

fees to students. Unfortunately, the

to alcohol or drug abuse. Prominent citizens, including

professionals, have stressed the

need to take urgent steps to wean

away youngsters from drug and

alcohol abuse. There is an increas-

ing trend of youth getting addict-

set up in government hospitals,

but they are only functioning in name only. Even voluntary organ-

isations have been permitted by

the government to establish coun-

selling centres, but due to a lack

of staff, services are not available.

No matter how many aware-

ness programmes the district

administration and the police

conduct, there has been no

Parents are making significant

efforts to bring their children out

of the influence of drugs and alco-

change among the youth.

Counselling centres have been

ed to drug or alcohol abuse.

teachers for these programs. According to UGC guidelines, each department should ideally have a full complement of faculty, including one professor, two associate pro-

government has not appointed new

fessors, and four assistant professors. However, the Economics department has only two regular faculty members, with five positions unfilled. Other departments, such as Mathematics, Botany, English, are similarly understaffed. The absence of

part-time faculty has severely ham-

Out of ten sanctioned professor

MGU VC for fostering greater accountability among students attendance standards. In addition, the Vice-Chancellor emphasised the importance of fostering discipline, curiosity, and intellectu-

al engagement among stu-

dents. He encouraged faculty members to prioritise research and publication, thereby reinforcing the university's reputation as a premier institution for Prof Altaf Hussain quality education.

The meeting was attended by key academic leaders, high standards in both interincluding Incharge Registrar Professor Aluvala Ravi and nal and external evaluations, emphasising that transparen-cy in assessments is essential OS Dean Professor Koppula Anjireddy, fostering a spirit of for fairness. collaboration among faculty as they were urged to work col-He urged faculty to actively mentor students toward acadlectively toward MGU's ambiemic excellence.

A key announcement durtious goals. Professor Hussain's coming the meeting was the reinitment to the university dance for students. Pro advancement is clear, and with Hussain stated that only those these proactive measures, students maintaining a mini-MGU is well-positioned to enhance its academic framemum attendance of 75 per cent would be allowed to sit for work and progress toward examinations. achieving top-tier NAAC This initiative aims to accreditation.

The Vice-Chancellor's leadenhance student accountability and ensure consistent parership and vision are expected ticipation in academic activito significantly influence the ties. The biometric system is university's trajectory in the set to serve as an effective tool years to come, paving the way the necessity of maintaining for monitoring and enforcing for a brighter academic future.

SATAVAHANA UNIVERSITY

Appointment of new VC raises hopes among students

PNS KARIMNAGAR

Satavahana University faces a host of challenges as Umesh Kumar steps into the role of Vice-Chancellor. Key issues include filling vacancies for both teaching and non-teaching staff,

addressing the need for new buildings, and overcoming a persistent shortage of funds. These problems have been plagu-ing the university for several years, leading to criticism that it functions more like a degree college due to poor

Despite these challenges

employees and students are hopeful that Umesh Kumar's leadership will get the university back on track. They recall his effective management during the university's convocation when he served as registrar.

Of the 14 departments, several such as Botany, Mathematics, Telugu, Computer Science, Food Technology, and English-have shifted to selffinancing courses, charging high



pered the university's teaching capa-

posts, eight are vacant; among sixteen associate professor positions, only six are filled. Additionally, of the 37 sanctioned assistant professor roles, 27 remain unoccupied. This chronic understaffing has adversely affected the university's academic, teaching, and research activities.

tives. Movable and immovable

assets found are estimated to be

about Rs 5,05,71,676 and dispro-

portionate assets (assets dispropor-

tionate to his known sources of

ed by the ACB in August this year

for allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs

per documentation value and the

actual value is far higher in the

The case is under investigation.

open market, the ACB said.

The value of the properties is as

The accused officer was arrest-

income) worth Rs 4,19,40,158.

BC students' union protests seeking release of fee reimbursement dues

PNS NALGONDA

The Backward Classes Students' Association on Tuesday staged a protest in front of the Collectorate, demanding immediate payment of fee reimbursement scholarship dues. The police detained a num-

ber of students and released them later. The police forcibly bundled the students into vans and took them to nearest police stations. In a display of unity, the

Backward Classes Students' Union organised a massive rally and demonstration at the District Collectorate, demanding the immediate release of pending fee reimbursement scholarships and a revision of hostel charges to reflect rising costs.
Student Union leader

Ayitagoni Janardhan Goud led the protest. He said that the student were still struggling to



Police whisking away students who staged a protest in front of Nalgonda Collectorate in Nalgonda on Tuesday

secure benefits for which they were eligible.

Speaking at the event, Goud expressed frustration, stating that the total dues of RS 3,000 crore owed to SC/ST/BC/EBC minority students for the past two years must be settled immediately.

BC Student Union State working president Kurnati Yadagiri, District president of the BC Welfare Association Pagidi Jidayya Yadav and others were present.

MARIJUANA PEDDLING

BRS, Congress trade bitter accusations

PNS MANCHERIAL

In Mancherial, tension has escalated into a full-blown "marijuana war" as leaders from the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) and the Congress party have been trading accusations of abetting the youth to drug addiction. Both parties point fingers at each other.

Since 2016, the narcotics trade has been thriving in the Congress MLA Kokkirala Premsagar Rao recently expressed outrage over the BRS's alleged role in promoting a marijuana culture during their decade-long rule. He particularly pointed out that a political leader's son was

responsible for rampant drug abuse in the district.

Rao vowed to eradicate marijuana peddling in Mancherial, promising to take strict action against anyone involved in promoting its use. His comments sparked significant controversy in local political circles. In retaliation, BRS leaders,

including Diwakar Rao, countered that it was Rao's followers who had become entwined with the ganja trade, allegedly instigating violence against opposition members and engaging in land encroachments. They cited recent incidents to bolster their claims, illustrating how the "ganja war" has taken on a distinctly political hue. In response to rising concerns, the Congressled government has intensified efforts to combat marijuana peddling. The Prohibition and Excise officials and the police have made significant arrests, with 82 individuals being charged in 27 cases since the start of the year, said Deputy Commissioner of Police Bhaskar. Authorities have opened suspect sheets against 65 known individuals and sent 37 addicts to de-addiction

Despite these efforts, the prevalence of addiction has led some young people to become peddlers themselves, sourcing

centres, while counseling ses-

sions have been provided to an

additional 194 users.

ganja from other states and selling it locally. The emergence of gangs in nearly every narrow alley has resulted in violent clashes, as these groups vie for dominance over territory and influence.

The violence has instilled fear among residents, particularly at night, as innocent bystanders often find themselves caught in the crossfire of gang rivalries fueled by drug use, land disputes, and personal vendettas. As political leaders leverage the youth's vulnerabilities for their own gain, the common people of Mancherial are left to grapple with the consequences of a deeply entrenched ganja cul-

5 injured in clash between two families

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

A late-night clash between two families in Antaram village of Kulkacharla Mandal has left five people seriously injured. The altercation, which escalated into violence with sticks and axes, took place late last night. Out of the injured, two individuals are reported to be in critical condition. The injured have been trans-

ferred to Gandhi Hospital in

Hyderabad for treatment. The conflict is said to have

arisen over a boundary dispute between two families of Chandramouli and Ramulu. Sources indicate that tensions between the two parties existed for some time, with previous altercations over land disputes. The authorities are current-

ly investigating the incident to ensure justice is served and prevent further escalation of the situation in the village.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
ROADS & BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT
'E' PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
NIT No.06/T2/TS/SEHQC/Telangana Thalli Statue
(1) Name of works and approximate Estimate Contract Value details
Contraction of Telangana Thalli Statue (1) Proceedings of Wilstein Process Thalli Sender of Contraction of Wilstein Process Thallings of Contraction of Contrac

Construction of Telangana Thalli Pedestal and Construction of Water Body in from of Statue in the premises of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat, Hyderabad Telangana. ECV: Rs.3,78,64,192/-.

(2) Last Date and Time of issue of Tender: 22.10.2024 from 4.00 PM to 25.10.202 up to 4.00 PM

(3) Last Date and Time of Receipt of Tender: 22.10.2024 from 4.00 PM 25.10.2024 up to 4.15 PM (4) Date and Time of Opening of Tender: Technical Bid: 25.10.2024 at 4.30 PM

Price Bid: 28.10.2024 at 1.00 PM (5) Name and Address of the Superintending Engineer(R&B): Sri I. Narasing: Rao, M.E., Superintending Engineer (R&B), Headquarters Circle, Hyderabad. Ph

040-23232762, Email: serb_hqr@yahoo.co.in

https://tender.telangana.gov.in/from 22.10,2024 from 4.00 PM onwards. Sdf- Superintending Engineer (R&B) Headquarters Circle, Hyderabad

R.O. No.: 5883-PPICLIADVT11/2024-25, Dt. 22-10-2824

a lightning strike. According to local reports, Chinthala

Maddulapalli under Kamepalli mandal in the district, a man and his daughter were killed by

In a tragic incident Adavi

PNS KHAMMAM Lingaswamy and his daughter were harvesting cotton in their field on Tuesday when lightning struck. Both died on the spot. Further details are awaited. The police registered a case and are conducting an investigation into

Man, daughter die in lightning strike

RR dist Additional Collector caught in embezzlement case accused officer and his close rela-

PNS RANGAREDDY

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) of Telangana on Tuesday said it has discovered properties worth over Rs 5 crore following searches at the residence of an Additional Collector (Land Revenue) in Ranga Reddy district and other places linked to him in connection with a disproportionate assets (DA) case against him.

The case was registered against MV Bhoopal Reddy based on the allegations that he amassed assets disproportionate to known sources



of income, an ACB release said. Raids were conducted at four places apart from the house of the

MV Bhoopal Reddy

ACROSS THE STATES

the pioneer



Delhi LG flags toxic froth in Yamuna, asks for accountability

elhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena on Tuesday shared pictures of toxic froth in Yamuna, saying instead of making excuses and accusations on media, authorities should focus on providing relief to the city's residents. Saxena, in a post on X, also asked for accountability, saying truth cannot be suppressed, as he apparently hit out at the AAP-led Delhi government "Who is responsible? The truth has a very bad habit; it cannot be suppressed," the LG said. Sharing images of froth and garbage in the river, he said, "Instead of making accusations, allegations, and excuses on media or social platforms, it would be better to provide relief to the people of Delhi, especially Chhath worshippers and fasting people from this worsening situation." "I expect concrete steps for redressal," he added.



SC permits Teesta to travel to Amsterdam

he Supreme Court on Tuesday permitted activist Teesta Setalvad to travel between November 14 and November 24 I to attend the International Documentary Film Festival in Amsterdam. Setalvad had received an invitation from the organisers to attend the festival in her capacity as producer of the documentary film Cycle Mahesh. A bench of Justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan allowed the plea filed by Setalvad and directed her to file an undertaking before it that she would return to India as scheduled and face trial. "The applicant is, therefore, permitted to travel to Amsterdam, Netherlands, for a period of 11 days from November 14, 2024 to November 24, 2024. The applicant's passport be returned to her so that she can travel abroad," the bench held. The top court ordered Setalvad to furnish a solvent surety or a cash surety or a surety in the nature of fixed deposit receipt in the sum of Rs 10 lakh to the satisfaction of the sessions court, Bhadra, Ahmedabad.



Police bust fake court in **Gujarat**; conman arrested

olice have uncovered a nefarious scheme orchestrated by a man masquerading as a judge in his own fake tribunal and passing 'judgements' since 2019 especially in land deals in Gandhinagar area. Morris Samuel Christian, since arrested, is accused of orchestrating a deception that fooled many into believing they were in a legitimate court. Police said Christian, the mastermind behind this elaborate ruse, wielded his gavel to pass judgments in favour of his clients, all within the fabricated walls of his office. The boous tribunal, reminiscent of a real courtroom, worked undetected for years, with its roots tracing back to as early as 2019. Initial probe suggested that Christian preved on unsuspecting individuals entangled in land disputes, promising swift resolutions in exchange

State flourished under..

Continued from page 1

resorted to spreading false rhetoric that undermined the interests of the state. Despite these efforts to mislead the public, KTR expressed his confidence that truth would prevail. He called on Congress leaders to apologize to the people for their false claims.

KTR termed as baseless the allegations of the Congress that the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) government had taken on unsustainable debt. He pointed to the Financial Management, Debt Management, and Resource Management Indexes published in Economic and Political Weekly, which positioned Telangana at the top in economic management from 2014-15 to 2022-23. Telangana ranked second in both the Debt Management Index and the Resource Management Index. Sharing these statistics on Twitter, KTR stated that they were clear evidence of the disci-

plined financial management under KCR's leadership. He dismissed Congress' narrative as an attempt to distract from their failure to implement the promises they made. KTR emphasised that Congress was using false claims about debt to cover up their own shortcomings. KTR accused the Congress of spreading propaganda, targeting KCR's achievements and conspiring to tarnish the image of Telangana -- a state that has excelled in multiple sectors over the past decade. According to KTR, the Congress campaign suggesting Telangana is burdened with huge debts and heading towards bank-ruptcy is completely fabricated.

KTR noted that reports from the Reserve Bank of India, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, and the Prime Minister's Economic Council, along with those of independent economists, had confirmed Telangana's economic

strength.



BRICS emerged as important platform for dialogue: PM

PNS NEW DELHI

India values close cooperation within BRICS which has emerged as an important platform for dialogue and discussion on a range of key issues concerning global developmental agenda, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday.

Modi made comments in a statement before embarking on a two-day visit to the Russian city of Kazan to attend the 16th summit of the BRICS grouping.

The expansion of BRICS with the addition of new members last year has added to its inclusivity and agenda for the global good, he said. Being hosted by Russia, the summit is being seen as an attempt by non-Western powers to project their clout amid the conflict in Ukraine and the escalating situation in West Asia.

Modi is set hold a series of bilateral meetings including with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the margins of the BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa). It will be the first summit of the grouping

after it was expanded at its sum-

mit in Johannesburg last year. "India values the close cooperation within BRICS which has emerged as an important platform for dialogue and discussion on issues concerning the global developmental

agenda, reformed multilater-alism, climate change, economic cooperation, building resilient supply chains, promoting cultural and people to people connect, among others," Modi said in his departure statement.

Russian Krishna devotees welcome PM with bhajan in Kazan

PNS KAZAN (RUSSIA)

A Sanskrit welcome song, a Russian dance and Krishna Bhajan by devotees of ISKĆON welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi as he reached here for the BRICS Summit on Tuesday. At the Hotel Korston,

Modi was greeted by the Indian diaspora, holding the Indian tricolour and chanting slogans. Many were seen clicking selfies with their mobile phones.

As the prime minister shook hands with some of them, they

Cong MLC Jeevan's aide..

Revanth Reddy is not respect-

ing seniors", he commented.

Jeevan Reddy alleged that

the murder took place due to

the negligence of the police,

considering that the killer

(Santosh) had forewarned

Ganga Reddy of dire conse-

quences and Ganga Reddy

later filed a complaint in this

regard. He alleged that

Santosh, a rowdy-sheeter, had

been facing 20 cases and had

links with an SI. He demand-

ed a fair probe into the killing

by examining call records of

the conversation between the

Giving a shocking twist to

the murder, the killer,

Santhosh, created a reel on the

premises of the police station

SI and the killer.



sang a cheerful welcome song in Sanskrit. A team of Russian artists, dressed in traditional Indian attire, presented a Russian dance as Modi watched

Trying to restore trust, reassure each other

Army Chief on patrolling pact with China

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India will look at disengagement and de-escalation of the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh after restoration of the status quo of April 2020, Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi said on Tuesday, a day after New Delhi announced striking an agreement with Beijing to end the over four-year border row in the region.

In his first comment on the pact on patrolling along the contested frontier, Gen Dwivedi said the Indian military is trying to restore "trust" and both sides will have to "reassure each other" to achieve this objective.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Monday announced India and China reached an agreement on patrolling along the LAC in eastern Ladakh, in a major breakthrough in ending the over four-year military



The announcement came ahead of a likely meeting between Prime Minister

Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in the Russian city of Kazan on Wednesday on the sidelines of the BRICS summit.

"As far as we are concerned, we want to go back to the sta-tus quo of April 2020. Thereafter, we will be looking at disengagement, de-escala tion and normal management of the LAC," he said at an interactive session.

China confirms agreement

PNS BEIJING

China on Tuesday confirmed that it has reached an agreement with India to end the standoff between the two armies in eastern Ladakh.

"Over a recent period of time, China and India have kept close communication through diplomatic and military channels on issues relat-

ed to the China-India border," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian told a media briefing here. Lin was asked for a response to Monday's Indian announcement about reaching an agreement to end the over four-year

long military standoff. Now, the two sides have reached a resolution on the "relevant matters," he said.

People can't be made to consume expired food products:HC

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday expressed concerns over the sale of expired food products that are reintroduced in the markets after repackaging and re-branding with new expiry dates, and said that people cannot be made to consume "adulterated" food

The high court said no one



can be allowed to sell expired items and this cannot be a

"People cannot be having adulterated food in Delhi. Give us suggestions on how this can be tackled," a bench of Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela said.

The bench was hearing a public interest litigation which was initiated on its own after several such instances of expired products being repackaged with new expiry dates came to light.

Lack of clarity in laws will lead to judicial intervention: Shah

PNS ■ GANDHINAGAR

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday stressed the need for clarity in laws, stating that judiciary can intervene only when people responsible for drafting legislations leave 'grey areas".

He was addressing the Gujarat legislative assembly here as part of a day-long

Continued from page 1

organization".

ev are killing us by attacking

physically. Why should we bear

all these things? I will serve the

people by setting up a voluntary

Mahesh Kumar Goud reached

him over phone, Jeevan Reddy

snapped: "Tell me, why

should continue in the party.

Kindly forgive me. I will not

continue in the party". He

then lamented, saying the

Congress party had given him

"a good gift" for having striv-

en for four decades in the orga-

nization. Jeevan Reddy then

disconnected the phone call of

Jeevan Reddy attributed the

murder to Congress party's

encouragement of defections.

It was bad that murders of

TPCC president abruptly.

When TPCC chief B



'Legislative Drafting Training Officials of the assembly secre-Workshop' organised for the tariat.

Congress leaders were taking before surrendering in a cool

place after the Congress came manner. This video has

surrender.

ever it may be".

Sanjay Kumar.

"I know that whatever I am going to speak will create a controversy, but I want to tell you that the judiciary will intervene only when you leave any grey area in drafting the legislation. More clarity in the legislation, less the intervention of courts," Shah said in his address to the House, where MLAs, MPs as

well as former legislators and

Continued from page 1

critical questions about famil-

ial loyalty, love, and the impli-

Jagan, and his wife Bharati

(NČLT) on

Power and

Reddy, filed a petition in the

National Company Law

September 9, 2024, concerning

shares of the family-owned

Industries Private Limited.

Established by the Grandhi

family, the company has

become a focal point in this

legal drama. In their petition,

Jagan and Bharati argue that

they have greatly contributed

to the growth of the company.

They claim to have signed a

Understanding (MoU) on

August 21, 2019, to allocate

shares to Sharmila, but that

allocation had not been

Jagan's petition describes a

finalised for various reasons.

personal and emotional con-

flict, stating that he initially

intended to give the shares to

Sharmila with 'sisterly affec-

tion'. However, he alleges that

Sharmila's recent political

opposition has led him to

withdraw this offer, reflecting

a troubling shift in their famil-

ial bond. He referred to the sit-

uation using the term 'cheater'

without naming Sharmila

directly, suggesting deep feel-

ings of betrayal and hurt.

Memorandum

cations of political power.

Tribunal

Saraswati

Jagan files plea..

approaches, Jagan is requesting to court over shares once the tribunal to declare that he

promised to them. This owns 51% of the shares in the

Citing the Modi government's move of abrogating Article 370, he said, "When the Article was drafted, it was clearly written that it is a temporary provision of the Constitution which can be removed through an amendment that can be passed through a simple majority in

transfer of shares that were

intended for his mother and

sister. He has made it clear in

his petition that he does not

wish to give any shares to

either Vijayamma or Sharmila,

despite previous commitments.

questions: How will the people

of Andhra Pradesh respond to

Jagan's legal disputes with his

family? Will they continue to

view him as the revered 'sher' of

the State, or will this conflict tar-

nish his legacy? The public is left

to ponder the sincerity of Jagan's

familial relationships against

the backdrop of his political

career, especially as Sharmila

also enters the political arena.

fies a rift within the family but

also threatens to undermine the

foundation of YS Rajasekhara Reddy's legacy. As the NCLT

hearing on November 8

approaches, all eyes will be on

Jagan and his ability to navigate

these family tensions while

maintaining the support of a

populace that once idolised his

father. As the unfolding drama

continues, the implications of

this dispute reach far beyond

mere family matters, raising

profound concerns about the

integrity and authenticity of

familial bonds in the face of per-

sonal ambition and political

The situation not only signi-

This legal battle poses critical

POLICE ENCOUNTERS IN ASSAM

SC terms issue 'very serious', seeks details

PNS NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday termed "very seri-171 police encounters in Assam from May 2021 to August 2022 and sought details, including about the probe conducted in these

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan was hearing a plea challenging a January 2023 order of the Gauhati High Court which had dismissed a public interest litigation (PIL) raising the issue concerning these encounters by Assam Police.

In its order, the high court had referred to an affidavit filed before it by the Assam government which said 171 incidents had taken place from May 2021 till August 2022 in which 56 people died, including four in custody, and 145 were injured.

During the hearing on Tuesday, the apex court observed, It is a very, very serious issue.

BRS rule ruined...

out several key indicators

demonstrating the fiscal chal-

lenges Telangana has faced. He

Continued from page 1

Council building to be..

Continued from page 1

them to complete the work within the next two to three months while preserving the historical significance of the building. Minister Venkat Reddy directed R&B Special Secretary Dasari Harichandana to invite tenders for the electrification and plumbing work. Additionally, the Minister ensured the imme-

Ready to provide...

Continued from page 1

diate release of Rs 2 crore of pending funds to the Aga Khan Trust after discussing with the Deputy Chief Minister.

He urged officials not to halt any public welfare-related work due to pending bills and assured that if there are any, he or Minister Sridhar Babu would take care of the funds' immediate release. The Ministers also highlighted the need for additional facilities such as dedicated parking and security staff rooms within the premises. They expressed their vision to convert the restored building into the Council Hall, similar to Parliament's structure, and create a more accessible Assembly for the public.

putting a question mark on the

working style of the police

when a criminal, literally with

blood in his hands, walks in to

called Jagtial SP and made

enquiries about the murder of

Ganga Reddy. He directed the

SP to punish the culprits "who-

It may be mentioned here

that Jeevan Reddy had

staunchly opposed the admis-

sion of BRS MLA from Jagtial

Sanjay Kumar into the

Congress party. Since then he

has not been happy with the

Congress, more so because

the party did not inform him

before inducting his rival

Jagtial MLA Sanjay later

Minister Sridhar Babu, addressing the gathering, ordered the appointment of a Special Engineer (SE) level officer to oversee the construction and ensure that the work progresses swiftly without any delays.

"We fully support the early return of peace and stability. All our efforts give priority to humanity. India is ready to provide all possible cooperation in times to come," he said."We have the opportunity to discuss all these issues," he added. The prime minister also referred to his summit talks with Putin in Moscow in July. Our annual summit resulted in strengthening cooperation in every field, he said. The prime minister congratulated Putin on Russia's successful presidency of BRICS and said many nal democracy. The elections will be held countries want to join the grouping now.

BJP TG unit to get new..

Continued from page 1

The election process will start initially from Booth Committees and take place

later at state and national levels. Active party members will play a key role in the elections of the new committees. The BJP organizational elections will be completed within 3 months. Speaking to the media on Tuesday, Laxman said that 10 crore persons took BJP primary membership. The elections will be held as per inter-

from the booth level to the

national level. Active membership process will take place after the completion of primary membership. The booth committees' election process will start soon and elections will be held for 10 lakh booths across the nation. Each booth committee will have 11 members, including the president.

Laxman said that his appointment as a returning officer was an honour to him as he had entered the party as a common activist. He said that a national level workshop for the conduct of party organizational elections was com-

Hoaxes keep passengers..

flights would be around Rs 3.5 crore, and for more than 170 flights, the total expenses or loss for the airlines would be around Rs 600 crore.

The figures are broad based since many other factors like narrowbody and wide-body planes, and duration of a flight also need to be taken into consideration. Another official, who has served in the finance department of another domestic airline, said the operational costs are higher for wide-body planes compared to narrow-body planes. Apart from direct expenses such as fuel and airport parking

costs like impact on overall flight network, due to disruptions, the offi-

In separate statements, an IndiGo

pointed out that in deficit management, Telangana ranked

charges, there are also indirect

spokesperson said 13 of its flights received security-related alerts on Tuesday. These are 6E 196 (Bengaluru to Lucknow), 6E 433 (Aizawl to Kolkata), 6E 455 (Kolkata to Bengaluru), 6E 17 (Mumbai to Istanbul), 6E 394 (Kolkata to Jaipur), 6E318 (Kolkata to Ahmedabad), 6E 297 (Hyderabad to Jodhpur), 6E 399 (Lucknow to Goa), 6E 381 (Goa to Ahmedabad), 6E 403 (Pune to Dehradun), 6E 419 (Surat to Goa), 6E 323 (Bagdogra to Chennai) and 6E 214 (Mumbai to Srinagar).

18th among 18 general states, excluding those with Special Category Status. "This highlights your inefficiency," said Reddy, addressing KTR directly. The low ranking, according to Congress, is an indicator of poor fiscal health during BRS's tenure. In terms of expenditure management, Reddy noted that Telangana ranked 13th among the same 18 general states. This performance, according to the Congress leader, underscores the government's failure to manage state expenditures effec-

tively. The Congress further

criticized the BRS regime for

pushing Telangana into a high-

risk financial situation regard-

ing contingent liabilities.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Breathless in Delhi

Delhi's air quality has once again plunged into the 'Very Poor' category, marking the beginning of the dreaded annual pollution season

s the Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 312 on October 21, 2024, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) announced the activation of Stage 2 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in Delhi-NCR, which came into effect from October 22. The city is bracing for several days of toxic air, with forecasts indicating that the AQI will remain in the 'Very Poor' range due to unfavourable climatic and meteorological conditions, such as calm winds and stagnant air. Over the years, Delhi has consistently struggled with air quality issues, particularly during the winter months when pollution levels spike to alarming levels. The problem intensifies due to a combination of factors including the burning of crop stubble in neighbouring states, construction dust, vehicular emissions and industrial activities. In previous years, the city witnessed severe smog days that not only disrupted daily life but also had long-lasting effects on public health. Efforts to curb pollution have included initiatives such as the implementation of



the GRAP, which consists of a set of emergency measures that are triggered based on the severity of air quality. These measures have previously helped prevent air quality from worsening further, but the results have been mixed. While temporary improvements have been achieved, long-term solutions remain elusive. The annual nature of the problem indicates that past measures, though helpful, have not addressed the root causes effectively.

A significant contributor to Delhi's poor air quality is the burning of crop residue in neighbouring states like Punjab and Haryana. Despite bans and incentives for alternative disposal methods, stubble burning remains

a widespread practice due to economic and logistical challenges faced by farmers. Besides this vehicular emission and construction activities adds to the pollution. With the invocation of GRAP Stage 2, a range of measures will be implemented to tackle the escalating pollution levels: To reduce dust on roads, mechanical sweeping and water sprinkling will be conducted daily on identified roads. Besides, strict enforcement of dust control measures at construction and demolition sites will be carried out. The use of diesel generator sets will be discouraged, except for essential services. These actions will supplement the Stage 1 measures that have been in place since October 15, which include banning garbage burning, banning coal and firewood usage in hotels and restaurants, and imposing restrictions on brick kilns. Indeed, the 'Very Poor' air quality has serious implications for the health and wellbeing of Delhi's residents. While GRAP provides a framework for emergency measures, long-term strategies are needed to bring about lasting improvements in air quality. Without a comprehensive approach that combines policy interventions, technological innovations, and behavioural changes, the cycle of pollution will continue to haunt the city each year. Till that happens, Delhiites will have yet another season to breathe the polluted air.



People buy lanterns ahead of the Diwali festival, in Solapur

Trump tries hard to win the second term



The traits Trump exhibits on the golf course serve as a metaphor for his approach to life and politics: a willingness to bend the rules and win at any cost

merican sportswriter Rick Reilly wrote a Commander in Cheat: How Golf Explains Trump, to explain Donald Trump's incorrigible ways. He alludes to Trump's selfclaimed prowess in Golf and his purported handicap of 2.8 by a fawning Golf Digest by saying, "If Trump is a 2.8, Queen Elizabeth is a pole vaulter."

However, perhaps the most damning reality check for Trump is the fact that both his 'wingman' (former and current) i.e., Vice President Mike Pence and his current running mate, JD Vance, would have the maximum access to Trump and know him as a person, have been critical - even if expediency forces Vance to conveniently renege from his earlier views and for Pence says a lot with his deafening silence and refusal to endorse his former boss's candidature.

For all his matching vitriol, boorishness (remember, 'childless cat ladies') and Oorah-style brouhaha as a former Marine, JD Vance was once stoutly anti-Trump. Vance had once declared himself as a 'never-Trump guy' and called Trump 'reprehensible' and an 'idiot'. Vance then had the clarity to articulate the reason for his non-support of Trump by insisting, "The reason, ultimately, that I am not...is because I think that (Trump) is the most raw expression of a massive finger pointed at other people."

In the 2016 US Presidential elections, Vance had rationalised Trump's authoritarian, illiberal and intolerant ways by slamming, "back and forth between thinking Trump is a cynical a-hole like Nixon who wouldn't be that bad (and might even prove useful) or that he's America's Hitler"! For all his matching vitriol, boorishness (remember, 'childless cat ladies') and Oorah-style brouhaha as a former Marine, JD Vance was once stoutly anti-Trump.

Vance had once declared h as a 'never-Trump guy' and called Trump 'reprehensible' and an 'idiot'. He was quick to 'take down' uncomfortable views that he had expressed about Trump like the one he had put about the 'Access Hollywood' tape where



Trump had shockingly claimed that fame had enabled him to grope women!

Then Vance had heeded to his moral conscience as a practising Christian and lamented, "Fellow Christians, everyone is watching us when we apologize for this man. Lord help us". But all his conscience came to nought at the altar of political ambition as Vance meekly retracted later, "I've been very open that I did say those critical things and I regret them, and I regret being wrong about the guy"

With that, everything was supposedly forgotten, and Vance now 'presumably' sees Trump as a paragon of Christian values, morality, and dignity that America needs for the future!

Meanwhile, the elephant in the room who says a lot by not speaking at all is former Vice President Mike Pence - once the most devout and virtuous of Christians who was earlier the most loyal confidante of Trump. Presumably, the diehard Republican had put up with all of Trump's crassness in the silent hope that the Republican Presidency would set things right with conservative and far-right policies, as any committed Republican would have hoped.

Much as he remained loyal to the bitter end, Pence did final-

TODAY, THE FORGOTTEN IMAGE OF PENCE IS REFLECTIVE OF THE CONUNDRUM THAT MANY COMMITTED REPUBLICANS FACE

IN TRUMP'S CANDIDATURE - HE REFUSES TO SUPPORT TRUMP AFTER "ALL THAT HE HAS DONE" AND CANNOT BRING ENDORSE A PARTISAN RIVAL, KAMALA HARRIS,

Constitution above the unreasonable demands of a man he had once slavishly addressed as 'my President', on the fateful 6th January 2021. That Trump had showed his

true character by shrugging his shoulders with a 'so what' refrain when told that Pence was at physical risk with rioters chanting 'hang Mike Pence, is a footnote in the long history of Trump's unhinged, amoral and reckless politics. Importantly, Pence had held his head, heart, and soul intact, when he played a pivotal role in saving America's democracy by confirming the electoral process and result, to the utter dismay of Trump.

Pence was to later reflect philosophically, "like the Bible says, at some point, you've just got to wipe the dust off your feet and go your separate ways". In Trump's golfing world, the term 'Mulligan' (an extra stroke allowed after a poor shot) is best applicable to Pence's tumultuous tenure, unceremonious parting, and the Trump era.

Today, the forgotten image of Pence is reflective of the conundrum that many committed Republicans face in Trump's candidature - he refuses to support Trump after "all that he has done" and

EDITO

cannot bring himself to endorse a partisan rival, Kamala Harris, either.

This lurking ambiguity in Republican ranks (or amongst the 'undecided') could tilt things decisively in the forthcoming cliffhanger of a Presidential contest. Meanwhile Trump's view of his former 'wingman' Pence is as expected of a cribbing, complaining and bitter man who vaingloriously claims that Pence lacked the 'courage' and 'stamina' in the ultimate

bidding. Even Vance's own mealymouthed and almost forced views on Trump's "stolen mandate" in the 2020 Presidential elections are also, hardly con-

This is situationally reflective of the 'cultlike campaign' of Donald Trump that is hoping to cross the bridge even if it tramples on imperatives that are constitutional, moral or ideological/partisan, as in Donald Trump's world, if you can cheat in Golf.

You can surely cheat in life subsequent redemption with winning at any cost is only an extension of the selfish and deceitful spirit that represents Donald Trump.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Åndaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry; the views expressed are personal)

Seeking validation: A necessity more than an add-on to our vanity



Though contentment offers a deep sense of inner peace, validation serves as a crucial motivator

ruch to the contrary of the popular belief about happiness being commensurate with the degree of material success, my late father asserted that the key to happiness lies in contentment. Both views have their share of advocates, the former often relying on validation from outside, and the latter, a more philosophical contention anchored in an irrevocable sense of self-assurance.

The philosophy of contentment is a long shot for many of us embroiled in making it materialistically big, and we tend to seek a lot of external validation to determine our core worth. Maybe, the philosophies are based on two entirely different life principles and the value of neither can be dismissed. Success has its sweet trimmings and contentment has its merit, and both may be equally coveted.

What distinguishes one from the other is the element of endorsement we crave for our endeavours. Even the most self-assured person looks for acceptance and shame in it. Validation from we seek from others has a even just a simple "well

others is indeed required for us to stay on course, not simply for the ego boost it brings but also for the motivation it gives us to strive and march forward in making a mark in the world. The more sagacious ones among us may, however, hold a different view. I have heard several suggestions that we should not seek approval from others and instead rely solely on our inner convictions.

While this notion seems noble, it underestimates a fundamental human need to feel seen, heard, and acknowledged by those around us.

To deny the significance of external validation is to ignore an essential part of the human recognition, and there is no realise it or not, the approval of promotions, awards, or

perception and our efforts to

work, it serves as a confirmatrack. It is a form of recognition that can affirm our abilities, encourage us to push further, and give us the confidence to take risks that we might otherwise avoid.

Take, for instance, the world of creative endeavours. Writers, artists, musicians those of us in professions where the outcomes are subjective—often look to their audiences for validation. It's not just about ego or pride. When someone appreciates a piece of art or writing, it signals to the creator that their expression has resonated with others, creating a connec-

tion. It is this recognition that gives an artist the courage to continue crafting, to improve, and to share their innermost thoughts with the world. Without that validation, their passion might wither in isolation. In professional contexts, validation experience. Whether we can often come in the form

profound impact on our self- done." These acknowledgements are crucial motivators. They tell us that our efforts When someone validates our matter, that our contributions are recognised, and tion that we are on the right that we are moving in the right direction. While selfbelief is vital, external acknowledgement adds weight to that belief, making it more tangible. It confirms that our skills and efforts are seen as valuable by others, which can propel us toward even greater heights. Furthermore, seeking validation is not just about persongain—it also creates a cycle of mutual encouragement.

When we validate others, we lift them, creating a supportive environment where everyone's contributions are acknowledged. It doesn't just boost their

morale; it strengthens their commitment to the work they're doing. Of course, we must also be wary of relying solely on external validation. The danger lies in overdependence, where we begin to measure our worth only by what others say.

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

MAHAYUTI GAINS EDGE Madam —This refers to the news report,

'BJP releases 99-strong candidate list' (October 21). On one hand, alliance partners of Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) are still struggling to finalise the seat-sharing formula for Maharasthra Assembly polls, the BJP has announced candidates for the majority of seats in its share. The MVA dealt a deadly blow to the Mahayuti by winning 29 out of 48 Lok Sabha polls. But, in the last 4 months, political equations have drastically changed in the state, which may help the ruling dispensation, i.e. the BJP-led Mahayuti, which was just 1.52 per cent behind the MVA in terms of Lok Sabha vote share. The Shinde government's Ladki Bahini Yojana scheme has been very popular among women

The Congress which won 13 seats and secured lead in 63 assembly segments in Lok Sabha polls, appeared to lose momentum after its poor performance in recent Assembly polls in Haryana and J and K. In addition, the Mahayuti has less discord over the chief ministerial face in the Assembly polls though it is going in the polls without any CM face. But the MVA is a divided house on CM face. The Shiv Sena (UBT) wants projection of former CM and party chief Uddhav Thackeray while Sharad Pawar is repeatedly hinting to support Jayant Patil as CM face. Unexpected success in Lok Sabha has also driven ambitions of the Congress high for the CM post in case of the victory of the MVA. The Manoj Jarange factor is also unlikely to be as effective as in

Lok Sabha polls.

Manoj Parashar | Ghaziabad

NAIDU'S BOLD MOVE

Madam - Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu is a part of the farright government at the centre, which has been demanding for more than 10 years that 'population control policies should be implemented as soon as possible to conmore than 47 per cent right now.

Yamuna pollution on the rise



¬he current condition of the Yamuna River has been raising concerns for the past few days as the festive season arrives. The river is covered with a very thick layer of froth. The froth can cause major health problems, which can affect both human

opposite and talking about bringing the next 15 years, it will fall even faster. opposite policy to his state. He wants to encourage those who have more children and is planning to punish those who have fewer. He said that the increasing average age of people in the state is becoming a matter of concern. Families should have at least two or more children. In the coming times, only those who have two or more children will be able to contest local body elections.

The state government will soon make a law for this. Naidu further said that there are many districts in Andhra Pradesh where only elderly people are left in the villages. The fertility rate is continuously falling in the southern states. While the average fertility rate in the country is 2.1, this figure has fallen to 1.6 in the southern states. Is India really getting old? The young population is decreasing. According to the Centre's Youth in India-2022 report, by 2036, only 34.55 crore of the population of the country will be young, which is trol India's population growth. But Currently, 25 crore youth in the country Chandrababu Naidu is going exactly the are between 15 and 25 years of age. In the

health and wildlife in the areas surrounding the river Yamuna. Now, as we see, pollution levels have reached an alarming stage. Instantaneous steps should be taken in order to address the issue as soon as possible.

According to experts, the froth contains high levels of ammonia and phosphates, which can lead to respiratory and skin disorders. Recently, the Environment Minister, Gopal Rai, mentioned that a few days ago, the officials were instructed to recognise the regional sources of pollution. 13 hotspots have been chosen for this purpose, where the main local source of pollution will be identified, which was causing the area's pollution levels to rise significantly above Delhi's AQI.

Neha Tomar | Ujjain

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

IMMIGRANTS FACE UNCERTAINTY

Madam — The escalating diplomatic row between India and Canada will have the more than 4 lakh Indian students studying in Canada worried and concerned about their future. Many have sold everything they owned in India to study in Canada, which is seen as a gateway to a better future. The 20 lakh Indians will won-

der what their future is going to be. The first thing the government needs to do is reassure the immigrants that their interests will be protected by the government of India. The Indian media too should stop bashing Justin Trudeau the way they have been doing. India needs also to be worried that other nations like America, the UK, Australia and New Zealand have come out in support of Canada over the plot to assassinate Canadian citizens on its soil.

Anthony Henriques | *Mumbai*

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FIRST COLUMN THE PATH TO **TRUE GROWTH**

Constant comparison overshadows cooperation, empathy and joy of life



RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR **NIKUNJ JI**

Il of us, whether we like it or not, have to compete from the time we are born until the time we die. Though most of us indulge in healthy competition all the time, nevertheless, one thing common to all kinds of competitions is the underlying desire to win a victory for the self or to defeat others. While competing, a person brings out their skill, ability, art, acumen, or talent to show that they are superior, stronger, better, more powerful, more skilful, more learned, or more competent than others. It is this habit of making comparisons with others that creates the competition background.

That is why we always see this subtle desire in people who are winners, to hear some words of praise about themselves or their performance. To fulfil this ultimate objective of massaging their egos, one does not care if the other person feels disappointed, depressed, defeated and even humiliated, ridiculed, or booed. This drive to be recognised as "better" than others sometimes overshadows the simple joy of participating or improving oneself. To understand this kind of behaviour, one needs to understand human psychology because the roots of comparison and competition have been sown into our minds since our childhood days. From school grades to sibling rivalries, we are conditioned early to pit our success against others' failures. Hence, they become more rigid with time. We need to understand that the core objective behind the competition is not simply the desire to win, but it is intertwined with the motive of laying aside the softer and nobler sentiments of cooperation, kindness, and gentleness, even if only for a while. In competition, one puts all energies and talents into bogging down or defeating another person, leaving them behind in the race while making a forward thrust to reach



the goal before anyone else. As the famous philosopher Schopenhauer said, "The world is a battle of will and intellect." But in this battle, one often loses sight of empathy and connectedness, which are essential

It may also put a limit on one's spirit of giving, helping, cooperating and sacrificing. Remember! Anything small and insignificant in the beginning has the potential to grow and become big. Hence, we must not forget that even though a spark or flame of fire may be small to start with, it can reduce a big apartment with valuables to ashes if it grows into a big fire. Thus, we should be careful and vigilant, because if the whole society catches this contagion or infection of selfishness or rivalry, it may spoil the charm of life and the atmosphere in society. Some people link competition to motivation and developing an attitude toward high performance. But they fail to understand that this evil trait to defeat others, which may look like a harmless thing initially, may eventually develop into a spirit of revenge, feelings of hatred or enmity, bitter jealousy, confrontation, hostile attitudes and ugly outbursts. These effects are not limited to the individuals involved but spill over into communities, organisations and even nations. Look at global politics or corporate boardrooms, and you will see this principle at play on a massive scale. Hence, it all depends upon the emotional maturity of a person whether or not he or she is affected. Because this seed of evil, as it grows, takes the form of a big tree with many branches; so, too, does selfishness or the spirit to downgrade others to gain ascendance for the self. It may proliferate into many evils or obnoxious habits. Hence, one must try to curtail selfishness and give up the ambition of winning by vengeance for the applause and praise of the self. Remember! The only competition that should matter to us is the one that takes place within ourselves. Hence, it is better to defeat one's inner demons first and become victorious from within to be an example for others to follow.

(The writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist; views are personal)

NEP 2020: A blueprint for transformative education



While NEP promises radical changes through holistic learning and flexible assessments, implementation challenges continue to hamper its progress

EP 2020 was founded on the guiding principles of Access, Equity, Quality, Equity, Quality, Affordability and Accountability. This was primarily to prepare the young ones to face the diverse national & global challenges for the present & future. The Policy aims to lead to a multi-disciplinary, holistic under-graduation syllabus, create wider choices of combinations of Subjects, Integration of Vocational Education with regular Subjects and multi-entry and multi-exit points with regular appropriate certification at various stages. The aim is to ensure that no child loses any opportunity to learn and excel because of the circumstances of birth, economy and/or background. This should eventually lead to transformative changes which shall change the lifeline of education in our country. The emphasis is going to be on holistic education, early childhood care, flexible assessments, skill development, integration of technology, teacher training and higher education reforms. These are aimed at designing a learner-centric and inclusive education for a future-ready

By embracing these India is poised to provide quality education to everyone with the necessary skills and knowledge to thrive in the 21st century. The motto has been to provide "Equitable and Inclusive Education" to ensure that no child should be denied quality education because of their socio-cultural background and 100 per cent GER is reached by 2030. Looking at all the facts presented alone, one gets a feeling that this is going to be a real game changer in the education system of our country but the reality remains that it has not taken off even after three years of its approval. The major reason is that a majority do not understand the spirit of this very meaningful policy. If implemented in letter and spirit then our country shall be comparable to the best in the world in the field of education. An in-depth analysis and exploring what lies ahead; One can divide this whole NEP-2020 into four main capsules which this Policy envis-

Teaching in the mother tongue or spoken language, Learn to leave, Teach to Transform and Educate to Empower. These highlighted Capsules shall completely sum up the entire NEP-2020, which none has so far put appropriately and completely. Elaborating each one of these shall drive home all the points: Teaching in spoken language: The importance of this cannot be undermined. Original thinking comes only in the mother tongue (spoken languages) and this advantage has never been given to our students in any of our earlier policies. English has always been overemphasised and a wrong notion has been created that English is knowledge whereas the fact remains that it is just a language and not knowledge. Knowledge can always be acquired by knowing a language. Our beginners have always been worried about learning English rather than developing an understanding of a concept in their way, therefore majority of the students are lost in this learning of the English language rather than focussing on the original thinking. This has been given an appropriate weightage under NEP. A student shall learn to



INDIA IS POISED Learn to Leave: Having decided SKILLS AND or not)

QUALITY

THEIR SOCIO-

develop an understanding of what subjects to learn and what to pick up eventually in higher classes which has not been the case so far. A course used to be thrust upon them. This very important facet has been very appropriately

what course to take up for sec-TO PROVIDE what course to take up for secondary and higher education, a student used to be trapped forever whether one liked the subject/course or not. (In the older education system for example if one cation system for example if one EVERYONE WITH had opted for Physics or Sanskrit: THE NECESSARY one was struck with that forever whether one liked these subjects

KNOWLEDGE TO
THRIVE IN THE difficulty was that due to some 21ST CENTURY. odd circumstances if one had to discontinue the education there THE MOTTO HAS was no way to restart unless you BEEN TO PROVIDE lose years/ time, but in this, one could leave anytime or rejoin "EQUITABLE AND anytime (Comes under Multi entry/ Multi exit system).

INCLUSIVE In the present system if one EDUCATION" TO stayed away for a few years one ENSURE THAT NO in desired subjects but under NEP-2020 one can restart anytime CHILD SHOULD one's education by including the BE DENIED Therefore under the leaving. Therefore, under the present NEP, no one shall stay away or be denied education because of cir-EDUCATION denied education because of chi cumstances. This was not the case in the older system.

Education to empower: Under

this education is to give due benefits to society by developing the CULTURAL right kind of skill. For Example, BACKGROUND an electronic engineer is not able to do even basic electrical repairs or a mechanical engineer is not in a position to rectify even a basic fault. Integration of vocational courses with regular ones to provide practical skills for employment, benefiting students with diverse academic interests or limited access to traditional pathways or linking them with one another are some of the hallmarks of the present system.

This is to develop the right syllabus to reduce disparities. Emphasis in this is on equitable access to quality education. Essentially NEP 2020 shall be attempting to reduce unwanted syllabus for comprehensive understanding towards skill-based education.

Teach to transform: the teaching in the older system was not of any speciality. One acquires the right skills through one's efforts to be useful to society. Under this, it shall be essential to train teachers and educational staff to deliver child-centred education for job placement, which shall be an important feature so far lacking to a large extent.

Challenges: One of the biggest features of this has been the wide laboratories, libraries research choice of subjects that one could take. Now this wide spectrum of subjects will be possible to be taken by students if there is a way to keep a record of a student's movement and subjects taken. In a Country like ours which has more than 39K colleges, about 1000 Universities and 4.33 crores students (Nearly 80 per cent are in graduation and the remaining 20 per cent are from post-graduation classes), it shall be impossible to maintain a record of this kind unless there is a mechanism similar to computerised banking arrangement which maintains all types of record impeccably. For this an Academic Bank of Credit has been proposed where every institution shall be registered to enable a record of these movements of students, subjects taken and credits earned can be maintained like what is done in bank-

Biggest flaw so far: Unfortunately, to date, not even 50 per cent of Institutions have registered themselves in this (in ABC) which is the real key to the success of this policy. This is a way to keep records of students' subjects, their movements and credits earned.

Sharing of resources: Under NEP a wide umbrella of choice of subject, record of early education, movement from one institution to another and credits cleared/ earned by a student shall be possible only if the resources are shared by various institutions.

It will be impossible for any particular college to offer all subjects and to offer teaching in a variety of courses unless there is a huge staff to do this. It will be humanly impossible to achieve all this unless sharing is done particularly when online teaching has now come in a big way in our univer-

Similarly, the resources for science facilities as well as Entrepreneurship schemes can be very effectively shared to make the education truly inclusive as per the aims of NEP 2020. Therefore, in conclusion, this policy shall succeed if: Every institution registers with ABC (Academic Bank of Credit) Sharing of resources starts in a big way in earnest in all areas like teaching, especially in online modes, libraries, Laboratories and instrumental facilities; Open schooling system for all without conditions Establishment of the Higher Education Commission of India immediately to monitor the reg-

istration of ABC etc. It shall not become a roaring success unless all agencies like MOE, UGC etc take concerted efforts to bring about a radical change.

(The writer is a Former Vice-Chancellor of Pondicherry University and Gandhigram Rural Institute, Dindigul; views

Revolutionising India's food security: Route optimisation cuts costs, carbon emissions

With over 81 crore beneficiaries, the Govt is now leveraging advanced data-driven route optimisation tools as part of the PM GatiShakti master plan

he Government of India provides free food grains to more than 81 crore beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) making it the largest food security programme in the world. This vast operation from sourcing food grains from farmers to delivering them to ration cardholdersrelies on a complex, decadesold supply chain. The Food Corporation of India (FCI), state procurement agencies, millers, transporters, ware-houses, and Fair Price Shops (FPS) all play a critical role in this network. However, its design has historically been shaped by administrative convenience more than scientific



SANJEEV CHOPRA

state officials, a process prone to sub-optimality, bias and human error. In October 2021, the Prime Minister launched the PM GatiShakti Master Plan aiming to enhance multimodal connectivity and optimise logistics across the coun-

One of its key pillars, "Optimisation," envisions

thereby saving time and reducing costs. In line with this vision, the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) launched a national route optimisation exercise in March 2023, in partnership with the World Food Programme (UNWFP) and the Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT) from IIT Delhi.

This exercise, targeting the annual transportation of 6.8 crore metric tons of food grains through the PDS, marks a transformative step towards building a more efficient and cost-effective food supply chain. The process was comprehensive: geo-locations of warehouses and FPS, along with their capacities and road optimisation. Supply routes selecting the most efficient distances, were collected from were planned manually by routes for transporting goods, each state. Using this data, cus-

tom algorithms were developed for each state to determine the most optimal supply chain routes. More than 50 physical workshops were held by DFPD and FITT officials to guide states in data collection and demonstrate the benefits of route optimisation. These optimised routes were

then validated on the ground to ensure they accounted for local conditions, and a statespecific intra-state optimisation tool was developed to allow for adjustments in the supply chain - such as adding or modifying entities like warehouses or FPSs. For instance, Bihar developed an annual movement plan based on its PDS requirements, food grain volume, and monthly transport routes. The customised



possibilities of local procurement within the state and the grain required to be sourced from the FCI. This gave the state a clear view of its yearly logistics, allowing for cost-saving adjustments. By choosing the optimal option, Bihar reduced transport distances by 19 per cent, saving over Rs 3.09 crore per month. Similarly, Mizoram optimised its routes by eliminating unnecessary algorithm factored in different transfers of food grains

between warehouses, achieving a 50 per cent reduction in distance and saving an estimated Rs 1.27 crore monthly. A significant milestone in this effort was the integration of the route optimisation tool with the GatiShakti platform, which now houses geo-locations of FPSs and warehouses across all

This integration enables the platform to generate the shortest possible motorable routes from FCI godowns to state godowns, and further from state godowns to FPSs.

The platform also allows realtime route re-optimisation based on updated infrastructure data (such as new roads) from other ministries. Since March 2023, route optimisation assessments have been completed for 30 out of 31 states, with intrastate route optimisation tools developed for 15 states so far. Early results from 12 states show tremendous promise, with transportation costs reduced by an estimated Rs 112 crore annually. Once fully implemented across all states, savings could exceed? 250 crore per year. This initiative is not only an economic win but also an environmental one. Global food miles-representing the distance food travels from production to consumption—account for nearly one-fifth of total food system emissions. Optimising India's food distribution routes can contribute significantly to reducing CO2 emissions, aligning with the country's climate change commitments under the Paris Agreement and its Conference of Parties (COP) targets. The

reduction in fuel consumption will also help conserve foreign exchange reserves. Looking ahead, DFPD is exploring the possibility of earning carbon credits under the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS), offering states an added incentive to complete the route optimisation process and earn tradable carbon credit certificates. This step would not only strengthen India's commitment to a climatesmart supply chain but also potentially generate financial benefits. In conclusion, The integration of advanced technologies and data-driven tools is setting the stage for a smarter future in public distribution, one that safeguards both our resources and the planet.

(The writer is Secretary, Food & Public Distribution, Govt of *India*; views are personal)

HYDERABAD | WEDNESDAY | OCTOBER 23, 2024

IN BRIEF



Adani Group to buy Orient Cement for Rs 8,100 crore

Adani Group on Tuesday said it has agreed to acquire CK Birla group firm Orient Cement Ltd in a deal valued at Rs 8,100 crore, as billionaire Gautam Adani-run conglomerate snaps up smaller rivals to challenge India's top cement maker UltraTech. Ambuja Cement, India's No.2 cement maker, will buy 46.8 per cent of its founders including chairman CK Birla, and certain public shareholders for Rs 3,791 crore. This would trigger an open offer for an additional 26 per cent stake in Orient, according to a company statement. Orient, which has two cement plants in the south and one in western India, will be Ambuja's second acquisition this year. It will add 8.5 million tonnes to take Ambuja's operational capacity to 97.4 million tonnes. The Adani group has plans to raise this to 140 million tonnes a year by 2028, just a shade below market leader UltraTech's current capacity of 149.5 million tonnes.



ED attaches Rs 335-cr worth assets in Unitech Group

resh assets worth Rs 335 crore of the Unitech Group and a linked company have been attached under the antimoney laundering law, the Enforcement Directorate said Tuesday. A provisional order has been issued under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to attach movable properties valued at Rs 319 crore and Rs 16 crore belonging to Unitech International Realty Fund (UIRF) and Sahana Builders Private Limited, the federal probe agency said in a statement. The investigation stems from the FIRs registered by the Delhi Police and the CBI against Unitech Limited and others, apart from a Supreme Court order issued on December 18, 2019 warranting a "proper investigation by the law enforcement machinery, both from the angle of money laundering and other related facets." The ED said that Chandras of the Unitech Group (promoter brothers Sanjay Chandra and Ajay Chandra) in collusion with their associates played a key role in "illegally diverting" funds received from homebuyers, investors and banks to generate proceeds of crime to the tune of Rs 7,612 crore. The UIRF was a fund created by the Chandra family through its companies Auram Asset Management Private Limited and Uniwell Limited (Cayman Islands) to "divert" funds (homebuyers' money) from Unitech Limited, it alleged.



'FMCG sector facing sluggish demand'

he FMCG sector is facing sluggish demand with the growth in F&B declining to 1.5-2 per cent as against double digit some quarters ago, said Nestle India Chairman & Managing Director Suresh Narayanan on Tuesday. This decline is due to a combination of factors, including food inflation, the outgoing Nestle CMD said at a media roundtable here. "The market is facing a muted demand. It is extremely clear that the growth in the F&B sector, which used to be in double-digit a couple of guarters ago, is now down to 1.5 to 2 per cent. Narayanan said. Referring to a sharp uptick in fruits and vegetables, and oil prices, Narayanan said this is a cause for concern "because this clearly will lead to an increase of prices if they become unmanageable for organisations." He said Nestle too is facing difficult situation on account of higher prices of for cocoa and coffee, which are key ingredients for the company's products. Besides, some "pressure points are coming from mega cities and metros" though tier one and below towns seem to be reasonably stable. Even rural is reasonably stable, he added.

Minister Puri hopes global oil prices will cool down

PNS NEW DELHI

Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Tuesday said the world has enough crude oil and more supplies are coming into the market, which he hoped will cool down oil prices.

"There is no shortage of oil," told reporters on the sidelines of an event

But geopolitical tensions cause prices to rise owing to higher freight and insurance charges incurred in avoiding conflict zones.

He hoped better sense will prevail and diplomacy will take

Despite geopolitical tensions, there is no shortage of oil in the world and more supplies from countries such as Brazil and Guyana are coming into the market, he said. There is no anxiety over availability, he said, adding "We are confident of navigating, as we had in the

past... any situation arising." India imports more than 85 per cent of its oil needs and any

rise in global rates not just impacts import bills but also fuels inflation. "My hope is that oil prices

> down... that's my personal opinion," he said. Earlier this month, international oil prices flared to over USD

78 per barrel

remain stable and come

from about USD 70 per barrel, as the market waited to see if Israel would retaliate against Iran for a missile attack last week. Rates have since

dropped to USD 73-74 per barrel levels. After the Iranian missile attack, it is being speculated that Israel may target oil or nuclear facilities in Iran. And Tehran can choose to respond with either direct attack on Israel or shutting the Strait of Hormuz - the world's most important oil transit point, further flaring oil prices.

India's GDP growth to moderate to 7 pc: IMF

PNS WASHINGTON

India's GDP growth is likely to moderate from 8.2 per cent in 2023 to 7 per cent in 2024 and 6.5 per cent in 2025 because the pent-up demand accumulated during Covid has exhausted, as the economy reconnects with its potential, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said on Tuesday.

About the global economy, the IMF said the battle against inflation has largely been won, even though price pressures persist in some countries.

After peaking at 9.4 per cent year over year in the third quarter of 2022, headline inflation rates are now projected to reach 3.5 per cent by the end of 2025, below the average level of 3.6 per cent between 2000 and 2019, it said.

The annual World Economic Outlook released here projected global economic growth to stay steady at 3.2 per cent in 2024 and 2025, even though a few countries, especially low-income developing countries, have seen sizable downside growth revito moderate to 6.5 to 7 per cent

'In India, the outlook is for GDP growth to moderate from 8.2 per cent in 2023 to 7 per cent in 2024 and 6.5 per cent in 2025, because pent-up demand accumulated during the pandemic has been exhausted, as the economy reconnects with its potential, the IMF said in the World Economic Outlook.

According to the latest Economic Survey, the GDP growth in 2024-25 is expected

Money 08

ing conflicts," he said.
In advanced economies, growth in the United States is strong, at 2.8 per cent this year, but will revert toward its potential in 2025

For advanced European economies, a modest growth rebound is expected next year, with output approaching potential. The growth out-look is very stable in emerging markets and developing economies, around 4.2 per cent this year and next, with continued robust performance from emerging Asia, he said.

"Despite the good news on inflation, downside risks are increasing and now dominate the outlook. An escalation in regional conflicts, especially in the Middle East, could pose serious risks for commodity

"Shifts toward undesirable trade and industrial policies can significantly lower output relative to our baseline forecast. Monetary policy could remain too tight for too long, and global financial conditions could tighten abruptly," he

DGTR for antidumping duty on China to protect MSMEs

PNS NEW DELHI

The commerce ministry's investigation arm DGTR has recommended an anti-dumping duty of USD 422 per tonne on Chinese drawer sliders with a view to guard MSME units.

In its findings, the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has concluded that 'Telescopic Channel Drawer Slider' has been exported to India at a price below the normal value, resulting in dumping.

The imports are also

undercutting the prices of the domestic industry, the DGTR has said in a notification.

"The authority recommends imposition of antidumping duty on the imports," it said.

The directorate had "suoagainst the alleged dumping of this product to guard micro, small & medium enterprise (MSME) units against cheap imports.

Usually, anti-dumping investigations are initiated based on an application filed by domestic producers.

Investors poorer by Rs 9.19 lakh cr in single day

PNS NEW DELHI

Investors' wealth eroded by a massive Rs 9.19 lakh crore on Tuesday as markets came under heavy sell-off with the BSE benchmark index Sensex falling 930.55 points.

Extending its previous day's decline, the BSE Sensex plummeted 930.55 points or 1.15 per cent to settle at 80,220.72. During the day, it tanked 1,001.74 points or 1.23 per cent to 80,149.53.

The market capitalisation of

PNS NEW DELHI

Gold price rose by Rs 350 to hit a fresh

all-time high of Rs 81,000 per 10 grams

while silver soared Rs 1,500 to record the

Rs 1 lakh mark in the national capital on according to the All India Sarafa

Continuing its upward movement for the fifth straight day, silver bounced

Rs 1,500 to hit a fresh high of Rs 1.01

lakh per kg against the previous close of

"The current momentum in silver

prices is driven by industrial demand,

Rs 99,500 per kg on Monday.

9,19,374.52 crore to Rs

equities in the current month so far, which has been creating uncertainty among domestic ment by its government to boost its slowing economy.

"Along with sectoral stocks, mid and smallcap stocks too bore the brunt as persistent buying had led to valuations in several stocks getting expensive and hence the breather," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP

(Research) at Mehta Equities Ltd, said. From the 30 Sensex pack, Mahindra & Mahindra, State Bank of India, Power Grid, Tata Steel, IndusInd Bank, Tata Motors, Larsen & Toubro, NTPC, Bajaj Finance and Reliance were among the biggest laggards.

from 8.2 per cent in 2023-24.

Gourinchas, a French economist and IMF Chief

Economist, the global econo-

my remained unusually

resilient throughout the disin-

flationary process. "Growth is

projected to hold steady at 3.2

per cent in 2024 and 2025, but

some low-income and devel-

oping economies have seen

sizable downside growth revi-

sions, often tied to intensify-

According to Pierre-Olivier

In contrast, ICICI Bank, Nestle and Infosys were the gainers from the pack.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 2,261.83 crore on Monday, according to exchange



workers rises

PNS NEW DELHI

Retail inflation for farm workers and rural labourers increased to 6.36 per cent and 6.39 per cent, respectively, in September from 5.96 per cent and 6.08 per cent in

August this year. The All-India Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL) and Rural Labourers (CPI-RL) registered an increase of 7 points each in September 2024, reaching levels of 1,304 and 1,316 points, respectively, a labour ministry state-

ment said on Tuesday. The CPI-AL and CPI-RL

September 2024 were recorded at 6.36 per cent and 6.39 per cent, compared to 6.70 per cent and 6.55 per cent in September 2023.

investors. Also, foreign investors are fleeing Indian equities to invest in relatively cheaper locations such as China, especially after the stimulus announce-



Markets crash

4,44,45,649.22 crore (USD 5.29 trillion). "There has been no respite from FIIs selling in local

Gold jumps Rs 350 to record high

such as in expanding photovoltaic applications, followed by the jewellery and silverware segments," Arun Misra, CEO and Whole-time Director at Hindustan Zinc Ltd, said.

Silver zooms past Rs 1 lakh-mark

According to Jateen Trivedi, VP Currency at LKP Securities, silver prices have continued their rapid upward momentum, surging past Rs 1 lakh in the physical Indian markets, with the fastpaced rally suggesting that prices could reach Rs 1.1 lakh before Diwali.

Additionally, gold of 99.5 per cent purity jumped Rs 350 to hit a fresh high of Rs 80,600 per 10 grams.



Meanwhile, the metal of 99.5 per cent purity had finished at Rs 80,250 per 10 grams while gold of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 80,650 per 10 grams on Monday. Bullion traders attributed the jump in

precious metal rates to the rising consumption in industrial and wearable segments in the domestic market.

PNS NEW DELHI

points in August 2023. "The year-on-year inflation rates based on CPI-AL and CPI-RL for the month of

Land records should be evolved to meet urbanisation needs: MoS

PNS NEW DELHI

Urban land records should be evolved to meet the demands of rapid urbanisation of cities and land administration must keep pace to ensure equitable development, Minister of State for Rural Development Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani said on Tuesday

Addressing the concluding session of a two-day workshop here, the minister emphasized that more than administrative tools, accurate land records are the backbone of socio-economic planning, public service delivery and conflict resolution. "Just as rural land records



evolved, urban land management must also rise to meet the demand of rapid urbanisation of cities and land administration must keep pace to ensure equitable development," Pemmasani said. "We now

stand at a pivotal moment in urban governance where technology meets opportunity. More than tools like Drones, aircraft-based surveys and satellite imagery offer unparalleled precision.

By deploying these tools we reduce human errors, increase efficiency and collect consistent up-to-date data in the most challenging urban environment," he said.

He also said India has made significant strides with initiatives such as the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP), and has digitized Records of Rights (RoR) across over 6.25 lakh vil-

lages, launched the Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN), also known as Bhu-Aadhaar, and created a seamless integration between revenue and registration systems. "As rural land records evolve, urban land management must also rise to meet the demands of rapid urbanization," he said.

The Department of Land Resources has sanctioned a pilot programme called the 'National Geospatial Knowledge-based land Survey of Urban Habitations (NAKSHA)" with a view to creating Land Records in about

Nation One Gold Rate', aiming to standardize domestic gold prices that currently vary across different regions of the country "We import gold at the same rate, but the domestic retail

The All India Gem and

Jewellery Domestic Council

(GJC) announced Tuesday it is

working to implement 'One

prices differ from one city to another. We want a single rate to prevail across the country," GJC Secretary Mitesh Dhorda said at the launch of 'Lucky

October 22 to December 9 The council, which has already conducted over 50 meetings with its members, has managed to bring up to 8,000 jewellers on board for this initiative. While a representation has been made to the government, the GJC is currently

focused on convincing the industry stakeholders. "We are already providing a recommended rate through WhatsApp broadcast groups to our members. Our target is to reach at least 4-5 lakh jewellers step by step," Dhorda said, adding that implementation in

Consumers worried about data breaches: Survey

PNS NEW DELHI

Consumers are worried about data breaches, and a large number of them are not aware of their rights related to personal data, according to a PwC India survey.

The PwC Survey on Data Privacy offers vital insights from 3,233 consumers and 186 organisations across India, exploring the awareness and implementation gaps concerning the Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDPA), the consultancy firm said.

As per the survey report titled 'How aware and prepared are Indian consumers and businesses to navigate the new era of digital privacy? A survey of India's data privacy land-



scape', 42 per cent of consumers are at 46 per cent. Although 52 per cent not sure if they will continue using the services of a company post a data

"This rate is higher in Tier-1 cities

of organisations are planning additional security controls around personal data, technology alone won't solve the compliance issue," PwC

The survey also showed that only 16 per cent of consumers are aware of the DPDP Act across diverse geographies, age groups, occupational backgrounds and urban-rural divides.

Sivarama Krishnan, Partner & Leader – Risk Consulting, PwC India and Leader of APAC Cyber Security and Privacy, PwC opined that the DPDP Act 2023 will play a critical role as India transitions to a high-

growth digital economy. "Our engagement with over 3,000 consumers across the country and with around 200 corporates reveals a significant gap in the understanding of the basic tenets of privacy among all," Krishnan said.

The survey also found that 56 per cent of consumers are not aware of their rights related to personal data and 69 per cent are not aware of their rights to take back their consent.

Anirban Sengupta, Leader and Partner, Business and Technology Risk, PwC India said that in India, sectors that are regulated and directto-consumer show maturity in privacy mechanisms yet, express concerns about data privacy laws and enforcement.

The need of the hour is a cultural shift towards prioritising data privacy, necessitating active participation from both businesses and consumers to foster a privacy-conscious environment," Sengupta added.

Lakshmi', a revamped annual Gujarat has been particularly gold festival running from challenging.

Jewellers' body pushes for

uniform gold rates across India

OFFICE OF THE WANAPARTHY MUNICIPALITY
WANAPARTHY DISTRICT
NOTICE INVITING FOR QUOTATIONS R.No. 186/Wanaparthy TUFIDC/Quotations/2024-25

Expression of interest is Invited in sealed covers from Manufacturers or Suppliers for providing a) Children Play Equipment's, Open Gym equipment's, Sitting Benches, Gazebos Garden Lighting, Fountains, Sculptures Greenery, Office Furniture, etc., Quotations b) For Auditorium: () Lighting ii) seating arrangements iii) Air conditioning system iv) Sour

proofing system v) Greenery and Landscaping vi) Acoustics vii) Sound system arrangements Last date for submission of sealed quotations for the above said items on or before Date 25-10-2024, Time: 3.00 PM

Conditions: 1. The agency should have GST registration.

2. The Commissioner, Wanaparthy Municipality has all powers to accept or reject the Any other details contact on engineering section in Working hours. Contact Mobile No:
Deputy Executive Engineer (9965354986)
8.0.%: 985-PROLWDVTN284-21, Dt. 22-10-2234
Wanaparthy Municipality

HRIATER HVOLERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

"E" PROCUREMENT SHORT TENDER NOTICE

NIT No. 24EE-6/CRZ /CHWC/2024-25

Nature of the Work: CC Road works, Estt. Cost: Rs. 38.567 Lakhs. Download Start

Date & Time: 23.10.2024 at 12.00 P.M., Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids 25.10.2024 at 12.00 P.M., Name & Address Officer, Cell No: Smt. M.Peersingh. EE, Div-6, CRZ, GHMC, Hyderabad. Phone No.: 9154960551. For further details can be seen at e-procurement @ www.tender.eprocurement.gov.in. Note: 1% EMD should be obtained after the date of tender notice.

 Sdi- Executive Engineer Circle No.6, Charminar Zone, GHMC R.O.No. 9679-PPICL/ADVTH/2024-25, Dt. 22-10-2024

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Wednesday October 23, 2024

CHHOTE PANDIT IS BACK! NEW AVATAR, MORE HUMOUR

TEJAL SINHA tejal.sinha30@gmail.com

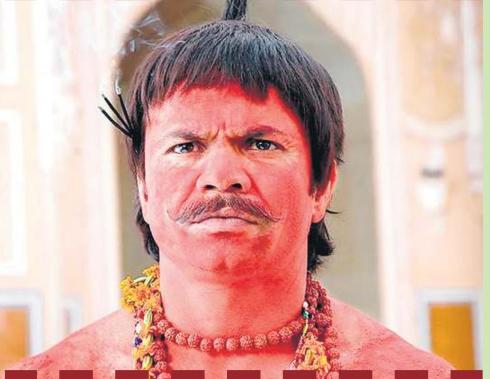
aughter alert! Rajpal Yadav is back to cast his comedic spell as the irrepressible Chhote Pandit in *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3*! With a career spanning decades of rib-tickling roles, Rajpal is poised to unleash a fresh wave of hilarity, blending his trademark wit, impeccable timing and sidesplitting

antics.
From revisiting the franchise's cult classic moments to revealing the newest twists in the storyline, let's get ready to dive into the world of *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3* through Rajpal Yadav's eyes as he takes us on a journey of laughter, excitement and pure entertainment.

"Bhool Bhulaiyaa has now become a trio for us," begins the gagster in an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*, who never fails to enterture hearts with his on- and

sive chat with *The Pioneer*, who never fails to enrapture hearts with his on- and off-screen persona. His character in the *Bhool Bhulaiyaa* franchise has a unique sixth sense, enabling him to see ghosts that others can't. "While in *Bhool Bhulaiyaa*, we see him in order to get rid of water and negativity; he puts up a red colour (kumkum); in the second one, we see him putting up white, which is ultimately the symbol of water. Now in the third one, he puts up *Chandan*. With the trap of Manjulika, he signifies that *apna tann—mann thanda rakho*. I feel that the director liked the concept of using Chandan this time, which portrays that *Chandan ke upar kitni bhi musibatein rahe, andar toh woh sheetalta pradhan karta hai* (Despite facing numerous challenges, sandalwood retains its soothing properties). These colours are very close to nature and it's often believed too that one who is closest to nature is away from any sort of difficulties. This caricaturish feature of Chabata Dandit is that of from any sort of difficulties. This caricaturish feature of Chhote Pandit is that of a 'vidhushak', who makes fun of himself and entertains the people around. Chhote Pandit is that comedic element in a hor-

GET READY FOR A DOSE OF LAUGHTER AND ENTERTAINMENT AS RAJPAL YADAV, BOLLYWOOD'S BELOVED COMEDIC GENIUS. JOINS *THE PIONEER* FOR AN **EXCLUSIVE CONVERSATION. AS HE GEARS UP FOR THE RELEASE** OF BHOOL BHULAIYAA 3, **YADAV SHARES HIS INSIGHTS** ON PLAYING THE ICONIC 'CHHOTE PANDIT', HIS APPROACH TO COMEDY AND HIS EXCITING LINEUP OF UPCOMING PROJECTS



with his humour."

Well, as he speaks of his character, it was beyond a doubt that this character is something he is blessed to play on-screen, and he agrees it too. Now, with the third film of the franchise, not an approach, but Yadav believes taking his character in the most simplest and natural way to the audience. While the plot keeps you hooked, his character doesn't miss out on tickling your funny bones, of course! "This is a character you can just not ignore. An effort has

ror comedy who entertains the audience with his humour."

Well, as he speaks of his character, it was beyond a doubt that this character is something he is blessed to play

the director's interpretation."

The Chup Chup Ke fame further tells us that he doesn't feel any pressure to portray Chhote Pandit for the third time but the preformed it with all the freedom within the boundary line. "This is a character that doesn't pressurise in any way. He is here only to bring comedy—not a character that's real but an illusion of reality. Isko pressure nahi, pyaar se lene ki zaroorat hai joh ki mai le raha hoon (we

Phir Hera Pheri, Partner, Bhootnath, Krazzy 4, Dhol, Bhagam Bhag, De Dana Dan, Khatta Meetha and to the endless you can just not ignore. An effort has been to keep the character along and a part of the story or make him fit in list of films where his comedic perfor-

mance has been a highlight. But how does he even manage to bring so many variations of comedy every time on-screen? "It's by doing the homework and getting inspired by people around," affirms the *Dhol* fame. But again, he continues to highlight, "We can try to change the mentality, but not a person. Similarly, as an actor, all that we can do is change the mentality and present ourselves the best way possible."

"Comedy is a word and cinema is

"Comedy is a word and cinema is entertainment. So, the stories that are made have a priority—entertainment," enthuses Malamaal Weekly actor, who is now, in fact, celebrating his 25 years in

the industry. "In these years that I've been in the industry, comedy films ka bolbala raha hai. We've seen both the protagonist and the antagonist doing comedy. I feel so blessed that I'm among the few of those who have been doing comedy and getting the respect."

Ever since he began acting, which was at the tender age of about 13 years, he has had the opportunity to play approximately 500 characters on different platforms. However, he has always believed that

However, he has always believed that every new character brings a new life for him to live. As we talk of comedy, "Comedy has many sub-genres within: realistic comedy, romantic comedy, black

comedy, horror comedy, and so many more. And so the approach of my character in *Bhool Bhulaiyaa* is different from, let's say, Chup Chup Ke, Dhol or Waqt. So I always try either by being a small kid or a big one; I always make sure to learn the best that I can from all of these."

the best that I can from all of these."

Talking of any improvisations that we would get to see in *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3*, the *Partner* fame enunciates, "Every actor does improvise. But a good actor always works according to the director's interpretation and being around that discipline, if they are able to work a little more on it, so why not? The communication between a director and actor is done on the basis of interpretation. And this is something I believe much in."

Let's not forget the fact that horrorcomedy has been one of those genres that has a great fan following. "I would say, since childhood, there are only two things that we are taught: either excitement and bravery or fear. It's been a ritual in our country that this 'natyaroopantaran' is portrayed in the form of

roopantaran' is portrayed in the form of fear and romance. So here in *Bhool*

fear and romance. So here in *Bhool Bhulaiyaa*, the Manjulika's character is that form of fear, where you do get scared and have fun laughing too."

Rajpal Yadav has been a synonym of 'scene-stealer' and why not? No matter what character he plays on-screen, a lead or a supporting actor, he's one of those adroit actors who knows how to pull over the eyes of the audience so well "Main adroit actors who knows how to pull over the eyes of the audience so well. "Main bachpan se jis galli, jis ghar mai baithta tha, maine humaesha dil churaye hai (we laugh out loud). So with that, if I steal the show or scene and I also get the credit for it, then it's a matter of great fortune for me. I'm so glad and blessed that over the years, I've got to play and live over 500 characters." characters."

The actor's pipeline is overflowing with laughter, drama and suspense, with Baby John releasing during Christian, Vanvaas, Tigmanshu Dhulia's Ghamasaan and Welcome to the Jungle, which are just the beginning.

ROCKING THROUGH TIME: BIG 30-YEAR BASH

India's most iconic music festival, *Independence* Rock (I-Rock), is back with a bang, celebrating its 30th edition in style. The Pioneer catches up with VG Jairam, the driving force behind *I-Rock*'s revival, in an exclusive conversation

AARTI SREENATH aarti.sreenath9@gmail.com

he revival of India's most iconic rock festival, Independence Rock (I-Rock), has marked a new era in the country's music scene, thanks to the efforts of VG Jairam and Farhad Wadia, the creators of the festival. As India celebrated the 30th edition of this event, Jairam shared the journey behind the resurrection and the vision for its future.

His partnership with Wadia took shape in early 2022 when he noticed a significant void in the live music landscape—rock music had nearly vanished from mainstream events. "Farhad has always been a dear friend. I approached him about reviving it, as the genre was missing from the live scene. Our goal was to bring back rock music and make it bigger than before," he recalls.

Bringing *I-Rock* back wasn't without its challenges. The festival had always been a platform for India's rock music community and staying true to its roots while making it relevant for today's audience required careful balance. "It's more than just a festival. It's a space for performers and fans to connect over their shared passion for rock music. The key is to

support emerging talent, even as we celebrate 30 years of rock history."

He remained tight-lipped about the

specifics of this year's innovations, teasing that fans would have to wait to experience the full spectacle. However, he emphasised that enhancing the consumer experience is at the heart of everything he does. "We believe in creating memorable experiences. If you show people a good time, they'll keep coming back."

Reflecting on the changes in India's rock scene, Jairam sees the evolution of the genre as both a challenge and an opportunity. "Rock isn't just classic rock or metal anymore. It's hybrid, it's experimental—fusion rock, rap rock, glam rock—all of these subgenres keep it alive and thriving." It has embraced this diversity, offering a stage to new-age artists while honoring its legacy as the birthplace of India's rock revolution. For him, some of his most memorable moments with *I-Rock* aren't just

about standout performances. It's the personal connection to the festival that stands out. Balancing the festival's legacy with the need to innovate has been a critical focus. According to him, it's about finding the sweet spot between retaining what makes it iconic and welcoming the next generation of rock fans. "Legacy is what people hold you in high

regard for and relevance is about ensuring that both

long-time fans and newcomers are engaged. You can't choose one over the other—you have to innovate while

respecting history."
This year's festival promises surprises, but as he playfully suggests, "If I tell you now, it won't be a surprise."

Inclusivity and diversity remain central to his approach. "We keep our ears to the ground, listening to what the people want. Whether it's local talent or emerging genres, we're always adapting," he explains. This philosophy ensures that the festival remains a dynamic platform for artists from all backgrounds to share their music. Its impact on the local music community has been profound. He notes that the festival has become a launchpad for emerging rock bands and a space for cultural exchange within the genre. "By bringing people together, we foster opportunities for networking, collaboration, and creative innovation."

When it comes to measuring success, for him, it's more than just ticket sales. "It's the energy, the passion, and the connections made. Long-time attendees return each year, while younger fans discover rock for the first time. These moments, these interactions, are what make the festival a success." Looking ahead, he envisions continuing to uncover hidden talent and providing a global stage for India's rock music scene. "There's so much untapped talent in India and I want it to be the platform that helps these artists reach their potential."

When asked about the future of rock festivals in India, he is optimistic. He points out that India is becoming a hotspot for live music experiences, with festivals bringing international acts and creating immersive

environments for fans. "The future looks promising. We've seen a resurgence in rock music since the revival of I-Rock and initiatives like Bandland and multigenre festivals are fueling this

will continue to play a key role in fostering this growth." momentum. It

SLAUGHTERING ANIMALS FOR RESOLVING FOOD CRISIS

Constitutional mandate that has taken us back to the dark ages

Beyond the slightest doubt, we live in an era of looming and lurking challenges across all fronts and all forms all around us - including abject poverty, glaring wealth disparity, widespread unemployment, fractured outcomes of flawed health and education policies, and alarming environmental hazards prone to epidemics and pandemics.

But just when we thought we had seen the worst of

all forms, here comes a shocker.

The Southwest African country of Namibia plans to slay 700 wild animals including 83 elephants, 300 zebras, 30 hippos, 50 impalas, 60 buffaloes, 100 blue wildebeest and 100 elands to mitigate the pangs of an acute hunger crisis in the wake of a severe drought that has affected more than half of its population, an alarming fallout of an El Niño pattern.

This barbaric move has been sheltered by the nation's constitutional mandate shows the abject failure of global diplomatic organisations like the United Nations, to make needful interventions to ensure that such regressive moves bordering on cannibalism are vehemently opposed and banned with unanimous approval of

member nations. As it is, seal hunt, a cruel annual event in Namibia slaughters thousands of cape fur seal puppies every year to sell their skins in international fur markets at premium rates.

Having said that, we can't put all the blame on Namibia; that would be a deplorable and desperate attempt to escape the guilt of a collective crime committed by the world at large. The sorry state of affairs we see is indicative of what price we as humans of the planet have had to pay in the name of progress and advancement. There is simply no amount to human greed for more of anything and

everything.

Our predatory instincts drive all notions of progress and development; which is why we see

bellies of housing and construction, mountains and valleys are being destroyed and trees are being felled in the name of road and infrastructure connectivity and worst of all, the great divide between the haves and the have nots is growing by the day, which has created the disparity that is at the heart of Namibia's food crisis, ahead of the El Niño pattern.

Can the world not unite to help Namibia with enough food for its people to safeguard the life and freedom of these precious wild animals, which is their birthright denied by humans? Why can't the UN call for an emergency meeting of member nations? Why can't the World Wildlife Fund swing into protest action? Why can't nations of the world seed and nurture a relief fund for poverty-stricken countries like Namibia? Why can't the wealthiest individuals like Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, Bill

Gates and Mukesh Ambani et al fund a rescue mission for the animals under threat and set up a haven for them? Why can't grains and pulses be dispatched in large numbers to the aggrieved citizens, especially when stored food grains

often goes waste in many canaries and godowns of the globe, as well as homes and office establishments? Indian households alone waste an estimated 78.2 million tonnes of food annually. We can surely arrive at a win-win solution, if we unite

as global citizens rather than look the other way, leaving Namibia to fend for itself in regressive ways that have been legitimised in the name of tradition.

It is high time we, as world citizens, wake up from our feigned slumber and cherish with fresh resolve those virtues that make us human. It is high

time we arrest the demonic disparity of wealth, income and resources which is at the root of inhuman traditions, wilful or otherwise.

Otherwise, the dark ages will come back to haunt us with a vengeance, ironically in this post-modern age marked by Artificial intelligence. What a tragedy would that be?

> (Written by Dr. B. S. Ajaikumar)



what's brewing?



of London has launched New MMCA Technology Management Course at Banjara Hills Park Hyatt in lyderabad. Dear of the University Sara McCroola had attended the

Issa Abdullah Saleh Al Shibani, the Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to India, visited the BTR Greens MAK Projects, on Tuesday.





Northern Arizona University (NAU), in collaboration with Risaya Academy, announced the launch of its Summer School Programme, offering Indian students a unique academic experience at NAU's esteemed campus in the USA. Launching for the first time in India, this intensive summer programme aims to address the critical skill gap faced by students pursuing degrees in fields like Computer Science, Information Technology, Blockchain, AI/ML and Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE).



The stage is set and music lovers are waiting with bated breath for the biggest musical production of the year. After the phenomenal success of his last tour, Arijit Singh is ready to captivate audiences once again with another enthralling multicity tour. Spanning from November 2024 to April 2025, this highly-anticipated tour will take over the cities of Bengaluru (November 30), Hyderabad (December 7), Delhi (February 2), Mumbai (March 23) and Chennai (April 27).

Photos by- SV Chary

ARCHIE





Teach For Change Trust, under

the leadership of its Managing Trustee, actor Lakshmi Manchu, in collaboration with Novotel Hyderabad Convention Centre & HICC, hosted a joyous Diwali celebration for children from government schools at the Novotel Gardens. Over 50

children from various government schools were invited to participate in the celebrations, which included fun activities, cultural performances and a festive











GARFIELD





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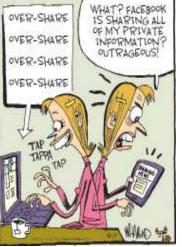
INFORMATION DIET IS A BIG PART OF WHO

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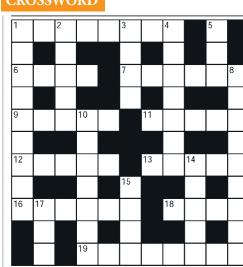
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Rules · Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9)

exactly once. The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

CROSSWORD



4 From Turkey **ACROSS** 5 Tell a fib

- 1 Without any bends 6 Travel by horse
- 7 Bigger
- 9 A plant's
- underground parts
- 11 Flying creatures
- 12 Sweeten food with

2 Listen to music on this

3 A precious metal

13 Sit on this

16 Be unalike 18 Too 19 Writer of music

DOWN

1 Startled

- and people in the street this
 - 14 A book of maps of countries
 - 15 Wheel a baby about in this 17 Liquid in a pen SOLUTION

8 A large store of water for

supplying a town

10 The movement of cars



GINGER MEGGS

IT'S IMPORTANT TO

THINK ABOUT THE QUALITY OF WHAT YOU READ

WORTHY







DIFFICULTY RATING: **

Hyderabad | Wednesday October 23, 2024

'MY MASK DESIGN WAS INSPIRED BY *BATMAN*'

sureshkavirayani@gmail.com

annada actor Sri Murali is venturing Telugu film industry with his new movie Bagheera, set to release on October 31. This film was conceptualised by top director Prashanth Neel and directed by Dr Suri.

Sri Murali expressed his admiration for Prashanth Neel and revealed that the story was handed to him by the director. Hombale Films then took over the project with director D. R. Suri, ensuring everything was planned for the film. For the unaware, Sri Murali is the brother-in-law of director Prashanth Neel. "My wife and mother-inlaw are from Nellore; they speak Telugu. And now, I have learned

a little bit of Telugu," said Murali. Though Prashanth Neel is providing the story, Sri Murali gives all the credits to director Suri. "I agree that Prashanth Neel provided a good story, but it is the director Suri who has worked hundred percent and analysed the story and script," he said. He added that execution is very important. "With whatever the script has demanded, Suri as a director has executed it well. It is a larger than life story

and goes well for any language."

In the film, he revealed playing a vigilante and further shared, "We have all certain visions of life and want to do something good for society. If something wrong happens in society,

you want to act and it is something for the betterment of society. So we narrate this story in our own way through Prashanth Neel's story and Suri's vision. He enhances the acting from me and all of them in this film."

For this character, Sri Murali has been on a strict diet for almost three years. Yes, you read that right! "I am a foodie and I like Biryani a lot. Oh and also sweets! However, for my character, I was mostly taking up fluids." Seems like his better half had given the best of her support because she didn't let him have his favourite food, hahaha. "I had to take this character as a challenge. The director also wants me to look like it, so I did it," he added.

Sri Murali entered the Kannada film industry nearly 21 years ago and has done 21 films. However, this is for the first time that his film is going to release in Telugu. "It is the production call. I have done a good movie and now I am a bit nervous. I just want good things to happen. I can't do some rubbish projects and scripts just to make money, I can't do that. I have good love and respect in Karnataka and I always surrender to my state. But now it's a different attempt and I am coming to other states. I don't know how people will look at me, but we have done a good project. My request is to come with a plank mind and don't expect anything. I am a new born actor entered into the industry," said the actor about his film releasing across the states.

Talking about his association with Prashanth Neel professionally, Prashanth's debut film *Ugram*, where Sri Murali played the lead actor, was a hit in Kannada. "I always trusted Prashanth very much and he was also closely connected to me. Compared to Ugram and Bagheera both are differ-

Kannada actor Sri Murali is expanding into different languages with his new movie Bagheera, which has his brother-inlaw Prashanth Neel providing the story. **Ahead of the** release, he shares more insights about the film

ent genres and the characterisation is also totally different," he said. He added that after coming out of the theater watching this film, everyone wanted to be like a Bagheera.

The actor got injured while shooting for this film. "I don't want to talk about my injuries, because every actor

faces these kind of injuries, so I want to talk about my film. Because it is over and I don't want to discuss those past things," said Sri Murali.

Sri Murali said that there is no reference for this film, because it's a vigilante film. "The concept is the same for every film which is good over evil,

but the narration is different and how the director executed it. We can't compare films as this is a different format. But about the mask for my role, we took reference from Batman," he said.

Prakash Raj is playing an important role in this film and Sri Murali says working with him is a good experience. "I am a fan of Prakash Raj and I have seen all his films. It's wonderful work with him and he is like mercury where he fits into the roles. I want to learn everyday and again with Prakash Raj garu I picked up and learnt a lot," said Murali. Talking about his co-star Rukini Vasanth, he says, "She is a very good and dedicated actress. She is a natural actor."

There are some reports that Prashanth Neel just remade *Ugram* as *Salaar* with Prabhas. "Both are different and Prabhas garu has done fabulous work in Salaar, which is a much larger than life project. I like *Salaar* in my own way," he said. He talks very highly about Prashanth Neel and said, "He changes the format lookout of the Kannada industry."

Talking about his journey till now,

he said he made a few mistakes. "Here and there small mistakes are done and corrected. I want to do better movies and a better actor. My first film ran for two years and the second film won Best Actor for me and I have seen a lot of bad days. At that time, *Ugram* gave me rebirth and I never look back from him as all my films were successful," he said. He added that he is taking a longer time to do a film because only six films have been released in the last ten years. "I don't know why the delay in my films, this Bagheera, took nearly three vears because of my injury. I have to recover from it and it took a little bit of time," he said.

Mandanna is playing the

ing it.

female lead and Mythri

Movie Makers is prod

SS Rajamouli up-skills in AI for next big project

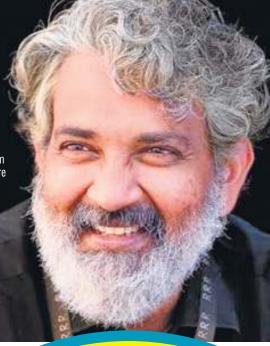
languages.

op director SS Rajamouli is now gearing up for his next project with Superstar Mahesh Babu. The film's pre-production work is still going on and according to the writer Vijayendra Prasad, the shooting starts in January next year.

Rajamouli's earlier film RRR was a big hit and the director used many animals in that film in a couple of scenes. Talking about the animals at a summit, the director gives a hint about using animals in his upcoming films. "I love animals and I used many in my earlier films and I want to use more animals in my upcoming films also," he said. With this, people assume that he may use animals in his upcoming film with Mahesh Babu also. The film is an adventurous one that travels to Amazon forests, which is like that of an Indiana Jones films.

According to the reports, Rajamouli wants to use artificial intelligence (AI) in this film. "For that, he along with some of his team members are taking classes on AI," said the

reports. The director is also in collaboration with a Hollywood studio for the graphics and visuals part of his upcoming film with Mahesh Babu.
There are also reports that Rajamouli wanted to make this film in two parts. "Like his earlier Baahubali, Rajamouli wanted to do a two-part film with Mahesh Babu," said the reports. Though there is no official word about the film, there are huge star cast in this film that include from Hollywood also. The budget of this film is also nearly Rs 1,000 crore, according to reports. KL Narayana is producing this film and it may release in foreign languages apart from Indian



RAM CHARAN IS

elugu actor Ram Charan is the latest celebrity to join the prestigious line-up of superstars at Madame Tussauds Singapore with a wax figure. Earlier few South Indian actors wax statues at Madame Tussauds Singapore. The first one is Prabhas where his wax statue from *Baahubali* film looks featured at Madame Tussauds, Singapore. The next one is Superstar Mahesh Babu and his wax statue was unveiled in Hyderabad first and later put it in Singapore. Sridevi and Kajal Aggarwal wax statues were also unveiled at Madame Tussauds.

Now, Ram Charan is also joining the list, with his wax-statue coming up in 2025. Ram Charan was presented the 'Madame Tussauds of the Future Award' at the star-studded 2024 International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards at Etihad Arena, Abu Dhabi. "It's great to be a part of Madame Tussaud Mongarde others who have con-Abu Dhabi. "It's great to be a part of Madame Tussauds alongside others who have contributed so much to cinema. As a kid, when I visited Madame Tussauds to see the legends and take pictures with them, I never imagined I would one day be part of it so early in my career. I thank Madame Tussauds for acknowledging my work and motivating me to do better," said Ram Charan.

His pet, Rhyme, will be included as part of his upcoming figure, making him the only celebrity, apart from Queen Elizabeth II, to have a pet featured. "I'm really touched that the Madame Tussauds team included my darling pet Rhyme with my figure. This means a lot to me. This one is special," said Ram Charan.

IIFA and Madame Tussauds Singapore have been collaborating since 2017.

IIFA and Madame Tussauds Singapore have been collaborating since 2017 when the IIFA Awards Experience was launched exclusively at the Singapore

attraction. This collaboration serves to bring together a celebration of Indian cinema on a global stage. Since then, many icons of Indian cinema have launched there, with Ram Charan being next in line in Madame Tussauds Singapore. Another South Indian actor Allu Arjun wax statue was also released, but it was at Madame Tussauds, Dubai.

r o d u c e r Seven Hills Satish

announced on Tuesday that he is releasing two of his films simultaneously. The first one is Coffee With A Killer directed by popular music director RP Patnaik. He directed earlier films and after a long gap, he is directing this film. Satish said that the Telugu audience always encouraged content based films.

"I produced earlier *Battala Ramaswamy* Biopic and Andari Bandhuvaya which gave me good success. Even the first one generated good revenue for me at the Covid

time," said Satish. The second film Solo Boy is directed by Naveen Kumar and the lead actor is Gautam Krishna. "Now, the actor is in Bigg Boss and once he comes out of it, we will start promotions and announce the release date," said Satish. Swetha Avasti and Ramya Pasupuleti are playing the female leads opposite Gautam Krishna in this Solo Boy film.

The producer said that he is introducing Naveen as director with this *Solo Boy* film. Both these films are completed and ready to hit the screens soon. "I am planning to release these two films simultaneously in December," said Satish. The producer celebrated his birthday on Tuesday.

Shraddha Kapoor to add glamour to Pushpa 2 with special song

llu Ariun and director Sukumar comit was Allu Arjun and Sukumar's idea to rope in Shraddha Kapoor for this song.
Shraddha has been one of the most popubination, much-awaited film Pushpa 2 Ais all set to hit the screens on December 6. The first part Pushpa was a lar actresses in India. Her latest film Stree 2 blockbuster film and more than that was Oo was a super hit. The makers have also paid a antava, which had Samantha grooving alongside Allu Arjun and music provided bomb to Shraddha for doing this special song, added the source. Rashmika by Devi Sri Prasad. Now, everyone is curious who the female actress playing in the special song in this

Pushpa 2. According to the source, Bollywood actress Shraddha Kapoor is confirmed to be a part of this special song. "When the producers met

her and asked her for this special song, she was very excited and ready to do the song," said a unit source. The shooting of this song has been







NO POINT SUGARCOATING, THERE'S FIGHT FOR A SPOT BETWEEN RAHUL AND SARFARAZ: TEN DOESCHATE

ndia assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate said on Tuesday that middle-order batters KL Rahul and Sarfaraz Khan are locked in a selection battle for the second Test against New Zealand here even though head coach Gautam Gambhir is keen to give the former,

With India looking to bounce back from the eight-wicket thrashing at Bengaluru in the opening Test, focus will be on the team combination with Washington Sundar being added to the squad. Shubman Gill and Rishabh Pant are both aiming to

and Rishabh Pant are both aiming to shake off injury concerns for the match starting Thursday. "Yeah, there's no point in sugarcoating it, there's a fight for a spot," ten Doeschate told the media when asked if Rahul and Sarfaraz were battling for a place in the team, here at the MCA Stadium ahead of India's training session.

"Sarfaraz was obviously brilliant in the last Test. I went to KL after the last Test (and) said how many balls do you play at (and) miss at? He didn't play at (and) miss at one ball and that's what tends to happen when you're not getting runs.

"There's certainly no concerns about KL, he's batting nicely, he's in a good mental space. But we are certainly



going to have to fit seven pieces into six spots for this Test and look at the pitch now and decide what's going to he's keen to give him (Rahul) as a close to attaining their full be best for the team," he said.
Sarfaraz scored a second-innings

150 in the Bengaluru game, while Rahul remained off-colour in both

While admitting that it is difficult to keep Rahul out of the equation in the Test format, ten Doeschate said head coach Gautam Gambhir is "keen to" give him a long rope.
"It's not like we're worried about his

much rope as we can. We have a lot of faith in him," he said.

"But at the same time, it's a very competitive environment, with Sarfaraz getting 150 plus runs (222 not out) in the Irani Trophy final. The decision will be what's best for the team, but we'll certainly back all the guys in," he added.

Pant, who did not keep wickets for a

fitness. "Rishabh is pretty good. I think Rohit (Sharmna) touched on it the other day. He was having a little bit of discomfort at the end range of his movement with the knee. But fingers crossed, he'll be good to keep in the Test as well," he said.

"He (Gill) looks so (available for this Test). He has batted last week in significant part of the opening Test, Bangalore, he had a few nets, he's got

a little bit of discomfort, but I think he'll be good to go for the Test," he

Ten Doeschate said the addition of Washington Sundar is "no desperate measure" but to add a bowling option who would take the ball away from the Kiwis left-handers.

"Definitely not. They (New Zealand) are filled with four left-handers in the XI. We've had Washy around the white-ball squad for a while and we like the way he operates. It's also nice to see that guys are getting rewarded for Ranji Trophy performance as

"We just want to make sure we're absolutely prepared for conditions here and if that does mean taking the ball away from the left-hander, we want that option," he added. Ten Doeschate said Mohammed

Siraj could be going through a "wicket-drought" but there was nothing to suggest that he was struggling for rhythm.

"Siraj bowled beautifully in the second innings. That hour of Test match cricket on the last morning was really high quality," he said.
"It maybe wasn't a nicking wicket, which is obviously his big strength,

particularly to left-handers when he moves the ball across. There's nothing there to say like he's not bowling well or his rhythm is not

"Alongside trying to win the series, the tour will serve as

important preparation for next year's ODI World Cup

New Zealand won the

Women's T20 World Cup in

Dubai with a 32-run win

"It's been an amazing 24 hours for this group becoming T20 World Cup champions," said Sawyer.
"We're relishing the win but when we get to India we'll

when we get to India we'll need to refocus and set our sights on the next

New Zealand Women's ODI

over South Africa.

in India."



Cook backs Root to surpass Sachin Tendulkar as leading run-getter in Test cricket

Former England captain Alastair Cook feels Joe Root has the potential to surpass the legendary Sachin Tendulkar as the leading rungetter in Test cricket thanks to his insatiable hunger and incredible talent.

33-year-old Root currently has 12716 Test runs and is 3205 short of the Indian icon (15921).

Indian icon (15921).
Root occupies the fifth spot in the leading run-getter's chart at the moment with Rahul Dravid (13,288), Jacques Kallis (13,289) and Ricky Ponting (13,378) and Tendulkar ahead of him.
"I think Joe Root could set a mark certainly on an English

mark, certainly on an English side, that'll be very hard to side, that'll be very maru to beat. But, you just never know," Cook was quoted as saying by the ICC. "I hope he can get very close,

if not be the first person who scores 16,000 Test runs. It'd be a great achievement."

Root overtook Cook as England's leading run-scorer in the longest format during the Multan Test against Pakistan earlier this month.

Having watched his compatriot go past him to become England's most decorated batter, the 39-yearold Cook struggled to express his feelings and called up Root to congratulate him for his massive feat.

"I watched the moment, then I rang him after the end of the

Root's remarkable form over the past four years has seen him score more than half of his total 35 Test centuries in that period, averaging close to 60.

Cook believes that he is currently the best batter in the world with New Zealand's Kane Williamson coming close to matching him.

"I think at this precise moment in time, I find it hard to see anyone playing as well as Joe Root. Over the last year or so, of the so-called 'Big Four, I think Williamson and him are probably in the best form at the moment.

"They're all wonderful, wonderful players, all very different, actually, in their methods and ways of playing. But one thing, which kind of unites them is that hunger and desire to keep improving and keep churning out the runs," Cook said.

Root will look to continue to amass big scores and add to his tally during the third Test against Pakistan in Rawalpindi, beginning on Thursday.

Moving to another topic, Cook has expressed his support for England's 'Bazball' style of play in Test cricket.

"I think the game has certainly made a big jump forward in what is now deemed possible in Test cricket.

"I think the jump happened Rosemary Mair, who sustained a serious back injury earlier this year, has been rested as part of her long-term rehabilitation. Mair and off-spinner Leigh Kasperek are the only two players missing from the squad that won the T20 Suzie Bates, Eden Carson, Lauren Down, Izzy Gaze, Maddy Green, Brooke great experiences in world cricket," Sawyer said.

Suzie Bates, Eden Carson, Lauren Down, Izzy Gaze, Maddy Green, Brooke great experiences in world cricket," Sawyer said.

Fran Jonas, Jess Kerr, Melie Kerr, Molly Penfold, Georgia Plimmer, Hannah players missing from the squad: Sophie Devine (C), Suzie Bates, Eden Carson, Lauren Down, Izzy Gaze, "So, I thought I'd just ring him, see what he was up to, and make sure he had a beer in his hand, which I think he did."

Suzie Bates, Eden Carson, Play. I couldn't think of the right words to write in a text message," Coon said.

Fran Jonas, Jess Kerr, Melie Kerr, Molly Penfold, Georgia Plimmer, Hannah Rowe, Lea Tahuhu.

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We're here to make amends: Cummins

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Australian skipper Pat Cummins is determined to "make amends" against India in the upcoming fivematch Test series, as he aims to reclaim the Border-Gavaskar Trophy for the first time in over a décade.

The two teams will face off in a five-match series starting November 22 in Perth. India will come into the contest with the Border-Gavaskar Trophy firmly in their grasp, having held it for nearly a decade and winning two consecutive series in Australia. "We've had a bit of a break, so I'm excited for the five match Test series. Excited to get into it," the 31-year-old said in Star Sports' Press Room."We haven't had a lot of luck against India over the last few Test series, but we always pride ourselves on playing

Inglis earns maiden call-up as NZ name squad for Women's ODI series against India

Wicketkeeper-batter Polly Inglis earned her maiden call-up as recently-crowned Women's T20 World champions New Zealand announced their 15-member squad for the 15-member squad for the upcoming three-match ODI series against India, beginning in Ahmedabad on Thursday.

Inglis, 28, was rewarded for consistent performances with both bat and gloves for Otago Sparks in the

Otago Sparks in the women's Super Smash and New Zealand A, leading to her first New Zealand Cricket central contract in Iune.

'We're really excited to introduce Polly for her first tour," Head coach Ben Sawyer said in a statement. She nut her hand up in las season's Johnstone Shield one-day following a maternity break.



competition and throughout the New Zealand A series against England, so it's a great next step for her." Lauren Down also returns

to the squad after resuming Hallyburton international cricket in July

squad: Sophie Devine (C),

challenge."

Williamson ruled out of 2nd Test against India

PTI ■ PUNE

Senior New Zealand batter Kane Williamson will not be available for the second Test against India here as his rehabilitation from a groin strain is still not complete, the country's cricket board announced on Tuesday.

New Zealand lead the three-match series 1-0 after winning the first game by eight wickets in Bengaluru. The second match will start here on Thursday. Williamson, who is yet to join the squad here, suffered the

injury during the recent Test series against Sri Lanka. Blackcaps head coach Gary Stead said Williamson was not yet ready even though he improvement over



has made significant progress. "We're monitoring Kane and he's tracking in the right direction, but isn't yet 100 per cent fit," said Stead in a statement issued by New Zealand Cricket (NZĆ). "We're hopeful to see further

coming days and have him available for the third Test. "We'll give him as much time as possible to get himself ready, but certainly continue to take a cautious approach," he added.

The third Test is scheduled in Mumbai from November 1.

Shaw left out of Mumbai squad for next Ranji Trophy clash due to fitness and disciplinary issues

PTI MUMBAI

 T^{op} order batter Prithvi Shaw has been left out of the Mumbai squad for their next Ranji Trophy match against Tripura owing to fitness and

disciplinary issues.
The match is scheduled to be played in Agartala from October 26 to 29. The right-handed opening batter, who has played five Tests, six ODIs and one T20I for India, seems to have run into trouble.

It is reliably learnt that the 24-year-old does not regularly attend the team's training sessions and has also appeared a "little overweight". "You have to look at his fitness and his

MCA has a rich history and there

Cricket Association told PTI. Shaw's form has been a concern given running when he is on the field. The that he has scores of 7, 12, 1 and 39 not out in the two rounds of Ranji Trophy. cannot be exceptions for a certain The decision to drop him has been

player," an official from Mumbai taken by the Mumbai senior men's selection panel owing to his fitness and "general conduct".

The Mumbai selectors have named 29-year-old left-handed opening Akhil

replacement. Herwadkar has played 41 first-class matches and averages 36.51 with seven centuries and 10

fifties. Also, middle-order mainstay and India's T20I skipper Suryakumar Yadav has been rested from the Mumbai squad. Suryakumar scored seven in his only outing for Mumbai in their nine-wicket win over Maharashtra. Mumbai squad:

Ajinkya Rahane (c), Ayush Mhatre, Angkrish Raghuvanshi, Akhil Herwadkar, Shreyas Iyer, Siddhesh Lad, Suryansh Shedge, Hardik Tamore (wk), Sidhaant Addhatrao (wk), Shams Mulani, Karsh Kothari, Himanshu Singh, Shardul Thakur, Mohit Avasthi, Juned Khan, Royston

MI, KKR among five IPL franchises bidding for teams in The Hundred: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $M_{ ext{Kolkata}}^{ ext{umbai}}$ Indians, Sunrisers Hyderabad and Lucknow Super Giants are among the IPL franchises who have submitted bids to acquire teams in the English Cricket Board-run The Hundred, according to a report.

a report.

The GMR Group, recently named the new owner of Hampshire, and Avram Glazer, co-owner of Manchester United Football Club, also submitted bids before the ECB's October 18 deadline for potential investors, reported ESPNCricinfo.

The ECB has invited bids for a 49 per cent stake in each of the eight franchises, with the board retaining majority control.

which will then come down to two teams of which they would need to make their final choice."

The ECB is aiming to deliberate approach to avoid "underselling what it believes is a valuable product".

ECB chairman Richard Thompson has also mentioned the possibility of a "hybrid" ownership model, where some teams

could be for all eight teams, which would be culled to four in the next step which Knight will start in November Riders, Rajasthan Royals, when the investors get to Sunrisers Hyderabad and meet the host counties of each Hundred franchise,'

stated the report.
"Following that, investors would need to prune their wishlist to four teams, as part of the second stage, which will then come down

retaining majority control. model, where some teams "Expressions of interest remain under ECB control



while others are sold to

while others are sold to private investors.

The report further says while several IPL franchises showed early interest, not all followed through with bids.

"Punjab Kings opted out, while there has been no confirmation on whether five-times IPL champions five-times IPL champions Chennai Super Kings and equity major CVC Capital Partners, which owns Gujarat Titans, have submitted bids," it added. "Global sports investors INEOS, owned by Jim Ratcliffe, which owns a 27% stake in Manchester United and run the football club's operations wing, have also opted out of

bidding."

One of the main concerns for IPL franchises was whether they would be being passive "happy