

the pioneer

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY
The pioneer

The busting of the Janwada farmhouse party is not what Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy meant by political bombs, but that is a self-goal by BRS leaders. Political bombs mean the Kaleshwaram Project, electricity deals, Budhan, the ED and hawala. The Kaleshwaram, electricity and Budhan land scams will come out soon

- Yennam Srinivas Reddy, PZ
Mahbubnagar MLA

Bengal home to all: Mamata



INDIA AND SPAIN SIGN MOUS ON INFRA, RAIL TRANSPORT



'I can't limit myself to only playing roles of my

AGE GROUP



DON'T MISS...

Ban on public gatherings ...

Hyderabad City Commissioner of Police CV Anand has issued an order prohibiting all public gatherings of five or more people, processions, rallies, and protests across Hyderabad and Secunderabad to prevent potential disturbances to public peace. This directive follows information indicating that several organisations and groups may be planning activities that could ...

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53 KGBV students suffer sudden ...

In yet another case of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalyaya (KGBV) students taking ill, a total of 53 pupils in KGBV in Muttharam madnal were shifted to hospital after they experienced heavy coughing and breathing difficulties on Sunday evening. "Students fell ill, experiencing cough and breathing difficulty. The school authorities quickly transported them to the Peddapalli district hospital," district officials said. According to a duty teacher, an ...

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India has entered cyclical growth...

Japanese brokerage Nomura on Monday said the Indian economy has entered a phase of "cyclical growth slowdown" and the Reserve Bank's estimate of 7.2 per cent GDP expansion is "overly optimistic". The brokerage said it sees "rising downside risks" to its GDP growth estimates of 6.7 per cent in the ongoing FY25 and 6.8 per cent in FY26. "We believe India's economy has entered a cyclical growth slowdown. Coincident and leading growth indicators point to a further ...

-PAGE: 8

India women need to resolve batting ...

India will be hoping to resolve their batting brittleness in their quest to win the third and final women's ODI and seal the series against New Zealand here on Tuesday. It was clear from the first match, which the hosts won by 59 runs through a fine effort by the bowlers, that India's batting is not in top shape, and the second one-dayer underscored that reality. India's batting went a notch down on Friday as they were bundled out for 183 while chasing 260. It was a tough target indeed, but not ...

-SPORTS

Massive rejig in Revenue dept

70 Special Grade Deputy Collectors and Deputy Collectors transferred

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Revenue Department witnessed large-scale transfers on Monday. The Revenue Department's Principal Secretary Navin Mittal issued an order regarding this.

The Revenue Department transferred 70 Special Grade Deputy Collectors and Deputy Collectors. The government transferred Special Grade Deputy Collector G. Mukunda Reddy, who is looking after LA, Bheema Project, Mahbubnagar as Additional Collector (Revenue) Hyderabad. Deputy Collector T. Venkatesham, who is looking after the Women, Children, Disabled and Senior

Citizens Department has been transferred to CCLA as Assistant Secretary. Deputy Collector R. Dasharath Singh, who is the Revenue Divisional Officer in Secunderabad has been posted as PA to the Special Collector ORR, HMDA.

Deputy Collector Lalivelu, who is working as the RDO of Mahbubabad has been posted at the disposal of MA & UD for posting as Secretary GWMC on deputation.

Deputy Collectors L. Ramesh, N. Anand Kumar and V. Hanuma Naik have been directed to report to the Revenue Department for postings. The government will intimate the date of relieving and joining to the transferred officers later.

Harish new I & PR Commissioner after IAS, IFS revamp

No power tariff hike

ERC rejects proposal to increase rates

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana State Electricity Regulatory Commission has rejected the proposal to hike electricity tariffs in Telangana.

Discoms had proposed to increase fixed charges by 10 to 50 per cent if consumption exceeds 800 units a month. After a long discussion, the ERC rejected the proposal of Discoms, the commission said on Monday at a media conference.

The ERC completed its investigation regarding these proposals. In this background, the Discoms submitted their latest report to the ERC with details of the power charges in other states. However, the ERC rejected the proposal to hike charges.

Questions have arisen on how the Electricity Regulatory Commission (ERC) managed to address the eight MY (Multi-Year) petitions in just 40 days, according to ERC Chairman

The ERC completed its investigation regarding these proposals. In this background, the Discoms submitted their latest report to the ERC with details of the power charges in other states. However, the ERC rejected the proposal to hike charges

Sriranga Rao.

Delays by power companies in filing these petitions resulted in penalties, and open hearings were held this month to gather suggestions, which have been duly noted, he said. "Our term ends on Tuesday, and recently we inaugurated the



Electricity Regulatory Bhavan," stated Chairman Rao.

"In just 40 days, the Commission reviewed all the eight petitions and aimed to ensure that our decisions do not burden the public while considering the subsidies provided by the government," he said.

Regarding Discoms, Rs 25,000 crore should be given by the government to the ERC, Chairman Sriranga Rao said. "There were discussions about that. We have submitted our suggestions in order to get payment within less time and follow it up as well," he said.

The highlights are no increase in power charges for any category. Hike in fixed charges for those consuming over 300 units rejected, while fixed charges for those con-

suming over 800 units were approved at Rs 100.

For LT (Low Tension) industries, proposed fixed charges of Rs 150 were reduced to Rs 100, and the proposed increase of Rs 100 for poultry farms was refused.

Proposals for HT (High Tension) category energy charge increases were rejected, maintaining current charges for 11, 33, and 132 KV connections, with no change for bus and railway services.

A fixed charge of Rs 270 for lift irrigation was approved.

No additional charges will be imposed during peak hours. However, usage between 10 PM and 6 AM will incur an additional charge of Rs 1.50.

Continued on Page 5

21 TGSP men arrested for defying public order

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Despite repeated warnings, certain personnel from the Telangana Special Police (TGSP) have engaged in unauthorised protests in both Battalion premises and public areas across Hyderabad. In recent days, these protests which violate force regulations have raised concerns over discipline, operational cohesion, and the public image of the force, said a statement from ADG, TGSP Sanjay Kumar Jain.

On Monday, 21 TGSP personnel escalated their actions by participating in an unauthorised protest at Dharna Chowk. This demonstration directly violated Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita

(BNS), formerly Section 144 CrPC, which was invoked to prevent public gatherings that might disrupt peace and order in Hyderabad. In light of these defiance actions, Hyderabad City Police arrested the

personnel involved, added the note. Following their arrest, two cases were registered at Domalguda police station under multiple sections, including Section 223 and 126(2) of BNS, Continued on Page 5

ARP replaces battalion police at CM's residence

The Telangana Police changed the security detail at Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's residence on Monday. The CM's security wing changed battalion police and replaced them with Armed Reserve Police (ARP). This change took place due to the ongoing battalion police stir across the state.

The battalion police staffers demanded that the government should implement the 'one police one state' policy like in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The battalion police didn't stop their stir even though the police department changed its stand on leaves.

Young India Skill University to have 6,000 students

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government is setting the foundation for Young India Skill University, a landmark institution designed to foster skill development on a sprawling 57-acre campus near Mir Khanpet in Kandukur mandal. The university will feature a comprehensive infrastructure to support 6,000 students, including an administration building, academic blocks, workshops, separate hostels for boys and girls, dining halls and staff quarters.

Conduct 'dawaths' as per law, says Ponnam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Declaring that there is no liquor prohibition in the state, Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar suggested that BRS leaders should conduct 'Dawaths' following the law and rules.

The Minister said that people are serving liquor at family functions and even at function halls while getting permission from the Excise Department.

Speaking to the media on Monday after the inauguration of the BC Finance Corporation's new office,

Ponnam Prabhakar alleged that the BRS and BJP are trying to destroy the Hyderabad brand image. He said that BRS leaders' attitude on farmhouses on Hyderabad's outskirts are crazy. They are behaving in a manner that the state's economy would be destroyed and subsequently, it would destroy the image of the Hyderabad brand, he said.

Ponnam Prabhakar said that there is no need for permission if they conduct 'Dawaths' with two or three members of a family but permission is a must if they want to conduct 'Dawaths' with hundreds.

No vengeful act against KTR Says Congress social media wing

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Declaring that the Congress government is not acting vengefully against BRS Working President KT Rama Rao in the Janwada farmhouse issue, the Congress's social media asked BRS leaders whether they did not remember the law when the BRS government broke open the doors of MLA Revanth Reddy at midnight.

The Congress's social media wing uploaded a post regarding this. The post said, "Didn't BRS leaders remember the law that day? The police acted unfairly by

breaking the door of a couple's bedroom at midnight without following protocol at the house of MLA Revanth Reddy as if they were anti-social elements. Today the police discharged their duties responsibly. The Congress government behaved transparently without going for any vengeful acts. When the public complained about a noisy party at KTR's brother-in-law's farmhouse on Saturday night, the police searched the premises. The police seized prohibited liquor and casino items. Drug tests were done and details were given."

KTR's brother-in-law's farmhouse on Saturday night, the police searched the premises. The police seized prohibited liquor and casino items. Drug tests were done and details were given."

'Will legally support all victims of HYDRAA'

KTR visits family of Buchamma who ended her life

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS Working President KTR visited the grieving family of Buchamma, a woman from

Kukatpally who took her own life, reportedly due to fear of HYDRAA's demolition drives. Offering condolences, KTR assured the family of his support, stating that

the BRS stands firmly by them. Addressing the media KTR expressed outrage and described the Congress government's action as "thoughtless and reckless."

"Without planning or any humane consideration, demolitions were carried out near Kukatpally's Nalla Cheruvu, creating a climate of fear," he said.

KTR criticized the sudden demolitions conducted by HYDRAA, a body he accused of operating as a "blackmail entity" under Congress directions, targeting houses without any prior notice.

Highlighting the incident, KTR said that Buchamma spent her last days in distress, worried that her home might be next in line for demolition. Continued on Page 5



10 months, 10 complaints and a 'bomb' waiting for KTR

Govt to develop 17,300 km of rural roads

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has drafted a comprehensive plan to develop and upgrade roads under the Panchayat Raj Department in the next four years. Aiming to cover all constituencies, the government is planning to develop 17,300 km of roads and to provide all villages with a BT road.

The phased plan extending from 2024-25 to 2027-28 aims at constructing 5,000 km of roads in the first year, 4,000 km in the second, 5,000 km in the third and 3,300 km in the fourth year. The project will focus on ensuring reliable connectivity from village panchayats to mandal centres, converting mud roads and metal roads into BT roads, and assigning a maintenance contract for 10 years to the same



The phased plan extending from 2024-25 to 2027-28 aims at constructing 5,000 km of roads in the first year, 4,000 km in the second, 5,000 km in the third and 3,300 km in the fourth year

company executing the construction under the PPP model. Telangana has a Panchayat Raj road network spanning 68,539.27 km, comprising 26,146.83 km of BT roads, 7,752.10 km of WBM roads, 4,146.63 km of CC roads and 30,493.72 km of mud roads. However, due to the increasing

load of vehicles - up from the designed capacity of 10-tonne heavy vehicles to those weighing 25 to 30 tonnes - roads faced more wear and tear. Recognizing this, the government is enhancing the capacity of roads so that they can withstand vehicles carrying up to 30 tonnes. Despite increased rural demand,

funding for Panchayat Raj roads has been inadequate of late and heavy rainfall has worsened road conditions. Reports from districts indicate extensive damage, especially during the monsoon months of July to September. After the recent floods, the government has estimated the cost of rehabilitating 17,300 km of roads at Rs 12,000 crore.

Was it a rave party or family party?

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

The leaders of the Congress and the BJP termed BRS Working President KT Rama Rao's brother-in-law's party as a 'rave party', but BRS leaders described it as a 'family party'.

The criticism and counter-criticism went on throughout the day on Sunday. However, the police, who generally organise a press conference even if they catch a pickpocket or chain snatcher, did not clarify whether it was a 'rave party' or 'family party'. The police released some notes but there is no clarity on whether it was a 'rave party' or 'family party'. Meanwhile, the people are confused regarding this and everywhere they are discussing whether

it was a 'rave party' or a 'family party'. "I am confused by the episode. I am unable to conclude whether it is a 'rave party' or a 'family party'. Police conduct 'Drunk and Drive' test on the roads in Hyderabad and punish liquor consumed drivers

immediately with a fine and also send some of them to courts the very next day. However, the police have said nothing so far. They just said they are investigating the issue," Ramu from Vanasthiliburam said. Continued on Page 5

HC gives Raj Pakala 2 days time to appear before police

The investigation into the Janwada farmhouse raid case took another turn on Monday with the High Court giving Raj Pakala two days to appear before the police.

Vijay Madduri who tested positive for cocaine said the police made baseless allegations against him and that he has not given any of the statements which were mentioned in the FIR copy.

The High Court ordered Raj Pakala to appear before the police within two days. It said that action would be taken if evidence was found during the investigation. The High Court asked the police to proceed as per regulations. It is known that Raj Pakala approached the High Court after the police issued notices to him. Continued on Page 5

10 months, 10 complaints and a 'bomb' waiting for KTR!

NAVEENA GHANATE
naveena.ghanate@gmail.com
HYDERABAD

BRS Working President KT Rama Rao is now entangled in a growing number of police complaints and other legal entanglements. With 10 complaints filed against him in the last 10 months, KTR faces an unprecedented level of scrutiny as his party takes on the role of the opposition.

Highly placed sources said the "political bomb" mentioned by Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy is aimed at KTR. Sources hinted that what happened on Sunday was not the actual bomb but something that they "coincidentally ran into."

KTR is no stranger to controversy, as many high-profile issues continue to hover around him. From cases of unauthorized drone use over the Medigadda Barrage to cops landing at his family's private function, KTR has faced a string of complaints.

Allegations also surfaced about phone tapping and concerns about the Dharani Portal's transparency, the HMDA Shiva Balakrishna Case and KTR's role in Hyderabad's Formula E event have also come under scrutiny. Sources said the bomb is "not Formula E" either. Sources said that the com-

KTR is no stranger to controversy, as many high-profile issues continue to hover around him. From cases of unauthorized drone use over the Medigadda Barrage to cops landing at his family's private function, KTR has faced a string of complaints

plaints may be more than 10 and that the BRS legal cell is busy handling them.

From January to October, the number of complaints against KTR have increased. In January, a complaint was filed by the Congress at the Kamatipura Police station saying that by printing the number '420' inside the party's symbol 'hand,' KTR had defamed the party, and sought criminal action against him.

In March, two complaints were filed against KTR at the Banjara Hills Police Station. One is by the Congress, alleging that KTR falsely accused Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of collecting Rs 2,500 crore from contractors and builders and sending it to the Congress leadership in New Delhi.

Another is by ED officials who filed a complaint against KTR at the Banjara

Hills Police Station for interfering with their duties during BRS MLC Kavitha's arrest in the Delhi liquor scam.

In May, a complaint was filed with the EC against KTR for terming Teenmaar Mallanna as "Palli Batani Vs BTTs Pilani."

In August, a complaint was filed with the Saifabad Police for defamation when KTR referred to the Chief Minister as the "cheap minister."

In August, an FIR was registered against KTR for flying a drone over the Medigadda Barrage during an inspection of the Kaleshwaram Project.

In October, complaints were filed against KTR regarding the raids at the Janwada farmhouse. In Vanasthalipuram and Utnoor Police Stations, complaints were filed for statements made regarding the Musi River Project. In October, another case



was filed over the demolition of a wall at the Ambedkar Statue site.

Last Sunday, a case was filed against his brother-in-law in connection with hosting a function. When asked for a reaction about the complaints, KTR was unavailable for comment.

BRS spokesperson Krishank Manne said, "All these 10 cases are false. KTR has made it clear that he is ready to go to jail for the people. He had said that we have seen people like Chandrababu Naidu and YS Rajashekar Reddy and that the current CM is nothing."

Krishank against whom 10 cases were filed in the last 10 months, said, "This is witch hunting for merely questioning the six guarantees and promises which attract Section 420. In the last 10 months, the Congress couldn't show even work worth 10 paise but is on a case filing spree."

Secretariat CSO warns TGSP officials about social media posts

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Chief Security Officer (CSO) of the Secretariat, Gangaram, issued a memo to all TGSP men and officers working at the Secretariat about their duties.

The CSO's memo said, "We are on duty at the secretariat. Many people are watching us. What are people doing here, where are they going, whom are they meeting, who are they talking to, what they are posting on the Net etc. and many other things? So, no staffer here must interfere in unnecessary matters. Any wrong act can affect everyone.

Section 144 is in force from Monday up to a radius of two

km around the Secretariat. Therefore, if more than five people gather or take part in dharnas, riots, or lay siege to the secretariat, action will be taken against them. So tell this to your family members, relatives, friends and fellow staff.

If anyone is an admin in any WhatsApp group and has added others to the group and if any offensive posts are posted about the TGSP system and police officers action will be taken. Your moves are being watched. So everyone must exit such groups immediately.

You and your family members should not participate in any unauthorised acts like dharnas, rallies, rasta rokos etc. Doing so will lead to problems.

Do not post, share, or comment on anything on Telegram, Facebook, Instagram, X and WhatsApp about the TGSP system, or police officers or post material against the government. Your moves are being monitored. Immediate departmental action will be taken if you are found to be in error.

Finally, TGSP officers and staff working in the Secretariat must not intervene in the above-mentioned matters. If anything goes wrong departmental action will be taken immediately. Any mistake made in the secretariat will have an impact on the TGSP system and everyone will have to go from here."

KTR's politics will end if he supports Raj Pakala: Srinivas

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS Working President KT Rama Rao's political career would end if he supports his brother-in-law Raj Pakala in the Janwada farmhouse party case, Mahbubnagar MLA Yennam Srinivas Reddy said.

Pointing out that KTR has been saying shamelessly that the police did not provide a search warrant, Yennam Srinivas Reddy said the police have the legal right to conduct searches without giving prior information.

He said that it is ridiculous to say that the party was held without Raj Pakala's presence in his residence.

Addressing the media at the CLP Media Hall on Monday, Srinivas said, "Don't we know

the history of Raj Pakala?"

He said that Raj Pakala fled as he was afraid of drug tests and as Vijay Madduri tested cocaine positive. KTR's words would have had meaning if Raj Pakala had come forward and explained to the media what happened at the farmhouse, he said.

"KTR should not try to support his brother-in-law. If he does, his political career would end. It was Raj Pakala who made the BRS admin give permission to pubs in Jubilee Hills. Is investigating the case wrong? Where is the involvement of the CM and officials in it? Police conducted raids after complaints but it was not a sting operation. Sting operations started during BRS rule," Srinivas said.

He said that Vijay Madduri told the police that he had consumed drugs after Raj Pakala gave them.

"That is a serious matter. Raja Pakala should surrender before the police if it was false or else the public will believe that Vijay Madduri's version is right. KTR's counter attack will not work at all," he said.

"The busting of the Janwada farmhouse party is not what Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy meant when he spoke about political bombs. That is a self-goal by BRS leaders. Political bombs mean the Kaleshwaram Project, electricity deals, the Bhudhan scam, the ED and hawala bombs. The Kaleshwaram, Electricity and Bhudhan land scams will come out soon," the Srinivas said.

'Govt wants to bring one lakh acres under oil palm cultivation'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government aims to bring one lakh acres under oil palm cultivation in the state, Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageshwara Rao said.

Speaking to the media on Monday, Tummala said that oil palm is the main crop in Malaysia. However, Telangana has much more fertile lands than Malaysia

and the Congress government will encourage oil palm cultivation, he added.

He asked local officials to see that no one should suffer injustice while widening the Aswaraopet Road. He also reacted angrily to the Dammappa SI getting involved in

land disputes and warned that he would act if the SI meddled with land disputes.



Govt sets up new Urban Development Authorities

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Government has constituted new Urban Development Authorities (UDAs) in 22 districts.

The newly established UDAs cover the regions Adilabad, Jogulamba Gadwal, Kagaznagar, Kamareddy, Koilgudem, Mahabubabad, Mahabubnagar, Mancheril, Nagarkurnool, Nirmal, Suryapet, Vikarabad, Wanaparthy, Jangaon, Narayanpet, Jagtial, Medak, Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri, Jayashankar-Bhupalpally and Sangareddy.

These UDAs are aimed at fostering systematic and sustainable urban development, providing an integrated approach to managing urban sprawl, enhancing road networks, and water supply and supporting satellite townships.

They are also expected to play a key role in addressing employment opportunities within these expanding urban areas. The govern-

ment emphasized the success of Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) as a model for these new UDAs, which will help drive urbanization in a structured and controlled manner.

Additionally, the government has announced the expansion of existing urban development authorities, including those in Satavahan and Stambadri, along with other regions, to support urban growth in Telangana.

This development signifies the state's proactive approach to urban management, ensuring that emerging urban areas have adequate infrastructure and facilities to support their growth, while minimizing the challenges posed by unplanned popular expansion.

Harish compares Revanth's govt to Razakars

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLA Harish Rao accused the Telangana government headed by Revanth Reddy of behaving like Nizam's Razakars.

He asserted that the Congress administration has brought only "public suffering" instead of "public governance," citing its unfulfilled commitments and the lack of progress of social welfare schemes.

"Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said he would remove fences but instead imposed a curfew. In Panjagutta, at a

CM removed fences, imposed curfew

mutton shop near the Meridian, there are always around 150 to 200 customers. Should the business run or not? Should people eat mutton or not? For Diwali shopping, people will be there in numbers. This is marriage season and people will take out bharaat. Are all these banned? The CM promised he would

remove fences, but instead, we have curfews," Harish said.

He criticized the Revanth administration for implementing policies that he claimed mirrored the oppressive moves of past regimes. He pointed out the enforcement of laws like Section 144 during festivals and questioned the administration's motives. "Is this how you govern, imposing bans on festive gatherings and wedding season shopping?" he asked.

"Normally, people protest and the police end the protest. But here the police are also protesting."

BRS MLAs walk out of PAC meet

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLAs walked out of a Public Accounts Committee (PAC) as a mark of protest.

Former Minister Vemula Prashanth Reddy emphasized the tradition of assigning the position of Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Chairman to the opposition.

He said that the PAC Chair plays a critical role in providing oversight on public expenditure and advising on financial irregularities.

Prashanth pointed out that leaders like Nagam Janardhan Reddy and Yanamala Ramakrishnu served as PAC Chairmen, and for the last 10 years, opposition leaders have held the PAC Chair position in the Lok Sabha as well.

During a media interac-

tion at the Telangana Bhavan in Hyderabad, Prashanth Reddy, accompanied by MLCs L. Ramana and Satyavathi Rathod, discussed this topic and reiterated its importance.

He commented on Minister Sridhar Babu's comment acknowledging Arikepudi Gandhi as an opposition member and criticized Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for holding meetings with defected MLAs.

Prashanth demanded a response from Sridhar Babu regarding the letter sent by Jeevan Reddy and reminded that Madhu Yashki Goud had pointed out that BRS MLAs allegedly defected to protect their assets.

Satyavathi Rathod, a former minister, also criticized the

Congress admin, accusing it of adopting "bulldozer politics" after coming to power.

She questioned Revanth's guts in officially recognizing Gandhi as a Congress member and accused the Congress of playing "hide-and-seek politics."

She condemned the actions of Revanth, claiming that he was using Gandhi for his political gains and accused the Congress of deviating from ethical politics.

MLCL Ramana added that the government's actions contradict legislative traditions. He said that the PAC Chairman should be appointed based on the opposition leader's recommendation, and must maintain the convention of transparency and accountability in governance.

Terrorists fire at ambulance in army convoy in Jammu; 1 ultra eliminated

PNS ■ JAMMU

Terrorists opened fire at an Army convoy Monday morning, targeting an ambulance, in the Akhnoor sector of Jammu region, following which special forces and NSG commandos launched an operation killing one of the attackers, officials said.

In a first, the Army also pressed its four BMP-II infantry combat vehicles for surveillance and strengthening the cordon around the attack site near the Assan temple in Jogwan village along the Line of Control (LoC) in Bhattal area of Khour, the officials said.

The Boyevaya Mashina Pkhoty or BMP-II is a 1980-era Soviet Union Infantry Combat Vehicle which has 30mm fully stabilised automatic cannon, 7.62 mm Machine Gun and 4 kms range anti-tank wire-guided 'Konkurs' Missile. It can carry seven troopers and three crew



members. It is also equipped with the Night Vision Device and Smoke Grenade Launchers system and has a maximum speed of 45 Kms per hour.

Helicopters were also pressed into action to locate the hiding terrorists in the jungles of the area.

The officials said the terrorists, believed to be three in number who infiltrated into India from across the border the night before, opened fire on the Army convoy around 6:30 am, targeting an ambulance. Both of its occupants, including the driver, were unharmed.

Pilot caste census completed in 4 districts

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Pilot caste surveys have been completed in four districts covering 56 homes as part of the preliminary phase of the caste census, Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar said.

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka said the caste census initiative undertaken by Telangana will serve as a model for the country.

Speaking at a meeting of social activists and intellectuals at the Secretariat on Monday, Bhatti emphasized the government's commitment to conducting a comprehensive and transparent caste census.

Harish new I & PR head after IAS, IFS revamp

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has transferred several IAS and IFS officers to strengthen governance and improve public service delivery.

S. Harish (2015) has been posted as Special Commissioner of I & PR & EO and Special Secretary GA (I & PR) Department in place of Hanumanth Rao who has been transferred.

Among IAS appointments, M. Hanumantha Rao, who served as Spl. Commissioner and Ex-Officio Spl. Secretary in the I & PR Department, has been transferred and posted as the Collector and District

Magistrate of Yadadri Bhongir. He takes over from Zedage Hanumant Kondiba, who has

playing cards and casino coins. How did KCR who used to wear just a Hawaii slipper get crores, he asked.

"I am appealing to the government to investigate the KCR family and the properties of 50 others immediately. The BRS government jailed Revanth then when he showed the Janwada farmhouse facts. They tried to kill Revanth by keeping him in a criminal cell as an undertrial," Shabbir said.

He demanded that KTR should take a narcotic test immediately and show the certificate to him. Asking KTR to reveal what connection KTR had with drugs and why KTR never responds whenever the drug issue surfaces, Shabbir asked, "Does KTR have any shame? How did the foreign liquor come there?"

He said that KTR's brother-in-law was caught red-handed at the Janwada farmhouse with

streamlining public relations and administrative oversight. Narayana Reddy, the Collector and District Magistrate of Nalgonda, has been transferred to Rangareddy, where he will replace K. Shashanka.

Meanwhile, Ila Tripathi, who was Director of Tourism, has been appointed as the Collector and District Magistrate of Nalgonda. This reshuffling is seen as an effort to bring experienced officials into critical district roles.

India's 1st private facility for making military aircraft takes wings

PNS ■ VADODARA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Spanish counterpart Pedro Sanchez on Monday inaugurated the Tata Aircraft Complex in Vadodara, a facility which marks India's first private venture dedicated to the production of military aircraft, specifically the Airbus C295.

During the inauguration, Modi highlighted the strengthening partnership between India and Spain, stating this project is a vital step in the 'Make in India. Make for the



World' initiative.

He extended his best wishes to the teams at Airbus and Tata, while also paying tribute to the late industrialist Ratan Tata for his contributions.

The Airbus C295, designed and initially manufactured by

the Spanish aerospace firm CASA, which is part of Airbus Defence and Space, is a medium tactical transport aircraft capable of performing a variety of roles, including medical evacuations, disaster response, and maritime patrol missions.

TODAY
ALMANAC
Month & Paksham: Krishna Paksha
Tithi: Dwadashi: Oct 28 07:51 AM to Oct 29 10:32 AM
Trayodashi: Oct 29 10:32 AM to Oct 30 01:15 PM
Nakshatram: Uttara Phalguni: Oct 28 03:24 PM to Oct 29 06:33 PM
Hasta: Oct 29 06:33 PM to Oct 30 09:43 PM
Rahukalam: 2:51 PM to 4:16 PM
Yamagandam: 9:08 AM to 10:34 AM
Varjyam: 04:04 AM to 05:52 AM
Gulika: 11:59 AM to 1:25 PM
Amritakalam: 10:25 AM to 12:13 PM
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:37 AM to 12:22 PM
HYDERABAD WEATHER
Forecast: Partly Cloudy
Temp: 32°
Humidity: 57%
Sunrise: 6:13 AM
Sunset: 5:46 PM
Updated: October 28, 2024 5:00 PM



Cyber Security Training

Looking to master Cyber Security? Join us at Firewall-zone Institute of IT in Hyderabad. Our comprehensive training program covers everything from threat detection to ethical hacking. Stay ahead in the digital age with our expert-led courses. Enroll now!

Venue

Firewall-zone Institute of IT, Humayun Nagar, Hyderabad
Oct 28 - Nov 25; 8 am.

Standup comedy

Open mic is organised by Silly South Comedy. Silly South Comedy is India's first Telugu standup comedy collective. Silly South Comedy has been pivotal in the introducing Telugu standup comedy to Hyderabad audience.

Venue

The Hashtag Cafe, KPHB, Hyderabad

Miss Hyderabad Glamfest 2025

Do you have what it takes to be the next Pageant Queen?

Venue

Online auditions at GVK Mall.

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.

City Pioneer



HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | OCTOBER 29, 2024

03

WORLD STROKE DAY

TG faces surge in stroke incidence

Urgent need for rehabilitation and recovery centres

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

On World Stroke Day 2024, the spotlight is on the increasing prevalence of stroke cases in Telangana, driven by risk factors such as hypertension, diabetes, smoking and lack of public awareness. The State faces a significant public health challenge, with many individuals at risk due to inadequate control of these modifiable risk factors. This year's theme, 'Greater Than Stroke Active Challenge', highlights the power of sports to raise awareness about stroke prevention and rehabilitation, engaging people from all walks of life.

In Telangana, the prevalence of stroke is influenced by both rural and urban lifestyles, with over approx. 90% of adults in rural areas having at least one cardiovascular risk factor. Stroke remains a major public health concern, necessitating improved neurological services and public health initiatives to reduce the associated risk factors.

To further raise awareness and engage the community, Health Care at Home India Pvt Ltd (HCAH) organised a walkathon and bike rally on World Stroke Day. These events were pivotal in increasing public



Health Care at Home India organised a walkathon and a bike rally on World Stroke Day in Hyderabad on Monday

awareness about the impact of strokes and the critical importance of timely rehabilitation. The walkathon saw over 70+ participants, while more than 50+ bikes joined the rally from Somajiguda to Gachibowli, bringing together community members,

healthcare professionals and stroke survivors to highlight the urgent need for comprehensive stroke care and prevention strategies.

HCAH SRCC and HCAH GB RRC, are offering holistic, personalised care across

over 200+ beds in Hyderabad and beyond. Their approach focuses on reversing paralysis, restoring muscle function, supporting emotional health, using world-class equipment and the unique 'medicine rule stone' methodology.

Vivek Srivastav, CEO of HCAH, emphasises, "Our mission at HCAH is to transform healthcare by delivering professional care in environments where patients feel most comfortable. We understand the complex needs of stroke survivors and have developed personalised rehabilitation plans that not only restore physical functions but also enhance emotional well-being."

Dr Gaurav Thukral, Co-Founder and COO of HCAH, adds, "Through the combination of multidisciplinary expertise and advanced rehabilitation equipment, we significantly reduce recovery time from paralysis. By creating personalised care plans in agreement with patients and their families, we ensure each stroke survivor receives care tailored to their needs."

Experts emphasise the importance of the "golden period" of rehabilitation, which is the critical time immediately after a stroke when intervention can prevent permanent disability.

Ban on public gatherings amid threat of disturbances

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad City Commissioner of Police CV Anand has issued an order prohibiting all public gatherings of five or more people, processions, rallies, and protests across Hyderabad and Secunderabad to prevent potential disturbances to public peace.

This directive follows information indicating that several organisa-

tions and groups may be planning activities that could disrupt public order. Exercising powers under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023 (formerly Section 144 CrPC), the Commissioner has restricted gatherings, speeches, displays of placards, flags, or electronic messages that could incite unrest. Exceptions for peaceful protests have been made exclusively for Indira Park Dharm

Chowk; protests or rallies in any other location are not permitted.

Violators, particularly those near sensitive areas such as the Secretariat, will face prosecution under relevant legal provisions. Exemptions to the order include police officers and military personnel on duty, funeral processions, the Education department's flying squad and persons with authorised permission, said the statement.

'Delivering quality edn through T-SAT our primary aim'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Prof. V Balakista Reddy, Chairman of TGCHE, emphasised that the primary goal is to deliver quality education to every household in Telangana through T-SAT. On Monday, he visited the T-SAT office in Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad, accompanied by TGCHE vice-chairman E Purushotham, and Secretary Sriram Venkatesh.

T-SAT chief executive officer Bodanapalli Venugopal Reddy welcomed Prof. Balakista Reddy and his team at the T-SAT office in Jubilee Hills. The CEO briefed the team on T-SAT's operations and how it serves various segments, including primary, intermediate education, competitive exams and other areas.

He encouraged the use of the T-SAT platform for higher education institutions, including universities, degree, post-graduate and engineering colleges. CEO Venugopal Reddy proposed further col-

laboration for a comprehensive plan to provide quality digital content to higher education students. He also suggested that TGCHE's examination results be published through the T-SAT website, to which chairman Balakista Reddy responded positively.

Following this, the chairman's team toured the studios and various departments at the T-SAT office, expressing satisfaction with the facilities. On this occasion, chairman Balakista Reddy stated that their primary mission is to provide quality, valuable education to every home and every individual in Telangana. He mentioned that TGCHE is preparing content across 52 modules to cover topics related to higher education.

He assured that, in line with the responsibilities entrusted by the Telangana government, they are committed to strengthening the education sector and are ready to work collaboratively with T-SAT as part of this effort.

Office space opens at JBS Metro Station

Partners with L&TMRHL to enhance employment opportunities with the expansion

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

KFin Technologies Limited (KFinTech), a leading technology-driven financial services platform providing comprehensive services and solutions to the capital markets ecosystem across asset classes, has on Monday announced the launch of its new office in JBS Parade Ground Metro Station. The expansion is part of KFinTech's strategy to diversify its real estate footprints by going hyper-local, taking work places closer to locations where the talent resides within Hyderabad-Secunderabad twin city region.

Spanning approximately 25,000 square feet on the second floor of the metro station, the new office is the second largest corporate space within a metro station in India. It is designed to accommodate 600 employees, supporting essential functions such as issuer solutions, contact centre and business support functions. The office also accommodates a new branch that provides end-to-end



mutual fund services, enabling all kind of transactions including purchases, redemptions, switches, systematic investment plans (SIPs), systematic withdrawal plans (SWPs), and all kind of non-commercial transaction requests. This will enhance accessibility and ease of investment for investors in the Secunderabad region, helping them to address their queries and concerns promptly and efficiently.

Sreekanth Nadella, MD and CEO of KFin Technologies, said,

"Hyderabad's emergence as a technology hub makes it an ideal location for innovative expansions. By establishing our new office at the JBS Parade Ground Metro Station, we are not only decentralising our talent by taking it to locations where innovation thrives. The expansion is driven by our commitment to tapping into local talent pools and catalysing growth across new business segments, which in turn drives our expansion across asset classes."

Spryple and TConsult forge alliance to transform HR solutions globally

The pact aims to support small and mid-sized businesses globally with advanced HR tools

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a major step to enhance HR solutions globally, TConsult and Spryple signed a joint venture agreement in Hyderabad, spearheaded by TConsult chairman Sundeep Kumar Makthala and Spryple CEO Venkat Boora. The agreement aims to support small and mid-sized businesses globally with advanced HR tools designed to streamline employee management, especially in regions like Africa, Southeast Asia and the Middle East.

Spryple, developed by Devorks Solutions, is an advanced HR software that leverages AI-based facial recognition to automate attendance tracking and streamline payroll management. The platform is designed to support businesses of all sizes, covering the complete HR life-



cycle from onboarding to separation. Headquartered at the vibrant T-HUB in Hyderabad, Spryple inte-

grates cutting-edge technology into HR solutions, offering next-gen tools to modernize workforce man-

agement across borders.

Speaking at the event, Sundeep Kumar emphasised, "With employee counts starting from as low as five, small businesses face unique HR challenges. Spryple is the answer to simplify their workforce management tasks, making the process seamless and efficient."

Venkat Boora highlighted the importance of the partnership, noting, "This collaboration with TConsult aligns us with a globally respected partner that drives innovation. Together, we aim to bring advanced HR solutions to companies worldwide." The signing ceremony saw the presence of Sheik Jeelani, Spryple's head of marketing, and Gautam Itikilapati, executive director at Spryple. From TConsult, key figures such as Eswar Kota, Rajeev Ravulapati, Vamshi, and Narender were also in attendance.



OUTLET WITHOUT FSSAI LICENCE AT BANJARA HILLS

Oner dead, 20 fall ill after eating street vendor's momos

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a troubling incident at Banjara Hills, over 20 people, including children fell sick after eating momos sold by a street vendor operating under the name WOW Hot Momos/Delhi Hot Momos on Sunday.

The outbreak occurred during the weekly Sunday market and one woman, Reshma Begum, reportedly died from food poisoning after being hospitalised.

Banjara Hills Food Safety Officer Sameena, speaking to The Pioneer, stated, "We received information from the Banjara Police that many people fell sick after eating momos from a street vendor in Banjara Hills." Later, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Food Safety officials, with assistance from Banjara Hills Police, traced the vendor's location to Chintal Basti, Khairatabad, Hyderabad. Upon inspection, officials discovered that the vendor was operating without an FSSAI licence and under unsanitary conditions. Samples from the food were collected and sent to the State Food Laboratory for analysis, and the officials ordered the business to cease operations immediately.

According to Banjara Hills police, the victims consumed the momos from stalls set up in various areas, including Nandinagar, Singadikunta Basti and Gauri Shankar Colony. Many reported symptoms of vomiting and diarrhoea and sought treatment at nearby hospitals. Police suspect that mayonnaise and chili chutney served with the momos may have been contaminated. As of now, two individuals associated with the momo stall have been arrested.

Man attempts suicide at GHMC Prajavani alleging injustice

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a shocking incident at the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation's (GHMC) Prajavani programme, a man named Anil Kumar from Ramnagar attempted self-immolation by pouring petrol on himself. He was demanding suspension of the Town Planning officer and Musheerabad DCP.

Anil Kumar alleged that Musheerabad Town Planning officer Devender was accepting bribes and working against him in a family dispute. Vigilance officials and police at the scene immediately intervened and preventing the act. Anil Kumar voiced his protest, stating, "I will not leave until action is taken against the officials." He claimed that the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Musheerabad and the ACP had been unfair to him.

Anil Kumar further explained that he had filed a complaint six months ago, alleging that his maternal uncle was illegally constructing a house on property that rightfully belonged to him and his family. Despite this, he expressed frustration that the authorities had failed to act on his complaint.

A total of 88 complaints were filed in the Prajavani session at the GHMC headquarters on Monday. The highest number of petitions came from the Housing/Lakes department (43), followed by Town Planning (23), Tax Section (8), ENC (3), LWS, FA, and Sanitation (2 each), and one each from CM & HO, Electrical, Estates, Veterinary and HMWSSB departments.

TG aims to take strong steps to nurture AVGC sector: Jayesh

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

At the India Gaming Convention 2024 in New Delhi, Jayesh Ranjan, Special Chief Secretary for Information Technology, Electronics & Communications (ITE&C) and Industries & Commerce Departments of the Government of Telangana gave a keynote address, highlighting Telangana's Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (AVGC) industry that has witnessed a massive growth and providing employment to 35,000 people across 150 companies.

He stated that Hyderabad, the State's capital, has transformed into a VFX hub that lends support to large-scale entertainment industries from India and across the world. He further added that Telangana in 2016 was the first State to come out with a dedicated AVGC policy. Investing in high-quality infrastructure was a priority for the Telangana government. Ranjan highlighted that the upcoming IMAGE tower, a 1.6 million sq. ft. facility will provide state-of-the-art production facilities as shared services to the AVGC sector.



Agriculture Minister Tumma Nageswara Rao laying the foundation stone for CC road construction in Khammam on Monday

Doctor drowns in canal in Jagtial district

PNS ■ JAGTIAL

The body of Dr Pakati Uday Kumar Reddy, a 29-year-old private physician, was recovered in the SRSP flood flow canal near Vittampeta under Metpalli mandal on Monday morning after he went missing.

Dr Uday Kumar, originally from Hanamkonda and employed in a private hospital in Metpalli, had gone to Metlachittapur with two fellow doctors and two others. While returning, the group stopped at the canal, where Uday Kumar and Prasanth Kumar decided to take a bath. As they attempted to cross the canal, both doctors encountered strong water currents and became trapped. Prasanth managed to reach the bank but Uday Kumar was swept away. Following a search operation initiated by the police, Uday Kumar's body was found some distance downstream the next morning.

BC students' union urges MGU VC to check declining standards in varsity

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Aithagoni Janardhan Goud, president of the Backward Classes Student Association of Nalgonda district, has emphasised the need arresting the declining standards in the Mahatma Gandhi University (MGU). He appealed to the MGU Vice-Chancellor to take steps to improve the standards in the university.



Janardhan Goud

Speaking at a media conference here on Monday at the BC Student Association's district office, Goud highlighted significant achievements made by the university during 2016-2019. "During that period, the university made important strides in improving its standards. However, since then, we have seen a noticeable decline," he stated.

While congratulating the new Vice-Chancellor, Goud stressed the importance of addressing the ongoing issues within the university. "This is a positive development, but there are numerous existing problems that need urgent attention," he emphasised.

He mentioned that the audit cell and examination branches need to follow university guidelines, stating, "Due to these issues, students' rights are being significantly compromised." He also pointed out that "there are indications of various problems arising, and thus, we urge for the establishment of a complaint box." Additionally, Goud noted that several private colleges in the district have been operating in violation of government regulations, despite multiple complaints filed by the association. "It appears that the university authorities have not adequately responded to our complaints," he added.

In light of these issues, the BC Student Association is calling for the appointment of a new, full-time Registrar to ensure effective administration and accountability. "This is crucial for achieving proper governance," he stated. "If our complaints are not re-verified by the university, we will be compelled to stage a protest in front of the university."



Minister for Information Technology D Sridhar Babu interacting with girl students, who took ill, at the government hospital in Peddapalli on Monday

53 KGBV students suffer sudden ill health; shifted to hospital

PNS ■ PEDAPALLY

In yet another case of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) students taking ill, a total of 53 pupils in KGBV in Muththaram madnal were shifted to hospital after they experienced heavy coughing and breathing difficulties on Sunday evening.

"Students fell ill, experiencing cough and breathing difficulty. The school authorities quickly transported them to the Peddapalli district hospital," district officials said. According to a duty teacher, an alarming situation arose when three students reported severe coughs around 6 pm. The teacher alerted the principal when more students started exhibiting similar symptoms. Within 10 to 20 minutes, the number of affected students had risen significantly, prompting the teacher to take all of them to a nearby hospital. After a medical examination, local doctors referred the students to

Information Technology Minister D Sridhar Babu visited the hospital and enquired about the health of students

Peddapalli Hospital. District Medical and Health Officer K Pramood Kumar stated that besides cough and breathing difficulties, the student's overall health was stable. They were admitted for observation. Kumar also ruled out food poisoning as a cause, explaining that if the students had consumed toxic food, they would have experienced vomiting and diarrhoea, which was not the case. The Information Technology Minister D Sridhar Babu, who visited the hospital, said that the health condition of the students is stable. He visited the government hospital in Peddapalli after receiving informa-

tion that students had fallen ill due to inhaling toxic air. He spoke to the children receiving treatment and offered them encouragement.

The Minister said that the government would continue to provide better medical care until the students' health improved.

He noted that the primary reason for the student's illness was identified as toxic air from the dumping yard located next to the school. He directed the Collector to immediately relocate the dumping yard to another location away from the school area. Since the incident, 20 doctors and 20 nursing staff have been providing quality medical services to the students at

The Minister was accompanied by District Collector Koya Sred Harsha, Revenue Divisional Officer B Gangayya, District Medical Health Officer Dr Pramod Kumar, District Hospital Superintendent Dr Sridhar, and other officials.

Need to improve quality of roads stressed

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Agriculture Minister Tumma Nageswara Rao emphasised the necessity of adhering to quality standards in the construction of cement concrete (CC) roads.

On Monday, he laid the foundation stone for CC road construction in the 19th Division at Ekalavya Nagar here. Telangana Urban Finance and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (TUFIDCO) released Rs 1.55 crore for the project.

During the event, the Minister stressed the importance of main-

taining quality in road construction, ensuring proper leveling, and adhering to the work order specifications regarding road width. He urged that there should be no compromise on the quality of the work.

The event was attended by State Warehousing Corporation Chairman Royal Nageswara Rao, City Mayor Punukollu Neeraja, Municipal Commissioner Abhishek Agastya, RDO Ganesh, 19th Division Corporation Chamakura Venkata Narayana, Corporator Komartapu Murali, Municipal EE Krishna Lal, officials, and others.



Police arresting student leaders at a protest in Hanumkonda on Monday

Tension as students protest over 'neglecting' TG artistes

PNS ■ HANUMKONDA

Students in Hanumakonda held a massive rally demanding installation of statues honouring artistes who have contributed to Telangana's cultural heritage at the newly constructed Kaloji Kalakshetram in Balasamudram. This facility, built at a cost of 100 crores, is meant to celebrate the rich artistic traditions of the region.

Leaders from various student unions voiced their frustrations, emphasizing that the government has overlooked their demands for three months. They insisted that statues of Padma Shri awardees who showcased Telangana's folk art, including Ogu Katha and Burrakatha, should be prominently displayed in Kalakshetram. They argued that honoring individuals unrelated to the arts within this cultural space diminishes the significance of Telangana's artistic legacy.

The rally saw hundreds of students

march from Chowrasta Hanumakonda to Kalakshetram, where tensions escalated into a confrontation with police. Several student leaders were arrested and taken to the Subedari police station.

The demonstrators called for the installation of statues for renowned artistes such as Gaddar, Chukka Sattiah, Middle Ramulu, Chindu Ellamma, Sai Chandu, Belli Lalitha, Nerella Venumadhav, Warangal Shankaranna, Sarangapani, and Kanakaraj, who is celebrated for his Gussadi dance. They warned that continued neglect of Telangana's artists would lead to serious repercussions.

Prominent persons at the rally included Dudapaka Naresh, State President of the South India Student Organization, and Kannam Sunil, State President of the Telangana Student Federation, along with other student leaders like Tagore, Maniteja, Kumar, Kalam, Nadeempasha, and Sanjay.

CASTE SURVEY

Collector calls for resolving public grievances promptly

PNS ■ KUMRAM BHEEM ASIFABAD

District Collector Venkatesh Dothre stated that action would be taken to ensure that officials promptly review and resolve the applications received at Prajavani programme. On Monday, he, along with the Revenue Officer Lokeshwar Rao, received applications from petitioners at the Integrated District Collectorate.

Most of the petitions received related to land disputes. The District Collector emphasised that applications received at the Prajavani programme would be thoroughly reviewed at the field level in coordination with the officials and resolved promptly. He instructed the officials to ensure that there are no pending applications.

District officials from various departments and relevant authorities participated in this programme.

TG BC Commission begins public hearings

PNS ■ ADILABAD

The Telangana Commission for Backward Classes on Monday held its first public hearing at Adilabad to receive representations from interested parties as part of the process to conduct the caste survey across the state.

Commission Chairman G Niranjana said the public hearing has been convened to receive suggestions and other representations from public representatives, caste organisations and other stakeholders.

The panel had on October 18 issued a notification for holding public hearings.

About four to five hundred people participated in the public hearing in Adilabad. Various caste organisations and political leaders submitted their applications.

The Commissioner received 63 applications from Adilabad, 6 from Asifabad, 14 from Nirmal and 7 from Macherial.

Total 90 petitions, suggestions and opinions had been submitted to the Commission in the form of affidavit. The Commission received pleas that the post of Zilla Parishad chairman should be reserved for Scheduled Tribes as majority of population are tribals in the district,



TG Commission for Backward Classes holding its first public hearing in Adilabad on Monday

reservation should be made for Backward Classes according to A, B, C, D and E groups and reservations should be made for BCs in proportion to their population. On the other hand some castes have requested to provide opportunity as they do not have political representation.

BC Commission Chairman G Niranjana, members Rapolu Jayaprakash, Tirumalagiri Surender, Balalaxmi Rangu, Special Officer G Satish Kumar, Adilabad

District Collector Rajarshi Shah, Mancherla Collector Kumar Deepak, Nirmal Collector Abhilasha Abhinav, Asifabad Additional Collector Dasari Venu, District BC Development Officer Rajalingu and other key officials participated.

Adilabad District Collector and District BC Welfare Officer and staff were specially congratulated for successfully conducting the programme.

Students stage protest against shortage of teachers

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

In a demonstration led by the All India Students' Federation (AISF), students gathered in front of Elikatta Primary School in Ferozganar mandal, demanding the cancellation of "illegal deputation" of Venkateswara Rao, a mathematics teacher. According to the AISF, Rao has been on deputation for the past seven years, neglecting his teaching duties and leaving students without a regular mathematics teacher, significantly impacting the education of underprivileged students.



Students staging protest at Shadnagar on Monday against deputation of teachers

Led by AISF Rangareddy district unit president M Pawan Chauhan and Shadnagar in-charge Akash Naik, students and

union members voiced their frustrations over Rao's extended absence. They submitted a formal request to the Mandal Education Officer (MEO), urging the appointment of a regular mathematics teacher. In their statement, Chauhan and Akash Naik questioned the validity of Venkateswara Rao's deputation, arguing that he has continued to draw a substantial salary while stationed at the office of the District Education Officer

(DEO) and Regional Joint Director (RJD) instead of fulfilling his teaching responsibilities.

"The prolonged deputation of teachers like Venkateswara Rao compromises the quality of education for poor students who are left without proper instruction in mathematics," said Chauhan. He added that AISF would continue to escalate the protests if illegal deputations were not promptly canceled across the district.

New lift irrigation scheme to come into operation in 6 months

PNS ■ MEDAK

In Borancha in Narayanakhet constituency, foundation stone for a new lift irrigation scheme has been laid by Minister for Health and Family Welfare Damodar Raja Narsimha. This initiative aims to turn the Manur and Regode mandals into lush green farm.

With an investment of RS 430.50 lakh, two field gravity mains will be established as part of lift irrigation project. This will provide irrigation to approximately 2,900 acres in the Manur mandal, according to officials. Additionally, a gravity main will facilitate irrigation to around 500 acres in the Regode mandal. The projects are expected to be completed



within six months, ensuring that local ponds are filled for agricultural use. Minister Damodar Raja Narsimha, along with MP Suresh Shetkar and MLA Sanjeev Reddy, laid the

foundation stone for the field gravity mains. During the event, they also performed special pujas at the Borancha Nalla Pochamma temple. The Minister emphasised that

with sufficient water supply to local fields, farmers will have the opportunity to cultivate profitable crops. He noted that the project will significantly contribute to the economic development of the villages in the region and improve agricultural practices, ultimately increasing farmers' incomes. Local farmers expressed optimism about the

irrigation scheme, highlighting its potential to provide timely water for their crops, especially in drought-prone areas.

Officials and representatives from the Narayanakhet and Andole constituencies, including Revenue Divisional Officer Ashok Chakravarthy, DSP Venkat Reddy and several others were present.

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
 NIT No. 32/DIV.13 (Old-7B)/GHMC/2024-2025 Date: 28-10-2024
 Name of work: Civil Works (B Nos), Estimate amount: Rs.125.49 Lakhs, Start date / Last date & time for receipt of bids: For works at S.No.1 to 6 Starts from 28.10.2024 from 2.30 PM To 01.11.2024 upto 2.30 PM. Name & Address of Officer
 Cell No.: Executive Engineer, Division No.13 (Old-7B) (KZ), GHMC, Khairatabad, Hyderabad, Cell No. 9154960552. For further details can be seen at www.tender.eprocurement.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Division No.13 (Old-7B), GHMC
 E.O.No: 3073-PPCL/ADVT/11/2024-25, Dt. 28-10-2024

ACROSS THE STATES



Three die of electrocution while putting up Diwali lights

Three persons, two of them minors, were electrocuted, and one person was injured when the ladder they were using to hang lights for Diwali touched a wire in Chhattisgarh's Mungeli district on Monday, police said. The incident occurred in front of a petrol pump in the Sargaon police station area, where the victims were putting up decorative lights, an official said. As per preliminary information, the victims were dragging an iron ladder when it came in contact with an overhead wire, he said. The official said the four were electrocuted and sustained burn injuries. They were taken to a community health centre in Sargaon, where three of them were declared dead. The other injured man was later shifted to the Chhattisgarh Institute of Medical Sciences (CIMS) in Bilaspur, he said. The deceased were identified as Priyanshu Yadav (15), Arjun Yadav (15) and Ram Sahu (20), while the injured man is Shiva Pandey (20), he said. The official said a case has been registered in connection with the incident.



Union min inaugurates BRIC-NABI institute in Mohali

Union Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh on Monday inaugurated the BRIC-National Agri-Food Biomanufacturing Institute (NABI) here. The establishment of BRIC-NABI is a strategic merger between the National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI), Mohali and the Centre of Innovative and Applied Bioprocessing (CIAB), Mohali, both of which are autonomous institutes under the Department of Biotechnology (DBT). The combined expertise of NABI and CIAB will enhance agricultural productivity through innovations such as genetically modified crops with higher yields, better disease resistance, and improved nutritional content, an official release said. Speaking about the new institute, the minister said the establishment of BRIC-NABI will strengthen the collaboration between biotechnologists and bioprocessing experts. "When the idea of merging NABI and CIAB was floated six to seven years ago, I am glad that the DBT has been the first to integrate 14 institutes under it under one umbrella. Today, with this merger, we have moved one step further," he said. The minister told the gathering that it is a coincidence that this event is being held at a time when the government of India has come up with 'BioE3 Policy' (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment).



ATM engineer robbed in Itanagar

An ATM engineer was robbed of Rs 1.5 lakh at an outlet of the bank in Itanagar on Monday, police said. The incident happened at an ATM of the State Bank of India (SBI) in Bank Tinali area of the city, they said. Dipak Deori, employed as an engineer with Hitachi Payment Services, was checking the ATM when the incident happened, Superintendent of Police (Capital) Rohit Rajbir Singh said. He had received Rs 1.5 lakh from the local SBI branch for testing the cash deposit machine, police said. Around 2 pm, while he was checking the machine, a man came on a motorcycle along with another person, stole his bag containing the cash and fled, Singh said. A case was registered and efforts were being made to identify those behind the incident, he said. Singh said officers immediately rushed to the spot, examined the complainant, and obtained CCTV footage. All check gates were alerted and a thorough search was being conducted across the Capital Complex, he said.

Young India Skill University..

Continued from page 1

The campus design emphasises spaciousness, with an auditorium, library, large open grounds, and a designated parking area. Architectural plans prioritise open spaces and greenery, creating an environment conducive to skill training and residential amenities for thousands of students. Solar power installations will be incorporated into all buildings to ensure sustainability and advanced designs will reduce power consumption by utilising natural ventilation and lighting, minimizing reliance on air

conditioning. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has directed architects and engineers to create a campus that commands national attention, featuring top-notch facilities aligned with global standards. The construction responsibilities have been assigned to Megha Company, known for its engineering expertise and plans are underway to commence work on November 6, with an ambitious completion timeline of 8 to 10 months. Recently, Megha Company pledged Rs 200 crore toward the project and Adani contributed Rs 100 crore.

World looking at India with new hope: Modi

PNS ■ AMRELI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Monday the world is now listening to India with rapt attention and seriousness, and everyone is looking at the country with new hope and discussing the vast possibilities it presents in different fields.

Addressing a gathering at Lathi in Amreli district of Gujarat after launching development projects worth Rs 4,800 crore, he said countries that participated in the recent BRICS summit (held in the Russian city of Kazan) expressed their eagerness to join hands with India and become partners in its development journey.



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, during his visit to New Delhi last week, announced that his country will issue visas to 90,000 Indians every year, and it is now up to the country's youth to develop skills for the same, said Modi.

"As we continue to develop, India's pride and influence on the world stage is increasing. The whole world is looking at

India with new hope, and a new vision. People have started recognizing India's potential. Today, the whole world listens to India seriously and attentively, and everyone discusses the possibilities present within India," the PM affirmed. "Every country is asking about the possibility of investment in India," he told the gathering.

Modi said when a dairy cooperative was started in Amreli district in 2007, there were only 25 villages associated with it, but now that number has grown to 700.

Ports of Amreli district will be developed under the central government's port-led growth initiative, he emphasised.

MAHARASTRA ELECTONS

Two Cong turncoats, among 25 candidates in BJP's third list

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The BJP on Monday released its third list of 25 candidates for the Maharashtra assembly polls, giving tickets to two Congress turncoats and the personal assistant of Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

The BJP, so far, has announced candidates for 146 seats. Polls to the 288-member Maharashtra assembly will take place on November 20, while results will be declared on November 23.

Jitesh Antapurkar, who won a by-poll in 2021 on a Congress ticket and is considered close to former chief minister Ashok Chavan, has been nominated

from Deglur. Chavan had left the Congress recently and joined the BJP, which made him a Rajya Sabha MP.

Archana Patil-Chakurkar, daughter-in-law of Congress veteran and former Lok Sabha Speaker Shivraj Patil, has been fielded from Latur City seat. She had joined the BJP from the Congress in March this year. Sumit Wankhede, who has served as Fadnavis's personal assistant for several years, will be the BJP's candidate from Arvi assembly constituency.

Incidentally, the BJP had given Fadnavis' former PA Abhimanyu Pawar a ticket from Ausa in 2019. Pawar had won at the time.

WAYANAD BYPOLL

Priyanka accuses Centre of undermining Constitutional values

PNS ■ WAYANAD

Kicking off her second phase of campaigning, Congress candidate for the Wayanad by-election, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, on Monday launched a scathing attack on the BJP-led Centre, alleging that the values of the Constitution are constantly being subverted under its rule.

Addressing a corner meeting organised in Meenangadi in this hill district, the AICC general secretary referred to the violence in Manipur and alleged that "planned" attacks are taking place against minorities in the country.

"You know the BJP government at the Centre is spreading fear, anger and distress



among the community. You have seen the attack on minorities. You have seen the attacks in Manipur. You have seen again and again anger, spread of hatred and fear concerted in a planned fashion," she alleged. Priyanka also alleged that policy after policy is made to

favour Prime Minister Narendra Modi's friends rather than the common people.

"There is no compassion towards the farmers who are toiling day and night. There is no understanding of tribal people, their lands are taken away for rich people," she



BENGAL HOME TO ALL: MAMATA

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Asserting that West Bengal is home to all sections, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday urged the people to live in peace and celebrate every festival together.

Inaugurating a number of community Kali Puja pandals across Kolkata, she also urged the people to celebrate with environment-friendly fire-crackers.

"Bengal is such a place, where nobody will ask you about your caste, or which state you belong to or what is your religion or whether you are vegetarian or non-vegetarian. Nobody will ask whether you like Bengal or not. This is your right," Banerjee said.

"We are proud to say that you all are citizens of Bengal. Whenever you are staying

here, please consider it as your home state. Do not misunderstand me but consider my views," she added.

Among the pandals she inaugurated were Girish Park Kali Puja, Janbazar Sammito, India Club, Venus Club, and Youth Friends Club Kali Puja, which are located in areas that have significant non-Bengali population.

"During festivals, we all celebrate together in Bengal. I do not want people to fight or create any differences," she said.

'Institutional collapse gave way to dangerous form of cronyism'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Stepping up his attack over conflicts of interest allegations against SEBI chief Madhabi Buch, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday said the current regime is no longer merely encouraging monopolies but actively concentrating the nation's wealth in the hands of a few.

Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, made the remarks in his post along with a video featuring him and Congress' media and publicity department head Pawan Khara in which they talk about the alleged conflicts of interest of SEBI chief Buch.

"Institutional collapse has now given way to a more dangerous form of cronyism -- Adani Bachao. The current regime is no longer merely encouraging monop-



olies, it's actively concentrating the nation's wealth in the hands of a few," Gandhi said.

The Madhabi Buch scandal goes deeper than initially imagined, he said, adding that it may be that Buch, entrusted with safeguarding retail investors, has been manipulating the system to protect Adani's

interests and his inflated valuations.

Those entrusted with protecting common Indians and their investments have abrogated their responsibilities and are indulging in wide-scale corruption and malpractice, he alleged.

The Congress has consistently raised these issues, is investigating these scams, and exposing the truth to the public, Gandhi said.

In the video, Khara is seen explaining to Gandhi the various conflicts of interest allegations against Buch and how there were powers behind her that were at work, an apparent reference to the Adani Group.

Sharing the video, the party said the role of the SEBI chairperson is to maintain the security of the stock market and ensure investments of common Indians are not at risk.

Will legally support all ..

Continued from page 1

"They did not even let children like Vedashree take their schoolbooks before demolishing their homes. How much more inhumane can it get?" he asked.

Referring to the government's promises to the poor, KTR pointed out the failure to deliver on housing schemes like Indramma Illu, in which the promised financial aid remains unpaid while homes are razed.

He criticized Revanth Reddy's administration for hounding the poor. "This isn't

just demolition. It's an act of cruelty disguised as development," he asserted.

Accusing the government of running a "racket" with the support of some builders, KTR called for accountability, emphasising that Buchamma's death should be treated as a government-triggered tragedy and not a mere suicide.

He said the BRS would continue to support all HYDRABAD victims, and offered legal assistance to challenge the "injustice."

He urged the people of Hyderabad and Telangana to stand united against the

"oppressive government," promising that the BRS would fight tirelessly for justice and to protect the vulnerable.

KTR extended his support and consolation to the family of young Vedashree, who lost her home and schoolbooks during a HYDRABAD demolition.

KTR spoke to Vedashree and asked her to recount the events of the day her house was destroyed. He provided her with new books and a school bag so that she could continue her studies. KTR also extended financial support to her family.

HC gives Raj Pakala 2 days..

Continued from page 1

In his petition, he said the police are trying to implicate him in the case and asked the HC to issue an order not to arrest him. Mayur Reddy, the lawyer who appeared for Raj Pakala said that his client had organised a party at home and that the police came and attacked him. Mayur told the High Court that an employee working in Raj Pakala's company tested positive for drugs and that Raj Pakala was also named as an accused because of that.

He told the court that the case was filed due to political malice and that the police issued a notice to Raj Pakala at 9.30 am on Monday. AAG Imran Khan appeared for the police. He told the High Court that they had not said anywhere that an arrest would be made and that no one has been arrested so far in the case.

He said that illegal farm liquor was found in the farmhouse and a person named Vijay Madduri tested positive for drugs. He said that there was no political angle in the case and that notices as per Section 41A were issued as per rules.

Was it a rave party or family..

Continued from page 1

Police filed a narcotic case saying that one person at the spot tested cocaine positive but they didn't reveal whether the party was a 'rave party' or a 'family party'.

However, Bhongir MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy criticised BRS leaders, particularly KTR, and asked whether family parties and Diwali parties will be conducted in this manner.

"No one conducts a Diwali party like this. A positive report came against one stat-

ing that he took cocaine," Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy said. Pointing out that Raj Pakala has a history of conducting parties like SunBurn, Kiran Kumar Reddy said that there is a need to punish the culprits even if they are big-wigs. "I am eagerly waiting for the police press conference expecting that they will reveal whether it was a 'rave party' or a 'family party'," Ramachandran of ECL area said. Usually, rave parties have dances, high voltage music and consumption of drugs and liquor etc.

Conduct 'dawaths'..

Continued from page 1

He said that foreign liquor was found in the searches and if anyone approached the police they would file a narcotics case. "We didn't file cases politically by going there. The incident is being published by the media as KTR's relatives are there in the incident. Union Minister Sanjay is speaking differently. Sanjay is saying that Congress and KTR colluded on the issue. It is not proper for Sanjay to speak in a manner that will demoralize the police," he said.

PATEL BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Nadda urges people, MPs, MLAs to take part in 'Run for Unity'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BJP president JP Nadda on Monday urged people and all public representatives, including MPs, MLAs, office bearers and workers of his party, to take part in the 'Run for Unity' event. He asked the BJP workers to promote Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's ideals during Tuesday's event by sharing his thoughts and contributions with the "#Sardar150"

hashtag on social media.

"As Bharat Ratna Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's janm jayanti (birth anniversary) coincides with Diwali this year, the 'Run for Unity' event will take place tomorrow, Tuesday, October 29," Nadda said in a statement. "I urge everyone to participate in large numbers and spread the message of national unity as well as the importance of fitness," he said.

21 TGSP men..

Continued from page 1

Section 3 of the Police (Incitement to Disaffection) Act, 1922, and Section 4 of the Police Forces (Restriction of Rights) Act, 1966. These charges address incitement to disaffection and acts of insubordination within a disciplined force. Additionally, show-cause notices have been issued to the personnel involved, citing violations under Article 311(2)(b) of the Indian Constitution for misconduct and insubordination. This requires them to explain why they should not face dismissal, given the threat their actions pose to public interest and security.

No power tariff..

Continued from page 1

The power supply for handloom and horticulture units was increased from HP 10 to HP 20. These RST (Retail Supply Tariff) proposals will be effective only from November 1. Despite requests for a revenue increase of Rs 1,800 crore, the ERC approved only Rs 1,200 crore, and government subsidies of Rs 11,449.52 crore will cover the revenue gap. In response to repeated delays by power distribution companies in filing petitions, the ERC imposed penalties with the goal of avoiding additional costs for the underprivileged.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Scammed!

An increasing number of people are falling victim to online scammers who exploit fear to extort money

Digital scams are evolving into a growing menace, targeting people across India and robbing them of their hard-earned money. As more people rely on online platforms for communication and transactions, fraudsters are exploiting the digital landscape to orchestrate sophisticated schemes. A recent warning from Prime Minister Narendra Modi has highlighted the alarming rise of a new scam known as the 'digital arrest.' This scam involves tricking victims into believing they are under legal scrutiny for their misdeeds and asking them to remain isolated. The victims are placed under a 'digital arrest,' by the fraudster posing as a police officer. To get out of this they must cough up the money to drop the fabricated charges. The 'digital arrest' scam preys on fear and confusion. The term 'digital arrest,' sounds like a legitimate legal procedure. Recognising the severity of the issue, Prime Minister Modi issued a national warning to educate citizens about this fraudulent scheme. He clarified that the concept of a 'digital arrest' does not exist under Indian law, and no government agency would ever request personal details via phone or video call. PM Modi also provided a three-step action plan for anyone targeted by digital scammers: Victims should not panic but try to record the interaction if possible, which could help authorities trace the criminals later. No official agency will threaten or make demands online. Any such approach should be treated with suspicion. And lastly, Citizens should immediately report the incident to the national cyber helpline and local police. Several cases of 'digital arrests' have emerged across the country, underlining the scam's rapid spread. Recently, Malayalam film actor Maala Parvathi fell victim to the scheme when fraudsters, posing as Mumbai police officers, accused her of smuggling drugs to Taiwan. Fortunately, she recognised the ruse before any money was exchanged.



The cases of digital arrest scams are just tip of the iceberg. Everyday millions of people are getting calls from scamsters and losing their money. Digital scams like the 'digital arrest' are effective because they exploit common fears about the legal system. The scammers often impersonate authoritative figures such as police officers, Central Bureau of Investigation officials, or representatives from the central bank, making their threats seem credible. The use of deepfake technology, fake ID cards, and well-crafted backdrops adds to the authenticity of their claims, convincing many to comply out of fear. PM Modi's alert is timely, however the efforts must be made by the enforcement agencies to ramp up cyber security and nab these fraudsters. Cyber security must be given top priority at the highest level as it also concerns national security as well. The Government and law enforcement agencies must put their act together to combat the surge in digital scams. Awareness campaigns, cybercrime helplines, and increased collaboration with technology companies must be employed to take on these scamsters.

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PICTALK



Women compete in a boat race at the Dal Lake, in Srinagar

Chasing votes at the cost of social harmony



J S RAJPUT

In a nation as diverse as India, the relentless pursuit of electoral gains has overshadowed efforts to foster genuine unity and social cohesion

It is indeed disconcerting that every aspect of life in India is impacted by the process of garnering votes in the next election, and the unscrupulous politician never hesitates to use it to create a wedge between people of varied religious pursuits. I say this as I reflect upon the Bahaich clashes, these were indeed communal whether we like to use that term or not! And these are a continuation. Reports of stone pelting on religious processions are now considered routine, except by the real victims, no one cares much about what media reports with adequate caution. It is indeed disappointing to recall that the culture of wasting time and human resources that could better be utilised for deliberations on national concerns and issues is deliberately wasted, for presumed petty political gains. When parliament is disrupted, when the Supreme Court finds time to listen to frivolous repeated petitions from politicians who fight cases on public funds, the national interest ipso facto gets relegated to the background.

One could go on citing instances of the decline in the conduct of leaders - exceptions apart - who enter politics just to look after themselves, their family and their clan! They hardly care for the loss of public credibility of the elected representatives amongst people and the public! Not many would even be aware of the resignations of KD Malaviya, TT Krishnamachari and Lal Bahadur Shastri? Over the last seventy-five years people have learnt to comprehend the real intentions of the politicians of different hues, their proclamations notwithstanding, they know who is communal and who is not! This incisive analytical skill emerges from the realisation that India abounds in the presence of diversity, be it of races, climate, language, cultures, flora and fauna, and most prominently and importantly, of religions and faiths. The beauty lies in the presence of harmony, bonhomie and lasting unity that makes this nation unique in multiple ways. It is a robust democracy that was ushered in after independence and has survived a couple of upheavals, uncertainties and even the dreaded Emergency of 1975-



77. What makes India click? It is the eternal strength of the ancient culture that guides the organisation of the personal and social lives of individuals, families and communities through high moral, ethical and philosophical inputs that possess the strength to accept the universal unity of humankind. It prepares people to value caring for others including nature, the learned of the past and present, and remain ever grateful to the family, parents, community and the nation. The culture so strengthened exhorts the individual to remain ever prepared to sacrifice personal good for the community good. The Indic religions accepted, and propagated the philosophy of the 'Search for Truth' - the ultimate human pursuit of the ultimate perfect - by each religion being one of the many available paths to reach the same goal! If one accepts this premise, then there is no scope for any bitterness or any of the induced, lured or enforced religious conversions! Every Indian, irrespective of his religious persuasion, needs to realize that conversions were not part of ancient Indian philosophy and thought, as acceptance of diversity based on equality makes it irrelevant and irrational. Organised efforts to convert people to one's religion were non-existent before the arrival of the Abrahamic religions. The tragedy of the current-day



WHY NOT FOCUS ON THE ESSENTIALS OF DEMOCRACY, POSITIVE AND FORWARD-LOOKING ASPECTS OF THE NATIONAL POLICIES THAT WOULD BETTER THE LIVES OF THE LAST MAN IN THE LINE WHO WAS THE FOCUS OF GANDHI?

political discourse in India is its total concentration on irrelevant negativity and its total targeted focus on votes in elections. Gandhi ji had mentioned in 1922 that 'defects of elections' would weigh heavily on our people once the British left India! The citizens realise it, but politicians do not! Why not focus on the essentials of democracy, positive and forward-looking aspects of the national policies that would better the lives of the last man in the line who was the focus of Gandhi? The right path to be followed is known to all those in power, and also those eagerly awaiting people's mandate to grab the power again! Thus, the fact remains that apart from the memories of invasions communal hatred persistently ignited by the British, India could maintain social cohesion and religious amity. It is also a fact that to disrupt it, sustained attempts by the inept religious leaders to widen the wedge persist. They exploit the chilling scars of partition to augment the perceptions of 'being different' between the two communities. There are external agencies that openly interfere in disrupting the religious fabric of India. India opted for a secular state while Pakistan, created on communal lines, opted to become a theocratic state, mischievously pretending to give equal rights to the followers of other religions. The

partition of Pakistan created the possibility of minorities being treated better in Bangladesh. It has proved a myth after the recent change of government here. Hindus are being subjected to targeted killing and violence. Overall, it seems to be an irretrievable, human ingenuity could always find a way out, and it must do so. I interact with intellectuals who practice Islam and know its basic philosophy. They are convinced that Islam is being wrongly understood not only by persons of other faiths but unfortunately by numerous practitioners of Islam, including the devout religious persons! This they tell me unhesitatingly, is because of the firm foothold of the clergy unwilling to accept that times are changing fast, and dynamism is a compulsory component of human civilisation. May be, universal spread of modern education could help. Educated young persons shall have to shoulder a big responsibility. It is the initial home and family education that sows the seeds of acceptance of diversity in the child's psyche, and that determines his future approach and attitude towards other religions. It is well known that Pakistan is seriously deficient on this count. India too has work to do on this front. (The writer works in education, social cohesion and religious amity. He is an Atal fellow with the PMML, New Delhi; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DHARMA NEEDS REFORM

Madam — The Vice President of India has said that inequities have no place in a society ruled by Dharma (October 27). This statement requires a wider range of discussions and even debates. If his statement holds good, then the scene prevailing in the country disproves his statement. As per Puranas, the society in the country since ancient times has been under Sanatana Dharma. Social and economic inequalities were there, perhaps in their worst forms, that the persons from certain castes were not entitled to even enter the areas where the people of upper castes were living. The majority of the people were living under poverty, and dharma recommends providing alms as an integral part of life. The ruling dispensation of this day firmly believes in Sanatana Dharma. But inequities are abnormally present on the social as well as economic front. This negates the statement that links Dharma and inequities. This also means propagating Dharma is just an academic course and has nothing to do with ruling or shaping society. In most of the countries, religious scriptures are quoted but not adhered to. Such discourses seem to be to numb the victims and keep them under fear of being punished for raising voices of dissent. Therefore, if the society has to remain in peace, the social inequalities should be removed without any of their traces left unattended and the policy of the rulers should be shaped to ensure equal distribution of national wealth, unlike the present scene marked by producing one billionaire every five days and leaving 81 crore poor to continue to live in poverty with just 5 kg of free rice a month. Religion is an innate affair, but ruling is a public affair. Let us not confuse ourselves.

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

HIGH POLLUTION LEVELS IN DELHI

Madam — It is with reference to the news article "BJP Chief hospitalised after taking dip in toxic Yamuna" (October 27). In the months of October and November, Delhi grapples with the stark dual challenge of

Threats disrupt flights



Since October 14, airlines have been receiving threats through social media and other platforms. Indigo, Air India, Akasa, and Vistara Airlines are still receiving these threats, causing confusion at airports and delayed flights. Due to these rumours, a total of 255 flights have been affected, leading to an estimated loss of 600 crore rupees in the aviation sector. This seems to be the first time such frequent threats have been heard. As

a result, the number of air marshals at airports has increased. The rise in social media usage has also led to an increase in "social issues" or problems, as those issuing threats are utilising these platforms. The Ministry of Civil Aviation is considering adding individuals identified for issuing bomb threats to a "no-fly" list. But what about the 600 crore loss? There should be a mechanism to recover damages by seizing the assets of those individuals or organisations responsible for such threats. Stringent action is expected against those who deliberately disrupt national transportation. Additionally, platforms like X and Meta play a role in spreading such rumours, so it's time for us to decide how much we should trust social media. Dattaprasad Shirodkar | Mumbai

CONGRESS ACCOMMODATES SP

Madam — Having lost the Haryana polls to the BJP in the recently held Assembly elections, Congress has announced giving up claims for its share of seats in favour of SP, the lead partner in the INDI alliance in the state. The withdrawal can be termed a tactical move from the alliance point of view, as the Congress hardly has any presence in the state, holding just two seats out of 403 seats in the UP Assembly. The reason advanced for the move that it wants to defeat the BJP to save the constitution and reservation does not hold any water as they have not followed the same strategy in Kerala in choosing to contest against CPI (M), their alliance partner in INDI alliance where as the alliance winning Lok Sabha seat is more important for their declared objective of 'saving the constitution and saving the reservation'. Congress's priority seems to be projecting Priyanka Vadra to the limelight.

Gopalaswamy J | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

P Victor Selvaraj | Tirunelveli

Why small steps matter in the battle against plastic

Many of us struggle to take even the simplest steps—like avoiding single-use plastic or segregating waste — essential for sustaining our planet



SANJAY CHANDRA

The natural resources of the planet are a treasure directly impacting our environment and climate. We need to withdraw judiciously and invest wisely for sustained growth. We can incorporate daily practices to grow this wealth. We live in a high-rise condominium complex. There was an animated discussion on the community WhatsApp group about a few residents feeding cows immediately outside the main exit. This causes the cattle to assemble when officegoers are in a hurry to exit. It is a potential traffic hazard. One gentleman rightly pointed out that the food dumped in plastic bags was also a health hazard. A few vehement voices of protest were raised. For them, feeding the bovine was an age-old tradition. We need to think differently to address issues of concern. A national campaign for a complete ban on single-use plastic was launched a few years back. Many of our smaller states have been conscious of the need for a long time. I travelled to



Sikkim a few years back. The shopkeeper rummaged through his shelves. He could barely manage a few old newspapers to wrap my provisions. Plastic bags have been banned in the state since 1998. We were also advised to bring empty bottles since packaged mineral water bottles were banned in north Sikkim. Individually we fail to be responsive to the urgent needs. Many residents in our complex still demand plastic bags from the fruit and vegetable vendors and the grocery stores. Despite repeated instructions, many stores refuse to do away with single-use plastic. My wife has been carrying cloth bags for the last 15 years whenever she steps out to buy groceries or vegetables, and even to the malls. Municipal

authorities in several cities have successfully implemented the management of segregated waste at the household level. I stayed in Indore for a couple of days a few years back. I was intrigued by a song following me when I stepped out for the morning walk. I noticed people coming out of homes with garbage bags in their hands. It was the garbage collection vehicle playing the melodious song. The song exhorted residents to segregate waste. The song was also a knock on the door about the van's arrival. I had heard so much about the unique model of Indore towards a cleaner and environment-friendly city. This was the living proof. I was surprised to notice construction and demolition debris stacked in front of the houses under construction or renovation. I was told that the municipal department collected waste from the doorstep and disposed of the same at designated sites. All of this has not happened overnight. Someone took the first step. Others joined, to make it a mass

movement. We have been struggling to implement waste segregation within our society for the past 8 years. The rules mandate it. We still manage to find reasons to justify inaction. Even the neighbours are not doing it, segregation is cumbersome, the timing for waste collection does not fit into the routine, and an individual cannot make a difference, are only a few of the excuses for not doing it. The first step is the most difficult to take. We spent a couple of days recently in Alibaug. My wife is passionate about the cause and does not get disheartened easily. I was surprised when she remarked, "It seems that we might not see a cleaner country in our lifetime!" I would remind her and others about Barack Obama's words, "We are the first generation to feel the impact of climate change and the last generation that can do something about it." (The author is an electrical engineer with the Indian Railways and conducts classes in creative writing; views are personal)



FIRST COLUMN WORKPLACE BULLYING: THE SILENT EPIDEMIC

It often leads to a toxic work culture that diminishes productivity and erodes employee morale



SAKSHI SETHI

Various studies have quite often revealed that around 30 per cent of employees experience bullying at every step they take at their workplace, while a significant portion of the workforce witnesses it without intervening. Unlike harassment, which is more likely to be reported due to the legal and policy frameworks that exist around it, bullying often lacks formal channels for redress. Workplace bullying is a serious and pervasive issue that affects individuals and organisations across various industries. It has become a silent epidemic where the victim's personal life as well as professional performance are often declined regarding mental health resulting in loss of self-esteem. Not only does the employee suffer but for the organisation too the consequences are equally severe. The stress of enduring repeated harassment results in physical health issues such as headaches, insomnia and a weakened immune system leading to decreased employee engagement and productivity. Now, workplace bullying manifests in numerous ways, from overt actions like public humiliation to covert tactics such as excluding someone from important meetings or withholding critical information. It may also involve power dynamics, where a manager targets a subordinate or senior staff and manipulates their junior colleagues. Unlike occasional conflicts or disagreements, this type of bullying is systematic and persistent, leading to a toxic environment for the targeted individuals. However, the psychological impact of bullying can be profound. Victims often experience stress, anxiety, and depression because of the ongoing harassment. This stress further manifests



in physical symptoms that include headaches, fatigue and even cardiovascular issues, as the body's stress response becomes consistently triggered. In extreme cases, the trauma can even lead to severe mental health conditions, affecting victims' self-esteem and overall sense of well-being. Over time, employees or the victim may develop symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) if the harassment is severe or prolonged. The victim may start avoiding their workplace altogether, resulting in absenteeism and some cases, may even resign to escape the toxic atmosphere.

This stigma, combined with the fear of being perceived as weak or incapable, can even prevent them from reaching out for help. The resulting isolation allows bullying to continue unchecked and causes the victims to suffer without the support they need. This isolation further perpetuates the silence surrounding workplace bullying, thereby turning it into a pervasive yet hidden problem. This reduction in productivity doesn't only affect the targeted individual but can also disrupt team cohesion, workflow, and project timelines. This culture of fear can sooner or later result in a breakdown of trust and respect among team members, reducing collaboration and open communication. As more employees become disengaged or demoralised, the organisation's overall culture will suffer, leading to lower employee satisfaction and retention rates. It can't be ignored that workplace bullying is a pervasive issue with wide-reaching effects on individuals, team dynamics and organisational success. Clear anti-bullying policies, coupled with effective reporting mechanisms, can empower employees to come forward without fear of retaliation. Organisations should also invest in regular training to help employees recognise and address bullying behaviours in themselves and others, fostering a workplace culture that discourages mistreatment. Only when an organisation emphasises respect, accountability, and open communication, can the incidence of bullying be reduced thereby leading to a more positive, productive and healthy work environment. preventing workplace bullying will benefit not only the victims but the organisation too, reinforcing a work culture that values employee well-being and mutual respect.

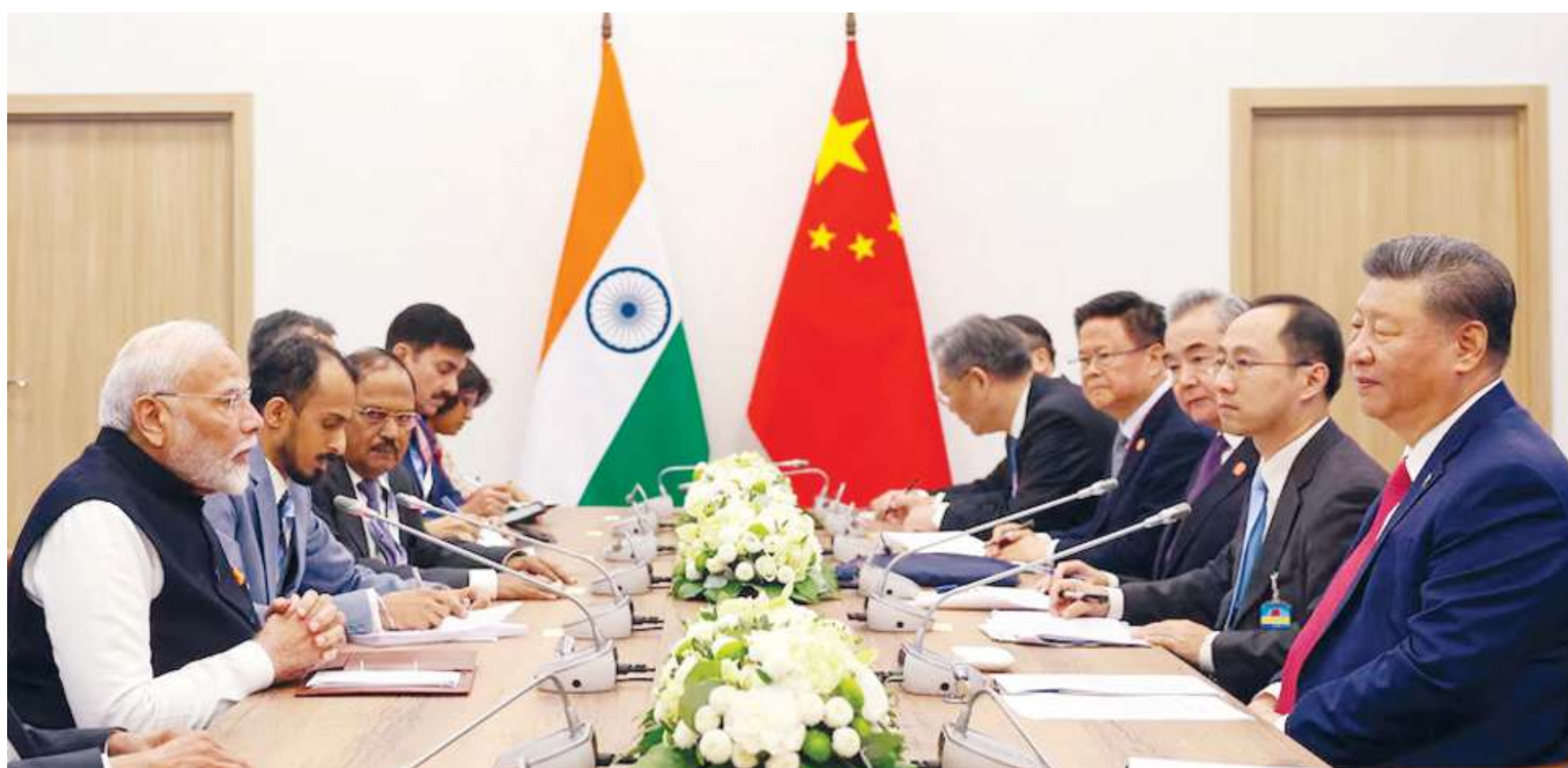
(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

India-China border pact: A cautious step forward



PARUL CHANDRA

India's path to restoring normalcy with China is fraught with challenges, including a significant trust deficit and complex border disputes



Now that India and China have reached an agreement on disengagement and patrolling in Depsang and Demchok in a step towards resolving the over four-year-long military confrontation in eastern Ladakh, can New Delhi sit back with a quiet sense of achievement? More importantly, can China be trusted to do what it has promised during bilateral meetings, including the recent one between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping on the margins of the recent BRICS summit? The answer is a firm 'No'. For, even though the two Asian giants have seemingly buried the hatchet for now with the new pact being endorsed by their top leaders at Kazan in Russia on October 22, the yawning trust deficit that now marks bilateral ties is unlikely to be bridged any time soon. To be sure, there is not going to be a repeat of the bonhomie witnessed during the Modi-Xi informal summit meetings in Wuhan and Mamallapuram in 2018 and 2019, respectively. When the two leaders met in Kazan, there was expectedly none of the warmth seen during the informal summits. The thaw may have happened, but a long road lies ahead for bilateral ties to warm up. Instead, what Beijing has to deal with now is a hard-nosed New Delhi that's wised up to China's perfidious territorial aggression. India has done well in standing up to Chinese belligerence in eastern Ladakh and in conveying to Beijing that it cannot be business as usual in the face of its brazen flouting of all bilateral border accords. The ongoing eastern Ladakh military confrontation, part of the larger boundary dispute along the 3,488 km long Line of Actual Control (LAC), is nowhere near de-escalation to the pre-April 2020 situation. While the phased disengagement at

WHAT HAS BEEN EQUALLY WORRYING FOR NEW DELHI IS CHINA'S TERRITORIAL AGGRESSION WITH NEIGHBOURING BHUTAN TOO. IT HAS SOUGHT TO BULLY THE TINY HIMALAYAN KINGDOMS AND APPROPRIATE ITS TERRITORY

Depsang and Demchok is a welcome development, New Delhi should not let its guard down. It can do so only at its peril, given Chinese machinations along the LAC and its "salami-slicing" tactics to grab disputed territories. In any case, disengagement is just the first step with de-escalation and finally de-induction of troops being part of India's roadmap for the restoration of status quo ante. It's also laid out the red line for Beijing - the need for "peace and tranquility on the border". What has been equally worrying for New Delhi is China's territorial aggression with neighbouring Bhutan too. It has sought to bully the tiny Himalayan kingdoms and appropriate its territory. With such moves posing a strategic threat to India, the Indian Army stepped in to block Chinese troops from building a road in the Doklam plateau area near the Sikkim-Bhutan-Tibet trijunction in 2017. The rival troops had disengaged after a 73-day face-off, but China has permanently deployed troops in north Doklam since then. What the Chinese PLA sought to do in eastern Ladakh with multiple incursions in the summer of 2020 too was part of its salami-slicing tactics. Bilateral ties went into a deep freeze soon after the bloody clashes in Galwan on June 15, 2020, which left 20 Indian soldiers and an unspecified number of Chinese personnel dead. With the slight easing of tensions now, India will need to tread cautiously. Normalcy in ties seems a long way off but even some measure of stability in the relationship between the two Asian rivals will be a positive development.

For India, this is especially important as it also has a nuclear-armed hostile neighbour in Pakistan on its western borders. A two-front military challenge can bog India down in the region, hobbling its aspiration to be a global power-house. The China-Pakistan collusive axis queers the pitch for India. With frosty ties with Pakistan, New Delhi must begin mending ties with Beijing. Towards this end, Modi and Xi have agreed to resume the meetings of the Special Representatives (SRs) of the two countries "to oversee the management of peace and tranquility in border areas and to explore a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the boundary question". The SRs mechanism was set up in 2003, with 22 rounds of talks being held till now. It has not been met since 2019. However, given the complexity of the boundary question and Beijing's own feet dragging on a resolution, the SR mechanism at best serves as a means for the two sides to remain in dialogue. As New Delhi and Beijing work to bring down tensions, the boundary question will continue to bedevil ties. India's level of mistrust of China will remain high given that it has failed to adhere to previous agreements to maintain peace and tranquility on the border. Beijing, on its part, will remain watchful and wary of India's deepening ties with the US as well as other Quad members. Its active role in the Indo-Pacific construct and Quad - both seen as a counter to China's growing hegemony -- has Beijing worried. That said, India knows it has no

option but to deal with China, owing to its geographical proximity as well as Beijing's economic-industrial clout. The bilateral economic and trade relations are heavily tilted in China's favour. India imported \$101.7 billion worth of goods from China in 2023-24, way more than from any other country. On the other hand, India's exports to China were worth only \$16.7 billion, a mammoth trade deficit for New Delhi. India depends heavily on imports from China in many sectors, like industrial machinery, telecom, electronics, electrical equipment, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, iron, steel and the like. In certain sectors, like pharmaceuticals, Indian manufacturers will find it difficult to operate without imports from China. Despite many steps and policy decisions taken by the Indian government to move towards greater balance in trade, more so after the current border problem erupted, the imbalance has only further accentuated. In this, economics is trumping politics or national sentiment. On the military front, India should not slacken in dealing with China with a firm hand, as it has done since the Galwan clashes. It should also redouble efforts to push for a resolution of the different issues, including the border question. With the festering territorial dispute having long-term strategic implications for India, it needs to strike the right balance between rebuilding trust and proceeding with caution. (The writer is a senior journalist who writes on strategic affairs; views are personal)

Embracing Ayurveda: Bridging tradition with modernity on Ayurveda Day

Rooted in the principles of balance and harmony, Ayurveda guides individuals to achieve holistic wellness

World Ayurveda Day, celebrated each year on the auspicious occasion of Bhagwan Dhanvantari Jayanti, offers a profound opportunity to honour Bharat's rich heritage of health and well-being. This year, on October 29, 2024, we come together to recognise Ayurveda—not just as an ancient healing practice but as a living tradition that continues to inspire and transform lives worldwide. Rooted in the principles of balance and harmony, Ayurveda guides individuals to achieve holistic wellness by understanding their unique mind-body constitution and aligning with nature's rhythms. Its timeless knowledge promotes preventive care, natural treatments, and a lifestyle that sup-



PRATAPRAO JADHAV

ports physical, mental, and spiritual health. Ayurveda's reach has grown from ancient India to touch people across the globe, embodying Bharat's gift of wellness to the world. As we celebrate Ayurveda Day, let us commit to embracing and preserving this invaluable heritage. Ayurveda, the revered "science of life," represents one of the oldest and most comprehensive systems of

holistic medicine. Originating in ancient India, Ayurveda focuses on achieving balance within the body, mind, and spirit. In recent years, Ayurveda has gained remarkable global recognition, a testament to PM Modi's visionary approach to integrating AYUSH practices, including Ayurveda, with modern healthcare. His leadership, underscored by the establishment of the Ministry of AYUSH as an independent entity in 2014, set the stage for Ayurveda's transformation into a mainstream, globally respected healthcare approach. The government has since pioneered several initiatives to promote and expand Ayurveda's reach. Through partnerships with research institutions, academic centres,

and healthcare organisations worldwide, India has emphasised evidence-based studies, technological advancements, and policy support to bring Ayurveda to a broader audience. Moreover, the government's efforts to encourage innovative collaborations and cross-cultural exchanges have fostered an international appreciation of Ayurveda's preventive and holistic benefits. As we witness Ayurveda's evolution on a global scale, its emphasis on wellness, natural healing, and preventive care resonates more than ever, addressing modern health challenges and reasserting Bharat's invaluable contribution to the world of medicine and wellness. Ayurveda, often regarded as the "science of life," is deeply rooted in



ancient Indian philosophy, drawing from the foundational ideas of Sanatan philosophical schools around the 2nd century BCE. Its development was heavily influenced by the Vaisheshika school, known for its focus on natural principles and the categorisation of elements, and the Nyaya school, which emphasised logic, reasoning, and structured analysis. These schools laid a framework that allowed Ayurveda to

develop a systematic approach to health, emphasising diagnosis, observation, and inference based on natural laws. Furthermore, Ayurveda's conceptual foundation aligns with Samkhya philosophy, a school that delves into the nature of existence, consciousness, and the duality of mind and matter. Samkhya's insights into the interaction between Purusha (consciousness) and Prakriti (matter) provided Ayurveda with a comprehensive understanding of the body-mind connection, integral to its approach to health and wellness. Together, these philosophical influences cultivated Ayurveda's holistic view of human life, wherein health is perceived as an intricate balance between mind, body, and environment.

This synthesis not only strengthened Ayurveda's theories of doshas (biological energies) but also fostered an awareness of how lifestyle, diet, and mental states directly impact physical well-being. Thus, Ayurveda emerged as an interdisciplinary science, rooted in empirical observation yet deeply philosophical, ultimately offering a framework of healing that remains both relevant and insightful in understanding modern health. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been a pivotal force in promoting the integration of Ayurveda with contemporary health sciences, fostering a healthcare model that values both preventive and holistic approaches. His vision underscores a sustainable healthcare framework where traditional

systems of medicine, such as Ayurveda, play an essential role in enhancing the quality of life. This approach aligns with his broader agenda of sustainable health solutions for all, recognising Ayurveda's unique preventive and curative strengths rooted in millennia-old wisdom. Central to this vision are initiatives like the National AYUSH Mission and the establishment of Ayush Health and Wellness Centres (AHWCs), now known as Ayush Arogya Mandirs. These initiatives aim to reshape India's healthcare landscape, making AYUSH a socially viable, affordable, and complementary alternative to allopathic medicine. (The writer is Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare of India; views are personal)

MONEY MATTERS



Suzlon net profit nearly doubles to Rs 201 crore

Renewable energy solutions provider Suzlon's consolidated net profit almost doubled to Rs 201 crore in the September quarter compared to the year-ago period. A statement said the company reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 102 crore in the quarter ended September 30, 2023. Total income rose to Rs 2,121.23 crore in the second quarter of 2024-25 from Rs 1,428.69 crore in the same period a year ago. Girish Tanti, Vice Chairman, Suzlon Group, said, "Our core business is now on solid foundation to capitalise on the market momentum." Himanshu Mody, Chief Financial Officer of Suzlon Group, said, "In a relatively challenging environment due to prolonged heavy monsoons, we have been able to deliver consistent growth with robust margins and 96 per cent YoY profit."

India and Spain sign MoUs on infra, rail transport

PNS ■ VADODARA

India and Spain signed several memorandums of understanding (MOUs) during the bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Spanish counterpart Pedro Sanchez in Gujarat's Vadodara city on Monday. During the bilateral talks held at the iconic Laxmi Vilas Palace here, both leaders also discussed the situation in Ukraine and in West Asia, said Tanmaya Lal, secretary (west), Ministry of External Affairs.

"With respect to Ukraine, both sides exchanged their views on how they see the situation. PM Modi reiterated India's position that any such conflict can only be resolved by dialogue and diplomacy. This is not the time for war, this cannot be resolved on the battlefield. It is necessary that direct discussion takes place between both the parties," Lal told reporters.



India reiterated its position that it really looks for a free, open, inclusive, prosperous and peaceful Indo-Pacific, he said, adding more on the region will be covered in the joint statement to be issued soon.

India and Spain, during the bilateral talks, signed agreements on cooperation in key sectors like infrastructure, railways as well as culture and tourism, he said. An MoU on rail transport was signed for cooperation in

planning, design, development, commissioning and operation of infrastructure, stations, railways facilities and equipment of long distance passenger and freight networks as well as urban and regional railway systems, an official release said.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS - 1

- Strengthened rural demand, enhanced agricultural activity, a growing services sector, and a stable external sector have supported growth in H1 of FY25.
- Good monsoon, adequate resource levels, and sufficient liquidity increased Kharif sowing, supporting last year's figures and the five-year average.
- Rural demand continues to strengthen, as evident from rising Fast Moving Consumer Goods sales and two-wheeler and tractor sales.
- Headline inflation in September 2024, was affected by the impact of the price increase in a few vegetable sub-items.
- Core inflation remains within the comfortable zone.
- Sufficient food grain buffer stocks and aspirants for a healthy kharif harvest are likely to reduce food inflation in the coming months.

Economic performance satisfactory: Finmin Report

Says demand conditions bear watching

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The performance of the Indian economy has been satisfactory during the first half of the ongoing fiscal year but concerns remain about demand conditions going forward, the finance ministry said in a report.

The outlook for the Indian economy is good, underpinned by a stable external sector, positive agricultural outlook, expected improvements in demand supported by the festive season, and the likelihood of an increase in government spending, which will boost investment activity, it said. However, at the margin,

demand conditions in the economy bear watching, the September edition of Monthly Economic Review released by the Department of Economic Affairs on Monday said.

Urban demand appears to moderate due to softening consumer sentiments, limited footfall due to above-normal rainfall, and seasonal periods to refrain from new purchases.

Further, risks to growth arise from escalating geopolitical conflicts, deepening economic fragmentation and elevated valuations in financial markets in some advanced economies, it said.



Gold declines Rs 400 to Rs 81,100 per 10 gm

Gold prices fell Rs 400 to Rs 81,100 per 10 grams in the national capital on Monday amid weak trends in the overseas markets, according to the All India Sarafa Association. The precious metal of 99.9% and 99.5% purity had revisited its all-time of Rs 81,500 and Rs 81,100 per 10 grams, respectively, on Saturday. However, silver remained flat at Rs 99,500 per kg. Meanwhile, gold of 99.5% purity declined Rs 400 to Rs 80,700 per 10 grams on Monday. Ease in demand by jewellers and stockists in the local markets amid sluggish trend in the global markets led to a decline in gold prices, traders said. Meanwhile, in futures trade on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold contracts for December delivery decreased Rs 312, or 0.4%, to Rs 78,220 per 10 grams. "Gold prices experienced a decline at the beginning of the week, and weakened by Comex, as profit booking emerged amid signs of de-escalation in the Israel-Iran conflict," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities, said.

Centre launches mobile app to address grievances of rice millers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Food Minister Pralhad Joshi on Monday launched a mobile application of FCI Grievance Redressal System (FCI GRS) for rice millers.

This is one of the measures taken by the government to enhance transparency, accountability and stakeholder satisfaction.

State-owned Food Corporation of India (FCI) is the nodal agency for the procurement and distribution of food grains.

Joshi noted that rice millers are important stakeholders and integral part of the food security system and said the government is "committed to their welfare". He said the mobile app will help in addressing their grievances.



This mobile application is available for download on the Google Play Store for Android users.

Joshi said the government is also working for farmers' welfare and also ensuring that consumers get food products at reasonable rates.

Aligned with the Digital

India initiative, the mobile application aims to improve responsiveness and accountability by providing rice millers with a convenient platform to lodge complaints, monitor their status and receive responses on their mobile devices in an end-to-end digitised manner.

Goyal's chat with German Vice Chancellor in metro on China goes viral

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal's chat with German Vice Chancellor Robert Habeck on raising an issue about China blocking sale of tunnel boring machine to India has gone viral.

The two leaders can be seen in a video, posted on social media platform X, talking about the issue.

"See your German company which is supplying us some tunnel boring machines, which they are making in China...but China is not allowing them to sell it to India...We should stop buying German equipment now," Goyal told Minister Habeck during a metro ride last week. The video of this has gone viral after being shared by a user named 'Lord Bebo'.

Habeck arrived here last week as a part of a high-level delegation led by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz. The German Vice Chancellor was sitting while Goyal was standing during the conversation.



After hearing Goyal's remarks, he stood saying, "I think I should listen to you".

IREDA offers support to Bhutan for RE projects

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned IREDA on Monday offered to support Bhutan with finance assistance for renewable energy projects in the neighbouring country.

IREDA can finance large hydro power projects to support Bhutan's clean energy goals, the company's CMD P K Das said at a discussion on 'Access to Financing for Renewable Energy Projects', at the Bhutan-India Renewable Energy Roundtable in Thimphu.

The event, organised by the government of India in collaboration

with the government of Bhutan, provided a platform for fostering renewable energy cooperation between the two nations.

"IREDA stands ready to extend support to Bhutan's renewable energy initiatives within the regulatory framework of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)," he said.

Swiggy's Rs 11,300-cr IPO may open on Nov 6

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Food and grocery delivery major Swiggy is looking to raise Rs 11,300 crore through its initial public offering (IPO) opening for public subscription on November 6, sources said on Monday.

The shares would be available at a price band of Rs 371 to Rs 390 apiece.

The issue would conclude on

Price band at Rs 371-390/share

November 8 and the bidding for anchor investors will open for a day on November 5, they added.

Swiggy is one of the most valued top-age consumer brands to tap the Indian capital market. The company's Rs 11,300-crore IPO is a combination of fresh issue of shares

The issue would conclude on November 8 and the bidding for anchor investors will open for a day on November 5, they added

worth Rs 4,500 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of Rs 6,800 crore, they added.

Those selling shares in the OFS route are -- Acel India IV (Mauritius) Ltd, Apolletto Asia Ltd, Alpha Wave Ventures, LP, Coatte PE Asia XI LLC, DST EuroAsia V B.V, Elevation Capital V Ltd,

Inspired Elite Investments Ltd, MIH India Food Holdings B.V, Norwest Venture Partners VII-A Mauritius and Tencent Cloud Europe B.V.

Early investors like Accel, Elevation Capital and Norwest Ventures are making up to 35 times in returns on the portion they decided to sell. On the other hand, SoftBank continues to stay invested.



Amazon ties up with HPCL for low carbon fuels

Amazon India on Monday said it has signed an initial pact with state-owned Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd for pushing the development and adoption of Low Carbon Fuels (LCFs) for long-haul transportation in India. Under the collaboration, HPCL and Amazon will conduct a pilot to test fuels in the latter's long-haul transport vehicles and explore the possibilities of fuelling hubs and mobile refuelling stations for easy access to LCFs, Amazon India said. This alliance marks a significant step towards reducing carbon emissions in the transportation sector and also aligns with Amazon's global commitment to achieving net-zero carbon across its operations by 2040, contributing to India's national goal of net-zero carbon by 2070, Amazon India said. "Biofuels are key to India's energy transition and are set to contribute to jobs and economic growth. Amazon's collaboration with HPCL is a step toward empowering this transformational shift. In line with The Climate Pledge's global goal to reach net-zero carbon by 2040, accelerating fuel alternatives in our transportation network reinforces our commitment to India's energy ambitions and is helping our mission to reduce emissions," said Abhinav Singh, vice president for operations at Amazon India.

Flipkart narrows loss to Rs 4,248 crore

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

E-commerce major Flipkart has reported narrowing of consolidated net loss to Rs 4,248.3 crore in 2023-24 helped by an increase in its revenue, according to a regulatory filing report shared by Tofler on Monday.



The company posted a consolidated net loss of Rs 4,897 crore in the financial year (FY) 2022-23. The company's expenses on purchase of stock in trade increased by about 24 per cent to Rs 74,271.2 crore in FY 2024 from Rs 59,816.6 crore in FY 2023.

According to the Tofler report, Flipkart's return on equity dropped to the lowest level in the last five years to negative 49.6 per cent. The return on capital employed for the company was also the lowest at negative 54.09 per cent in the last five fiscal years.

The consolidated revenue of the Walmart Group firm increased by about 26 per cent to Rs 70,541.90 crore in FY 2024 from Rs 55,823.9 crore in FY 2023.

An email query sent to Flipkart elicited no immediate reply.

India has entered cyclical growth slowdown: Nomura

Terms RBI's 7.2 pc estimate 'overly optimistic'

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Japanese brokerage Nomura on Monday said the Indian economy has entered a phase of "cyclical growth slowdown" and the Reserve Bank's estimate of 7.2 per cent GDP expansion is "overly optimistic".

The brokerage said it sees "rising downside risks" to its GDP growth estimates of 6.7 per cent in the ongoing FY25 and 6.8 per cent in FY26.

"We believe India's economy



has entered a cyclical growth slowdown. Coincident and leading growth indicators point

to a further moderation in GDP growth and the RBI's forecast of 7.2 per cent for

the monthly expiry this week triggered a rally in domestic markets, although the undertone remains cautious," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research) at Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

From the 30 Sensex pack, ICICI Bank climbed 3 per cent after the private sector lender posted a 14.5 per cent growth in standalone profit to Rs 11,746 crore for the second quarter ended September 2024.

Markets recovery makes investors richer by Rs 4.21 lakh crore

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Investors' wealth on Monday surged Rs 4.21 lakh crore as markets bounced back after five days of fall.

The BSE Sensex jumped 602.75 points or 0.76 per cent to settle at 80,005.04. During the day, it surged 1,137.52 points or 1.43 per cent to 80,539.81.

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms jumped Rs 4,21,138.2 crore to Rs

4,41,20,059.86 crore (USD 5.25 trillion).

"Amid higher valuation con-



cerns, markets had corrected sharply last week and hence the recovery was seen today. Also, short covering ahead of

the monthly expiry this week triggered a rally in domestic markets, although the undertone remains cautious," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research) at Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

From the 30 Sensex pack, ICICI Bank climbed 3 per cent after the private sector lender posted a 14.5 per cent growth in standalone profit to Rs 11,746 crore for the second quarter ended September 2024.

UK to support India hub for female-led businesses

PNS ■ LONDON

The UK has unveiled a package of measures designed to boost intra-Commonwealth trade and investment, including a Commonwealth Investment Network and a hub in India to support female-led businesses.

At the conclusion of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Samoa last week, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) in a statement on Sunday set out Britain's vision to increase "shared prosperity" for the 56-member organisation made up of some of the world's fastest-growing economies. Prime Minister Keir



Starmer and Foreign Secretary David Lammy attended the summit which concluded on Friday.

"UK announcements included funding for a Commonwealth Investment Network to encourage greater investment within small and climate-vulnerable Commonwealth countries, and support to establish hubs in India and Sri Lanka to support female-led businesses," the FCDO said.

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL AMEEPUR - SANGAREDDY DISTRICT
E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Tender Notice No. Engg - MCA/E/INT/18/2024-25 Dated: 26.10.2024
SHORT TENDER NOTICE
No. of Works: 1 No's., Estimated Contract Value: Rs 143.00 Lakh. Events, Dates & Time:
Bid Document down load start Date and Time: 30.10.2024 @ 10.30 A.M., Last Date & Time for receipt of bids: 18.11.2024 @ 10.30 A.M., Price Bid Opening: 18.11.2024 @ 11.00 A.M., Address of the Officer concerned, Commissioner, Ameerpur Municipality further details can be seen at www.tender.telangana.gov.in. Sd/- Municipal Commissioner Ameerpur Municipality
R.O. No: 5985-PRCL/INT/18/2024-25 Dt: 28-10-2024

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED
E-Procurement/Open Tender Paper Notification RRZ-04/2024-25
Tenders are invited from eligible contractors for tenders with Specification Nos. 09/24-25, 10/24-25, 11/24-25 (Reserved for SC), 12/24-25, 13/24-25 for construction of section of lines in Viansabad Circle, 14/24-25 for Replacement of existing 11KV line from Rain tree park in Cybercity Circle, 15/24-25 (Reserved for SC) for providing of alternate source to Dharmasri SS in Rajendranagar Circle of CEOP/RR Zone. For further details regarding detailed notification, specification and digital certificate please visit www.tender.telangana.gov.in.
Sd/- Chief Engineer, Operation, Ranga Reddy Zone, KPHB Colony, Hyderabad.
R.O. No: 5987-PRCL/INT/18/2024-25 Dt: 28-10-2024

Huma Qureshi talks *Mithya: The Darker Chapter*

AARTI SREENATH
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Huma Qureshi's filmography is a daring tour through cinema's trickiest terrains. From her explosive debut in *Gangs of Wasseypur*, where she held her own amidst cinematic chaos, to *Leila's* dystopian depths and the noir-streaked *Monica, O My Darling*, she's made unpredictability her calling card. Huma has a way of grabbing the spotlight without fanfare, blending into each role with that uncanny mix of grit, grace, and a glint of mischief. Whether she's serving up fierce resilience or sly humour, she leaves audiences wondering: Where will she take us next? While the world only sees the final cut, there's a whole other story to tell about what happens after "cut" is called—especially when the scenes are psychologically intense and emotionally exhausting. For Huma Qureshi, her sanctuary was a quiet room with a fireplace in a heritage property, wrapped in the misty hills of Darjeeling. Shooting for *Mithya: The Darker Chapter* was an all-consuming experience, but her secret for winding down was far from glamorous—it was the small pleasures that brought her back to life every evening.

"Sleep is such an underrated thing," the *Jolly LLB* fame says, as if it's a reminder to herself as much as anyone else. "I love to sleep and I love to read." Every night after a day filled with heavy, brooding scenes, she'd return to her cozy corner of solace: the Princess Siam Room. Yes, you read that right—a room named after the Princess of Siam, who had once stayed in this beautiful, old-world heritage property. "It's a gem of a place," she recalls. "Fireplaces, minimal décor, a TV that I barely noticed—it had everything I needed and nothing I didn't." Most nights, Huma found herself curling up beside a fireplace that was so charmingly vintage as it was functional. "It wasn't one of those modern fireplaces where you just press a button," she laughs, clearly savoring the memory. "I had to actually put in coal and wood. There was something so grounding about it." With her book in hand and the gentle crackling of wood filling the air, she'd sink into the simplicity of the moment. In her words, "I even ended up taking countless pictures of my feet, or my socks, by the fire!"

Had it been possible, the *Deedh Ishqiya* fame jokes, she might have just permanently relocated to a fireplace-equipped haven in the mountains. "Honestly, it's probably a good thing I don't live somewhere with a fireplace. I'd end up parked in front of it all the time!" she laughs, adding, "It was the kind of peace you don't know you need until you have it."

This sense of quiet, it turns out, was vital to her creative process, particularly when approaching her character, Juhi Adhikari, a woman on a relentless journey that feels both intensely vengeful and deeply personal. Juhi's journey, as seen in the trailer, hints at layers of resentment, resolve, and transformation, a challenge for any actor. So how did Huma bring Juhi's inner turbulence to life without getting lost in it?

"There isn't a formula for this kind of thing," the *Maharani* fame says thoughtfully. "You read the script and try to emotionally ground yourself. If this happened to you, what would you feel? How would you react?" She believes in letting her character's motivations unfold naturally, without excessive overthinking. "The more you think about something, the more you take away from it. It's almost like a mystical approach; you have to let the character happen to you. The moment you stop overcomplicating, you realize that it just happens."

For the *Double XL* fame, acting isn't about calcula-

Huma Qureshi, the versatile actress known for her bold choices, pulls back the curtain on her latest obsession: *Mithya: The Darker Chapter*



lated methods or deep dives into obscure psychology; it's about being open to the emotional waves of the character's experience. "Sometimes actors complicate things too much, but it's about creating space for spontaneity. You have to let the story happen through you. When you do that, your instincts do most of the work." For all her grounding in routine and the daily comforts of a book, a fire, and the quiet, old-world room, the *Tarla* fame's approach to acting is anything but ordinary. It's a process of discovery, an unscripted journey. It's about being present in the moment, both on and off set and allowing her character to live without forcing the narrative. That natural fluidity—and a little old-fashioned downtime—may just be the secret to her success, whether the scene calls for a quiet resolve or a fierce vengeance.

As she gears up for the second season of *Mithya*, the *Ek thi Daayan* fame reflects on how the show's evolution mirrors her own journey. "Season 1 felt like spring or summer, while Season 2 brings in the essence of autumn and winter. That was the vision

behind our styling choices. In the first season, I embraced soft pinks and peaches, capturing the lightness of spring. Now, as the story deepens and becomes more serious, the colour palette reflects that shift to the richer tones of the colder seasons."

With the anticipation of the new season comes a familiar weight of expectation. "After a successful first season, there's always the pressure to make the second one even bigger and better. We were all set to elevate the show. *Avantika* has been my constant throughout this journey, my adversary, my half-sister, my student, my enemy; she's worn many hats. We worked hard to enhance our performances and make them more impactful."

The cast returns with beloved characters, and Huma is excited about their new dynamic. "All the beloved characters are back, including Indraneil Sengupta and Rajit Kapur, along with the talented *Avantika* ji, who plays my mother. We also welcomed Naveen Kasturia this season, whose charisma added a fresh dynamic. Together, we aimed to create a show that's edgier, darker, and more thrilling."

DELVE INTO THE ARTISTIC JOURNEY OF AKSHATH ACHARYA, WHOSE *NADAANIYAN* MESMERISED AUDIENCES WORLDWIDE. *THE PIONEER* PRESENTS A CAPTIVATING CONVERSATION ON MUSIC, INSPIRATION AND THE INTERSECTIONS OF CREATIVITY, OFFERING A GLIMPSE INTO THE MIND OF A CONTEMPORARY MAESTRO

Mind behind viral hit *Naadaniyan!*

SHIKHA DUGGAL
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Does anybody recall the singer of *Nadaaniyan*, Akshath Acharya? The song was popular on Spotify and Instagram, where many celebrities, such as Shraddha Kapoor and Remo D'Souza, made a reel about it. Akshath and Jonita Gandhi recently worked together to produce a feminine rendition of the song. That, then, was our next indication for an exclusive interview!

"I didn't have any preconceived notions. To be honest, I had no inspiration for this song other than the fact that I was sitting with my guitar when I came up with this little four-bar riff. I felt it had promise, so I knew I could compose good compositions over it. I wrote five or ten various lines and melodies for the song before settling on "kaise tu gun guna wala." I then released it for public and it was warmly received. I realised then that I was holding something worthwhile," says Akshath, whose *Nadaaniyan* had garnered significant popularity, especially on platforms like Spotify and Instagram.

Akshath was genuinely shocked and delighted when it first began to happen. Now that he's looking back, he can state with certainty that there are 2.4 million, or some insane number, reels created on the song and he feels that each one is equally significant to him. At the time, he would always think, "Oh my God, this is so unbelievable," whenever he saw a reel featuring a well-known someone working on a song. "I have always been a huge fan of Jonita, so it goes without saying that she thought the music was great. And it was merely a partnership that we were both somewhat supportive of. And because Jonita is as skilled an artist as she is, it went smoothly right away. She is kind and modest as a human being. And you need that in a collaborative mood and won't just judge or, you know, shut down your ideas right away. And I never experienced that with her because she was a very cooperative person, so everything went smoothly right away," says Akshath.

All of his analysis is evidently post-based. It's not as though he had planned it like a genius, keeping in mind all of this, knowing that, oh, if he does this, then this, this will occur. He won't act as though that was the case. However, he is now able to reflect and reach a respectable conclusion. He believes that the song's popularity on social media stems from the fact that it simply appeals to a wide range of listeners. The melody itself is comparatively memorable, so he gives it a shot. Women creating reels in which they simply lip-synced the words because they truly connected with the songs was the first niche in which it gained popularity. He believed that the most important line there was "Choti moti baton pe muh fulaye," since most people thought, "Hey, that's me." That kind of thing, then. That, therefore, was how things began for *Naadaniyaan*. After that, they had dance reels because it was just a tune that people could create beautiful choreographies for. Following that, there were numerous spoofs that emerged, in which many of *Nadaaniyan's* lines were slightly altered to create amusing renditions.

Composing *Nadaaniyaan* was a creative process that, "was like whatever challenges I faced were actually really fun challenges. The hook was composed by myself and I shared it on Instagram. I thought, 'You know, I need to get the momentum going and get the song

out as soon as possible.' I spent 48 hours writing the remaining lyrics. Writing the song's words, music, production and even recording were all included in that. So it had to happen fast. And the reason it happened so fast is because I was just following my instincts when it came to this specific song. When I release a song, I usually play it for my family, friends and a few individuals I can trust. I take their advice, consider their suggestions and adjust as necessary. But I didn't have that choice because I just didn't have the time for this specific one. I therefore did exactly what my instinct told me to do, following it to the letter. And as a result, the procedure went smoothly, and I believe it was for the best."

He's really got a lot going on. He is also working on some wild collabs. Additionally, a song titled *Tu Hai Kya* has been released by him. That's what you can anticipate from him right away. "The best part about listening to music, in my opinion, is that you may interpret it anyway you see fit and associate it with your own feelings and memories. Therefore, I'm just content as long as they're connecting with the song and my music in general. For the others, they can experience it and create their own memories around it. That, in my opinion, is what distinguishes a song," he adds.

Speaking of *Tu Hai Kya*, he provided additional information regarding the song, stating, "I was writing the song when I truly wanted to offer an appreciation for a particular few people in my life. I'm not a really expressive person in general. However, there are some exceptions to that rule and there are a select few individuals in my life with whom I can truly be honest. These are the folks I can openly laugh, cry, complain, or do anything else in front of. And they will be open to that at all times. That is always an option for them. I always get their attention. In summary, it is simply a song for those who hold a special place in my heart. For instance, I had just posted a brief excerpt of it a day or two ago. Additionally, I'm seeing comments from individuals who say things like, 'This song seems like it's for mothers.' 'You know, this is a song for my daughter because she's my world,' read another comment. That's what the song is, then. It is only for those who are there to look after your heart, soul and you."

He also believes that, in the past, there was a certain element of a God complex amongst cinema stars, artists and fans, whatever that may have been. That has now diminished and he believes that authenticity and the genuine connection you are able to establish with your audiences are now the key factors. Moreover, he believes he can roughly divide his musical influences into two groups. A prime example would be the Bollywood music of the 2000s, which we all love. Many of his creations, melodies and writings have been influenced by that. He began his job, in a sense, as a hobby by just posting song covers on Instagram. These covers are mostly Bollywood songs from the 2000s. It would therefore fall under one group. The other would be this particular music, or musicians or bands with whom he has had a particular affinity. Linkin Park is therefore one of them. There's John Mayer. One well-known band that had a significant influence on his musical taste was *Pink Floyd*. They still kept the CD of this John Bon Jovi record when Akshath was a child. Thus, that had a significant impact on him. He can basically classify it this way and state that, you know, all of this coming together has influenced the music he does.

India's education system at crossroads



India's higher education system is undergoing a significant transformation. We are seeing rapid expansion with more universities and educational institutions being established across the country. However, challenges such as infrastructure deficits, faculty shortages and unequal access to quality education remain. While urban areas have access to advanced learning environments, rural regions still lag behind, and bridging this gap is essential. There is also a growing need to shift the focus from rote learning to a more research-oriented and experiential learning model, said Govind Narayan Singh, Secretary at Gopal Narayan Singh University.

In your opinion, how is technology transforming the landscape of education in India?

Technology has revolutionised education, especially post-pandemic. We have incorporated hybrid learning models that combine both online and offline elements to provide students with a more flexible learning environment. University has invested heavily in digital infrastructure, including smart classrooms, AI-driven learning management systems and virtual labs, making it possible to deliver high-quality education regardless of geographical constraints. The use of data analytics is also helping us track student progress and personalise learning experiences.

What role do universities have in bridging the gap between industry and academia in India?

The industry-academia gap has been a long-standing issue in India, but universities have a crucial role to play in narrowing this divide. Universities are focused on offering industry-aligned curricula, engaging industry professionals in advisory roles and fostering collaborations with companies for internships, live projects and placements. We have launched skill-development centers and signed MOUs with leading corporates to ensure that students are job-

ready from day one. We also emphasise entrepreneurial development, encouraging students to create startups while still studying.

India has seen a rise in interdisciplinary courses and degrees. How important is interdisciplinary learning in the current educational context?

Interdisciplinary learning is vital in today's world, as it allows students to approach problems from multiple perspectives. It fosters innovation and creativity, preparing students for complex real-world challenges. We have recently introduced programs that combine fields like artificial intelligence with healthcare or law with technology to cater to emerging sectors. The integration of different disciplines enables students to acquire diverse skill sets, making them more adaptable and versatile in the job market.

With increasing competition in the education sector, how can one differentiate itself from others?

We differentiate ourselves through a focus on experiential learning, global exposure and strong industry linkages. Campus facilities are state-of-the-art. Moreover, we offer students opportunities for international internships, exchange programs and collaborative research with global institutions. Innovation in pedagogy is another area where we excel, utilising case studies, simulations and projects to provide hands-on learning experiences.

What do you see as the future of international collaborations in Indian higher education?

International collaborations will be pivotal in shaping the future of higher education in India. They not only provide students with exposure to

global best practices but also foster research and innovation. The university has already established partnerships with several leading universities across the US, Europe, and Southeast Asia for student and faculty exchanges, joint research projects, and collaborative degree programs. I believe that these collaborations enhance the global competitiveness of our students while fostering a rich exchange of knowledge.

Given the rise of online education and edtech platforms, do you see these as competitors or complementary to traditional universities?

I see online education and edtech platforms as complementary to traditional universities. While online platforms provide flexibility and access to information, traditional universities offer a holistic experience of social learning, peer interaction, and hands-on experiences, which are essential for personal development. By integrating edtech into curriculum through blended learning models, using online tools to supplement in-class teaching, it ensures that students get the best of both worlds.

What do you think about the role of private universities in shaping the future of education in India?

Private universities have a critical role to play in shaping the future of education in India. They often have more flexibility in designing curricula, adopting new technologies, and forming global partnerships. They also invest significantly in research and infrastructure, which can set new benchmarks for quality in the sector. Additionally, private institutions contribute to innovation in pedagogy and offer specialised programs that public universities may not be able to implement due to constraints.



what's brewing?

Bindhu

Vandana

Katiyani

Kushitha

The Hi-Life exhibition brings luxury and fashion flair to HICC Novotel in Hitech city from November 8-10 2024, the collection would include creative fashion wear, lifestyle wear, bridal wear, accessories and more.

As Dhanteras draws near, we find ourselves in that delightful whirlwind of preparation where shopping takes on a whole new meaning. This is the festival where bling isn't just encouraged, it's practically mandatory! From gleaming gold coins to sparkling silver utensils, it's the perfect excuse to indulge in a little luxury without the usual guilt.



DHANTERAS SPECIAL

CELEBRATE DHANTERAS WITH DIAMOND COINS

On the auspicious occasion of Dhanteras, usher in Diwali, the festival of wealth and prosperity in the most unique and luxurious way! Diverge from the traditional norm of buying gold coins and rather invest in the timeless beauty and versatility of diamond coins! Divine Solitaires, offers a variety of diamond-embedded gold coins that blend elegance, rarity and modernity, making them the most unique purchase this Dhanteras. Crafted from 22-karat gold, these gold coins are available in 1-gram, 2-gram and 3-gram variants and priced at INR 26, 264, INR 42,744 and INR 60,769, respectively and feature 0.10, 0.14 and 0.18-carat solitaire diamonds, respectively.



RUBY & BRIOLETTE WHISPERS

Dhanteras is the perfect time to refresh your festive wardrobe with vibrant and stylish choices. This season, embrace the celebration by opting for jewellery that blend tradition with modern elegance, reflecting the energy and devotion of the festival. A stunning pair of earrings that embody sophistication and grace, combining the fiery allure of rubies with the delicate charm of yellow briolettes. The rich red rubies, known for their captivating brilliance, form the centerpiece, while the golden-hued briolettes add a touch of warmth and opulence. Crafted in gleaming gold, these earrings are designed to exude



Price: On request

WHITE BEADS SHELL DROP JHUMKAS

These exquisite gold and white finished jhumkas are an elegant blend of traditional craftsmanship and contemporary style. The earrings feature a stunning design adorned with pearls, delicate shells and intricate chid work. The jhumkas are further embellished with sparkling sequins, fine threadwork, beads and dabka, adding a rich texture.



Price: Rs 3250

ILLUMINATING YOUR STYLE

With the festival of lights right around the corner, accentuate the sparkle in your eyes with the dazzling pieces from Flourish by Gunjan Jain's latest collection. To complement everyone's individuality, they have got you covered with statement as well as minimal pieces to brighten up your traditional outfits. These captivating earrings pay homage to the most favourite gemstone.



MRP - 28,750/-

SPARK UP YOUR DHANTERAS

Birdhichand Ghanshyamdas Jewellers' festive collection offers a rich selection of luxurious pieces ideal for Diwali gifting or wearing. Featuring stunning ruby and emerald necklaces, bracelets, rings and diamond bangles, each piece blends traditional craftsmanship with modern elegance. Intricate chokers and statement designs add sophistication, making them perfect for festive celebrations.

Price: On request



BLING IT ON THIS DHANTERAS!

Kicky and Perky's Kalaras collection boasts exquisite pieces that blend traditional Indian artistry with contemporary elegance, making it a perfect Dhanteras offering for your loved ones. Inspired by the intricate Madhubani art form, this pendant showcases a modern interpretation of cultural motifs. Crafted from pure 925 sterling silver and adorned with dazzling moissanite and rhodolite garnet, it captures the essence of Dhanteras and joy.

INR 7149

PHOTO BY SV CHARY

Ed-a-Mamma, founded by acclaimed actor and entrepreneur Alia Bhatt, has officially launched its first-ever standalone store at Jio World Drive. Known for offering sustainable kids and maternity wear, it is committed to providing a diverse range of environmentally responsible products designed to nurture a love for the planet.

Amorepacific, hosted its first-ever K-beauty panel in India during Nykaaaland 2.0. The panel discussion, titled "Kracking the K-Beauty Kode with Amorepacific," brought together brand experts, celebrity brand ambassadors and beauty enthusiasts for an enlightening conversation on the vibrant world of K-beauty.

Regency College of Culinary Arts and Hotel Management in Hyderabad, shines as the 'Overall Champion' at the Banarisidas Chandiwala Hospitality Ensemble in Delhi, securing 8 accolades with skill, passion and excellence in hospitality education

FUN

ARCHIE

YOUR MUTT IS AS BIG A COUCH POTATO AS YOU!
SHHH! PLEASE! YOU'LL OFFEND HIM!
DON'T SAY HOT DOG'S A COUCH POTATO! HE'S VERY SENSITIVE!
WELL, WHAT WOULD YOU CALL HIM?
A WATCH-DOG?
A WATCH-DOG?

CALVIN AND HOBBS

HOW MUCH MONEY DO YOU HAVE, HOBBS? MAYBE WE CAN BUY DAD A NEW PAIR OF BINOCULARS BEFORE HE GETS HOME.
I'VE GOT THIRTY-NO, THIRTY-FIVE CENTS.
GREAT. I'VE GOT FOUR DOLLARS. LET'S CALL THE STORE.
HELLO? I'D LIKE TO KNOW HOW MUCH A GOOD PAIR OF BINOCULARS COSTS.
ONE TO SIX HUNDRED DOLLARS?? DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT MY DAD'S GOING TO DO TO ME??
WE WON'T STOP AT KILLING YOU, THAT'S FOR SURE. WE WILL!

GARFIELD

I LIKE TO BE TREATED LIKE A QUEEN
A QUEEN? SERIOUSLY?
I KNOW WHERE THERE'S A FISH
YOUR MAJESTY!

REALITY CHECK

HMMM- WHERE DO I KNOW THIS GUY FROM? HIGH SCHOOL?
FRIEND REQUEST
MEL ISHUSH FOREIGN AGENCY
CONCEPT LI (G)NORE

SPEED BUMP

YOU DOPE, THAT ONES FOR CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNERS.

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20

NANCY

I WISH I WASN'T STUCK AT SCHOOL ON THIS COMPUTER
JUST THINK OF ALL THE FUN I COULD BE HAVING AT HOME
THAT'S THE LIFE

SUDOKU

6							1	9
3	2	4	9					7
	8	5						
		3	1	5				
1								8
			8	3	2			
7				6			4	
		9		5	7			6
2	9							3

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

8	5	4	3	2	7	6	9	1
9	1	2	8	6	4	3	5	7
7	6	3	9	1	5	2	4	8
1	3	7	5	4	9	8	6	2
5	2	8	7	3	6	9	1	4
6	4	9	2	8	1	7	3	5
2	9	1	6	5	8	4	7	3
3	7	5	4	9	2	1	8	6
4	8	6	1	7	3	5	2	9

Rules

- Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9) exactly once.
- The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

ACROSS

- Nice, enjoyable
- Decays
- An animal with a shell
- Causes pain to
- A witch's power
- Footwear
- A hot drink
- A medical professional
- Lengthy
- Inspected closely

DOWN

- Bought
- Go in
- Takes part in a play
- A violent storm with twisting winds
- Unwell
- Swapped
- Go to see shows here
- A king or queen wears this
- Length x width =
- Not at home

SOLUTION

C	A	O	G	E	R			
C	H	E	W	I	N	O	O	U
A	I	A	C	O	P			
S	U	N	N	E	A	B	L	
S	I	K	L					
I	M	E	D	I	A	T	E	L
T	H	R	O	W	R			
A	G	E	R					
N	E	S	A	P	E	R		
N	B	S	T	E				





'I CAN'T LIMIT MYSELF TO ONLY PLAYING ROLES OF MY AGE GROUP'

Meenakshi Chaudhary has had a successful year with the release of *Guntur Kaaram* with Superstar Mahesh Babu, *Goat* with superstar Vijay and an upcoming film *Lucky Bhaskar* with Malayalam superstar Dulquer Salmaan. Two additional films will also premiere this year and Meenakshi is ubiquitous. She discusses her career, working with superstars and more

Bhaskar, *Matka* and *Mechanic Rocky*. "They are all very different from each other," she added. The actress is playing different characters and says that the audience also feels that it is not the same person playing these roles after watching her movies.

"I think to keep growing in your craft, what you can do variations. I am so grateful that at such a young age I got to do this kind of role and that has always been my goal—to try different roles and challenge myself and keep becoming an actor. Because if not now, then when?" said Meenakshi. In her early career, Meenakshi gets a chance to work with superstars from Telugu, Tamil and Malayalam. She worked with Mahesh Babu in *Guntur Kaaram*, *Goat* with Vijay and now *Lucky Bhaskar* with Dulquer Salmaan. "Though they are all Superstars, they never behave like one. They are very down to earth and they are so normal. But they take their job seriously and they always come on time. In fact, Vijay sir comes five minutes early and I have to run to get ready. Whenever there is a dance, I am practicing to match his dance steps, but he does it in just one take. Telugu is not Dulquer Salmaan's first language, but he is well prepared with his lines. Mahesh sir is just a pro. He will add to the scene with his individuality and with his own understanding of the character, which I saw in *Guntur Kaaram*. Punctuality, hard work, discipline and consistency—these are the four qualities that I learn from these superstars," she said about them.

The actress is playing a middle-class mother in this film, while she shared her thoughts about the middle-class family. "My father is working in the Army and my mother is a simple housewife who studied 10th grade. We hail from a village in Haryana and I am the first person to become an actor, doctor, and Miss India from my village. We don't have much money, but education is a very important thing for us and today whatever I achieved, all of that was possible because of my parents," she said. She shared a funny middle-class mentality thing. "There are certain things about which I can say that when I was in a new class I had to buy a new uniform, so we would always buy a size bigger, because it will be useful for the next class also," said Meenakshi.

She shared that *Lucky Bhaskar* will connect with everyone as most Indian families are middle-class and the film presents it with utmost sincerity and honesty. What are her criteria: character, production house, money? "If it was about money, I would have done a lot of films that were offered to me. But I was choosy about my projects, for which I picked up roles that helped as an actor. I have been always working and my idea is to just keep doing work. If the director thinks that I fit into the character, then I will do. I would like to do different, challenging and memorable roles. Money will come when you keep doing good projects," she said.

The actress said that apart from *Lucky Bhaskar*, two of her films, *Matka* and *Mechanic Rocky*, are ready for release. She also signed two Tamil films and some more films are in the pipeline.

SURESH KAVIRAYANI
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Meenakshi Chaudhary is one of the leading actresses in Telugu cinema at present. Last year only one film of hers was released and this year three of her films were released and three more are releasing in the coming two months. Suddenly Meenakshi Chaudhary is all over the Down South! Her upcoming film *Lucky Bhaskar* is releasing on October 31, in which she played opposite Malayalam star Dulquer Salmaan. "It's a young team from the director to the technical team to actors and more than that, it is a fresh concept with good writing," said Meenakshi about the film.

"The team had done so much preparation, which is a great thing, because Dulquer and I are not from the Telugu states, so it is important to us to get full clarity about the characters, dialogues and many other aspects. Because of that preparation work, our job becomes very easy from day one," said Meenakshi. She added that everyone knows that

Dulquer Salmaan is a fantastic actor. "He is a very good person and it's a great learning experience working with him," she said. Meenakshi is playing a young mother in this film.

"It's for the first time that I'm playing a mother's role and this is a bit challenging because I am not married. So, I definitely looked at my mother and when I was a baby, how would she look, how she dressed up? Because at that time the young mothers don't have time to look at themselves, so they look very simple, finishing their work and focusing on the house. All I wanted to bring for my Sumathi character in this film," said Meenakshi.

The actress is playing a young mother at a young age and also at the beginning of her career. "Actually, I never think of it this way. My only wish is that I want to work when I have good scripts and a good team. As an actor, you can't limit yourself to only playing my age group because the audience also gets bored to see the same cheese, same role, same casting. And as an actor, it also brings the same kind of roles. The fun begins in trying something new for the audience also," said the actress. She added that's why she is playing completely different roles in *Lucky*



Kiran pins high expectations on KA

PNS| HYDERABAD

Kiran Abbavaram has put all his hopes on his upcoming film *KA*, directed by Sujith and Sandeep. The film stars Nayan Sarika and Tanvi Ram as the female leads. Now, ahead of the release, the actor is confident that he is coming up with a new concept with this film. "I am playing a postman Vasudev in this film," revealed Kiran. He added that the story is a period drama dated back to 1977 from a remote village. "I was more connected to this role because I come from a village."

The director duo Sujith and Sandeep narrated the story to Kiran; he was spellbound after the climax. "Why we put the title *KA* and the story of this film will be revealed to you in the climax. When the directors told me this story, I thought when was this going to happen, there was another twist. With such a point, I felt that a new movie could be planned against the backdrop of the '70s. We believe that the audience will surely receive this story well," said Kiran. The actor was all closemouthed when it comes to sharing insights about the story or title. "I can only say that the film is completely about who, what and where. It is a complete suspense thriller," said Kiran.

With over one year of preparations that went behind the film, there was not much of a challenge. However, Kiran had to face a few challenges. "For me, the challenge was the action sequences that come during the end—35 minutes of the film. There's a lot of action and it is a complete physical task. That's the biggest challenge for me. The rest I did with complete ease. I get into the role when the director narrates it to me. More than that postman giving letters to the people, which I didn't see in Telugu in the last 25 years," said Kiran.

He said in this film, every character is important. "Tanvi Ram plays Radha while Nayan Sarika plays Satyabhama and she is my love interest in the film," said Kiran. He added that

Young actor Kiran Abbavaram is confident that his upcoming film *KA* will definitely enthrall the audience. He didn't reveal much about the film's story or backdrop; however, he shares it's going to bring a completely 'new' experience for the audience

many compare this film with *Virupaksha* and *Kanthara*, but they are different compared to *KA*. "There are no devotional points in this film," said Kiran. The actor agreed that his last two films were disappointing. "I am confident that this film is going to bring a new experience to the audience. I am saying 'new' so many times, because of the content and it's a fresh one. The movie will have a rustic feel, with fights and songs. We have revealed the suspense in the climax and we believe it will genuinely reach the audience," said Kiran.

The film is going to be released on October 31, during the Diwali festival. The film, is however, not going to release in multiple languages on the same day because, "There are many film releases and we don't get many screens," said Kiran. For the Malayalam version, Dulquer Salmaan bought the rights and his film *Lucky Bhaskar* is also releasing on the same day. "That's another reason, we are not releasing in Malayalam," said Kiran.

The actor recently got married to his co-star of the film *Raja Vaaru Rani Gaaru*, Rahasya Gorak. "But I am spending only little time as I was busy with this movie and now with the promotions. *KA* will stand as a significant film in my career. After this film's release, I wanted to take a short break and spend time with my family and then get into my next film," said Kiran Abbavaram.

VD IS MY LUCKY CHARM: DULQUER



On Sunday evening, the film *Lucky Bhaskar* pre-release event was held at a convention center in Hyderabad. Apart from the team unit, Vijay Deverakonda and director Trivikram Srinivas attended as the special guests. On this occasion, Dulquer surprised everyone speaking in Telugu.

"Director Venky is looking like a college student, but he writes so mature dialogues and the script," said Dulquer. He added that while shooting this film, he feels like family. "Nearly one year we shot the film and every time we came back for a new schedule, I felt that I was coming home," he said. The actor praises Meenakshi Chaudhary for taking this role. "It takes a lot of security and honesty as an artiste at somebody at Meenakshi's age to play a mother in her early career; she had no inhibitions, no issues, when Venky approached her for this role," said Dulquer. Dulquer said that he dubbed his own voice in three languages for this film, so he watched the film three times. "Everytime I watched, there were amazing Meenakshi scenes in my memory; she played a full-length role that everybody remembers for so long," said Dulquer about the actress.

"VD is my 'thammudu', my brother. I don't know you have realised that you are my lucky charm in Telugu. I was introduced to the Telugu audience for the first time in a pre-release function. Vijay came on the stage and introduced me. "This is Dulquer Salmaan acting in *Mahanati*. Next *Sita Ramam* again, he was there at the music launch; he graced our function. Now, he was again for this *Lucky Bhaskar*. Thank you, brother, for being there for me," said Dulquer about Vijay Deverakonda. The film is releasing on October 31.



Pooja Hegde bounces back with new films

Pooja Hegde is currently occupied with projects in South Indian cinema as well as Bollywood movies. The actress faced challenges in Telugu films following her blockbuster success with *Ala Vaikuntapuramlo*. In that movie released in 2020, she acted alongside Allu Arjun in a film directed by Trivikram Srinivas, which was a major success. She then starred in *Most Eligible Bachelor* with Akhil Akkineni followed by *Radhe Shyam* with Prabhas. Both movies flopped at the box office and the actress has yet to commit to any Telugu film. The actress went on a complete break from Tamil and Hindi as well. The actress set to star in *Guntur Kaaram* and *Ustaad Bhagath Singh* with Mahesh Babu and Pawan Kalyan, but she exited the projects and was substituted by Sreeleela. However, following a hiatus, Pooja Hegde appears to be making a comeback in both Southern and Bollywood films. The actress recently finished working on a movie with Suriya and now she is currently filming with Tamil Superstar Vijay. This will be the actor's final film before transitioning into a full-time political career. The actress has also agreed to act in a Hindi movie alongside Shahid Kapoor and there are now rumours circulating that Pooja Hegde has also signed on for another Hindi film. "The actress is now almost confirmed to play opposite Varun Dhawan in a film directed by the actor's father David Dhawan," said a source. With four films in her kitty, Pooja Hegde is also in talks with a Telugu film, added the source.

Balakrishna's shocking remuneration

Nandamuri Balakrishna, the actor who used to prefer setting his remuneration in the past, is now also increasing his remuneration. The actor is reluctant to increase his salary until *Ruler* and *Akhanda*. After the massive success of *Veerasimha Reddy* and *Bhagavanth Kesari*, the actor has chosen to increase his payment.

As per a report, Balakrishna is currently receiving a payment of Rs 50 crore for his role in the newly released movie *Akhanda 2*. The actor is demanding a steep price for the movie directed by Kollu Bobby and produced by Sithara Entertainments.

"Balakrishna films are now doing good business at the box office and also in demand, so the actor decided to hike



his remuneration," said a source. Actors such as Prabhas and Allu Arjun earn around Rs 100 crore as remuneration, but senior actor Balakrishna now charges Rs 50 crore for a film.

Balakrishna is currently the host of a popular reality show called *Unstoppable*.

STANDALONE



In a glorious convergence of cinematic legends, Amitabh Bachchan bestowed upon Chiranjeevi the esteemed ANR Award, commemorating his iconic impact on Indian cinema. As the spotlight shone bright, two of India's most beloved superstars shared a moment of mutual admiration, their combined legacy spanning decades of blockbuster films and unforgettable performances. With Bachchan's iconic baritone and Chiranjeevi's captivating charisma, the evening was an ode to the magic of Indian movies. As the curtains drew open, the ANR Awards ceremony transformed into a grand celebration of Chiranjeevi's unwavering dedication, versatility and unparalleled stardom.

INDIA WOMEN NEED TO RESOLVE BATTING VULNERABILITIES TO SEAL SERIES AGAINST NZ

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

India will be hoping to resolve their batting brittleness in their quest to win the third and final women's ODI and seal the series against New Zealand here on Tuesday. It was clear from the first match, which the hosts won by 59 runs through a fine effort by the bowlers, that India's batting is not in top shape, and the second one-dayers underscored that reality. India's batting went a notch down on Friday as they were bundled out for 183 while chasing 260. It was a tough target indeed, but not improbable in nature as Indian batters succumbed to spot-on White Ferns bowlers and to their own indiscretions. It required a record ninth-wicket stand of 70 runs between Radha Yadav and Saima Thakor to add a touch of



respectability to India's run chase. Even the overall picture is not a rosy one, as Indian batters are yet to score an individual fifty across two matches. Radha's 48 in the second ODI

is the highest individual score from India's side during this series, and the home team will require a drastic turnaround in the final match. For that, India's power troika upfront -- openers Smriti

Mandhana, Shafali Verma and skipper Harmanpreet Kaur -- will have to fire in unison. It can have a ripple effect in a strong-on-paper middle-order consisting of Jemimah Rodrigues, Deepti Sharma and

Tejal Hasabnis. Mandhana's form continues to be a bit of concern as she hardly looked a pale shadow of her customary gracefully dominant batter. She is yet to reach two-figure score against New Zealand, and a series decider could be a perfect occasion for her to rewrite the script. On the other hand, Indian bowlers continued their good effort despite conceding 259 in the previous match. At one stage, the visitors were 87 for no loss in 14 overs and 139 for 3 in 30 overs, but the Indian bowlers did well to rein them back and limit to a total less than 280-290 that at one stage looked achievable. The left-arm spinner Radha has once again been impressive with a four-wicket haul to go with the three wickets she plucked in the first game. She will need to be at her best once more to keep the free-

flowing New Zealand batters in check. New Zealand have also been bolstered by the presence of veteran pacer Lea Tahuu who replaced injured Moly Penfold in the eleven and immediately impressed with a three-wicket haul.

THE TEAMS (FROM):

India: Harmanpreet Kaur (C), Smriti Mandhana, Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali Verma, Deepti Sharma, Richa Ghosh (WK), Pooja Vastrakar, Renuka Thakur Singh, Radha Yadav, Meghna Singh, Devika Vaidya, Amanjot Kaur, Anjali Sarvani, Taniyaa Bhatia, Yastika Bhatia.
New Zealand: Sophie Devine (C), Suzie Bates, Maddy Green, Lauren Down, Brooke Halliday, Katey Martin (WK), Hayley Jensen, Jess Kerr, Fran Jonas, Hannah Rowe, Molly Penfold, Lea Tahuu, Izzy Gaze, Georgia Plimmer.



Gary Kirsten resigns as Pakistan's limited-overs coach

PTI ■ KARACHI

Pakistan's white-ball coach Gary Kirsten on Monday stepped down after developing a rift with the country's cricket board within six months of his appointment. The 56-year-old South African, who coached India to victory at the 2011 ODI World, was appointed by the PCB (Pakistan Cricket Board) in April end this year. "The Pakistan Cricket Board today announced Jason Gillespie will coach the Pakistan men's cricket team on next month's white-ball tour of Australia after Gary Kirsten submitted his resignation, which was accepted," the PCB posted on X. Red-ball coach Gillespie, however, has made it clear to the PCB that he can only manage things for the white-ball tour of Australia which starts November 4 and is not interested in a permanent role as the limited overs coach, a reliable source aware of the development said. "Gillespie has informed the board they should look for a replacement for Kirsten for the white ball games in Zimbabwe and onwards," he added. Though the PCB didn't

give the reason for Kirsten's sudden resignation, the source confirmed that it was because he was not involved when the board announced the squads for the Australia and Zimbabwe tours and the new captain of the white ball format on Sunday. The PCB has withdrawn the coaches selection powers. Selection is now exclusively the domain of the selection committee. "Kirsten was not happy with the abrupt manner in which the board took away his powers in selection and other team matters and made this very clear to Chairman Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday before sending in his resignation," another insider said. He expressed fear that even Gillespie might end up resigning soon as he is also not happy with the current shift in how teams are selected now solely by the selection committee and coaches have no role in this. Kirsten had been working as a batting coach with the Indian Premier League franchise Gujarat Titans before taking up the role in Pakistan. The team is riding high on a come-from-behind 2-1 triumph over visiting England in a Test series that concluded last week.



Rayhan Thomas finishes seventh in Thailand

PTI ■ BANGKOK

India's Rayhan Thomas registered a second top-10 finish on the Asian Tour, ending up tied-seventh at the International Series Thailand after being three off the lead after 54 holes. The UAE-based golfer was unable to replicate the magic of the second and third rounds of 63-64 as he shot 2-under 68 on the final day to total 16-under. He had four birdies, three of them between the 14th and the 17th. Among the other Indians, Gaganjeet Bhullar (67) finished tied 19th and Karandeep Kochhar (67) tied-24. Chinese-Taipei's Lee Chieh-po finally claimed his maiden title on the Asian Tour after sensationally overtaking hot favourite Peter Uihlein at the very end. Lee birdied the final two holes at the Thai Country Club to beat Uihlein, after the American had led from the second day. The champion, playing in the

penultimate group, fired a seven-under-par 63 to finish on 21-under, while Uihlein closed with a 67 to tie for second place with Canadian Richard T. Lee, who carded a 62. The 29-year-old grew up playing golf with Kevin Yu, a winner on the PGA Tour this year, and sees him as an inspiration. For Richard T. Lee it was yet another near miss. Since the Tour resumed after the global pandemic, he finished second twice, third on three occasions and has been in the running on numerous occasions. Last week's winner of the Black Mountain Championship Michael 'MJ' Maguire closed with a 62 to tie for fourth, three behind the winner, along with fellow Americans Paul Peterson, in with a 63, and Christian Banke, who fired a 64. The action shifts to next week's BNI Indonesian Masters where India's Gaganjeet Bhullar is the defending champion.

T20I Australia Captain vs Pakistan yet to be name



PTI ■ SYDNEY

Australia have rested their Test regulars for their home T20I series against Pakistan with a captain yet to be named, choosing to focus on the marquee Border-Gavaskar series against India next month. Australia host Pakistan for three ODIs starting November 4, followed by the three-match T20I series, from

November 14. The series concludes on November 18, just four days before the first Test against India in Perth. With T20I captain Mitchell Marsh, Travis Head and ODI and Test skipper Pat Cummins unavailable, Australia are yet to appoint a captain for the series. None of the players named in the squad announced on Monday have captained Australia in any format before but the

likes of Glenn Maxwell, Adam Zampa, Matthew Short and Aaron Hardie have led their sides in the Big Bash League. Josh Inglis is also in the mix to lead the side. Pacers Xavier Bartlett (side strain), Nathan Ellis (hamstring) and Spencer Johnson (side strain) return to the squad after recovering from injuries. "It is particularly encouraging to have Xavier, Spencer and Nathan back in the national setup," said selection chief George Bailey. "It's another opportunity for them to continue to show their ability on the international stage, as they have done in the past." Andre Borovec will serve as the coach for the team, a position he held during a five-match T20I series against India that followed last year's ODI World Cup. **AUSTRALIA T20I SQUAD** Sean Abbott, Xavier Bartlett, Cooper Connolly, Tim David, Nathan Ellis, Jake Fraser-McGurk, Aaron Hardie, Josh Inglis, Spencer Johnson, Glenn Maxwell, Matthew Short, Marcus Stoinis and Adam Zampa.

Rinku, Rana shine as UP gain control over Punjab

PTI ■ MULLANPUR

Rinku Singh and Nitish Rana powered Uttar Pradesh to a commanding position against Punjab with entertaining fifties on day three of their Ranji Trophy Group C match here on Monday. After opener Madhav Kaushik's career-best 163, the visitors came up with four more half-centuries to declare their first innings for a massive 556/9, taking a lead of 346 runs. At stumps, Punjab were struggling at 49/1, trailing by 297 runs. The Kolkata Knight Riders duo of Rana and Rinku laid the foundation with a crucial 120-run partnership for the third wicket. Rana struck an aggressive 66 off 106 balls, hitting 11 fours, while Rinku made 68 off 131 balls, with eight fours and a six. Saurabh Kumar joined the onslaught with a brisk 67-ball 69, smashing three sixes and five fours, while Shivam Sharma contributed an unbeaten 50 off 58 balls, including four sixes and two fours, to further frustrate the Punjab attack. Harshal, Yuzi lift Haryana past MP. In Indore, Harshal Patel's unbeaten 72 at No. 9 and Yuzvendra Chahal's gritty 27



off 142 balls helped Haryana secure a vital first-innings lead over Madhya Pradesh. Responding to MP's 308, Haryana ended the day at 431/9, with Patel still at the crease alongside last man Aman Kumar (4). Opener Lakshay Dalal hit his maiden century (105 off 271 balls), while Dheeru Singh fell just short of three figures with a well-crafted 94. Himanshu Rana (90) also

missed his hundred in the nineties, but Dalal and Dheeru's 143-run partnership for the fourth wicket laid a solid foundation. However, a collapse ensued before Patel steadied the innings with his resilient knock. For MP, left-arm spinner Kumar Kartikeya was the standout bowler, finishing with 4/117. Kerala fight back after Porel

High 5 In Kolkata, Bengal pacer Ishan Porel took 5/83 to secure his fifth five-wicket haul in first-class cricket, reducing Kerala to 83/5. However, Kerala's middle-order, led by seasoned campaigner Jalaj Saxena, staged a resilient recovery to reach 267/7 at the Jadavpur Salt Lake Campus ground. Saxena's fighting 84 off 162 balls, alongside a determined

64 from Salman Nizar, added 140 for the seventh wicket, frustrating Bengal's bowlers. Nizar, who faced 205 deliveries, was accompanied by wicketkeeper-batter Mohammed Azharuddeen (30 off 48 balls) at close of play. Porel's disciplined bowling proved effective on a flat pitch, where he dismissed Kerala's new signing Baba Aparajith for a golden duck and skipper Sachin Baby for 12. Ton-up Mayank leads Karnataka to big lead. **BRIEF SCORES** In Mullanpur: Punjab 210 and 49/1; 19 overs. Uttar Pradesh 556/9 declared; 141.1 overs (Madhav Kaushik 163, Saurabh Kumar 69, Rinku Singh 68, Nitish Rana 66, Shivam Sharma 50 batting). In Indore: Madhya Pradesh 308. Haryana 431/9; 150.5 overs (Lakshay Dalal 105, Dheeru Singh 94, Himanshu Rana 90, Harshal Patel 72 batting; Kumar Kartikeya 4/117). In Kolkata: Kerala 267/7; 102 overs (Jalaj Saxena 84, Salman Nizar 64 batting, Mohammed Azharuddeen 30 batting; Ishan Porel 5/83) vs Kerala. In Patna: Bihar 143. Karnataka 287/7; 51 overs (Mayank Agarwal 105, Manish Pandey 56; Himanshu Singh 4/51).

Inglis 'in mix' for Test debut in Border Gavaskar Trophy: Chief selector Bailey

PTI ■ SYDNEY

In red-hot form, Australian white-ball wicketkeeper-batter Josh Inglis is "in the mix" to make his Test debut as a specialist batter in the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy next month, hinted chief selector George Bailey on Monday. India, unbeaten in the marquee series on the previous four occasions, will face Australia in a five-Test series beginning in Perth on November 21. "There's no doubt that the form is really fantastic at the moment... The ability to jump back into domestic

cricket and dominate has been fantastic," Bailey told reporters. "I think in different series at different times of the year, he would firmly come into the mix purely as a batter the way he's been going." "If the right opportunity opened up throughout the summer, in the spots where we think he's most capable of performing, I think he'd be firmly in that conversation as well." The 29-year-old, who is Australia's incumbent keeper in ODI and T20Is, has scored four centuries in last seven Sheffield Shield matches. But with Australian Test wicketkeeper Alex Carey in



rich form, Inglis has emerged as a specialist middle-order batter, but not for the vacant opening slot, Bailey said. Australia's move to promote Steve Smith at the top following David Warner's retirement did not work out and with Cameron Green ruled out of the India series because of a back injury, there's a vacancy alongside Usman Khawaja. However, Bailey has ruled out Inglis for the opener's role. "I've spoken to Josh on this. Not in the short term, I don't think that he's someone that we would be looking to place at the top of the order," Bailey said. Inglis, in fact, is one of

the contenders to lead Australia's T20I side in the upcoming three-match series against Pakistan. All-format players, including regular T20 skipper Mitchell Marsh, are sitting out of the Pakistan series to prepare for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. "We've been really clear that we are prioritising the preparation for individuals around the Test summer and that will be the first time that we get that group together," said Bailey. "So, rather than switching guys in and out and becoming quite messy, it was just deemed more appropriate for a number of reasons to separate them out." This will be Australia's first Test series in the ongoing WTC cycle since defeating New Zealand 2-0 in a two-match away series in March.

Man United fire manager Erik ten Hag after troubled start to season



AP ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester United fired Erik ten Hag on Monday after a troubled start to the season left the 20-time English champions in 14th place in the Premier League and the club's new leadership unimpressed with the pace of change under the Dutchman. Ten Hag, who was hired in 2022, paid the price for leading United to just three wins in nine league games in the opening months of the campaign. There have been four defeats, the 2-1 loss at West Ham on Sunday being his last game in charge. United finished in eighth place last season, its lowest in the

Premier League era, and appears to have little hope of challenging for the title this campaign. It already leaves the storied team in danger of missing out on qualification for the lucrative Champions League once again. "We are grateful to Erik for everything he has done during his time with us and wish him well for the future," said United, which added that Ruud van Nistelrooy, one of Ten Hag's assistants, would be taking over as interim head coach while a permanent head coach is recruited. Ten Hag joined from Ajax and was tasked with the responsibility of bringing the good times back to a club that

has been in decline since former manager Alex Ferguson retired in 2013. Despite winning the League Cup and the FA Cup in Ten Hag's first seasons at Old Trafford, United was showing no sign of improving on its worst league campaign in 34 years. Ten Hag only held onto his job following an unexpected victory over fierce rival Manchester City in the FA Cup final in May and an extensive end-of-year review by United. He was then handed a one-year extension to his contract to 2026. His departure comes amid a period of major change at United under new minority owner Jim Ratcliffe. The British billionaire has taken over control of United's soccer operations, with a new CEO, sporting director and technical director all installed in recent months. Ten Hag was United's fifth permanent manager since Ferguson's departure, following David Moyes, Louis van Gaal, Jose Mourinho and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer. United's next game is at home to Leicester in the English League Cup on Wednesday.