

the pioneer

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QUOTE OF THE DAY
The pioneer

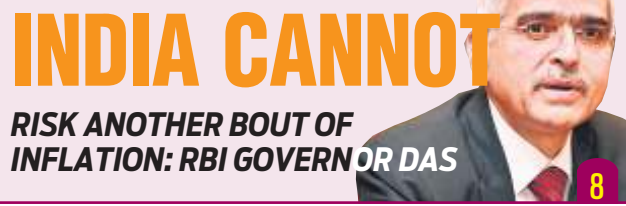
"Perhaps KTR thinks of himself as innocent. The public knows about his deeds. They are aware of what happened in the phone-tapping and drugs cases, and how those cases were weakened. Until now, I have responded word for word. I will respond to legal notices with legal notices only. We respect the law and justice, and we will proceed according to them"

- Bandi Sanjay, Union Minister

P2



Modi, Jinping endorse agreement



INDIA CANNOT RISK ANOTHER BOUT OF INFLATION: RBI GOVERNOR DAS



'Small-scale films deserve more support from INDUSTRY'

DON'T MISS...

Thermo Fisher Scientific signs ...

Highlighting that a Bioprocess Design Centre (BDC) will be established in Hyderabad's Genome Valley, Minister for IT and Industries D Sridhar Babu announced that Fortune 500 company Thermo Fisher Scientific, headquartered in Boston, USA, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Telangana government at the Minister's office in the State Secretariat on Wednesday. Sridhar Babu shared that the design centre, spread across 10,000 square feet, is expected to be fully operational ...

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Police Inspector booked under ...

An Inspector of Police in Warangal Police Commissionerate was booked under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POSCO) Act for allegedly attempted sexual assault on a minor girl. A case was booked against the Inspector based on the complaint filed by a 16-year-old girl. The police officer was working as an inspector in Bhalupally Cybercrime. He is identified as Ravikumar. The accused misbehaved with the victim girl on March 21, according ...

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Entertainment industry lost...

The Indian entertainment industry suffered a staggering loss of Rs 22,400 crore in 2023 due to piracy, according to a report released on Wednesday, that advocated for stronger regulations and collaborative efforts to effectively mitigate piracy risks. According to 'The Rob Report' by EY and the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), 51 per cent of media consumers in India access content from pirated sources, with streaming services being the most significant contributor at...

-PAGE: 8

India eye right selection calls to...

Jolted by an unexpected loss on home turf, star-heavy India will look for right balance in the line-up to counter-attack against a spunky New Zealand in the crucial second Test beginning here on Thursday. After being shot out for an embarrassing 46 in the first innings at Bengaluru, India's resolute show in the second innings could not prevent an eight-wicket pounding which saw the top-ranked team in the World Test Championship table dropping points even though it continues to hold the top spot...

-SPORTS

'We respect MLAs who switched to Cong'

Jeevan Reddy's comments his personal: TPCC chief Mahesh

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Responding to Congress MLC T Jeevan Reddy's suggestion that the party should suspend the MLAs who had switched to the Congress party from Bharat Rashtira Samithi party, TPCC chief B Mahesh Kumar Goud made it clear that there is in fact a need to respect such MLAs. He termed Jeevan Reddy's comments as 'personal'.

Speaking to media persons at the Gandhi Bhavan on Wednesday, Mahesh Kumar Goud said that the party had inducted BRS MLAs only after discussions and thinking about all implications. The party would not leave alone a single party activist and a special mechanism had been prepared for the same. He said that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and he were moving forward carefully in this regard. Mahesh Kumar Goud pointed

out that some of the other parties' MLAs had extended their support when some stated that they would dethrone the Congress government. It was a fact that some senior leaders were facing troubles here and there due to the MLAs who had switched sides, Mahesh Kumar Goud conceded.

Countering BJP MP Eatala Rajender's comment that the Congress was intentionally creating communal riots to dethrone Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, Mahesh Kumar Goud said that Revanth Reddy had full support in the party. Mahesh Kumar Goud remarked: "Who is Eatala Rajender to say that the Congress party is creating communal riots to dethrone CM Revanth Reddy? There is no problem with the law and order situation in the state and there was no place for murder politics in Telangana. No party should encourage murder politics".

Continued on Page 5

Suspend BRS MLAs who joined Cong: Jeevan

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'MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION FAILURES' Kaleshwaram Commission grills ENC

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Justice P C Ghose Commission resumed its inquiry into the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP), focusing on the operational and maintenance failures in key structures such as the Medigadda barrage.

On Wednesday, Operation and Maintenance ENC Nagender appeared before the Commission and faced a barrage of questions regarding lapses in following protocols during the construction and certification phases of the project.

Nagender revealed to the Commission that certification of the completion of the Medigadda barrage was not done as per the guidelines, raising concerns about the quality of the works executed under the supervision of the Ramagundam ENC. The Commission, in response, grilled

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'Political bombs' in the offing: Ponguleti

- Action against culprits in Kaleshwaram, phone tapping, Dharani portal and other scams
- Files are ready with all evidence

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Revenue, Housing and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy has revealed that 'political bombs' would be dropped in one or two days and there will be actions against the leaders involved in Kaleshwaram, phone tapping, Dharani Portal and other



scams. The related files 'with all evidence' were ready, he observed, while speaking to the media at Seoul on Wednesday.

Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said that the action against errant lead-

ers would be based on 8 to 10 issues, including phone tapping, Kaleshwaram project and Dharani portal irregularities. Action might start before his return to Hyderabad from Seoul, he indicated.

Srinivas Reddy said, "The action will be not on the basis of vengeance but with full evidence and the government will not let go of them; they may be big leaders". He said that they would not initiate steps in a hurry.

The Revenue Minister said that the probe in the Kaleshwaram project scam was almost over while those on phone tapping and Dharani portal issues were on track.

MURDER OF JEEVAN'S AIDE We will get whoever is behind the act: Sridhar

Terming the murder of Congress MLC T Jeevan Reddy's aide Maru Ganga Reddy as 'unfortunate', IT Minister D Sridhar Babu has said that the investigating authorities would not let go of whoever is

behind the murder. He said that he had already directed the Director-General of Police and district Superintendent of Police to conduct the investigation and do justice to the family.

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'Priyanka's voice will resonate with people's aspirations'

Revanth joins Priyanka for nomination process in Wayanad

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy participated in the nomination process of All India Congress Committee leader Priyanka Gandhi as she filed her papers for the Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency in Kerala.

During the event, Revanth expressed his support for Priyanka, stating, "I wholeheartedly wish Priyanka Gandhiji all the very best as she files her nomination for Wayanad. I am sure her powerful voice will resonate with

people's aspirations in Parliament."

Revanth's visit also included meetings with AICC leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, and AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, marking a significant interaction with the Congress's brass.

Additionally, Revanth met Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at Mysuru Airport. Siddaramaiah took to social media to express the positive exchange, stating, "Had the pleasure of meeting

Telangana

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B.Tech Engineering College at Marredpally okayed

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a notable move, Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has given his approval for the establishment of Marredpally B.Tech Engineering College. The decision, aimed at enhancing educational infrastructure in the State, was discussed during a meeting held at the Secretariat on October 22.

The meeting was attended by Burra Venkatesham, Principal Secretary to the Government, and MLA Sriganesh, who highlighted the proposal to set up

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Malaysia looking to buy broken rice from TG

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Malaysian authorities have informed Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao that they would consider buying broken rice from Telangana.

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, Secretary of Agriculture Raghunandan Rao, Director, Horticulture and MD Oil Fed Yasmin Basha and their team went to Malaysia for discussions on oil palm expansion opportunities as well as management of processing plants, technical procedures followed in cultivation, oil palm products.

As part of the visit, the Agriculture Minister later met with Malaysia's trade promotion agency MATRADE Chairman Dato' Seri Rijal Merican to discuss agricultural business opportunities with Malaysia. On this occasion, the Chairman of MATRADE said that his country attached great importance to the development of business with India, not only in terms of business, but also socially and historically. He informed the team that there was a high demand for broken rice in his country. The TG Minister then offered to look into the possibilities of supplying broken rice from Telangana state.

Immediately, the Ministers contacted HACA MD Chandrasekhar Reddy on telephone asked him to look into the economics related to the export of broken rice from TG and to see if it could fetch additional benefits to TG's rice farmers. The HACA MD was asked to be ready to export broken rice by the next monsoon and make appropriate arrangements for it.

As part of this, on Wednesday, the Telangana team met Minister of Plantation and Commodities of Malaysia Johari Abdul Ghani. Speaking on this occasion, Telangana Minister Tummala explained the incentives provided by the Telangana government for oil palm cultivation, the current situation, and the opportunities for the development of oil palm industry in the coming

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Govt lifts curb on non-basmati white rice exports, removes floor price

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KTR testifies in suit against Surekha

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a defamation case filed against Telangana Minister Konda Surekha for her controversial remarks, KT Rama Rao, working president of the Bharat Rashtira Samithi, provided his testimony at the Nampally Court, asserting that Konda Surekha's statements in question caused significant damage to both his reputation and that of the party.

KTR expressed his deep distress, stating, "Some of the words she used were extremely painful, and I find it difficult to even repeat them." He further mentioned that Surekha falsely accused him of being a drug



addict and organizing rave parties, allegations he claims were made solely for publicity purposes.

The Court also recorded the statement of Dasoji Sravan, a key witness in the case, along with that of KTR.

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Report on grain procurement ready: Uttam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Civil Supplies Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy said that the report on grain procurement is ready. A ministerial sub-committee will hand it over to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Thursday and the decision would be approved in the Cabinet meeting to be held on October 26, Uttam said.

The Cabinet sub-committee conducted a review with joint Nizamabad public representatives in Civil Supplies Bhavan. The Ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy,

Duddilla Sridhar Babu and Government Whip Adhuri Laxman Kumar, Government Advisors Pocharam Srinivasa Reddy, Mohammed Ali Shabbir, PCC president and MLC Maheshkumar Goud and others participated in it.

Speaking on this occasion, Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy disclosed the details saying that the final report with the recommendations made by the ministerial sub-committee would be handed over to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Thursday.

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'TG welcomed Adani even during BRS'

NAVEENA GHANATE naveena.ghanate@gmail.com ■ HYDERABAD

Amid mounting political criticism over Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's engagement with the Adani Group, specifically Gautam Adani; the Telangana government has begun reviewing those projects that were started or completed by the group during the BRS regime.

Despite BRS leaders' fierce attacks on Revanth Reddy over Adani's influence, sources said it was clear that Adani's presence in Telangana was neither new nor insignificant. Sources said, "Now people are protesting in Rammanapet regarding Adani-Ambuja Cement Factory, but the project was facilitated in BRS regime itself. Adani was present here and it is not that the Congress government is opening the gates".



"Now people are protesting in Rammanapet regarding Adani-Ambuja Cement Factory, but the project was facilitated in BRS regime itself. Adani was present here and it is not that the Congress government is opening the gates".

Other key infrastructure projects, such as the Data Center at Elikatta, a 750 kV Transmission Line, and the Adani Elbit Systems Defence Unit at Mamidipally were also executed

during the tenure of the BRS government. It was inaugurated in 2018 and in presence of then Home Minister. Sources observed: "These projects underscore Adani's growing footprint in the state during BRS's time in power, contradicting claims that

the group's presence is a recent development solely due to Revanth Reddy's government".

In fact, BRS has consistently used every meeting involving Adani to criticize the Congress, alleging cronyism and capitalizing on the controversy surrounding the conglomerate. However, Revanth Reddy has remained firm in defending his government's stance. He stated that his government sought investments from corporations like Adani but had drawn a clear line against crony capitalism. "There is a difference between capitalism and crony capitalism," sources said, clarifying that the Congress government welcomed investment without compromising the state's interests or favoring corporate groups at the expense of the public.

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'We support dialogue not war'

PM Modi at BRICS Summit

PNS ■ KAZAN

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday renewed his call for dialogue and diplomacy as being the only way forward to resolve conflicts, in an unambiguous message to press for the resolution of the Russia-Ukraine war through peaceful negotiations.

In his address at the 16th BRICS Summit, Modi said the grouping must give the world a message that it is not a divisive organisation, but one that works in the interest of humanity.

The prime minister also flagged concerns over pressing challenges such as wars, economic uncertain-

ty, climate change and terrorism and said the BRICS can play a positive role to take the world in the right path.

"I believe that as a diverse and inclusive platform, BRICS can play a positive role in all areas," he said.

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'Example for many BRICS countries' Putin on India's economic growth

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday lauded India's economic growth, saying the country serves as an example for many BRICS nations.

Putin made the remarks in his address at the 16th BRICS Summit in the Russian

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AP unlocking 15% growth via wealth creation and investor trust

Andhra Pradesh, riding a colossal wave of transformation, is on the cusp of an economic explosion that promises to reshape its destiny. Historically overshadowed in terms of development, the state is now making headlines with its meteoric rise in economic indicators, signalling a new era of wealth creation and innovation. With a projected Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) growth rate of 17% for 2023-24, following an already robust 16.22% increase in the previous year, Andhra Pradesh's trajectory shows that it is not just catching up, but sprinting ahead.

The economic scale of Andhra Pradesh is staggering. The GSDP for 2023-24 is estimated at Rs 15.40 lakh crore (approximately US\$185 billion), a figure that puts the state in the upper bracket of India's economic performers. The state's per capita income, now at Rs 2.19 lakh-a remarkable 14% jump from that registered last year-paints a picture of increasing prosperity.

Yet, the state's financial landscape is not without its complexities. With a per capita debt of Rs 92,797 as of FY 2021-22, fiscal discipline will be essential moving forward. However, Andhra Pradesh's financial health remains strong. Tax revenues surged from Rs 57,427 crore in 2020-21 to Rs 84,389 crore in 2022-23, and non-tax revenues nearly doubled to Rs 6,511 crore, indicating the state's expanding revenue base.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) plays a crucial role in this growth story. Between October 2019 and March 2024, Andhra Pradesh attracted US\$ 888.13 million in FDI, reflecting its increasing appeal to global investors. Its global trade footprint is equally impressive, with merchandise exports reaching US\$19.76 billion in FY24, underscoring the state's growing role in international markets.

Agriculture remains the backbone of Andhra Pradesh's

The leadership in Andhra Pradesh is keen to maintain this rapid pace of development, setting an ambitious annual growth target of 15%. Under the forward-thinking leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, the state has focused on policy innovation and public-private partnerships (PPPs). These partnerships have become central to the state's development strategy, enabling it to harness the strengths of both the public and private sectors



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

economy, employing 62% of its population. High productivity and a focus on high-yield crops such as oilseeds and rice have contributed to the sector's resilience. With abundant water from the Godavari and Krishna rivers, the state's agriculture sector expanded by 4.54% in FY 2022-23.

Innovation in fisheries is propelling Andhra Pradesh to new heights, as the state

leads India in shrimp production, accounting for 70% of the nation's output. With output rising from Rs 3.46 billion to Rs 5.61 billion, the fisheries sector is becoming a significant driver of growth, aided by advanced farming techniques and government initiatives.

Likewise, the state's horticulture sector is flourishing, spanning 17.48 lakh hectares and producing over 301 lakh metric tons of goods. Andhra

Pradesh has emerged as a top producer of high-value crops such as chillies and tomatoes, bolstering its export capacity and cementing its influence in global agricultural markets.

The industrial sector is also soaring, contributing Rs 507.45 billion (US\$6.1 billion) to the economy. Andhra Pradesh is rapidly positioning itself as a leader in heavy manufacturing, IT, and

biotechnology, attracting multinational corporations to cities like Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, and Tirupati. The state's IT Electronics Policy 2021-24 is aimed at further accelerating this momentum, establishing Andhra Pradesh as a hub for electronics manufacturing. Its industrial landscape is supported by 19 operational Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and 272 industrial estates, creating a favorable environment for industries ranging from agriculture to advanced biotechnology.

The state's mineral wealth is another powerful asset. Andhra Pradesh produces 93% of India's barytes and holds vast reserves of essential minerals such as mica, coal, and asbestos. These resources are vital for the state's power generation and industrial sectors, further solidifying their role in the state's economic foundation.

The leadership in Andhra Pradesh is keen to maintain

this rapid pace of development, setting an ambitious annual growth target of 15%. Under the forward-thinking leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, the state has focused on policy innovation and public-private partnerships (PPPs). These partnerships have become central to the state's development strategy, enabling it to harness the strengths of both the public and private sectors. Through clear policies, tax incentives, and a business-friendly regulatory environment, Andhra Pradesh has become an attractive destination for both domestic and international investors.

Capacity development is also a central focus, with initiatives like the P-4 mentorship system aimed at empowering the population and setting SMART goals to ensure consistent progress. Investment in education and healthcare, viewed as essential for boosting productivity, will ensure Andhra Pradesh's

long-term economic resilience.

Infrastructure development underpins this growth. The state boasts a robust transport network, including well-maintained roads, international airports, and the strategically crucial Visakhapatnam Port. Furthermore, Andhra Pradesh's push into digital infrastructure, with IoT sensors and real-time data analysis, promises to revolutionize its agriculture, industrial, and trade sectors.

In conclusion, Andhra Pradesh is not just moving forward; it is leaping into a future brimming with potential. By nurturing a culture of innovation, attracting global investors, and focusing on sustainable growth, the state is on course to become one of India's premier economic powerhouses. The future for Andhra Pradesh is bright, as it continues to redefine its economic landscape and unlock new opportunities for wealth creation and prosperity.

Minister arranges meet with CS on Oct 26 on GO No 46

Receives 328 applications at Gandhi Bhavan face-to-face

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

IT Minister D Sridhar Babu assured candidates aspiring for police jobs that he would arrange a meeting with Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari on October 26 on GO No.46 to clarify their doubts relating to the GO.

At the 'Face-to-Face with Ministers' program held at Gandhi Bhavan on Wednesday, Sridhar Babu made enquiries



from the candidates about their concerns with regard to GO No.46. He then assured them that the government was ready

to solve their problems, if any, sincerely. He asked those having concerns over GO No.46 to attend the meeting with the Chief Secretary on October 26.

Sridhar Babu received 328 applications from the attendees, including party workers and leaders. Handicapped persons, VRAs, DSC candidates and others submitted their applications during the program.

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former minister KT Rama Rao (KTR), who is also the working president of Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS), has served a legal notice to Union Minister of State for Home Affairs and Karimnagar MP Bandi Sanjay, accusing him of making defamatory statements.

The notice, dated October 22, was issued following a press conference held by Bandi Sanjay on October 19 where he allegedly made baseless allegations against KTR and his family. The legal notice, sent through KTR's legal representative Srikanth Hariharan, highlights that during the press meet, Bandi Sanjay accused KTR of consuming drugs and being involved in a phone-tap-

ping scandal.

According to the notice, these statements were made without any evidence and were aimed at tarnishing KTR's reputation in the public domain.

The notice also emphasizes that such defamatory statements have not only damaged KTR's personal reputation but have also impacted his political image and goodwill. KTR's

legal team stressed his immense contributions as a leader in Telangana, particularly in urban development, information technology, and attracting foreign investments to the

DEFAMATORY REMARKS

KTR issues legal notice to Bandi

Will reply to notice, says Bandi

Making it clear that he will not fear BRS working president KT Rama Rao's notices, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay alleged that KTR answered with notices to his criticism. Bandi Sanjay made it clear that he will also serve notices to KTR.

Bandi Sanjay said, "I will not be afraid of sounds of toddy leaves. KTR, get ready to receive my notices also.

Are you thinking as a sincere Suddapusa? I replied to you in the same manner for speaking against me in an insulting manner. Tit for tat and I will answer with notices to your notices."

The Union Minister said that he saw in the media that KTR served legal notices to him. Nobody is here to fear the legal notices of KTR. He said that KTR has no guts to face him politically and hence

served legal notices. It is a pity on the part of KTR, he

ridiculed. Bandi Sanjay said that KTR is the person who first made allegations personally in an insulting manner. "I spoke in response to KTR's personal criticism. People know very well about KTR's history. Everybody knows as to how water-downed the cases in connection with phone tapping and drugs are," Bandi Sanjay said.

'Looting is BRS party's character'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Alleging that looting is a BRS party's character, Nakkeral MLA Vemula Veeresham alleged that the BRS is the main enemy of the erstwhile Nalgonda district. Veeresham alleged that the BRS did not complete a single project in Nalgonda district. BRS party is a 'curse' and 'shani' to Nalgonda dist, he slammed.

Speaking to the media at CLP Media Hall on Wednesday along with Bhongir MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy, he said that Nalgonda people have good days with Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. However, BRS

leaders are creating a furore when the Chief Minister is trying to clean the Musi stink. Veeresham questioned former Minister G Jagdeesh Reddy to tell whether drinking water and irrigation water to Suryapet are from Musi or not? People are suffering various ills due to polluted Musi water. People should consider the BRS leaders' fake movements, he said.

Demanding BRS working president KT Rama Rao to tell as to what to do with the Musi oustage, Veeresham said that the BRS will remain anti-Hyderabad, anti-Rangareddy and anti-Nalgonda party.

'Suspend BRS MLAs who joined Cong'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Congress MLC T Jeevan Reddy demanded the Congress party to suspend the BRS MLAs who joined the Congress. Jeevan Reddy said that the Congress party policies are against the party defections.

Speaking to the media on Wednesday, Jeevan Reddy said that he has been telling from the beginning that encouraging defections is not good. He made it clear that his stand on defections will

not change. He said that his 40 years experience in the Congress party has become a question mark now.

"I have been facing insults for the last four months. My condition has reached a state that I have to tell others that I am also a Congress leader. There is a law that party defectors will be subjected to suspension. The Congress party has enough majority even if MIM's support and BRS MLAs who joined Congress are kept aside", Jeevan Reddy said.

Harish condemns Cong govt for suspending 163 AEOs

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former minister T Harish Rao has expressed strong condemnation against the Congress government in Telangana for suspending 163 Agricultural Extension Officers (AEOs) over issues related to a digital survey.

In a statement released on October 23, Harish Rao criticised the government's decision, describing it as an unjust burden on the AEOs, who have played a critical role in

Telangana's agricultural development. While other states such as Maharashtra, Odisha and Karnataka have outsourced digital survey duties to private companies, Telangana's Congress government has chosen to delegate this task to AEOs, according to Harish Rao.

He called the move both unfair and oppressive, stating that the additional duties imposed on the officers have led to their undue harassment

and eventual suspension. Harish Rao highlighted the pivotal role played by AEOs in transforming Telangana into a leading food provider for the country. "The creation of 1,500 new AEO posts was part of the state's vision to expand agricultural activity and boost cultivation growth. These officers have contributed immensely to Telangana's progress, and it is deeply regrettable that the government is treating them so harshly," he said.

'Didn't reveal Parl panel proceedings

Only spoke on 'violent' incident at meeting, says Jagdambika

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/LUCKNOW

Jagdambika Pal, who heads the parliamentary panel on Waqf bill, on Wednesday rejected the opposition's allegations that he violated norms by going public about TMC

MP Kalyan Banerjee smashing a glass bottle and hurling it at the chair during a meeting of the panel.

He also asserted he was ready to resign if opposition members say he did not allow them to speak at the meeting.

"I have not revealed any proceedings or deliberations of the committee. I have only made a statement about an incident of violence during the committee meeting by a member and his subsequent suspension," Pal, a BJP MP from Uttar Pradesh, said.

Priyanka declares assets worth Rs 12 cr



PNS ■ WAYANAD (KERALA)

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi, who on Wednesday made her electoral debut by filing a nomination as a Cong candidate for Wayanad Lok Sabha bypolls, has declared assets worth over Rs 12 cr.

In her nomination paper, Priyanka also declared a total income of over Rs 46.39 lakh in the financial year 2023-2024 which includes rental income

and interest from banks and other investments.

Giving details of her assets and liabilities in the affidavit filed along with her nomination papers, Priyanka said she has movable assets of over Rs 4.24 crore that include deposits of varying amounts in three bank accounts, investments in mutual funds, PPF, a Honda CRV car gifted by her husband Robert Vadra, and over 4400 grams (gross) of gold worth Rs 1.15 cr.

Razing wall around Ambedkar statue

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee has lodged a police complaint against Bharat Rashtira Samithi leaders KT Rama Rao, Krishank, Tirupati as well as the BRS social media wing in connection with the recent demolition of a wall being constructed around the Ambedkar Statue at Tank Bund.

The TPCC SC Cell lodged the complaint with Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Mahesh Bhagawath, urging him to file a case relating to 'atrocities on SCs' against BRS working president KT

Rama Rao, Krishank, Tirupati (PA to KTR) and BRS social media wing for instigating their men to demolish the wall that was being constructed around the Ambedkar Statue.

The Congress leaders viz. Nagarigari Preetham (TPCC SC Cell chairman and TSS-CFDC chairman), Eravatri Anil (TSMDC chairman), Mettu Sai Kumar (Fisheries Corporation chairman), Konagala Mahesh (TPCC spokesperson) and others lodged the complaint, saying "We are to complain regarding the statue of Dr BR Ambedkar located at lower Tank Bund near Liberty.

ED probes IAS officer Amoy Kumar in land scam case

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has begun its questioning of IAS officer Amoy Kumar in connection with a high-profile land scam. The investigation took place on October 23, with Kumar arriving at the ED office in Hyderabad early in the morning and being interrogated for over seven hours, from 10:00 am to 5:30 pm.

Amoy Kumar, who previously served as the District Collector of Rangareddy and Medchal, is being investigated for his role in the illegal transfer of 42 acres of Bhudan land in Nagaram, Maheshwaram mandal. The lands, worth hundreds of crores, were allegedly transferred under suspicious circumstances, and Kumar's role in facilitating these transfers is being probed.

Earlier, the ED had issued notices to Amoy Kumar, calling for his cooperation in uncovering irregularities in land allotments in Rangareddy district.

The investigation continues to focus on identifying all individuals involved and the financial transactions associated with the land transfers.

Kumar's interrogation was reportedly part of a broader probe aimed at uncovering the truth behind the illegal land transfers and his potential involvement in this high-stakes case.

CYCLONE 'DANA'

NDRF positions 56 teams in 5 states

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The NDRF has deployed a total of 56 teams in five states, including Odisha and West Bengal, in view of cyclone 'Dana', which is expected to make landfall along the Odisha coast between October 24 and 25.

Mohsen Shahedi, deputy inspector general (operations) of the NDRF, told PTI that the teams are equipped with pole and tree cutters, inflatable boats, basic first-aid tools and other flood rescue equipment. "The focus areas for us, and as informed by the IMD and other agencies, are the states of Odisha and West Bengal," the officer of the federal disaster contingency force said.

A senior officer added that a total of 45 teams were sought by the states in view of the cyclone. The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has earmarked a total of 56 teams, out of which 45 are on active deployment right now.

Those in reserve will be positioned on active duty as the situation develops, he said.



There are 20 teams in Odisha, out of which one is in reserve, while of the 17 in West Bengal, 13 are in reserve. Apart from the NDRF, the respective state disaster response forces are also deployed in these areas, the second officer said. The NDRF has also

deployed nine teams each in Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand while one has been based in Chhattisgarh as these states may face heavy rains and flooding post the landfall of the cyclone in the intervening hours of Thursday and Friday.

TODAY ALMANAC

Month & Paksham: Krishna Paksha

Tithi: Ashtami: Oct 24 01:19 AM to Oct 25 01:58 AM

Navami: Oct 25 01:58 AM to Oct 26 03:23 AM

Nakshatram: Punarvasu: Oct 23 05:38 AM to Oct 24 06:15 AM

Pushya: Oct 24 06:15 AM to Oct 25 07:40 AM

Rahukalam: 1:26 PM to 2:52 PM

Yamaganadam: 6:15 AM to 7:41 AM

Variyam: 02:43 PM to 04:25 PM

Gulika: 9:07 AM to 10:34 AM

Amritakalam: 12:53 AM to 02:35 AM

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

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Partly Cloudy

Temp: 31°C

Humidity: 54%

Sunrise: 6:12 AM

Sunset: 5:48 PM

Updated: October 23, 2024 5:00 PM

CITY EVENTS

Special showcase

Latest collection, curated just for you.

Venue

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

Venue

Shilpakala Vedika November 2

Prateek Kuhad

Silhouettes 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.

Venue

Multiple venues. till 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.

Venue

Concert in Hyderabad on December 7.

Activist writes to CM about destruction of Musi river

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A member of the Climate Activists and a petitioner at the High Court, Dr Lubna Sarwath, sent a second letter on Wednesday to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy regarding Aditya Realtor's encroachments and destruction caused to the Musi river. She referred to her earlier letter on September 1, asking for the removal of encroachments from the Osman Sagar and Himayath Sagar dams downwards to restore the river.

In her recent email, she provided geo-tagged photos taken on October 22, showing no action by the authorities. She attached maps showing Aditya Constructions in the green zone based on KML data overlaid on Google Earth and NRSC maps.

Dr Lubna Sarwath restated the urgency of removing these encroachments, which harm both people and the environment. She noted that previous satellite imagery confirms the encroachments in Musi river.

City Pioneer

the pioneer

HYDERABAD THURSDAY | OCTOBER 24, 2024

03



IT Minister D Sridhar Babu discussing with the Microsoft team in his chamber at the State Secretariat on Wednesday

Microsoft team meets IT Minister about vision of AI City, Future City

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Microsoft Leadership Team met with IT and Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu on Wednesday to discuss AI City and Future City initiatives at the State Secretariat.

Sridhar Babu tweeted that he had the privilege of meeting Microsoft's leadership team, including Rajiv Kumar, president and managing director, Nitu Narula, director-chief of staff and Mythili Lanka, senior executive administrator.

The Minister highlighted Hyderabad's rise as a key innovation hub for Microsoft over the past 25 years. The city plays a crucial role in Microsoft's product development, especially in areas like CoPilot, Cloud, Security and AI. Microsoft's Hyderabad campus is the largest engineering centre outside the US, showcasing the city's tech talent.

During the discussions, Sridhar Babu shared the government's vision for AI City and Future City, focusing on sustainable growth through advanced technology. He expressed confidence about collaborating with Microsoft to help Hyderabad become a \$1 trillion economy and emphasised Hyderabad's continued leadership in technological innovation.

HYDRAA focuses on tree conservation

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a meeting held at the HYDRAA office on Wednesday, H Y D R A A Commissioner AV Ranganath addressed key issues surrounding tree conservation and safety measures in Hyderabad.

Attended by officials from GHMC, HYDRAA and the Forest department, the session focused on tree protection, especially in cases where trees pose a safety risk. Key highlights of the meeting include: Teams from GHMC, HYDRAA and the Forest department were set up to conduct a survey on the condition of trees at the field level.

Priority was given to transplantation of saplings, ensuring hazardous trees that are in danger of falling are dealt with promptly to prevent accidents.

A review of the Water, Land, and Tree Act (WALTA) was

conducted to assess its enforcement.

Emphasis was placed on ensuring a 100% survival rate for transplanted trees, highlighting the need for caution in the transplantation process. Trees that are dry and in danger of falling were identified for removal before they become hazardous.

Trees causing traffic obstructions were flagged for trimming, with focus on proper methods to avoid imbalances that could cause trees to fall. The Commissioner stressed the importance of scientific methods in pruning trees to avoid accidental damage and to ensure safety from trees that could interfere with electrical lines or cause traffic disruptions.

Officials, including Deva Devanand, Upender Reddy, and others, were present at the review meeting to discuss these vital measures.

GENOME VALLEY'S EXPANSION PROGRESSING RAPIDLY: MIN

Thermo Fisher Scientific signs MoU to set up a Bioprocess Design Centre

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Case booked against Youtubers Gangava, Raju

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A case has been filed against My Village Show YouTubers Gangava and Raju regarding a video uploaded on May 20, 2022, on their channel 'MyVillageShow'. In the video, Raju and Gangava used an Indian parakeet for astrology. The video, titled 'Gangava Chiluka Panchangam,' was reportedly filmed in Lambadipally village, Mallial mandal in Jagtial district.

Animal rights activist Adulapuram Gautham filed the complaint with the Jagtial forest department, stating that the Wildlife Protection Act was violated. He accused them of torturing the parrot for YouTube content. Gautham explained that Indian parakeets are protected under Schedule IV of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, and using them for such activities is illegal.

He sought an inquiry and the registration of a Preliminary Offence Report (POR) to ensure appropriate legal action is taken.

Highlighting that a Bioprocess Design Centre (BDC) will be established in Hyderabad's Genome Valley, Minister for IT and Industries D Sridhar Babu announced that Fortune 500 company Thermo Fisher Scientific, headquartered in Boston, USA, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Telangana government at the Minister's office in the State Secretariat on Wednesday.

Sridhar Babu shared that the design centre, spread across 10,000 square feet, is expected to be fully operational in the first quarter of 2025. The Minister emphasized that this facility will benefit the local pharma and life sciences sectors, improving their capabilities. He was pleased that a globally renowned company like Thermo Fisher chose Telangana as its base.



IT Minister D Sridhar Babu with copies of Thermo Fisher Scientific representatives along with government representatives holding the MoU at the State Secretariat on Wednesday

With 1,800 biopharma companies in the State, Telangana has become a major hub for pharmaceutical production and research. The upcoming Bioprocess

Design Centre will have state-of-the-art labs and advanced research facilities. Sridhar Babu said Telangana contributes 33% of India's pharma and life sciences

exports. The State's Skill University will also help provide the industry with skilled manpower. Dr Reddy's Laboratories is currently training 80 individuals to address the skill gap.

The Minister added that the third phase of Genome Valley's expansion is progressing rapidly, attracting more pharma and life sciences companies, and a conference on AI in Pharma is scheduled for November 18.

Sridhar Babu also highlighted Thermo Fisher's critical role during COVID-19, producing test kits and supplying chemicals for Pfizer and Moderna's vaccines.

The MoU signing was attended by Thermo Fisher Scientific representatives Fred Lowery, Daniella Crump, Tony Acciarito, Srinath Venkatesh, Sarita Rawat, along with TGIIC CEO Madhusudan and Telangana Life Sciences CEO Shakti Nagappan.

'SRDP flyover works must be completed on a war-footing'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner Ilambarithi has directed officials concerned to expedite the completion of ongoing flyover projects under the Strategic Road Development Plan (SRDP), especially those that are currently incomplete. During an inspection of multiple flyover projects on October 23, Commissioner Ilambarithi, accompanied by HMDA Commissioner Sarfaraz Ahmad, emphasized the need to complete the works swiftly to ensure smoother traffic management in key areas.

One of the major projects under focus is the Aramgarh-Zoo Park flyover, where land acquisition needs to be completed promptly, as directed by Commissioner Ilambarithi. The duo also inspected the Shilpa



Layout Phase 2 Flyover, stretching from Gachibowli to Kondapur, where delays caused by the 33 KV electricity line were highlighted. Commissioner Ilambarithi ordered the immediate removal of the power line to allow the continuation of stormwater drain and ramp construction. He instructed the TSSPDCL officials to resolve the issue without further delay. Additionally, the Comm

issioner requested the Railway Department to expedite the completion of the Shastripuram railway overbridge project, which has also been facing delays. Engineering officials assured that once the electricity lines are removed, the remaining construction could proceed unhindered.

Ilambarithi instructed the engineering teams to prioritize these incomplete flyovers and complete the works on a war footing, ensuring that Hyderabad's infrastructure continues to develop swiftly and effectively.

Senior officials, including Project CE Deva Devanand, Zonal Commissioners Upender Reddy and Venkanna, along with representatives from the Electricity and Railway Departments, accompanied the Commissioner during the inspections.



Nala Road in Goshamahal caves in

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Nala Road in Goshamahal collapsed near plywood shops, along the route from Darussalam to Chaknawadi in the early hours of Wednesday.

The incident occurred around 2:00 am and fortunately, no major accidents were reported due to the absence of traffic at that time. Local residents mentioned that this road is prone to such acci-

idents, as it is built over one of the oldest nalas (stormwater drains) in the area.

Similar accidents have occurred in the past, with one happening just 200 meters from this location. Locals have raised concerns over the aging infrastructure and the need for repairs to prevent further accidents. Authorities are expected to investigate the collapse and take necessary measures to prevent future occurrences.

Governor interacts with newly appointed Vice-Chancellors

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Governor of Telangana Jishnu Dev Varma held an interactive session on October 23 with the nine newly appointed Vice-Chancellors of various universities across the State. The meeting, which took place at Raj Bhavan, also included the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Telangana State Council of Higher Education (TSCH).

During the session, Governor Dev Varma referred to the Vice-Chancellors as the "captains of the ship," emphasizing their pivotal role in steering the future of higher education in Telangana. He directed on them to meet the expectations of the government and ensure that their



universities focus on providing quality education and fostering innovative research. The Governor extended his best wishes as they take on these new responsibilities.

The Governor further announced that moving forward, there will be quarterly interactions with the Vice-Chancellors to assess the academic progress and achievements of their respective uni-

versities. This initiative is aimed at promoting continuous improvement and ensuring accountability in the higher education sector.

The meeting was also attended by Burra Venkatesham, Principal Secretary to Governor, J Bhavani Shankar, Joint Secretary to Governor, and other senior officials from Raj Bhavan.

Reliance Nippon's Job Mela on Oct 25

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Reliance Nippon Life Insurance announced a Job Mela on October 25 to recruit life planning officers, with 30 positions reserved for women. The event will take place at 11 am at the Employment Bureau office, opposite Osmania University Arts College. The recruitment drive is specifically for women aged 29 to 45 who have completed a bachelor's or master's degree.

The University Employment Information Bureau shared this announcement and encouraged eligible candidates to attend. For more details, it is advised to contact Employment Officer Jodi at 8340037123. Applicants must bring their certificates when they attend.

CP rewards officers for distinction in Police Duty Meet

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

CV Anand, Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad, congratulated 35 police officers and staff members for their outstanding performance at the Telangana Police Duty Meet 2024. The event, held between October 14 and October 19 at the Telangana Police Academy, was the first of its kind since the formation of the State of Telangana.

During the felicitation ceremony, Commissioner Anand expressed his pride in the winners, commending their achievements in securing 5 Gold medals, 2 Silver medals, and 5 Bronze medals for Hyderabad City Police. He emphasized the need to continue excelling and encouraged



the officers to aim for more medals in future meets. He assured them of any assistance required to maintain high standards and win greater accolades for the Hyderabad City Police.

Anand also shared personal experiences with the winners, highlighting the importance of such events in bringing out the best in the officers. He urged them to keep up the hard work and contribute to

the department's success in future police duty meets.

The event was attended by key officials, including N. Swetha, DCP DD, G Guru Raghavendra, ACP CCS DD, J Nandu Kumar, ACP FP Unit, K Purna Chander Rao, ACP Secretariat, V Srinivasa Rao, Inspector WPS, S Rajashekhar, Inspector Khairatabad PS, D Rambabu, Inspector CCS DD, M Dilip Kumar, RI Adim CTC, among others.

DCA busts illegal drug deals, seizes expired medicines

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Drugs Control Administration (DCA) of Telangana has uncovered multiple instances of illegal drug stocking and sale in a series of raids conducted between October 15 and October 22. These operations led to the seizure of drugs worth over Rs 9.15 lakh from various locations, including expired medicines, unauthorised medical stores and quack clinics operating without proper licences.

In one major operation, DCA officials seized ESI Hospital supply drugs worth Rs 4.87 lakh from a pharmacy in Karimnagar. The drugs were illegally diverted by Dunaboina Murali Rao, a government pharmacist, to

Gampa Krishna, the managing partner of the pharmacy. These drugs, marked as "ESI SUPPLY NOT FOR SALE," were meant for government supply and were being sold illegally.

Additionally, the DCA raided Bhargavi Medical Stores in Secunderabad, where they seized 54 varieties of expired drugs that were being sold alongside legitimate medications. The stock, valued at Rs 60,000, was confiscated, and further investigations are ongoing to penalize the offenders.

Another significant operation involved the busting of nine quack clinics across the State that were selling medicines without proper licences. These clinics stocked a variety



of antibiotics and steroids, which were being administered without appropriate medical oversight, posing serious health risks.

In Nirmal district, a medical shop operating without a licence was raided, and drugs worth Rs 15,000 were seized. The shop owner, Adhuri

Karthik, was found to be selling antibiotics and other essential medicines illegally.

The DCA also uncovered a scam in Malakpet, where RESOLAC-R Sachets were being falsely sold as food products under a fake food licence. These sachets, which should have been manufactured under a drug licence, were being produced without adhering to proper manufacturing practices.

The Drugs Control Administration has taken strict measures to prevent such illegal activities, and further investigations are underway. The public is encouraged to report any suspicious activity related to drug manufacturing or sale through the DCA's toll-free number 1800-599-6969.

Jayesh Ranjan assigned sports portfolio too

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Government of Telangana has allocated the subject of Sports in the Youth Advancement, Tourism & Culture (YAT&C) Department to Jayesh Ranjan, Special Chief Secretary to Government.

According to a Government Order (G.O.Rt.No. 1385) dated October 17, Jayesh Ranjan has been re-designated as Special Chief Secretary to Government, ITE&C and Sports. This change was ordered by Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari, who issued instructions to all relevant officials.

Jayesh Ranjan will now oversee the combined portfolios of Information Technology, Electronics & Communications (ITE&C) and Sports, further enhancing the synergy between the development of sports and technological advancements in the State.

Diwali double dhamaka offers at Big C

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Big C, the number one mobile retail company in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, has announced double bang offers on the occasion of Diwali. Company founder and CMD M Balu Chowdry revealed the details of these offers. Big C has come out with four attractive offers; 1. Free mobile protection worth Rs 10,000 on mobile purchase; 2. Instant cash back up to Rs 12K on

mobile purchase; 3. A definite gift up to Rs 5,999 will be offered; 4. It also provides attractive facility of buying mobile without any interest or down payment. Along with these offers, there is a chance to win cars, bikes, mobiles and many more prizes in lucky draw or on purchase of VIVO, OPPO, MI and REALME mobiles. In addition, there are assured buy back offer; Jodi offer; Smart TV offer and discount up to 51% on branded accessories.



Police Inspector booked under POSCO ACT

The police officer working in Warangal Police Commissionerate is accused of attempted sexual assault on a minor girl

PNS ■ HANUMKONDA



An Inspector of Police in Warangal Police Commissionerate was booked under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POSCO) Act for allegedly attempted sexual assault on a minor girl.

A case was booked against the Inspector based on the complaint filed by a 16-year-old girl. The police officer was working as an inspector in Bhupalpally Cybercrime. He is identified as Ravikumar.

The accused misbehaved with the victim girl on March 21, according to the police. The incident happened in an

apartment in which the police officer was staying on rent. He reportedly dragged the girl inside the apartment and attempted sexual assault on her. A case under the POSCO Act was registered against the police officer in Kazipet. He was not yet arrested. He was attached to the office of the Inspector General of Police Multi Zone-1.

DSP attached to IGP's office following allegation of misconduct

PNS ■ KAMAREDDY

Deputy Superintendent of Police Madan Lal, working in the District Crime Records Bureau (DCRB), has been surrendered to the IGP office by senior officials following allegations that he had collected Rs 20 lakh from a person. It is claimed that the police officers offered gold at the rate of 6 lakh per kg. The police officers lured the persons by saying that one his friends had obtained gold in a treasure hunt.



The person approached higher officials on realising that he was cheated by the police officers. After an inquiry, the police officers were attached to the office of the Inspector General of Police.

Additionally, a case has been registered in the Devanipally police station. Senior police officials conducted an investigation into matter and submitted a report to the higher officials. Following this, officials issued orders to suspend DSP Madan Lal just two days ago.

Proposed cement plant at Ramannapet sparks outcry

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Local people expressed strong opposition to the proposed cement factory near Ramannapet. The people put up a stiff opposition to the public hearing. They chanted slogans against the proposal to set up a cement factory.

A corporate entity long back acquired 360 acres of farmland along the Kommayigudem road for a dry port project.

Now, a proposal was made for the establishment of cement factory, the resident said, while vociferously protesting against public hearing.

They argued that the factory would cause pollution to air, and water sources and destroy agricultural lands. They expressed concerns that toxic gases emitted from the factory could spread up to 14 kilometres, further contaminating the Musi River.

Farmers voiced their anguish, stating that the fertile agricultural fields within a 14-kilometer radius, which include 12 villages, would turn into barren lands, jeopardising their livelihoods.

Heated arguments ensued between the police and protesters. The majority of the people at the public hearing voiced their opposition to the factory's establishment.

The Adani Group's Ambuja Cement has submitted proposals to the state government for the establishment of a unit on 70 acres at an estimated cost of Rs 1,400 crore.

Meanwhile, in a related development, police arrested BRS former MLAs Bhooopal Reddy and Chiramarti Lingayya, and other party leaders. They were ferried to various police stations.



People vociferously protesting at a public hearing at Ramannapet in Nalgonda district on Wednesday

BRS leaders vent anger over detention of leaders

At a press conference here, leaders of the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) vehemently opposed the setting up of a cement factory at Ramannapet. They criticised the government for prioritising industrial interests over the welfare of the local community. District BRS president Ramawat Ravindra Kumar stated, "What prompted the government to approve a cement factory in Ramannapet? Why were our leaders detained while trying to gather public opinion? We are ready to fight for the people's rights." The assembly highlighted the serious environmental concerns that the factory would pose,

particularly for the twelve villages in the Ramannapet mandal that are at risk of pollution. Former MLA Chirumarthi Lingayya emphasised, "This area, known for its green fields, is being threatened with becoming a pollution hub. We will not allow the factory to be established under any circumstances. Congress leaders must open their eyes and stand for the people." The MLC MC Kottireddy criticised the police actions that hindered the BRS leaders from conducting consultations with the community, questioning, "Is this democracy? Even I was prevented from accessing a public space."

Previous BRS govt extended help to cement factory

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Nakrekal MLA Vemula Veeresham alleged that the previous BRS government extended its cooperation to Adani's Ambuja Cement Company to purchase 350 acres of land at Ramannapet. He alleged that the then BRS government only made all arrangements to set up cement company there. The cement company is coming to Ramannapet due to support of the previous BRS government, Vemula Veeresham slammed. Nakrekal MLA alleged that the then BRS rulers were real estate brokers and they only gave all permissions. The same brokers are blaming the Congress trying to throw the blame on the Congress government when the Adani Company came to establish Cement Company, he said.

Atmeeya Sammelan of employees to be held on Nov 3

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

The TG JAC leaders and its committee members have appealed to government employees and journalists to attend all employees Atmeeya sammelan to be held here on November 3.

Releasing a poster and hand bills of the event at TNGOs' office here on Wednesday, speakers explained the significance of the Atmeeya Sammelan. The event is being celebrated by employees, irrespective of their cadres and position unitedly and is different from caste-based picnics being organised in November.

As part of the event, several cultural programmes have been arranged with the participation of prominent artists in the event. Sports and games events are lined up as part of the Sammelan. The



TG JAC leaders at a media conference in Khammam on Wednesday

sports and games are held separately for men and women.

JAC leaders from undivided Khammam district and JAC leaders from various districts would take part in the event. In all, over 15,000 employees are expected to attend the event.

TNGOs, TGOs leaders affiliated to the JAC, teachers, contract employees, retired employees leaders would also attend the event.

Warangal Police unearth large firecracker dumps in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Police Task Force has unearthed illegal firecracker dumps during raids here on Wednesday. In view of the festival season, a large quantity of firecrackers is

being stored in warehouses without permits or minimum safety measures. Acting on a tip-off, the Warangal Task Force conducted extensive inspections, revealing significant firecracker dumps. Under

the orders of Warangal Police Commissioner Amber Kishore Jha, the Task Force personnel, led by Assistant Commissioner of Police A Madhusudhan, along with the Mattewada and Inthezargunj police,

conducted inspections at two shops, such as Vajine palli Ramesh and Brothers and Sai Firecrackers in Old Beat Bazaar. They found firecrackers valued at approximately Rs 1.8 crore stored illegally for sale.

'Dead' farmer fights to prove he is alive

PNS ■ SIDDIPT

He is alive and well. He has, however, been shown as 'dead' in the land revenue records. It has led to the transferring of his agricultural land to another farmer by officials. On learning about the alleged fraud, the farmer and his family members attempted suicide at the Tahsildar office.

The incident revolves around farmer Pochayya from Veluru village under Wargal mandal. Revenue officials allegedly recorded him as 'dead' and transferred his 36 guntas of agricultural land to another villager, Uppari Ramaswamy, altering the land records without his consent.

Despite Pochayya's repeated attempts to file complaints at the Wargal Tahsildar's office for the past four years, he did not help regain his land.

Pochayya expressed deep anguish, stating that he had been making rounds of the revenue offices for years, facing numerous inspections and surveys, only to find that his land records remained unchanged. Feeling desperate, he considered taking his life on his hand. However, he decided to confront the authorities at the office instead.

On Tuesday, Pochayya and his family arrived at the Tahsildar's office with pesticide, threatening to commit suicide. Some people at the Tahsildar office at that time intervened and persuaded him not to resort to the extreme step.

Pochayya insisted that he had not sold the land and attributed the alleged manipulation of record to a personal vendetta being waged by some revenue officials.



Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar being congratulated on being sworn in as Public Sector Undertakings chairman in Hyderabad on Wednesday

Shankar assumes office as State PSU chairman

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar was sworn in as Chairman of the State Public Sector Undertakings at a ceremony held in Hyderabad on Wednesday. The event was attended by prominent dignitaries, including Legislative Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad, Legislative Council Chairman Gutta Sukhender Reddy and Minister for Information Technology D Sridhar Babu, among others.

During the ceremony, Speaker Gaddam Prasad administered the oath of office to Veerlapalli Shankar. The

newly appointed chairman received congratulations from various officials and well-wishers present at the event.

In his address, Shankar expressed his commitment to serving the public sector organisations impartially.

He pledged to contribute significantly to the development of the state's approximately 60 public sector organisations.

He also expressed his deep gratitude to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for entrusting him with this important role, vowing to carry out the responsibilities with integrity and dedication

Shortage of doctors, staff plaguing 'upgraded' hospital in RR dist

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

The upgraded government hospitals in Ranga Reddy district, despite the elevation in their status, are grappling with a critical lack of facilities and medical staff. While nine hospitals have been upgraded with the promise of better services, the situation on the ground remains grim with patients suffering due to inadequate resources and shortage of doctors plaguing them.

Across these hospitals, which should collectively employ 333 staff, only 236 positions have so far been filled.

Even though community health centres were upgraded to area hospitals, basic facilities remain insufficient. Construction of new hospital buildings, although sanctioned, has been stalled for over a year in several



An upgraded hospital

areas. In Chevella, the hospital construction work sanctioned at a cost of Rs 17.50 crore has not even begun, leaving the community without the promised 100-bed facility.

Pregnant women in the district are facing particular difficulties

due to the unavailability of gynecologists and scanning machines. As a result, they are forced to seek services in private hospitals in Hyderabad. In many hospitals, the ultrasound machines, sup-

plied decades ago, are on the blink, while new machines sit unused due to a lack of trained radiologists. The lack of gynecologists has led to a drastic reduction in normal deliveries, further burdening private hospitals. During the COVID-19 pan-

dem, an oxygen plant worth Rs 80 lakh was installed at Chevella hospital by Bharat Dynamic Limited (BDL) to address the oxygen shortage. However, this plant has remained unused, and equipment like the oxygen generator is in bad shape due to lack of maintenance and power supply issues. Additionally, recent voltage fluctuations caused a short circuit at the dialysis centre, damaging the wiring. The Shadnagar Community Hospital, upgraded to a 100-bed facility, also faces issues. While construction began with a sanctioned budget of Rs 5 crores, the work has stalled due to non-payment to contractors. The hospital, currently operating with only half the required staff, struggles with shortages of essential medical personnel and equipment, including CT scan and MRI

machines.

In Amanagal, the Community Health Centre, upgraded to a 30-bed facility, operates from a temporary building while construction of the new hospital remains incomplete. Medical services here are limited to outpatient care.

Similarly, the Maheswaram and Ibrahimpatnam hospitals, despite being upgraded to 50-bed facilities, face severe shortages of doctors, medical staff, and necessary medications.

Kodungal and Parigi hospitals, despite their upgrades, are barely functioning due to equipment shortages and the absence of surgeons. Operations cannot be performed, and patients are regularly referred to other facilities. Even family planning services at Shamirpet's Community Health Center have been put on hold due to staff shortages.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT FORM - VII
(SEE SUB-RULE (1) OF RULE-25 AND SECTION -19 (1) OF THE ACT-30/2013)
PUBLICATION OF DECLARATION

Lr. No. G1/4464/2024 Date: 14.10.2024
No. C143/2023 Date: 10.2024

Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana District Collector, Nalgonda required an extent of Ac. 6.07% gts in Elkotte Village of Chityala Mandal of Nalgonda District required for Public Purpose, namely for Udaya Samudram Lift Irrigation Scheme, LMC of D2 From KM. 1.185 to 2.300 in Sy. No. 58, 58, 57, 56, 55, 54.

Therefore, declaration is made for the above said project in Elkotte Village of Chityala Mandal of Nalgonda District a piece of land measuring more or less Ac. 6.07% gts standard measurement, whose detailed description is as mentioned below, is under acquisition.

SCHEDULE

Village: Elkotte; Mandal: Chityala; District: Nalgonda	Sl. No.	Name of the land	Dry	Extent Ac. gts.	Name of the Pattadar / Enjoyer S/o. or W/o.	Details of Structures, trees
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	1	58	Dry	0.33	Upparaboina Laxmi W/o. Veeresham	---
			Dry	0.05%	Upparaboina Bharath Chandra S/o. Veeresham	---
			Dry	0.07%	Pansaraboina Madhu S/o. Anjiah	---
			Dry	0.07%	Puram Sabitha W/o. Yadagiri	---
				Total	1.16	
	2	58	Dry	0.11	Parshanaboina Anjiah S/o. Narsimha	---
			Dry	0.36	Puram Sabitha W/o. Yadagiri	---
				Total	1.06	
			Dry	0.17	Kacheru Sushakar Reddy S/o. Narayana Reddy	---
			Dry	0.17	Katta Raju S/o. Ramesh	---
	3	57	Dry	0.14%	Kolluru Devanchar Reddy S/o. Shiva Reddy	---
			Dry	0.14%	Kolluru Madhavi W/o. Devanchar Reddy	---
				Total	1.06%	
			Dry	0.18	Kondakindi Andalu W/o. Krishna Reddy	---
			Dry	0.05	Gongala Sanjeeva Kumar S/o. Narsimha Reddy	---
	4	56	Dry	0.20	Kolluru Devanchar Reddy S/o. Shiva Reddy	---
			Dry	0.20	Kolluru Madhavi W/o. Devanchar Reddy	---
				Total	1.03	
			Dry	0.05%	Kondakindi Andalu W/o. Krishna Reddy	---
			Dry	0.35	Kondakindi Andalu W/o. Krishna Reddy	---
	5	55	Dry	0.02	Kondakindi Yadagiri Reddy, S/o. Dhama Reddy	---
			Dry	0.02	Kondakindi Dhanurajya Reddy S/o. Dhama Reddy	---
				Total	1.02%	
			Dry	0.02%	Kondakindi Andalu W/o. Krishna Reddy	---
	6	54	Dry	0.12	Kondakindi Yadagiri Reddy S/o. Dhama Reddy	Teak Trees - 2
			Dry	0.12	Kondakindi Dhanurajya Reddy S/o. Dhama Reddy	Born well - 1
				Total	0.14%	
				Grand Total	6.07%	

The declaration is made after hearing of objections of persons interested and due enquiry as provided U/s 15 of the Act. No. 30/2013. The area for acquisition would have no displacement of people and no disturbance to the infrastructure in the vicinity, ecology and minimum adverse impact is foreseen on the affected individual's livelihood. Hence, there is no need to pass a separate RFR award in terms of Section 31 and schedule of the RFRCT LARR Act, 2013 (Act 30 of 2013).

Mines of coal, iron-stone, slate or other minerals lying under the said land or any particular portion of the said land, except such parts of the mines and minerals which may be required to be dug or removed or used during the construction phase of the project for the purpose of which the land is being acquired, are not needed.

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the Land Acquisition Officer, RFR & LA, U/s-11, Nalgonda on any working day.

Sd/- Special Deputy Collector, RFR & LA, Nalgonda. Sd/- Additional Collector, RFR & LA, Nalgonda. Sd/- Dist. Collector, RFR & LA, Nalgonda.

Unit - II, Nalgonda. DIPR No. 32/1/LA/Pub/2024-25

ACROSS THE STATES



Driver averts tragedy as school bus catches fire

In a narrow escape from a potential disaster, an alert school bus driver swiftly evacuated 12 students and staff from the moving vehicle that caught fire in Shivpuri city of Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday afternoon. The incident occurred on Circular Road, but fortunately, nobody was injured, a police official said. Bus driver Gotu Dhakad was transporting students from Geeta Public School when he noticed smoke billowing from the engine. Recognising the imminent danger, he acted quickly, helping the children and school staff to exit the bus. "12 children and some teachers were aboard when the fire broke out and started spreading," recounted Dhakad. The flames severely damaged a major portion of the vehicle. Fire Brigade personnel extinguished the flames. Authorities have initiated an investigation to assess the bus's fitness and verify relevant documents, according to a Traffic Police official.



UP: Student fakes his kidnapping for ransom

A student who allegedly staged his kidnapping to extort money from his family, along with his two accomplices, was arrested by police on Wednesday in Shahjahanpur, officials said. Superintendent of Police Rajesh S said that Sanjeev Tyagi, a 22-year-old BBA student from Katra town, left home last Monday, claiming he was going to Bareilly to collect his mark sheet. However, he did not return home by late evening. Later that night, Sanjeev's mother received a WhatsApp call demanding a ransom of Rs 2 lakh for his release. The caller threatened to kill her son if the money was not paid. The panic-stricken family immediately approached the police, Rajesh said. Following the complaint, a police team was formed, and Sanjeev's family was directed to take the ransom money to a location near the Bahgul River, as instructed by the alleged kidnapers.

Example for many BRICS..

Continued from page 1

city of Kazan, where he thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his participation in the three-day summit.

"All of us talk about the need to ensure high economic growth rates; you (Modi) manage to do this successfully," Putin was quoted as saying by the state-run TASS news agency.

"We congratulate you on these results — 7.5% growth; this is an example for many of us," he noted. "Thank you for your initiatives," Putin added. India's economy is expected to be 7 per cent this year and 6.5 per cent in 2025.

BRICS, consisting of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, has now expanded with five additional members — Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE.

Putin's remarks came as a

senior official from the International Monetary Fund said that India remains the largest growing economy in the world while observing that the country's macroeconomic fundamentals are good.

"India is said to remain the largest growing economy in the world. We project growth at seven per cent in FY24-25, supported by recovery in rural consumption, as there have been favourable harvests. Inflation is expected to decline to 4.4 per cent in FY24-25, despite some volatility as food prices normalize," Krishna Srinivasan, Director for the IMF Asia Pacific Department, said on Tuesday. On Tuesday, Putin held bilateral talks with Modi on the sidelines of the BRICS summit.

In his opening remarks at the meeting, Putin noted the "good condition" of trade turnover between Russia and India.

Kaleshwaram Commission..

Continued from page 1

Nagender on various aspects of the maintenance failures, including the leaks in the barrages and the instructions regarding water storage limits.

For nearly three hours, the Commission fired over 130 questions at Nagender, focusing on several critical points like: Why the Medigadda barrage was certified without adhering to required safety norms?... Who was responsible for the operations of the barrage gates during the flood season? Why were the gates not opened in time? Did the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Department prepare any manuals, and if so, were they followed?

Nagender admitted that certain safety regulations, including State and Central Dam Safety guidelines, were not strictly followed, particularly in the operations led by the Ramagundam ENC. He acknowledged that prior to

January 2021, the O&M Department lacked dedicated staff to monitor and manage operations effectively, leading to some of the issues faced today.

The Commission also pressed Nagender on whether they followed the IS Code and CWC Manual guidelines, to which he conceded that these protocols were not entirely adhered to. Despite forming an O&M team in 2021, no significant actions were taken by the Ramagundam ENC based on their reports. The inquiry further delved into whether verbal orders influenced crucial decisions on water storage in the barrages, a question Nagender affirmed, stating that certain actions were carried out based on informal instructions.

The inquiry continues to raise critical questions about the accountability of the agencies involved and the adherence to safety regulations in maintaining Telangana's flagship irrigation project.

Modi, Jinping endorse patrolling agreement

PNS ■ KAZAN

In their first structured bilateral talks in nearly five years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping Wednesday agreed that India and China can have a "peaceful and stable" relationship by displaying maturity and mutual respect and endorsed the pact on the resolution of the dragging eastern Ladakh border row.

In the meeting, Modi underscored the need to not allow differences on boundary-related matters to disturb peace and tranquility along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

The two leaders noted that the special representatives on the India-China boundary question have a critical role to play in the resolution of the issue and for the maintenance of peace and tranquility in border areas.

Modi and Xi instructed the special representatives to meet at an early date and continue their efforts, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said at a media

Instruct resumption of SR Dialogue



briefing. "We hope to schedule the next meeting of Special Representatives at an appropriate date," he said.

The foreign secretary said Modi and Xi reviewed the state of bilateral relations from a strategic and long-term perspective and they were of the view that stable ties between the

two countries will have a positive impact on regional and global peace and prosperity.

Both Modi and Xi stressed that with maturity and wisdom, and by showing mutual respect, India and China can have a peaceful and stable relationship, Misri said.

He said restoration of peace

and tranquility in border areas will create space for returning towards the path of normalisation of ties.

Officials will now take the next steps to discuss enhancing strategic communication and stabilising bilateral relations by utilising official dialogue mechanisms, he said.

NPRD opposes amendments to disability rules

Calls them burdensome and regressive

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Platform for the Rights of the Disabled (NPRD) on Wednesday opposed the recent amendments to the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, claiming they will make the process of obtaining disability certificates more difficult and burdensome.

In a statement, the cross disability rights organisation called the amendments "regressive" and warned that they would add more obstacles for people with disabilities, hindering their access to essential services and entitlements.

The NPRD highlighted that the new rules, including an extension of the time frame for issuing disability certificates from one month to three months, will exacerbate existing delays.

The rights organisation also criticised the provision that forces applicants to reapply if their request remains undressed for two years, calling it "unacceptable" and an unjust punishment for system failures. Additionally, they raised concerns over the mandatory use of the UDID portal for applying for certificates, arguing that this would create further barriers for many applicants.

Legal aid: NALSA rendering yeoman service, says SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), with effective coordination of other agencies, is rendering "yeoman service" to realise the constitutional goal of equal justice and free legal aid. The apex court, which passed a slew of directions on the aspect of access to free legal aid for prison inmates, observed that NALSA and other agencies are also striving hard for the effective implementation of the provisions of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. A bench of Justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan noted that as of 2023-24, NALSA has interacted with 4,56,798 inmates and

provided legal assistance to 3,24,867. It further noted that as of June this year, 880 appeals of convicts have been filed in the sessions courts and 1,593 appeals in the high courts, and as of September 4, 1,309 convicts have been able to file special leave petitions (SLPs) in the apex court. The top court said a pioneering measure adopted by NALSA since 2021-22 is the introduction of legal aid defence counsel system with a view to strengthen and professionalise legal services delivered. The bench said NALSA's status report indicates that convicts were made aware of the availability of free legal services, availability of the right to file appeals or SLPs and the process of filing the same.

B.Tech Engineering..

Continued from page 1

a Government B.Tech College within the premises of Marredpally Government Polytechnic College, located in the Cantonment constituency.

Discussions centered on accelerating the project to ensure that the college is ready for the next academic year. Revanth Reddy emphasized the government's focus on improving educational opportunities across Telangana. "Our government is committed to providing top-notch educational facilities to the youth of Telangana. The establishment of Marredpally B.Tech Engineering College is a significant step towards achieving this goal," he said.

Report on grain procurement..

Continued from page 1

He disclosed that it will be discussed and approved in the State Cabinet meeting on October 26. On Wednesday evening, a ministerial sub-committee review meeting was held with the representatives of the joint Nizamabad district at the Civil Supplies Bhavan in Erramanzil Colony, Hyderabad.

In this meeting chaired by Uttam Kumar Reddy, the ministerial sub-committee was

Continued from page 1

"We support dialogue and diplomacy, not war. And just as we were able to overcome a challenge like COVID together, we are certainly able to create new opportunities to ensure a secure, strong and prosperous future for future generations," he said.

The summit was attended by top leaders of BRICS nations, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping. The leaders welcomed the 13 new BRICS partner countries.

In his remarks, Modi noted that the summit is happening at a time when the world is undergoing several uncertainties and challenges, including conflicts, adverse climatic impacts, and cyber threats, placing greater expectations upon BRICS.

We support dialogue..

The prime minister also batted for concerted global efforts to deal with terrorism and that there must not be any "double standards" in fighting the menace.

"In order to counter terrorism and terror financing, we need the single-minded, firm support of all. There is no place for double standards on this serious matter."

"We need to take active steps to stop the radicalisation of youth in our countries. We must work together on the long pending matter in the UN of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism," he said.

"The same way, we need to work on global regulations for cyber security and for safe and secure AI," he added.

such as wars, economic uncertainty, climate change and terrorism. The world is talking about the North-South divide and the East-West divide," he said.

Modi said preventing inflation and ensuring food security, energy security, health security, and water security are matters of priority for all countries in the world.

"And in this era of technology, new challenges have emerged such as cyber deepfake, disinformation," he said. "At such a time, there are high expectations of BRICS. I believe that as a diverse and inclusive platform, BRICS can play a positive role in all areas," he noted.

Recalling the Voice of Global South Summits hosted by India during its G-20 Presidency, he stressed that the group must give primacy to the concerns of the Global South.

KTR testifies in suit..

Continued from page 1

The Court has scheduled the recording of testimonies from other witnesses for October 30, 2024. KTR revealed that after hearing Surekha's comments, several witnesses contacted him in shock and anguish. He expressed frustration over her "slanderous and baseless" accusations, considering they were coming from a Minister, and noted that her words had deeply affected both him and those close to him. KTR also submitted video



SC holds states have power to regulate industrial alcohol

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday held the states have regulatory power over production, manufacture and supply of industrial alcohol.

In a 8:1 majority ruling, the top court held that the phrase "intoxicating liquor" in Entry 8 of the State List in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution would include industrial alcohol within its ambit.

The majority bench comprised Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud and Justices Hrishikesh Roy, Abhay S Oka, J B Pardiwala, Manoj Misra, Ujjal Bhuyan, Satish Chandra Sharma and Augustine George Masih,

Justice B V Nagarathna, however, dissented and held states did not have the legislative competence to regulate industrial alcohol or denatured spirit.

The apex court's majority verdict overturned its 1990 seven-judge bench judgment in Synthetics & Chemicals Ltd. v. State of Uttar Pradesh holding that Centre had the regulatory power over the production of industrial alcohol.

Ethyl alcohol (which has 95 per cent ethanol) is an industrial form of alcohol and unfit for human consumption.

The CJI, who authored the majority verdict, also writing on behalf of the seven judges, said Entry 8 sought to regu-

late everything from "raw materials to production of intoxicating liquor".

"Parliament cannot occupy the field of the entire industry merely by issuing a declaration under Entry 52 of List I. The State Legislature's competence under Entry 24 of List II is denuded only to the extent of the field covered by the law of Parliament under Entry 52 of List I," the bench said in a 364-page judgment.

Parliament does not have the legislative competence to enact a law taking control of the industry of intoxicating liquor, it added.

The majority judgment said the phrase "intoxicating liquor" in Entry 8 included all alcoholic liquids which could harm public health.

While Entry 8 in the State List under the 7th Schedule of the Constitution gives the states the power to legislate on the manufacture, possession, transport, purchase and sale of "intoxicating liquors", Entry 52 of the Union List and Entry 33 of the Concurrent List mention industries whose control was "declared by Parliament by law to be expedient in public interest".

While both parliament and state legislatures can enact laws on the subjects mentioned in the Concurrent List, a central law will have primacy over the state law.

We will get..

Continued from page 1

Speaking to the media on Wednesday at Gandhi Bhavan, Sridhar Babu said that TPCC chief B Mahesh Kumar Goud had asked him to coordinate on behalf of the party. He said that he had spoken to Jeevan Reddy, who wanted a comprehensive probe.

Sridhar Babu Sridhar Babu said Jeevan's anguish was understandable, considering that Ganga Reddy was very close to him. The party would protect the honour of Jeevan Reddy and stand by the family of the deceased leader.

'Priyanka's voice..

Continued from page 1

CM Revanth Reddy at Mysuru Airport today. Minister KH Muniyappa, MLC Dr. Yathindra Siddaramaiah, and AICC General Secretary Deepa Das Munshi were also present. A productive interaction with leaders committed to the vision of a stronger nation through collaborative efforts.

Revanth's participation and declaration of support for Priyanka Gandhi is seen as a crucial moment, further solidifying his alignment with Congress's national leadership as they gear up for the upcoming elections.

We respect MLAs who..

Continued from page 1

Mahesh Kumar Goud alleged that Bharat Rashtira Samithi leaders KT Rama Rao and Harish Rao had a secret pact with the company that used to maintain Dharani Portal all these days and looted the lands. However, the Congress government handed over the Dharani portal to the Central government's National Informatics Centre (NIC), he said.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

A diplomatic push for peace

During his visit to Russia for BRICS Summit, Prime Minister Modi once again roots for peace

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in Kazan to discuss wide ranging issues. The meeting highlighted India's continued advocacy for peaceful resolutions to conflicts, particularly the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war. The BRICS summit brought together leaders from Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa to discuss global issues and solidify their collective stance on a multipolar world order. During the meeting, PM Modi reaffirmed India's position on the Russia-Ukraine conflict, stressing the importance of dialogue and peaceful solutions. This stance underscores India's diplomatic approach of engaging with both Russia and Ukraine while maintaining its strategic autonomy. PM Modi's message comes at a critical time when Russia is advancing on the battlefield in eastern Ukraine, and global powers are grappling with the conflict's wider implications. Modi's call for peace aligns with India's broader foreign policy, which seeks to mediate and foster dialogue without aligning explicitly with any one bloc. This Summit marks a significant milestone for BRICS, as the addition of five new members, set to be formalised through the 'Kazan Declaration' at the conclusion of the Summit, reflects the growing importance of the bloc as an alternative forum in the shifting global power structure and a multipolar world order.



No wonder Russia has touted the BRICS Summit as a diplomatic victory, countering Western attempts to isolate Moscow over the Ukraine conflict. For India, this Summit was also an opportunity to reinforce India's pivotal role in BRICS as it continues to advocate for multipolarity and global governance reforms. India and

Russia's relationship has been characterised as a 'special and privileged strategic partnership', a sentiment echoed by President Putin, who noted that the bilateral ties continue to actively develop. While the Ukraine conflict has strained Russia's relations with the West, India has maintained a pragmatic approach by continuing to engage with Russia on economic and strategic matters. Notably, India has emerged as a significant purchaser of Russian oil, much to the disapproval of Western countries that are attempting to limit Russia's trade capabilities. India's stance has remained clear: its foreign policy decisions, including energy procurement, will prioritise its national interest, particularly in securing affordable resources for its citizens. The United States remains concerned over Russia's diplomatic manoeuvres amid the ongoing Ukraine conflict. Modi's visit to Russia for the BRICS Summit and his meeting with Putin emphasised India's role as a mediator advocating for peaceful conflict resolution. The strengthening of the BRICS bloc and the deepening of the India-Russia partnership signify broader shifts in global dynamics toward a multipolar world. As India navigates this evolving landscape, its policy of non-alignment and focus on strategic autonomy will be crucial in maintaining balanced relations with all major powers, while advocating for peace and stability.

PICTALK



Women colour earthen lamps at a roadside shop ahead of the Diwali festival, in Jaipur

Kerachakka unpaved road to development

It is home to 80 tribal families struggling for basic infrastructure. With impassable road access to education, healthcare and essential services remains a distant dream

Kerachakka village, located about 50 kilometres from the district headquarters of Sarangarh-Bilaigarh in Chhattisgarh, is struggling with a lack of basic infrastructure. Home to 80 families, primarily from the Khairwar and Bariha tribal communities, the village is accessible only through a broken, unpaved road. During the monsoon, this road becomes nearly impassable, cutting the village off from the outside world. This affects not only transportation but also children's access to education. Sunil Lal Chauhan, the head teacher of the local government primary school, explains that while 23 children are enrolled, only a few attend school during the rainy season. The road conditions are simply too poor, making the journey unsafe, especially for adolescent girls whose education suffers the most. Chauhan adds that with only one teacher, who is also burdened with administrative tasks, the school struggles to provide the attention



the children need. The broader issue is compounded by the migration of families in search of employment, disrupting children's schooling for extended periods. Resident Badri Prasad highlights another challenge: ineffective local governance. Though the village falls under Gram Panchayat Gardih, meetings are rarely held, and the Panchayat office is often closed. Essential services like ration distribution happen only once a month, which creates difficulties for the villagers. Badri Prasad emphasises that due to the village's dis-

tance from the district headquarters, Kerachakka has been left behind in the development process. Poor road connectivity remains a major barrier, preventing growth and access to opportunities. Rameshwar Prasad Kurke, a local social worker, points out that the village's rocky terrain limits agricultural opportunities. Most families own small plots of land that barely yield enough to sustain them. Consequently, many villagers migrate during the off-season in search of work, which has a particularly harsh impact on

women and adolescent girls. Malnutrition is rampant, with women and girls often being the first to suffer when resources are scarce. While pregnant women and young children receive some nutritional support from the Anganwadi centre, this does not extend to other women, leaving them vulnerable. Recent government initiatives, however, offer hope. The Union Cabinet has approved Rs 70,000 crore for rural road development under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana for 2024-29, and the Chhattisgarh government has allocated Rs17,529 crore in its 2024-25 budget for village roads. These investments aim to improve infrastructure, create employment opportunities, and reduce migration. Better roads could be the first step in bringing Kerachakka and similar villages into the fold of progress, ensuring they are no longer left behind in the race for development. (The author is a grassroots worker from Ajmer, Rajasthan; views expressed are personal)



CHOTU SINGH RAWAT

Israel challenges the UN ahead of UN Day



SANTHOSH MATHEW

Israel's unprecedented declaration of UN Secretary-General António Guterres as persona non grata has challenged the very foundations of global diplomacy

The United Nations was not created to take mankind to heaven, but to save humanity from hell. These words from Dag Hammarskjöld, the second Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN), resonate with renewed urgency today. As the world observes United Nations Day on October 24, the occasion is marked by an unprecedented diplomatic crisis that raises critical questions about the future of global cooperation. Israel's recent declaration of current UN Secretary-General António Guterres as persona non grata has sent shockwaves through international diplomacy, challenging the very principles the UN was founded to uphold. The persona non grata designation, meaning a foreign official is no longer welcome, effectively bars Guterres from entering Israeli territory. This decision stems from his comments about the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, which were meant to emphasise the need for aid and peace. However, many Israeli officials viewed his remarks as biased against Israel, sparking tensions that led to this extraordinary response. As the world pauses to honour the UN's efforts in fostering peace and multilateral dialogue, this incident serves as a stark reminder of the difficulties faced by diplomacy in an increasingly polarised world. Established in 1945 following the devastation of World War II, the UN was created to maintain peace, promote human rights, and foster global cooperation. United Nations Day is intended to celebrate these ideals and the achievements of the world's largest international organisation. Yet, as we commemorate the UN's 79th anniversary, Israel's declaration of Guterres as persona non grata stands in sharp contrast to the spirit of multilateralism. The move not only represents a significant rebuke of Guterres' leadership but also challenges the UN's ability to act as an impartial mediator in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, one of the world's longest-standing disputes. The UN has often faced criticism



for its perceived bias or ineffectiveness, especially in conflict zones. Israel's frustrations with the organisation are longstanding, rooted in concerns about what it perceives as an undue focus on its policies while other nations escape similar scrutiny. The exclusion of Guterres from Israel, however, marks a dramatic escalation in this discontent. It signals a rejection not just of the Secretary-General's leadership but of the UN's role in mediating peace, setting a troubling precedent for the organisation's future involvement in the region. The concept of persona non grata has been wielded as a powerful diplomatic tool throughout history. Declaring someone unwelcome goes beyond a personal rebuke; it conveys a nation's stance on international relations. Past examples include the expulsion of Russian diplomats from various European countries amid political tensions, or Venezuela's Hugo Chávez being declared persona non grata by Colombia. However, Israel's designation of the UN's top diplomat is an extraordinary and rare occurrence, symbolising a low point in the relationship between Israel and the international community. For Israel, Guterres' remarks on the Gaza crisis were viewed as an affront to its right to self-defense, adding to long-standing grievances over perceived

bias at international forums. Israeli officials, including the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, quickly accused Guterres of undermining their security by portraying Israel's military actions as disproportionate. This stance reflects broader frustrations with international organisations, which some Israelis feel have not adequately acknowledged the complexities of their national security concerns. While the declaration is a decision made by Israel, its implications extend far beyond its borders. Human rights organisations and diplomatic circles have reacted swiftly to the move. Amnesty International, for instance, condemned the decision, arguing that it undermines the principles of diplomacy and the UN's mission to foster dialogue. Critics assert that Guterres, in his capacity as Secretary-General, was fulfilling his duty by highlighting the humanitarian situation in Gaza, and his exclusion from Israel sets a dangerous precedent. This incident highlights a growing trend of nations rejecting external criticism, even when it comes from humanitarian or impartial voices. The result could be a world where diplomacy no longer seeks common ground but instead shuts out dissent. The exclusion of Guterres

reflects not only a national stance but a broader global trend of rising nationalism and isolationism. Across the world, countries are increasingly resistant to international oversight or critique, a shift that threatens the very role of the UN as a mediator and peacekeeper. As we observe UN Day, the importance of this moment cannot be overstated. The UN's mission to save humanity from conflict, as Hammarskjöld envisioned, is more critical than ever. The exclusion of Guterres exposes a fragile global order where the organisation's ability to mediate and foster peace is increasingly questioned. Israel's actions are not only a national response to perceived bias but also resonate with broader concerns about the fairness and effectiveness of international institutions in addressing security issues. Despite these challenges, the current diplomatic crisis could serve as a turning point for global diplomacy. As we mark United Nations Day, Guterres' designation as persona non grata by Israel is a stark reminder of the challenges facing diplomacy today. Yet, in the midst of this crisis lies an opportunity. This mission remains as vital now as it was when the UN was founded nearly eight decades ago. (The writer is an associate professor; views are personal)



THE CONCEPT OF PERSONA NON GRATA HAS BEEN WIELDED AS A POWERFUL DIPLOMATIC TOOL THROUGHOUT HISTORY. DECLARING SOMEONE UNWELCOME GOES BEYOND A PERSONAL REBUKE; IT CONVEYS A NATION'S STANCE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DEMOCRACY OVER RELIGION

Madam — This refers to the editorial 'Path to Democracy'. Growth and stability could be achieved only under a vibrant democracy with liberty for all forces to make their productive contributions and point out the misdeeds and mistakes of the rulers for due corrections. In Bangladesh, things are taking a swing from one extreme to the next. In the name of restoring democracy, rabidly communal fundamentalists are taking centre stage. The people should understand that religion is an innate affair and allowing it to dominate political affairs can cause only hurdles to revive the economy and care for the people. History is clear that wherever religion plays a dominant role, liberty and development suffer. Even after 7 decades, Pakistan is still lingering around its basic issues. India, which was developing in many fields, is on a retrograde path with communal forces trying to dominate the affairs, leaving 81 crore poor people to manage their lives with 5 kg of free rice, unemployment reaching its heights, untamed inflation and a minuscule section allowed to amass the wealth of the nation. Therefore, the people of Bangladesh should be careful in keeping religion away from politics and focus on development failing which the country may have to join the band of Afghans and Pakistan.

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

TERROR STRIKES GANDEARBAL

Madam — Apropos to the article 'Dastardly Act', October 22. The Gandearbal terror attack, which claimed the lives of a doctor and six labourers at a tunnel construction site, leaves no room for doubt that Pakistan will persist with its nefarious policy of bleeding India and J and K in particular with a thousand cuts. It is no coincidence that the terror attack has taken place in Gandearbal, the constituency of J and K's new CM Omar Abdullah. Clearly, Pakistan-backed terror groups are sending the unmistakable message - after targeting the Jammu region in recent

De-escalating border tensions



The efforts of India and China for the purpose of military de-escalation are welcome. At this critical moment, when both the nations have been facing critical tension around the Line of Actual Control and surrounding areas, including Depsang and

Demchok, such efforts of engagement and de-escalation are worth appreciating. Although the timing is a bit dramatic because PM Modi is in Russia for the purpose of an official visit to attend the BRICS summit, with probable estimation to meet President Xi Jinping with PM Modi on the sidelines of the summit.

The announcement from the side of Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri with respect to military personnel disengagement and patrolling personnel arrangements is particularly welcoming that India's hard efforts are now ripening fruits and cooperation with China will help India to manage the bilateral rivalry and assist in strengthening ties between the two.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

months - that the remarkably peaceful polls in the UT could not have taken place without the Pakistani military establishment's tacit agreement. The attempt to disrupt an infrastructure project is aimed not just at stalling development in the valley and scaring away migrant labourers and tourists who have a crucial role in boosting J and K's economy, it is also to demonstrate that no one in Kashmir is fully safe. Clearly, Pakistan's Army chief, Gen Asim Munir, has a second message to his own government in response to former PM Nawaz Sharif telling visiting Indian journalists last week, "We have lost the last 75 years, and it is important we don't lose the next 75." Which is, that hosting an Indian foreign minister on Pakistani soil is all very well, but the Army cannot be kept out of any conversation with India.

N Sathasiva Reddy | Washington

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Madam — The picture of the freshly-made 'diyas' or 'earthen lamps' ahead of the Deepavali festival, which is just days away, was a visual delight. ("Pic Talk" October

22). The word 'Deepavali' is derived from the Sanskrit fusion word 'Deepavali', which is formed from 'dipa' (light) and 'avali' (series or row). It thus means a 'row or series of lights', which illuminates the country with its brilliance and dazzles all with joy. Illuminating homes with lights is the expression of obeisance to the heavens for the attainment of health, wealth, knowledge, peace, and prosperity. While the electric illumination looks stunning, there is no comparison to the age-old diyas. In fact, the advantage of lighting diya lamps is that they are biodegradable, cost-effective, and a feast to our eyes. The festival of Diwali is a lot more than just bursting firecrackers, which, in fact, pose serious health hazards given the significant relationship between air pollution and respiratory infections. In comparison, diyas serve the purpose of purifying the environment by getting rid of negativity and creating positive vibes.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

ENCOUNTERING THE DIVINE

From answering prayers to reducing life's hardships, the divine remains ever-present



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

With the internet and social media, we are constantly being reminded about the wealthiest, the most powerful, very famous, the prettiest, etc. Have you imagined meeting any one of these personalities except to see them in print or in a video? What about God, who owns everything there is, is omnipotent, is omniscient, is omnipresent and a whole lot more, about which I will write in this article?

God is not only omnipresent but available to us 24x7. Yes, God cannot be seen in person except to the very best of devotees like Sant Tulsidas, but can be seen in Deity forms and in nice photos everywhere. God even manifests in His murti forms like He had in His Rama Lalla form in Ayodhya.

How is Lord helping us by His activities? He listens to all our prayers, and He must respond to them, they being spiritual activities. However, the response will be appropriate at a time chosen by God. Mostly, it won't be as prayed for, because most of the prayers are for material gains, which are undeserved. For example, a student prays for good marks even though he doesn't deserve them. God will give something as God can never be a debtor. Then, God is ever ready to guide us, as He guided Arjuna by preaching the instructions of the Bhagavad-Geeta. Few pray for guidance but those who do really benefit, because direction is all important. It determines where we will end up. God gives intuitions, uses mediums to convey, etc. God even instructs directly His devotees as He instructed Arjuna.



The third important help God provides is to get us out of troubles, we get into due to our past faulty karmaphalas (results of acts). God does not stop them from coming because that will make the 'Karmaphala Principle' ineffective; God only makes them less painful. Continuing about God's bounties, God empowers us in various ways. For example, a scientist is deep into looking for a solution, which will benefit humanity, and he deserves getting credit for it due to past pious karmaphalas. God gives him the intuition, because God is the only source. We cannot invent or create anything new. All big or important acts are done by God only; He makes the deserving among us 'nimitta' (instruments), just as He used Arjuna to kill the biggest warriors of the Kaurava army (11.33)

God is especially partial to welfare workers, because it suits His Creation. He has promised that doers of welfare acts will not end up badly. (6.40) What this means is that such persons will not suffer a painful death. God goes a step further for His advanced devotees; He does miracles for them. Meerabai was given poison to drink because she chose Lord Krishna as her worshipable Deity. What did the Lord do? He made poison ineffective. How did Lord Krishna save Arjuna - His devotee and friend (4.3), who had sworn to enter fire, if he could not kill Jayadrath before sunset? As soon as Jayadrath came out of hiding Arjuna's imminent death, Lord brought the sunlight back. This allowed Arjuna to kill Jayadrath before sunset.

I can go on regarding what all God does and can do for us if we link with Him. And He has made approaching Him very easy. What is so difficult to have 'darshan' of God in His Deity form in a temple? What about chanting God's names? Is it so difficult? It may appear childish but this is the way it has been designed to gain God's favour. Someone may say why is it so easy to get so much cash out of a ATM? Because this is the way it has been designed.

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

AI's impact shines in Nobel Prizes



B K SINGH

David Baker, Demis Hassabis and others have harnessed AI to revolutionise medicine and nanotechnology, ushering in a new era of scientific breakthroughs



This year's Physics and Chemistry both Nobel prizes are linked to Artificial Intelligence. While Physics laureates applied principles and tools of Physics namely atomic spin and Boltzmann's machine to create structures that can store, reconstruct and discover properties in data for artificial neural networks to enable powerful computers to mimic human memory and learning, Chemistry laureates worked on computational protein design that advanced protein structure predictions. In all living creatures, proteins are essential for cell functions. David Baker, a 62-year-old Professor at the University of Washington, Seattle succeeded in building an entirely new kind of Protein, that is known as life's building blocks and comprises 20 different amino acids. Since 2003, he and his research group have created several imaginative proteins that can be used in pharmaceuticals, vaccines, tiny sensors and nanomaterials. He was awarded half the prize money for the 2024 Chemistry Nobel Prize.

In 2020 David Hassabis and John Jumper both Britons aged 49 years and 39 years respectively presented AlphaFold2, an AI model that predicted the structure of Proteins from amino acid sequences. Two Britons were awarded this year's remaining half of the prize. AI model AlphaFold2 has opened ways to predict proteins and has already been used by researchers to predict nearly 200 million proteins. Research has also advanced in understanding antibiotic resistance and creating enzymes that have the potential to decompose plastics. Proteins are molecular machines of our lives making up a significant portion of bodies i.e. muscles, enzymes, hormones, hair, blood and cartilage. Proteins' shape determines their function. Different shapes can be folded in numerous ways to arrive at the resultant shapes of protein. Incorrectly folded protein may lead to improper functioning and can be the reason for Alzheimer's, cystic fibrosis, and diabetes. As protein's shape is solely based on amino acid sequence, these can manoeuvre into specific shapes duly minimising inter-atomic repulsions among the atoms of amino acids.

In the new era of machine learning laure-



THE SCIENTIFIC AND ACADEMIC COMMUNITIES HAVE EXPRESSED CONFUSION OVER HOW MACHINE LEARNING AND ARTIFICIAL NEURAL NETWORKS CAN BE ALIGNED WITH THE TRADITIONAL BOUNDARIES OF PHYSICS

ates have solved the problem by using a large database of experimentally obtained protein structures to train AI and allowed it to learn the principles of folding. The result was AlphaFold2 which predicted three-dimensional structures of proteins. A new nanomaterial was developed in 2016 where up to 120 proteins were spontaneously linked together. In 2021 nanoparticles with protein were developed that were found to imitate the influenza virus which will further help in developing a vaccine for influenza. Vaccines for livestock using the technology have already been successful. Some of the other developments are the proteins that function as molecular rotors and also the geometrically shaped proteins that can change their shape under external influences. Such geometrically shaped proteins which are impacted by external influences are quite useful in producing tiny sensors. Many new possibilities for the use of protein in nanotechnology are useful to develop new tools for precise control and manipulation of elements at the nanoscale. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of molecules has been studied and researchers have found how specially modified diamond flakes can be used as nanoscale magnetic field detectors. These tiny sensors can elucidate the structure of a single organic molecule. With nanoscale MRI researchers may one day directly image proteins. A 91-year-old Professor at Princeton University, USA John Hopfield and a 76-year-old Professor at University of Toronto, Canada have been awarded this year's Nobel Prize in Physics. Hopfield created associative memory for storing and recreating images. Like the structure of the brain, the artificial neural network was created where the brain's neurons were

represented by nodes and each of these nodes having different values. A neural network as a system is inspired by how the human brain works, it does the same with data. It takes in information, processes it and makes decisions, learning from experience. Neural network utilises Physics that describes characteristics of any material due to its atomic spin, which makes each atom a tiny magnet. Hopfield described the network as energy in the spin system as in Physics and is trained by finding values for connections between the nodes such that saved images have low energy. When it is fed with incomplete/ distorted images it works through the nodes and updates the values for each in such a way that the energy of the network falls. The overall state of his network i.e. energy is calculated using a formula that uses all values of the nodes and all strengths of connections between them. When the minimum energy is attained, the corresponding saved image is most like the imperfect image fed in the network. Further improvements have made it possible to save more pictures and to differentiate between them even when they are quite similar. Using the Hopfield network, Hinton found the Boltzmann machine using tools from statistical Physics - a new network that can learn to recognise a characteristic element in the given data. Researchers use the tool from statistical mechanics to look at the collective behaviour of a large number of particles to determine large-scale microscopic properties like temperature, pressure and magnetisation. There are different energy states in the model and the material is more likely to exist in the lowest energy state. Boltzmann distribution explains how likely the given state is. It describes the probability of a system being in a particular state -

solid, liquid or gas - based on its energy and temperature. Hinton used the tool to solve computing problems in neural networks. Hinton added hidden layers to neural networks allowing machines to analyse data in more sophisticated ways. The machine is trained by feeding it with examples that are most likely to arise when it is run. Boltzmann machine can also classify images or create new examples on the pattern it was trained. A trained Boltzmann machine can recognise a familiar trait in information it has not previously seen. Hinton has further developed this work which led to the current explosive development of machine learning. "The laureates' work has already been of greatest benefit. In Physics we use artificial neural networks in vast range of areas, such as developing new materials with specific properties." Says Ellen Moons, chair of the Nobel Committee for Physics. The scientific and academic communities have expressed confusion over how machine learning and artificial neural networks can be aligned with the traditional boundaries of Physics. Nevertheless, the work of Hopfield and Hinton is having a profound impact on the digital age, even if its classification within the Physics domain remains contested. The laureates' contribution is the brain behind medical imaging systems that detect cancer faster than doctors. Scientists are inventing more and more applications of machine learning and advanced studies in Physics like processing data to discover Higgs particles, searching for exoplanets, and reducing noise in the measurement of gravitational waves from colliding black holes. (The writer is Retired Principal Chief Conservator of Forests- head of Forest Force-Karnataka; views are personal)

Nobel Prize snub of Rosalind Lee sparks debate on fairness of the system

The exclusion of Rosalind Lee has reignited discussions about the fairness of scientific recognition

The recent announcement of the Nobel Prize snubbing Rosalind Lee of Nobel Prize who was the first author of the paper that was considered for this year's Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, while considering her co-worker and husband, Victor Ambros, the corresponding author of the paper for the coveted prize, has reignited discussions about fairness, recognition, and the implications of such decisions on science. Traditionally, scientific papers list authors in an order that reflects the perceived contribution to the work. The first author typically plays a significant role in conducting the research and writing the paper. In



BIJU DHARMAPALAN

contrast, the last author often represents the senior scientist or principal investigator who guided the research. Middle authors usually contribute in specific areas but are not as heavily involved as the first or last author. This system has fostered a hierarchy in academia that rewards a select few. At the same time, many essential team members go unacknowledged, ultimately

skewing career advancement, compensation, and visibility in the scientific community. We still follow this flawed authorship order in most recruitments, funding agencies, promotions, awards, and recognitions. Even for awarding doctoral degrees, our universities follow this order of authorship. It often overlooks a person's intellectual knowledge and technical skills needed for the study. This bias creates an environment where specific contributors, though not in prominent author positions, have a diminished chance of recognition and growth, potentially leading to a loss of morale and an outflow of valuable talent from academia and research fields.

Many talented and skilled youngsters are not getting good positions because of this flawed protocol in research and academic institutions. In today's world, science cannot be done in isolation. Most of today's research involves interdisciplinary work collaborating with one or more institutions, and each person involved may contribute to its success. Projects like the Human Genome Project or the Large Hadron Collider involve the contributions of hundreds of scientists from varied institutions across the globe. Even in our national institutions, outsourcing certain works has become a norm. In that scenario, even the



company that does the work has to be credited, though they may charge for it. The importance of each contributor extends beyond the experimenter. Data analysts, statisticians, field researchers, technicians, and other support staff often carry out substantial portions of the work. While their names might not always

appear on a paper, they enable discoveries and innovations by ensuring the research is feasible, accurate and applicable. In such a framework, reducing credit to a first-author or corresponding author model grossly underestimates the collective effort, leading to unfair career advantages for select individuals over others

equally deserving. A system that values equal contribution offers a fairer foundation for hiring, promotions, and awards. This shift would ensure that positions of responsibility and recognition are not limited to those with the resources or negotiating power to secure lead author positions. Moreover, equal credit distribution could improve diversity in science. This approach could also boost diversity by supporting women, early-career researchers, and marginalised groups who are often in middle-author roles due to limited mentorship and systemic inequities, giving them a better chance at securing resources and opportunities. Critics may argue that equal

weightage could lead to confusion over who contributed most to a particular study, possibly complicating the evaluation process. To address this, journals should strictly include only those who actively contributed to the study, ending practices of "gift authorship" to the department or the head of the institution. Science thrives on collaboration and equal weightage for all authors in jobs and awards, including consideration for the Nobel Prize, which promotes a culture of inclusivity, fairness, and shared achievement. (The author is the Dean-Academic affairs, at Garden City University and adjunct faculty at NIAS, Bangalore; Views are personal)

IN BRIEF



Swiggy introduces 'Seal' badge for food quality standards

Online food delivery firm Swiggy on Wednesday introduced the 'Swiggy Seal' initiative to raise hygiene and food quality standards among restaurant partners on its platform. The initiative, which is currently live in Pune, will be gradually scaled up during November to cover over 650 cities across India. "Since the program's launch two weeks ago, restaurant partners have shown high interest, with hundreds of requests for hygiene audits already received. Should any concerns arise about a restaurant holding the Seal, Swiggy will thoroughly review the feedback and may revoke the badge if the restaurant fails to maintain the established standards," Swiggy stated. Under the initiative, the 'Swiggy Seal' badge will be featured on restaurant menu pages to highlight those with a proven track record of serving hygienic, high-quality meals in quality packaging.



KPIT Technologies net profit up to Rs 204 crore

Automobile-industry focused KPIT Technologies has recorded a 44 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 203.7 crore in the September quarter. It reported a net profit of Rs 141.4 crore in the year-ago period, according to a regulatory filing. Revenue the quarter under review stood at Rs 1,471.4 crore, up 22.71 per cent from Rs 1,199 crore in the July-September of FY24. As compared to the previous quarter, its revenues rose 7.8 per cent while profits fell 0.19 per cent. The company closed USD 207 million worth of engagements during the September 2024 quarter, it said in a statement. "The Mobility Industry, specifically the Automotive sub vertical, has been under pressure to keep up with the changing regulations, reduce cost of vehicles and meet demands of the ever-changing consumer preferences in recent times. "We continue to prioritise investments in technology and markets ahead of demand to help our T25 clients stay on the cutting edge of technology and competitiveness, basis which, we reiterate our revenue growth and profitability outlook for the full year," KPIT co-founder, CEO and MD Kishor Patil said.



Bajaj Finserv profit up 8 pc at Rs 2,087 crore

Bajaj Finserv on Wednesday reported an 8 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit to Rs 2,087 crore for the second quarter ended September 30. The company had posted a profit of Rs 1,929 crore in the July-September quarter a year ago. The total consolidated income increased to Rs 33,704 crore during the quarter against Rs 26,023 crore in the same period a year earlier, Bajaj Finserv said in a regulatory filing. The Pune-headquartered company's total expenditure rose to Rs 27,741 crore compared to Rs 20,731 crore in the year-ago period. Bajaj Finserv Asset Management recorded assets under management (AUM) of Rs 16,293 crore as on September 30, 2024. Its subsidiary Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Ltd reported a profit of Rs 494 crore from Rs 468 crore in Q2 FY24, an increase of 6 per cent. Another subsidiary Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company Ltd posted shareholders' profit after tax at Rs 148 crore down from Rs 193 crore in Q2 FY24 due to new business strain, higher expense overruns and change in product mix.

India cannot risk another bout of inflation: RBI Governor Das

PNS ■ MUMBAI

India cannot risk another bout of inflation, and the best approach currently would be to remain flexible and wait for inflation to durably align with the central bank's target, opined Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das while voting for the status quo on benchmark rates during the MPC meeting.

"Monetary policy can support sustainable growth only by maintaining price stability," Das said, as per the minutes of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting held earlier in the month.

The MPC had decided to keep the benchmark interest rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent. This was the tenth consecutive meeting of MPC when it decided to keep the policy rate unchanged with a majority vote of 5-1.

However, it changed the stance to 'neutral' from the earlier 'withdrawal of accommodation' unanimously.

This was the first meeting of the reconstituted MPC. The three newly-appointed external members are Ram Singh, Saugata Bhattacharya and



Nagesh Kumar.

As per the minutes of the meeting, Das said monetary policy can support sustainable growth only by maintaining price stability.

"Taking all these factors into consideration, I vote for changing the stance from withdrawal of accommodation to 'neutral' while keeping the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.50 per cent," he said.

Overall, the Indian economy presents a picture of stability and strength, he said, adding the balance between inflation and growth is well-poised.

heightened geo-political tensions and volatile commodity prices to risks of adverse weather in food inflation," he said.

Expressing a similar view, RBI Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra had said a gradual wait-and-assess approach to removing policy restraint in terms of the policy rate remains appropriate as long as inflation is not lastingly close to its target.

Therefore, he voted for maintaining the status quo on the policy rate but a shift in the stance to neutral in the meeting.

Another member Rajiv Ranjan, Executive Director RBI had said between now and December, there will be greater clarity on some of the uncertainties - US elections, geopolitical risks and Chinese fiscal stimulus and its impact on global commodity prices.

"At this juncture, India's resilient growth story helps us to continue our determined focus on inflation and keep the policy rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent. Hence, I vote for a status quo on rates and change of stance to neutral," Ranjan had said.

Despite the near-term uptick in inflation, the outlook for headline inflation towards the later part of the year and early next year points to further alignment with the 4 per cent target, he said.

"Thus, the conditions are appropriate for a change in monetary policy stance to neutral from withdrawal of accommodation. This would provide greater flexibility and optionality to monetary policy to act in accordance with the evolving outlook. It also provides space to watch out for the uncertainties on the horizon - ranging from

BRICS nations agree to financial settlement in local currencies

PNS ■ KAZAN

BRICS nations on Wednesday agreed to strengthen trade and financial settlement in local currencies, study feasibility of an independent cross-border settlement and depositary infrastructure, and a BRICS reinsurance company.

The leaders also agreed to jointly develop the New Development Bank into a new type of multilateral development bank (MDB) in the 21st century and supported further expansion of the BRICS-led bank's membership.

In the declaration issued after the 16th BRICS Summit here, the leaders reiterated their commitment to enhancing financial cooperation within BRICS.

"We recognise the widespread benefits of faster, low cost, more efficient, transparent, safe and inclusive cross-border payment instruments built upon the principle of minimiz-

ing trade barriers and non-discriminatory access.

"We welcome the use of local currencies in financial transactions between BRICS countries and their trading partners," it said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is here to attend the BRICS Summit.

The BRICS leaders encouraged strengthening of corresponding banking networks within BRICS and enabling settlements in local currencies in line with BRICS Cross-

Border Payments Initiative (BCBPI), which is voluntary and non-binding.

BRICS, consisting of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, has now expanded with five additional members - Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE.

The nations also acknowledged the importance of exploring the feasibility of connecting BRICS countries' financial markets infrastructure.



Upswing in India, China ties unlikely to alter trade relations: GTRI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The improvement in diplomatic relations between India and China is unlikely to dramatically alter the economic and trade ties between the countries in the near future, think tank GTRI said on Wednesday.

It said that India's low exports and high reliance on Chinese imports, especially in industrial sectors, are due to structural issues and it will require long-term policy efforts to address the trade imbalance.

India and China have firming up an agreement on patrolling by their military along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, in a major breakthrough to end the over four-year standoff.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held bilateral talks on Wednesday on the margins of the BRICS summit in Russia, in their first structured meeting since the eastern Ladakh border row erupted in

2020. "The recent meeting between Modi and Xi may signal a diplomatic breakthrough, but it is unlikely to dramatically alter the economic and trade dynamics between India and China in the near future," the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said.

For India, reducing its trade deficit with China and encouraging more balanced economic relations will require a multifaceted approach, including strengthening domestic manufacturing capabilities, diversifying its import sources, and promoting export growth, it added.

"Until then, the thaw in diplomatic relations, while positive, is unlikely to bring about a significant shift in India-China trade and economic ties. Trade dynamics between the two countries remain largely unaffected by political developments, driven by private businesses rather than government-led initiatives," GTRI Founder Ajay Srivastava said.



HUL to separate ice cream business, does independent valuation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) on Wednesday said it is separating its ice cream business, which owns brands as Kwality Wall's, Cornetto and Magnum, and has done an independent valuation to have a fair idea.

The board of HUL on Wednesday decided to demerge the ice cream business, based on the recommendation of an independent committee, which was formed by the FMCG major in September this year.

The committee has said the ice cream business, which contributes 3 per cent to HUL's turnover, has a different operating model, including cold chain infrastructure, and a distinct channel landscape, which limits synergies with other businesses of the company. During an earnings call, CFO Ritesh Tiwari confirmed that HUL has gone for an independent valuation of the ice cream business. However, he did not share details. "Yes, we have done independent valuation. The board has reviewed the independent valuation of the business today, and that is one of the key inputs that will be added as we get into the separation mode going forward," he said.

Gold, silver prices hit new lifetime highs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Rallying for the sixth straight session, gold and silver prices breached fresh record high levels in the national capital on Wednesday mainly driven by festive and wedding season demand, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

Gold prices jumped by Rs 500 to an all-time high of Rs 81,500 per 10 grams while silver surged Rs 1,000 to Rs 1.02 lakh per kg.

Gold prices of 99.9 per cent and 99.5 per cent purity rose by Rs 500 each to Rs 81,500 per 10 grams and Rs 81,100 per 10 grams, respectively.

Silver jumped Rs 1,000 to reach a fresh high of Rs 1.02 lakh per kg from the previous close of Rs 1.01 lakh per kg on Tuesday.

In the last six trading sessions, silver prices have zoomed by Rs 10,000 per kg. Gold increased by Rs 2,850 per 10 grams since October 16.

According to Narinder Wadhwa, MD of SKI Capital, silver prices reaching Rs 1 lakh in the physical market



and on the MCX is a clear reflection of multiple converging factors such as seasonal demand in India and geopolitical risks from West Asia conflict.

In July, gold and silver prices corrected sharply by 7 per cent in the local markets after the government slashed basic customs duty on gold and other metals.

However, the bullion prices rebounded as demand from Indian consumers increased due to ongoing festivals, expectations of rate cuts in the US and flare up in geopolitical tensions.

In futures trade on the MCX, gold contracts for December delivery increased

Rs 112 or 0.14 per cent to Rs 78,768 per 10 grams.

The precious metal had jumped Rs 263 or 0.33 per cent to touch an all-time peak of Rs 78,919 per 10 grams during the day.

"Gold prices saw another positive move, supported by gains in Comex, where gold moved closer to USD 2,750. This in turn helped MCX gold stay above Rs 78,750, reflecting the underlying bullish sentiment.

"The ongoing favourable interest rate cycle has been one of the main factors supporting gold's rise," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst of Commodity and Currency at LKP Securities, said.

Sensex drops 138 pts, extends losses to 3rd day

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Stock markets declined for the third straight day on Wednesday due to profit-taking in auto, pharma and capital goods shares amid relentless foreign fund outflows.

In a volatile session, benchmark BSE Sensex declined 138.74 points or 0.17 per cent to settle at 80,081.98 with 22 of its constituents ending lower. Intra-day, the benchmark fell below the 80,000-mark to hit a low of 79,891.68.

The NSE Nifty closed lower by 36.60 points or 0.15 per cent to 24,435.50.

From the 30 Sensex pack, Mahindra & Mahindra, Sun Pharma, Power Grid, NTPC, Adani Ports, Larsen & Toubro,



ICICI Bank and Titan were among the biggest laggards.

Bajaj Finance climbed nearly 5 per cent after the firm reported a 13 per cent increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 4,014 crore in the second quarter ended September 2024.

exchange data, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) bought equities worth Rs 5,869.06 crore.

"Investor mindset turned gloomy with the tepid earnings and a knee jerk reaction from FIIs, which dragged the market sentiment. However, mid and smallcaps are experiencing bargain hunting following the recent decline, though the sustainability of this momentum-driven buying remains uncertain.

"The US 10-year yield inched higher, signalling a slower tempo of rate cuts by the FED, which is poised for a risk-off sentiment towards EMs," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

Tech Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services, HDFC Bank, HCL Technologies and Bajaj Finserv were among other big gainers.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) offloaded shares worth Rs 3,978.61 crore on Tuesday, according to

Entertainment industry lost Rs 22,400 cr to piracy: Report

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian entertainment industry suffered a staggering loss of Rs 22,400 crore in 2023 due to piracy, according to a report released on Wednesday, that advocated for stronger regulations and collaborative efforts to effectively mitigate piracy risks.

According to "The Rob Report" by EY and the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), 51 per cent of media consumers in India access content from pirated sources, with streaming services being the most significant

contributor at 63 per cent. "The size of India's piracy economy was Rs 22,400 crore in 2023, ranking fourth against the segment-wise revenue generated by India's Media and Entertainment industry.

"Of this, Rs 13,700 crore was generated from pirated content from movie theatres while Rs 8,700 crore was generated from OTT platforms' content. The potential GST losses of up to Rs 4,300 crore were estimated to have been incurred," it said.

Piracy refers to the unauthorized copying, distribution, or use of copyrighted material,



which can include music, movies, software, and other forms of intellectual property. It is considered a form of theft because it infringes on the

rights of the original creators and can lead to significant financial losses for them. Rohit Jain, Chairman of IAMAI's Digital

Entertainment Committee, emphasised the urgent need for collective action among stakeholders.

"The rapid growth of digital entertainment in India is undeniable, with filmed entertainment expected to reach Rs 14,600 crore by 2026. However, this potential is severely threatened by rampant piracy. It is imperative for all stakeholders - government bodies, industry players, and consumers - to unite in combating this issue," he said. Viewers cited high subscription fees, the unavailability of desired content, and the hassle of managing multi-

ple subscriptions as primary reasons for indulging in pirated content.

The report said that piracy is particularly prevalent among younger audiences aged 19 to 34, with women favouring OTT shows, while men gravitate towards classic films.

Interestingly, 64 per cent of those who access pirated content expressed willingness to switch to authorised channels if offered for free, despite advertisement interruptions, revealing the need for content providers to rethink their pricing models and accessibility strategies.

UP state GDP to touch Rs 32 lakh cr by March 2025: CM

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday said the state's gross domestic product (GDP) is projected to reach Rs 32 lakh crore by March 2025 and the country's "fastest-growing" economy is paving the way for employment of "1.5 crore youth".

"The state will play a pivotal role in India's journey toward achieving a USD 5 trillion economy while moving swiftly towards becoming the nation's top economic powerhouse shortly," Adityanath said at a function here on Wednesday.

He also said that the state has secured "75 GI tags across 75 districts, with Varanasi leading the way". While referring to the initiatives to establish UP as a "major logistics hub" he highlighted the construction of a

logistics multimodal terminal in Varanasi and proposed logistics hub in Gautam Buddha Nagar.

He pointed to events like the Global Investors Summit, which attracted investment proposals "worth Rs 40 lakh crore" that have "transformed" UP's economic landscape.

"Previously, securing Rs 20,000 crore in investments was considered a major achievement. He attributed such a change to the government's economic policies and the crackdown on mafia and anti-social elements.

"Today, we have garnered Rs 40 lakh crore in proposals, paving the way for employment opportunities for 1.5 crore young people. Previous governments had a 'One District, One Mafia' policy, whereas we have branded Uttar Pradesh through the 'One District, One Product' (ODOP) initiative," he said.

HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
5th Floor, Dewans Jangal Complex, Sanjaya Reddy Nagar Rd, Anaparthi, Hyderabad-508 038.

SHORT TENDER NOTICE
Temporary lease of land for cracker stalls at HMDA land, Moopet village, Balanagar Mandal, RR District.

The Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) hereby invites applications for establishment of cracker shop on HMDA lands at Moopet village. Open place adjacent to Metro from 27.10.2024 to 01.11.2024. The interested individuals/firms can download the applications from HMDA website www.hmda.gov.in and can drop their applications in the Tender box kept in the Estate Office, HMDA, North Wing, 5th Floor, Swargajyothi Complex, Anaparthi, Hyderabad.

1) Document download starting date and time: 28.10.2024 @ 10.30 AM
2) Last date and time for submission of tender: 28.10.2024 @ 3.00 PM
3) Date and Time of opening of Tender: 28.10.2024 @ 4.00 PM

Sd/-
Estate Officer
HMDA

DPR/RO. No.: SA-58/PC-AGENCY/MDT/2024-25, Date: 23-10-2024

'NARI' POWER ON WHEELS, BREAKING BARRIERS, BUILDING BRIDGES

FROM BIKING TO PHILANTHROPY, SHE FOR SOCIETY HAS BECOME A BEACON OF HOPE FOR MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY. IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH THE PIONEER, HARSHINI VENKATESH, FOUNDER-PRESIDENT OF SHE FOR SOCIETY, SHARES HER VISION FOR A MORE EMPOWERED AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

TEJAL SINHA
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Shattering stereotypes and embracing the thrill of biking, women riders today are breaking free from societal norms, enjoying the freedom and independence that comes with riding. With increased accessibility, women are confidently navigating city streets, scenic routes and off-road trails.

Among those passionate ones, we came across a group of women riders, working tirelessly towards the welfare and well-being of our 'veer naris', ex-soldiers and their families. She For Society provides a platform for people to donate, give and support a cause that works to improve the lives of our veterans and their families, maintaining the comfort and rehabilitation of the infrastructure veterans receive after serving our country.

The brainchild of Harshini Venkatesh, a social activist and the founder president of this first-ever NGO formed by women bikers and joined by Kavita Prabhakar and Shalini Deepak, they are now a group of hundreds of women working for multiple causes.

"We ride for a cause," begins Harshini over an exclusive interaction with *The Pioneer* for our special segment of Community Wise. To date, ever since its inception in 2020, they have organised more than 100 initiatives and events in collaboration with the Indian Army Ex-Soldier Association and the traffic police. "Since the past three years on Kargil Vijay Diwas, we ride along with the Indian Army, where hundreds of their soldiers and tornadoes perform the stunt shows. We were a total of around 800 bikers who were riding to create awareness about the sacrifices of the Kargil heroes.



"We've been riding with the Indian Army every Independence day and on Republic Day." Their work for the cause has just not been confined to riding. These fierce women have set up seven computer training centers for them in different districts which are taken care of by the former soldiers. They also have established 26 computer training centers. What started off as a team of 15 to 20 bikers initially, she yearned to gather over 150 women bikers in and all of them together raised funds of Rs 3 lakh for six ex-soldier families, who were suffering from cancer.

"Then, we've also worked on 14 different projects during the pandemic. We provided ambulances, free food and rations for the ones in need. Recognising the unrecognised was our main motto. That's the reason why we all wished to work for the former soldiers. There were many transgenders, sex workers and visually challenged people too who were not getting proper food. So we worked for them as well," shares the founder president, adding that they've also actively working towards projects on nature every Environment Day.

"On World Environment Day in 2020, we donated 100 desi cows, which encourage natural and spiritual farming. We also try to promote 'no use of pesticides and eat chemical-free food.'" They've had their hands on rejuvenating a lake in Harapanahalli near Ramanagara.

While Harshini rides a BMW G310 bike, there are many of the other riders who choose to drive Royal Enfield and different vintage bikes. However, it's no less than a challenge for them to ride these bikes

because "it weighs at least 200 kgs, which is not easy. These bikes are designed for men. But these women are more daring. When a woman can give birth to a child. Why can't she ride a bike?"

Another challenge was getting the women riders onboard for the cause. In fact, "We did a ride with Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB). RCB invited us to lead the Women Premier League team, which was the first women's league and it was for the inaugural WPL. We escorted them from the hotel to the stadium. We are the only non-cricketers on the Instagram page of RCB. However, even for an RCB event, when we asked the bikers to come, it was difficult for me to find even 50 bikers. On the contrary, it would be much easier to get in the men bikers onboard."

While initially she struggled to convince her family to let her work on the cause, today they are all proud of her. In fact, Harshini's husband had also sponsored one of the computer training centers.

Talking of the causes, that's not it, folks! She further tells us, "I'm organising these rides and raising funds with glamour and passion for a cause. I was the first person to start the biker fashion shows. We ride on the stage. Then we are also the first ones who started wearing saris and riding on bikes. For some jewellery brands, we wore about jewels worth 18 lakhs and rode across the commercial streets."

During the Navratri, nine of these bikers had dressed in the nine different forms of Durga, wearing different colours of saris. They were recently in the news for organising the first-ever transgender ride in the country. Oh not to forget, they've organised multiple events with the Disabled Cricket Council of India.

With every mile, she fuels a revolution, riding to empower the unsung heroes—soldiers, ex-servicemen, women and children in rural areas of the country. By 2026, she envisions 100 vibrant centers, bridging the digital divide and illuminating the path to progress. But what drives her quest? The stark truth is that countless schools

lie dormant, their state-of-the-art labs awaiting the spark of life—computers. The government promises to linger and tenders are issued, yet the silence of unused labs echoes through corridors. Undaunted, she's already transformed 20 schools, infusing digital life into barren labs. Her crusade against digital darkness gathers momentum, scripting a new chapter in the story of empowerment, where women and children claim their rightful place in the digital age. Every revolution begins with a single ride and hers is just the beginning.



Awakening sacred sound of 'Aum'

Advait Yoghushan, from the Himalayan Yogi Institute and Swamrpan Foundation, has embarked on a 13,000 km journey with a mission to spread the wisdom of 'Aum' and holistic well-being across India. His mission is not only personal enlightenment but also the upliftment of those he encounters along his journey.

Currently in Ujjain, he continues his pilgrimage to deepen the spiritual practice while fostering community engagement through yoga, mindfulness and connection with nature. Starting at the Veerbhadra Temple, he is on his way to visit 12 Jyotirlingas, including Mahakaleshwar, Somnath and Kedarnath, while engaging with communities along the way.

The pilgrimage, inspired by his personal journey through adversity, focuses on awakening the sacred sound of 'Aum' in those he encounters. Yogi Advait emphasises the importance of non-duality and teaches mindfulness and yoga, particularly to children in schools and local communities. His sessions in temples often draw large crowds,

where he speaks on themes of forgiveness and letting go of negativity.

"In line with Yogi Ji's vision for an India united in Advait philosophy, this Yatra presents a unique opportunity for local governments to participate and benefit from this transformative journey," shared a participant and devoted 'shishya'. Not long ago, during a stop at a village near a riverbank, Yogi Advait led a yoga session under the shade of a banyan tree for national Kabaddi players and local villagers alike. His gentle yet powerful teachings inspired everyone, young and old, as they moved through the postures and chanted in unison.

The journey also includes spiritual camps (Shivirs) catering to various societal groups. Yogi Advait seeks to collaborate with government officials to amplify the pilgrimage's impact, aiming to inspire a broader embrace of yoga and spirituality across the nation.

His goal is to inspire millions to embrace the values of yoga and spirituality, fostering a message of unity, peace, and holistic well-being.



How Chumma became season's hottest desi party anthem!

SHIKHA DUGGAL
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The song *Chumma* from Rajkumar Rao and Tripti Dimri's movie *Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala video* was sung by Rupali Jagga and Pawan Singh! We can still feel the energy in that song, which is why it became a chart-topping hit. To put it simply, it's the season's new Desi party music. And let's take a closer look at the voice behind the song that gets everyone moving and dancing.

"To be honest, I didn't try very hard to get this music; it just happened to fall into my basket. Sachin-Jigar called me the other day as I was working out at the gym. 'Come to the studio if you're free,' Sachin suggested over the phone. I've got a song. So I went straight to the studio. He played the song for me when I got there and I sang it. I finished in twenty to twenty-five minutes. I had no expectations, just as with any other song, since in this business, you can't be certain of anything until you see your music on screens. I sang it and walked away. Then, two days before the film's screening, Jigar sir gave me another call to inform me that my voice had been accepted and that my song would be included. The song turned out so beautifully that I was genuinely ecstatic. It has been playing well on Spotify, Instagram and YouTube, trending as the number one song on YouTube. Being a part of such a popular song this year makes me very happy, and I want to thank Sachin-Jigar for the chance," shares Rupali.

She performs live all over the world and has previously been the voice behind several independent songs, including *Sorry*, *Superstar* and *Dil Ye Dilbaro*, to mention a few. She has also performed her own songs for Himesh Reshammiya! Accordingly, she stated, "The song plays during the credits, right at the end, when people are eagerly anticipating it and hankering after it. It appears at the ideal time and is positioned perfectly throughout the

film. Everyone wants to try the hook step since it's so good and catchy. In the theatre, I even witnessed audience members performing the hook step. I thought that was hilarious!"

You don't need to do a lot of promotion for a song this popular. Social media's influence has made platforms so widespread that everyone can hear about it. You can hear it playing in cars, restaurants, radio stations and on social media if it's the top trending song. Everyone had heard it by then, despite Rupali's lack of promotion! Regardless of whether a song is tier 1, tier 2, or tier 3, social media's value lies in its ability to reach every city. It is heard by all. These platforms are quite helpful; they enable these singers to connect with a larger audience.

"As you pointed out, *Jogan* and *Tere Bin Jeena Kya* are only two samples of the diversity in my work; the three songs I've written are all quite distinct from one another. Being able to perform for the renowned composer M M Keeravani sir on his romantic song *Tere Bin Jeena Kya* is a huge opportunity for any singer. Given that I sang it with Vishal Mishra, who is equally well-known for his romantic songs, I am incredibly appreciative of the opportunity. Then there was the focused, Sufi-sounding song *Jogan for Good Luck Jerry*, which featured Jhanvi Kapoor. My latest energetic dance performance is a duet with Pawan Singh, a self-made sensation. I've performed songs in a variety of genres and each one is handled differently. Since each song provides a unique educational opportunity, this journey has been immensely enlightening for me. I consider myself really fortunate to have such a wide variety of tunes in my basket," the singer shares, who began performing when she was just four years old. She continues, "Being a Punjabi girl, the majority of my independent work has mostly focused on Punjabi music, with an emphasis on the songs' playful taunting and Punjabi lyrics. Since I have a lot of creative flexibility, I have primarily performed independent Punjabi music. I was free to do as I pleased, so I did Punjabi when I felt like it. I've largely heard Hindi music in Bollywood, although some have a slight Bhojpuri influence. The song has a really Desi vibe, even if the words are in Hindi. I'm happy I concentrated on Punjabi and I've been able to independently produce the music I wanted to do. Bollywood, on the other hand, has introduced me to a wide range of music, which has helped me realise my versatility.

Okay, I can do this too! I've discovered."



Rupali Jagga, the talented singer who has taken the nation by storm with her electrifying rendition of *Chumma*, shares her inspiring story of passion, perseverance and creative expression in an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*

This position has advantages and disadvantages.

Rupali thinks it's critical to change with the times. "This strategy is effective, so we must work hard to increase our own numbers and figure out how to reach more people. Numbers aren't everything; people with high numbers can efficiently promote their music and give what listeners want to hear. I think there's nothing wrong with that. I'm a singer with sixteen years of classical music training, but I can't hold it against people who succeed without it. They are also putting in a lot of effort and successfully reaching a large audience. I find no problem with this relationship because I want people to hear my music and value their opinions," added Rupali, who has spent several years studying classical music under her guru maa,

Nidhi Narang from 'Agra Gharana'.

However, reality shows have had a big impact on her career. "If you go back eight or ten years, reality shows were the main way for any singer to get noticed," she says. "Independent music didn't have as much room at the time. In 2016, I competed in *Sa Re Ga Ma Pa*, where I advanced to the finals and amassed a sizable fan base and reputation. People still remember me from that show and I gained a lot of notoriety as my Instagram following exploded overnight. In 2021, I participated in and won the *Indian Pro Music League*. I then got the chance to judge *Sa Re Ga Ma Pa*, which was a unique experience because I was judging the same show on which I had competed. I developed a unique bond with each competitor that took the stage as a result. I would want to attribute a lot of my professional success to my involvement in reality programs thus far."

She's a huge fan of EDM. As a Punjabi girl, she frequently selects Punjabi folk tunes; therefore, she loves the notion of fusing them with EDM to create fusion music. To develop this blend, she collaborated closely with her music producer, which produced a novel sound. "The monotony of traditional folk music, which has long been popular in Punjab, is broken up by this method. We produce something fresh and engaging by fusing lively EDM with traditional folk music. I enjoy creating this type of fusion music myself and I intend to keep experimenting with it in the future. Although I understand that the music I want to make isn't always commercial and that people frequently prefer alternative types, I still want to experiment with that fusion sound. Usually, they would rather sing something different, which may not be my favourite. But let's face it, money matters, so I make an effort to keep things in balance."

Her career has been going great overall. She has been learning a great deal and realising her own potential. She considers herself lucky to be receiving such high-caliber tunes and to benefit greatly from each one. One day, she hopes to perform for A.R. Rahman. He was a guest on one of the *Indian Pro Musical League*'s shows, giving her the chance to sing in front of him. He gave Rupali a lot of appreciation after she sang one of his own songs, *Raanjhanaa*, *Maahi Ve*. "I will never forget that evening; witnessing his amazement was genuinely unique." She felt just that way. She still looks forward to the day when his office calls and invites her to work together. "I'm dying to collaborate with him as an artist, and I am trying to make it happen. I hope it happens quickly!"

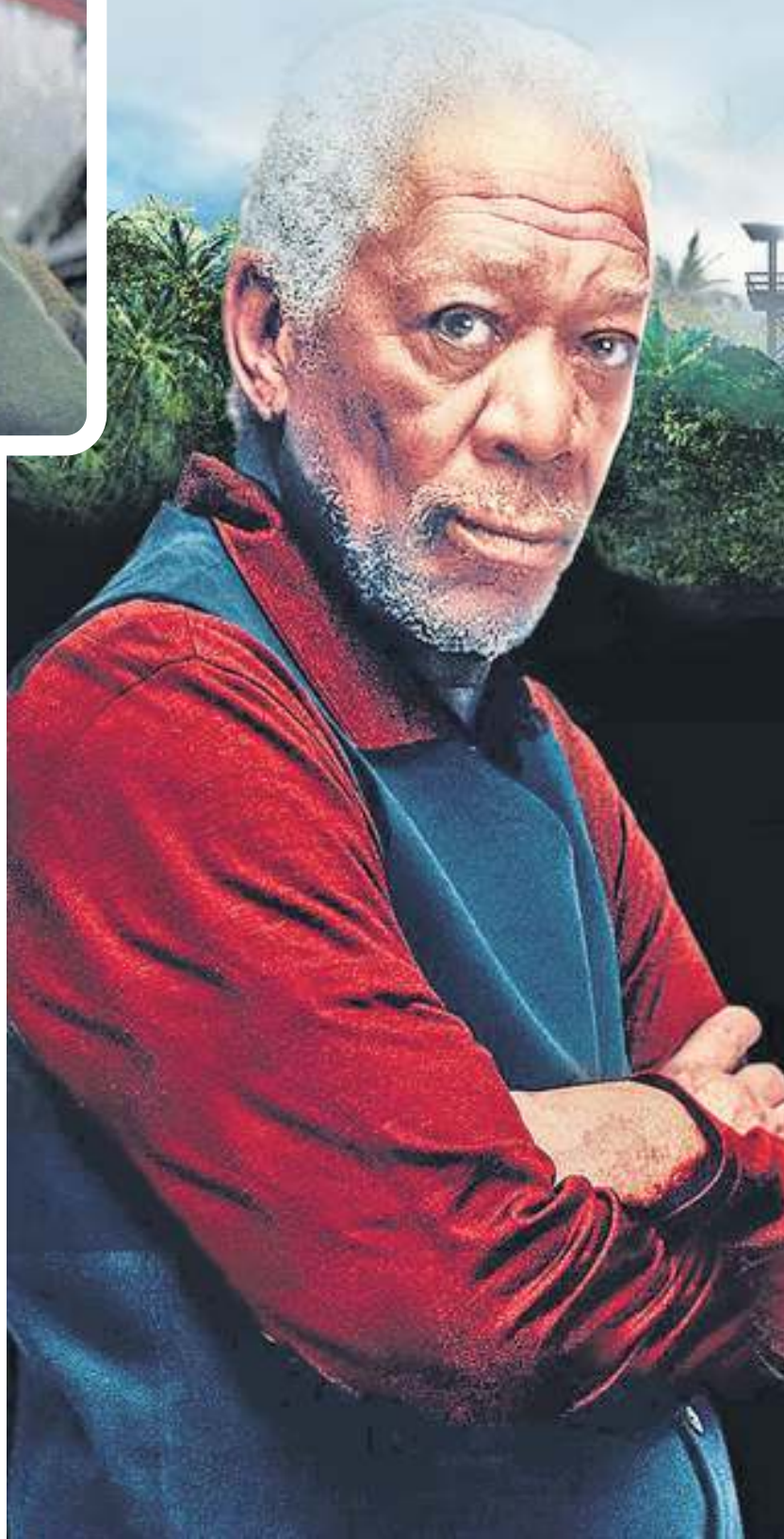




European cinema takes centre stage

The European Union Film Festival (EUFF), an annual celebration of European cinema and a shared passion for art and culture, returns with its 29th edition. This year, the festival will travel across three cities - New Delhi, Kolkata and Hyderabad. The festival promises a captivating cinematic journey through 26 award-winning films in 31 languages, offering a window into European society, culture and people. Organised by the Delegation of the European Union to India, in collaboration with the Embassies of EU Member States and regional partners, the festival will kick off in New Delhi, running from 7th -16th November. The festival will feature films from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Ukraine. This thoughtfully curated selection of films includes some of the most talked-about European movies that have earned recognition at prestigious international film fes-

tivals. Highlights include *La Chimera*, *Baan*, *Jim's Story*, *Afire*, *What a Feeling*, *Animal*, *An Irish Goodbye*, *Restore Point*, *The Man Without Guilt*, *The Teacher Who Promised The Sea* and many more. Showcasing the crème de la crème of contemporary European cinema, the festival marks the India premiere of several European films, including, *What A Feeling*, *Because I Love Bad Weather*, *Stairway To Heaven*, *Death is a Problem for the Living*, *Jim's Story*, *Without Air*, *Black Velvet*, *The Last Ashes*, *Blood on the Crown*, *Baan*, *Horia* and *The Man Without Guilt*. Fostering Indo-European dialogue, the festival will welcome an array of talent from across Europe. Yile Yara Vianello, lead actress in *La Chimera* (Italy), Tomas Vengris, director of *Five & A Half Love Stories in an Apartment in Vilnius* (Lithuania) and Pedja Miletic, producer of *Blood on the Crown* (Malta). Cinema transcends borders and unites people, sparking empathy, and transforming our understanding of the world. EUFF 2024 celebrates this power of cinema, showcasing a diverse range of European films that resonate universally.

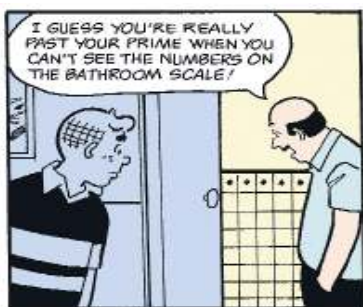


Morgan Freeman brings true stories of daring escapes to life

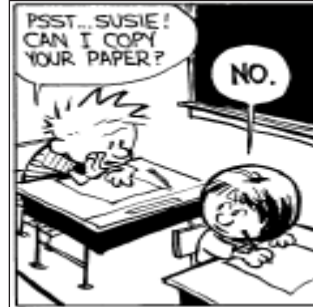
HistoryTV18 returns with the thrilling second season of *History's Greatest Escapes with Morgan Freeman*, where the Academy Award-winning actor narrates incredible real-life stories of survival, prison breaks and the defiance of fate. Set to premiere on October 26, this gripping eight-part series will air every Saturday and Sunday at 9:00 PM. In this season, Freeman immerses viewers in some of history's most daring escapes — from the unimaginable horrors of WWII death camps to the modern-day drama of high-stakes prison breakouts. Blending powerful storytelling, stunning recreations and Freeman's iconic voice, each episode showcases the human drive to survive against overwhelming odds. Audiences will witness daring escapes that transcend mere jailbreaks. From a Nazi death camp during the Holocaust, where Jewish prisoners pull off a life-saving mass escape, to a German-American pilot who outwits his captors during the Vietnam War, these stories reveal the courage, ingenuity, and resilience of individuals who defied their fates. This season doesn't just chronicle the mechanics of escape — it delves into the motivations, the emotional stakes, and the unyielding human spirit behind every breakout. Freeman's captivating narration adds depth to stories of survival that often feel stranger than fiction, like the heart-wrenching escape of a man determined to reunite with his unborn child or the audacious prison break engineered by a lifelong escape artist at San Quentin. With each tale, *History's Greatest Escapes* explores the cost of freedom, the power of human resolve and the lengths people will go to for a chance at life. This season's escapes range from notorious historical breakouts that inspired Hollywood, like the flight from Devil's Island to recent daring escapes like the Orange County jail break, adding edge-of-your-seat tension to each episode. Freeman's masterful storytelling turns these dramatic accounts into unforgettable stories that resonate deeply with viewers, asking them the timeless question: "What would you risk to break free?"

FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



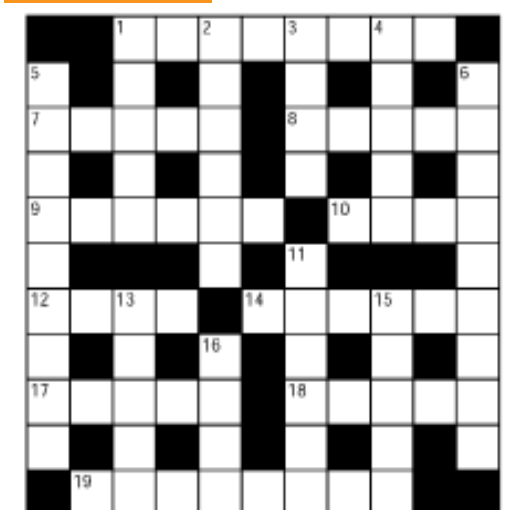
REALITY CHECK



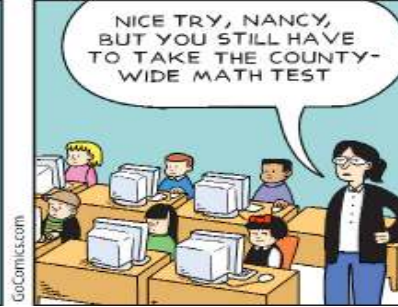
SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



NANCY



GINGER MEGGS



SUDOKU



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

ACROSS

- 1 Long pants
- 7 Correct
- 8 Untrue
- 9 Someone who lives alone, keeping away from others
- 10 Costing nothing
- 12 Shortly
- 14 Thief
- 17 Lift up
- 18 Think the same way
- 19 Huge

DOWN

- 1 A large wild cat
- 2 Get
- 3 Out of danger
- 4 Draw a straight line with this
- 5 A large group of musicians who play together
- 6 Practised
- 11 A root vegetable
- 13 A smelly vegetable
- 15 Destroys by fire
- 16 Expensive



Narudi Brathuku Natana is all set to hit the cinemas on Friday, featuring Shiva and Nithin in lead roles. As both the actors are excited to don the hat of the protagonist, they share their experience, journey and more



'SMALL-SCALE FILMS DESERVE MORE SUPPORT FROM INDUSTRY'

SURESH KAVIRAYANI
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Actor Shiva has been a part of several films; *Tholi Prema*, *Majili*, *Hit 2* and *Bhaje Vaayuvagam*, to name a few. And here he is now playing the lead role in the upcoming film *Narudi Brathuku Natana*. "Director Rishikesh first showed me a draft of the story and post that, I was keen on acting in this film," said Shiva about the film. Hailing from Bheemavaram and passionate about films, Shiva entered the industry at the age of 18. "Now, I have completed 12 years of my journey into films. I am now playing a lead. I always believe in hard work and honesty. I believe that leads me to get into good work," said Shiva about playing the lead.

On the other hand, the film also has Nithin, a Malayali who has worked in an IT firm in Singapore. "I left the job because I was fascinated about acting in films. My first film was *A: Ad Infinitum* and while working for that film, I learned Telugu while communicating with the office assistant," he said about his journey. He is married and has a daughter

too. He then acted in *Ambajipeta Marriage Band* and *Prasanna Vadanam*. "I have performed negative roles in those two films, but in this *Narudi Brathuku Natana* I play a positive character," said Nithin about his role.

Though the film had finished long ago, however, there were no takers. "We went to every production house, but no one showed interest to back up our film. We even sent our film to many film festivals, where it did win many awards and was also nominated nearly in 60 film festivals. We explained to many of them that our film has won many awards, but some of them asked, 'is there an item song?' So, finally, TG Vishwaprasad has seen the film, liked it and he wanted to support us." He added that it is a good sign that a production house like People Media Factory backed a small film. "The film industry needs small films also and they should be encouraged; the industry does not thrive only on big films."

Talking about the story, they said it is all about a person's life. "I play the character of Satya, a rich kid, who wanted to become an actor, but only money can't make him an actor and he needs to know the emotions, the struggles of an aspiring actor. So, an incident leads

him to land in Kerala, which he doesn't know anything, language, place and then met his friend Salman played by Nithin there," said "It's a failed actor's story and he randomly ended up in Kerala and how he survived and what happened in the end," said about the film's story in a simple way.

So, why a Kerala backdrop? "We can put Tamil or Karnataka, but somehow we can manage those languages, whereas Malayalam is a bit difficult, so we have taken the backdrop of Kerala. Apart from the director and I, most of the actors and technicians are Malayalam," said Shiva. He shared an incident that happened to him and the film unit was all worried. "I was travelling to Madhapur in night, when I met with a major accident. I was into Coma and doctors said that I may not recover in six months, but like a miracle, after the thirteenth day of my surgery, I woke up and after two weeks I went to shoot for this film," recalls Shiva about his accident.

Nani's film *Pilla Zamindar* is similar to lines where the spoiled rich kid went to a college. "This is completely different and this is a feel good film and there is more human angle in it," said the lead stars. Both are confident that this film will give actors

like them more work. "If people back up films like this, many more actors and technicians are going to be introduced to the industry and also people get work and many families survive," said both.

The title of this film is interesting. First it was titled as *Kamal* and then changed to *Nata Samrat*. "We couldn't get both the titles, but now we got *Narudi Brathuku Natana* which we feel apt for this film," said both. Actually this title is also with Sithara Entertainment production house, which they registered for *DJ Tilla* film. "When we requested, the production house gave it to us," they said. They sent it to film festivals with the *Samrat* title, but now they are releasing in theaters with the changed title *Narudi Brathuku Natana*.

Talking about their upcoming projects, Shiva said he is back from America after working on three projects. "I completed shooting for three films in the USA and one film is Telugu and English," he said. He also acted in the recently released web film *Balu Gani Talkies*. Nithin is doing a Raj Tarun film where he is playing a police character. "I am also playing a role in Ravi Teja's upcoming film and a small character in *Thandel*," said Nithin. He is also doing a Malayalam film.

PRABHAS' B'DAY SPECIAL CINESTA

Salaar 2 shooting begins; Raja Saab poster out



To celebrate Prabhas' birthday, the makers of his next movie *Salaar: Shouryaanga Parvam*, the second installment of the previous *Salaar* part one, revealed a fresh update. It was stated that Prabhas has begun filming for the highly anticipated sequel after pausing to celebrate his birthday.

Hombale Films produces the film, directed by Prashanth Neel. In addition to Prabhas, Malayalam actor Pridhiviraj Sukumar also has a significant role in this sequel. The makers revealed that the current filming plan is scheduled for 20 days, with the team hoping to film intense sequences.

In the continuation, the narrative delves further into the complex themes of power dynamics, vengeance and seeking salvation where the initial film concluded. As tensions rise and alliances are put to the test, viewers can anticipate an exciting journey packed with surprising turns. The plot will delve into the characters' reasons for their actions and the results they face, presenting an exhilarating story blending intense drama with adrenaline-inducing action scenes.

However, the creators of his other film *Raja Saab* also launched a brief motion poster during the same event. Maruthi directed the horror comedy film. Prabhas is venturing into the horror-comedy genre for the first time, generating high levels of excitement.

The motion poster, lasting two minutes, starts with an eerie rendition of 'Happy Birthday' being played on a piano in the heart of a forest. Next, a mysterious character wanders through the forest before the audience is taken to an old palace, where Prabhas' appearance is revealed. Prabhas emits a strong and nostalgic aura while dressed as royalty and smoking a cigar. The slogan 'Horror Is The New Humour' is also highlighted on the poster. The movie will be out on April 10, 2025 and is made by People Media Factory production company.



ANU EMMANUEL PAIRED WITH SHIVA KANDUKURI

Actress Anu Emmanuel has signed a new film and she is pairing opposite Shiva Kandukuri. The film's shooting is going on in London and it is directed by Andrew Babu, who is making his debut as director. He is known as a cinematographer and now turned as director with this film. It is interesting to see after a long gap, Anu Emmanuel is doing a film.

Her last Telugu film was *Ravanasura* opposite Ravi Teja which bombed at the box-office and later her Tamil film *Japan* opposite Karthi was also not done

well. These films released last year and now, the actress signed this Telugu film.

The makers announced that the film is not titled yet, but the story is going to be a thriller. "It is like an edge of the seat thriller and the shooting is going on at some beautiful locations in London," say the makers in a press release. London Ganesh and Dr Praveen Reddy Vootla are the producers. Viva Harsha, Vennela Kishore, Shakalaka Shankar and few other actors are participating in the shooting.

Sivakarthiskeyan & Sai Pallavi capture hearts in Amaran trailer

The wait is finally over! The much-anticipated trailer for *Amaran* has released on Wednesday, offering audiences across India a powerful first look at its emotional and stirring narrative. Starring Sivakarthiskeyan and Sai Pallavi in lead roles, *Amaran* promises to be a visually stunning and emotionally charged cinematic experience. This film is set to hit theatres this Diwali, on October 31, 2024. The trailer opens with a powerful line from an officer telling Major Mukund, "You do not choose 44 RR, but 44 RR chooses you," setting the tone for the heroism that is set to unfold. Glimpses of Major Mukund's (Sivakarthiskeyan) personal life are revealed, including his family's reaction to his decision to join the army and the love story between him and Indhu (Sai Pallavi).

Action-packed sequences show Major Mukund perfectly portrayed by Sivakarthiskeyan in combat, refusing to retreat when his superior asks him to return, responding with, "I'll save every life I can and come back, sir." Indhu's voice resonates with pride as she says, "I am proud of him being an army officer and me being an army wife." In a gripping moment, Sivakarthiskeyan's character poignantly declares, "This is the face of the Indian army," showcasing his unwavering resolve. Inspired by the real-life events

documented in Shiv Aroor and Rahul Singh's book *India's Most Fearless*, *Amaran* is a heartfelt tribute to a true hero. The trailer has been released in multiple languages, with notable figures amplifying its reach: Nani is releasing it in Telugu, Tovino Thomas in Malayalam, Shiva Rajkumar in Kannada and Aamir Khan in Hindi. The trailer ends on an emotional note, with Major Mukund's daughter asking Indhu, "You told me appa will come for my birthday, will he come?" Directed by Rajkumar Periasamy and produced by legendary actor Kamal Haasan, alongside R Mahendran and Sony Pictures International Productions, *Amaran* tells the heartwarming and inspiring story of Major Mukund Varadarajan and his wife Indhu. The film captures the essence of their journey—love, sacrifice and the immense personal losses faced during Major Varadarajan's courageous service to the nation.



Suriya talks about Singham Again

The upcoming movie *Kanguva* starring Tamil actor Suriya is set to be released on November 14. This movie, directed by Siva, is a major investment in Suriya's filmography. Disha Patani stars as the lead actress while Suriya plays a dual role in the film. The actor has begun promoting the film in Mumbai.

The actor gained popularity for his role as a police officer in the *Singham* series. Hari, the director, has worked on three films with Suriya playing the role of Singham. The movies have been translated into Telugu and the initial one is replicated in Hindi as *Singham* under the direction of Rohit Shetty. The director of Hindi origin initiated follow-up films to his *Singham* titled *Singham Returns* and *Simba*. The director is currently developing another police-themed story titled *Singham Again*.

The movie features a large ensemble cast comprising of Ajay Devgn, Ranveer Singh, Akshay Kapoor, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Deepika Padukone and numerous other actors. Recently, Suriya, famous for his *Singham* movie series in

the South, expressed his opinions on the upcoming Hindi film.

During the media session, Suriya was questioned about the likelihood of the two *Singham* characters joining forces and whether there had been talks about him entering the universe.

"Ajay sir has been asking why you're not doing the next sequence, why you're not going ahead, but it has to come again from Hari sir (Director). I would love to do it, but just because people have loved *Singham* and just because of the title, we don't want to put another one, just don't want to go ahead with the numbers," said Suriya.

"I'm very happy for the franchise and we loved *Simba* and looking forward to the latest one (*Singham Again*). It is interesting to see the Ramayana and *Singham* sequences being on 'what if this happens'. All the best to the team and very happy the way they've taken it forward," said Suriya.



INDIA EYE RIGHT SELECTION CALLS TO COUNTER NEW ZEALAND

PTI ■ PUNE

Jolted by an unexpected loss on home turf, star-heavy India will look for right balance in the line-up to counter-attack against a spunky New Zealand in the crucial second Test beginning here on Thursday.

After being shot out for an embarrassing 46 in the first innings at Bengaluru, India's resolute show in the second innings could not prevent an eight-wicket pounding which saw the top-ranked team in the World Test Championship table dropping points even though it continues to hold the top spot.

Winning the next two Tests will be first priority for Rohit Sharma and his men before they hit the Australian shores for a five-Test affair next month.

With India in a spot of bother, focus has undeniably been on the nature of the pitch here at the MCA Stadium here. It does not have grass cover and is composed of black soil to negate the bounce which New Zealand extracted in Bengaluru.

India's free-flowing batters cut a sorry figure when William O'Rourke and the seasoned duo of Matt Henry and Tim Southee served a wake up call which no one saw coming on a pace-friendly track that was admittedly misread by Rohit despite overcast conditions.

Preparing a rank turner could be one way out of the mire but it has backfired on India twice in the past.

Australia hammered them by a monumental 333 runs here eight years ago while the same team handed a nine-wicket defeat to them in Indore last year. With Shubman Gill priming for a comeback, one among KL Rahul and Sarfaraz Khan will have to make way. Coach Gautam Gambhir has expressed his desire to give the latter a long rope but Sarfaraz has made a strong case with his second innings 150 in Bengaluru.

One could say a big score for each of the two seniors, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, is around the corner. The latter, especially, would be keen to draw from his 254 not out here in 2019-20, which paved the way for an innings and 137-



run thrashing of South Africa. By his own lofty standards, Yashasvi Jaiswal endured twin failures in the Bengaluru Test and the young batter looked to iron out his flaws when he had multiple stints in the nets.

As much as the Indian camp values Rahul's credentials in Test cricket, the right-handed batter hasn't looked his best and runs haven't come off his bat on a consistent basis.

The Karnataka batter is locked in the fight for a spot against a red-hot Sarfaraz, who followed his 222 not out in the Irani Cup for Mumbai with a superlative 150 in Bengaluru, helping India fight against all odds.

Rishabh Pant kept wickets for a short period towards end of India's training session on Tuesday but it remains to be seen if he is 100 per cent fit to endure match workload.

India's perennial problem of plenty also goes along with ensuring their players are adequately rested as well as primed for future challenges, but on these counts it is unlikely that Jasprit Bumrah will get some time off given a series-leveling win is much-needed here.

However, with Mohammed Siraj enduring a "wickets-drought" as assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate put it, there could be a possibility of Akash Deep coming back into the fold. He too had a long batting stint in the nets here on Tuesday.

Ravichandran Ashwin will look to make the most of what will be on offer over the next five days, with Ravindra Jadeja in tow.

The addition of Washington Sundar, who can spin the ball away from New Zealand's southpaws in captain Tom Latham, Devon Conway and the immensely talented Rachin Ravindra, would also bolster India's batting.

On their part, New Zealand have done fairly well given the absence of Kane Williamson from two of the three Tests on this tour. Will Young appeared resolute in the middle-order which features Ravindra's brilliance.

New Zealand will, however, expect more off Daryl Mitchell and Tom Blundell's bats and at the same time want the others to try and emulate Southee's feats in the first innings of the opening Test.



Pakistan retain spin heavy team for third and final Test against England

AP ■ RAWALPINDI PAKISTAN

Pakistan has retained its spin-heavy team for Thursday's series-deciding third Test against England as both sides anticipate another dry wicket that will suit the slow bowlers.

The groundsmen have been trying to dry out the track for the last four days, with the help of industrial-sized fans and outdoor heaters, to fulfil the wish of Pakistan skipper Shan Masood to nullify England's aggressive batters.

Left-arm spinner Noman Ali and off-spinner Sajid Khan claimed all 20 England wickets in the second test, on a recycled wicket in Multan, to level the series at 1-1.

England had won the series opener by an innings after it posted a record-breaking 823-7, with Harry Brook scoring a triple century and Joe Root making a career-best 262.

The third specialist slow bowler, leg-spinner Zahid Mahmood, bowled six wicketless overs in England's first innings, and was not even required in the second innings as the visitors folded for 144 against Ali and Khan to lose the second test by 152 runs.

"It (the wicket) is very dry with not a lot of grass on it," Pakistan head coach Jason Gillespie said on Wednesday. "We probably expect it to

favor the slower bowlers." The toss could again play a vital role, with the spinners expected to dominate the batters as the game goes on.

"It (the toss) is a 50-50 call, you always want it to go your way," Gillespie said. "Both teams will have that mindset but, yeah, we'll see."

The wicket has encouraged England to recall leg-spinner Rehan Ahmed as its third specialist slow option to go with Jack Leach's left-arm spin and the off-spin of Shoaib Bashir.

"Who knows what's going to happen?" said captain Ben Stokes after England's last training session at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. "It looks a very good wicket at the moment (but) with some cricket on it, it might change. We feel the longer it goes, more spin is going to come into play."

Bashir has replaced Matthew Potts in the England team while Gus Atkinson, who was part of the memorable win by an innings and 47 runs in the first test, will replace rested fast bowler Brydon Carse.

Reverse swing with the old ball might be ineffective, with a greener square on both sides of the wicket.

"The square is very lush and green," Stokes said. "It's going to be hard to manufacture reverse swing. The longer the games goes on, the more spin is going to come in."

Pant overtakes Kohli in Test rankings

PTI ■ DUBAI

Rishabh Pant on Wednesday overtook his superstar India teammate Virat Kohli to reach the sixth spot in the ICC Test rankings for batters.

Fresh from a counter-attacking 99 in the second innings of the opening Test against New Zealand, Pant gained three spots in the rankings while Kohli, who made a fluent 70 in Bengaluru, dropped a place to be eighth.

Opener Yashasvi Jaiswal remains India's highest ranked batter at four. India captain Rohit Sharma dropped two places to be joint 15th alongside Sri Lanka's Dimuth Karunaratne. England star Joe Root



maintains a healthy lead at the top of the charts.

New Zealand duo of Rachin Ravindra (up 36 places to 18th) and Devon Conway (up 12 spots to 36th) also made good ground on the latest list

for Test batters, while teammate Matt Henry (up two rungs to ninth with a new career-high rating) was the big winner in bowlers' category.

Henry picked up eight

wickets during the Black Caps' drought-breaking eight-wicket victory over India in Bengaluru, while teammate Will O'Rourke (up two spots to 39th) was also rewarded for his seven scalps from the same match.

Pakistan spinner Noman Ali was re-instated at 17th on the rankings following his 11 wickets across two innings against England, while teammate Sajid Khan gained 22 places to move to 50th after he was adjudged Player of the Match in the same contest.

India's pace spearhead remains at the top of the bowlers' rankings followed by teammate R Ashwin. Retaining the seventh spot, Ravindra Jadeja is another Indian in the top-10.



Mehidy Hasan's 87 not out rescues Bangladesh from innings defeat

AP ■ MIRPUR, DHAKA (BANGLADESH)

Mehidy Hasan's 87 not out helped Bangladesh take an 81-run lead on Wednesday, ending fears of an innings defeat in the opening Test against South Africa.

The battling Mehidy led his side to 283-7 at stumps, a comeback from 112-6 during a third day interrupted by rain and bad light. Nayeem Hasan was also unbeaten on 16.

Mehidy shared a record 138-run stand with debutant Jaker Ali, who made 58 as the hosts wiped out a first-innings deficit of 202.

Bangladesh was bowled out for 106 in its first innings before South Africa replied with 308, thanks to Kyle Verreynne's 114.

Fast bowler Kagiso Rabada (4-35) and left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj (3-105) then shared seven wickets as South Africa put Bangladesh under even more pressure.

Rabada used the early moisture of the pitch expertly after Bangladesh began the day on 101-3. He pegged back the hosts with two wickets in three balls in the fourth over.

Opener Mahmudul Hasan edged to the first slip on 40 after being undone by extra bounce.

Mushfiqur Rahim, who became the first Bangladesh batter to reach 6,000 Test runs on Day 2, paid the price for a lack of foot movement as Rabada's fuller-length delivery skidded through to rattle the stumps when he was on 33.

Maharaj removed Liton Das for 7 and South Africa sensed a chance to wrap up an early victory. But, Mehidy and Jaker then survived a probing spell from Maharaj and Rabada.

Mehidy hit Dane Piedt for a six over his head and drove Maharaj to deep mid-off for a single to raise his ninth Test half-century from 94 balls.

Maharaj finally broke through by trapping Jaker lbw to end their partnership, which was Bangladesh's highest against South Africa for any wicket.

Mehidy, who hit nine fours and one six in 171 balls, continued to frustrate South Africa with support from Nayeem before bad light brought a premature end to the day's play.

India is a powerhouse that don't want to bow down: Brett Lee



PTI ■ SYDNEY

Australian speedster Brett Lee has described the Indian team as a "powerhouse that don't want to bow down" to anyone, cautioning his compatriots who will take on the Asian giants in an upcoming five-match Test series.

Lee's remarks came after India's eight-wicket defeat to New Zealand in the

Bengaluru Test earlier this week.

India, aiming to qualify for their third successive final in the World Test Championship, will be travelling to Australia next month to defend the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

"This day and age, India is a powerhouse that don't want to bow down. They know how to win, and they know they can beat Australia; they know they can beat the Kiwis. They know they can beat anyone

on any given day," Lee told 'Fox Cricket'.

Commenting on India's outing in the Bengaluru Test against the Kiwis, Lee felt that they might have got influenced by 'Bazball', leading to playing some loose shots.

"India just didn't go into their shell. Maybe it's Bazball brushing off on other cricketers around the world," he noted. "I know that India won't be proud of the way they played. They played some pretty loose shots."

India's decision to bat first in overcast conditions raised eyebrows, as the team was bowled out for 46 in the first innings of the opening Test, its lowest Test score at home.

Lee said the side needs to "weigh up the risk factor" and added the Indians should have judged the conditions better.

"But, you've got to weigh up the risk factor as well. There are times when you've got to go, 'Okay, well, maybe the big shots aren't working today.' 'Maybe, just rein it in a little bit. I don't think they sort of summed up the conditions as quickly as what they should have done,' Lee said.

India play two more Tests against New Zealand -- Pune (October 24-28) and Mumbai (November 1-5) -- before leaving for Australia.

On utilising spinners well in second Test against India: Latham

PTI ■ PUNE

Skipper Tom Latham on Wednesday said New Zealand will head into the second Test against India without any preconceived ideas about a spin-friendly surface, focusing instead on utilising their bowling options effectively.

New Zealand hold a vital 1-0 lead after an eight-wicket win in the opening Test in Bengaluru.

The Kiwis bowled India out for their lowest total of 46 on home soil in the Bengaluru Test. Despite a second innings fightback from the hosts, New Zealand held their nerves to record their first win in India in 36 years.

"Whatever we're presented with, for us it's about trying to adapt as quick as we can," Latham told the media ahead of the second Test here.

"If it is going to be a wicket that turns a little bit more, then we've got four spinners in our line-up, that will play into their hands, but it's (also) about to try not to go into the game with too many

preconceived ideas," he added.

Latham admitted he has given thought to how to utilise the spinners at their disposal. New Zealand have Ish Sodhi, Mitchell Santner and Ajaz Patel among frontline tweakers and Rachin Ravindra and Glenn Phillips also to roll over their arms.

"I obviously had a little bit of a think around what that may look like," he said.

"(We will) try to get a little bit of information from previous games here and also the practice wickets that we're on, will hopefully be something around, or similar to what we're getting," he said.

Latham said New Zealand won't be resting on their laurels of drought-breaking Bengaluru Test win.

"(It is) very special, there is myself, Graham Dowling and John Wright, to be in this position is really special. But for me it was a team effort," he said.

"We celebrated what was a special performance, but our attention (has) turned quickly to this game and we're trying not to rest on what



happened last week, (we are) trying to take the confidence from last week and take that into this game and hopefully hit the ground running.

"The confidence that it can bring into a side is probably the most important thing, that we can come over here and we can compete and we can do well," he added.

The opening batter, who took over captaincy reigns before this tour, said his lack of big scores are not too concerning for him.

"For me it's about trying to contribute as best I can in my role, it's not just myself, it's other guys that are just trying to perform their role as best they can and that may look slightly different throughout the test match," he said.

"I've certainly been working hard behind the scenes to get my game where I want it to be. As a batsman it's a really fine line, you can be hitting the ball really well and get a good one, or vice versa, you may not be hitting it so well and get a bit of luck," he added.

Latham said Rachin Ravindra's

approach at different stages of his fabulous 134 in Bengaluru showed the right way to balance the elements of attack and defence in Indian conditions.

"The way he played throughout that whole innings was outstanding, (if) you take the situations of some of the partnerships that he was involved in, the way he played was really important," he said.

"He put the foot down a little bit, played a little bit more attacking at certain stages and then obviously sucked up a little bit of pressure at times as well. We saw that in the second innings too," he said.

Latham said Kane Williamson, who has missed the first two of the three Tests on this tour, is working closely with the medical team.

"It's a day-by-day thing with Kane, fingers crossed that he will be up and ready. He's obviously working closely with the medical team back home," he said.

"It's just a bit of a waiting game, hopefully we'll find out a little bit more after the Test," Latham added.