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'India not looking at US-China tension as source of benefit'

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Sundeep Kishan's tantrums disrupt Majaka SHOOT

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

How can you be scared of a single WhatsApp status, Chitti Naidu? How can police beat a BRS karyakarta with a belt for questioning election promises on WhatsApp status? No one needs to fear intimidation from hollow leaders like Revanth Reddy. Congress-backed police should be mindful of their actions. Once BRS returns to power, every injustice will be addressed



- KTR, BRS MLA P2

DON'T MISS...

NRI cell sees 460 petitions ...

The Domestic Violence module in Women Safety Wing has received 1,408 cases, resulting in 286 FIRs and 336 cases resolved through professional policing interventions. The NRI (Non-Resident Indian) Cell has handled 460 petitions, with 152 cases resolved through legal channels, said Shikha Goel, Director General of Women Safety Wing, observing the month of October as ...

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Irregularities unearthed in ...

A recent report from the Vigilance Department has sparked significant controversy in the Khammam Municipal Corporation, revealing troubling irregularities involving numerous officials, particularly in the engineering division, it alleged. Show-cause notices have been issued to a large number of civic body employees, questioning why they should not face disciplinary action for their ...

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India's gold imports jump to...

The country's gold imports, which have a bearing on the country's current account deficit (CAD), rose by 21.78 per cent to USD 27 billion during April-September this fiscal due to strong domestic demand, according to the government data. The imports stood at US\$ 22.25 billion in April-September 2023-24. An industry expert said that the ongoing festival demand is helping the increase in imports. In 2023-24, India's gold imports ...

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Easwaran, Nitish Reddy, Prasadh...

The outings of Abhimanyu Easwaran, Nitish Kumar Reddy and Prasadh Krishna will be the primary focal points of India A's four-day match against their Australian counterparts, starting here on Thursday. Easwaran, Nitish and Prasadh have been included in India's squad for the five-Test Border-Gavaskar Trophy series, beginning on November 22, and the thinktank will be eager to know how they fare in Australian conditions. Easwaran's performance will, however, have far more significance ...

-SPORTS

25 lakh diyas lit, 1,121 people performing aarti

Ayodhya lights up Guinness World Records

PNS ■ AYODHYA

Two Guinness World Records -- most people performing aarti simultaneously and the largest display of oil lamps -- were set at the eighth edition of Deepotsav here on Wednesday. The two records were set in the holy city with over 25 lakh earthen lamps (diyas) lit together and 1,121 'vedacharyas' (teachers of religious texts) performing aarti simultaneously. Pravin Patel, the adjudicator at Guinness World Records, who visited Ayodhya with Guinness Consultant Nischal Bharot for verification, announced the new records here on Wednesday evening. "With a total of 1,121, UP Tourism, District administration of Ayodhya and Saryu Aarti Samiti, you are the Guinness World Records

HAPPY DIWALI

The Pioneer wishes its readers, advertisers, agents, suppliers and vendors a happy Diwali. May this Diwali be a harbinger of peace, health, prosperity and joy to all. The offices of The Pioneer will remain closed today (31-10-2024) on account of the festival and there will be no issue of the paper on Friday (01-11-2024).

- Resident Editor

TSPSC releases Group-3 exam schedule

Justice Nagarijun sworn in as TERC chief

BC RESERVATIONS

Constitute dedicated commission

TG High Court orders govt

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana High Court on Wednesday directed the constitution of a special commission to oversee the implementation of BC (Backward Classes) reservations in the elections to local bodies. This order comes in response to a petition challenging the state government's recent notification that entrusted the BC Commission with studying BC reservations in local bodies.



The HC directed the government to constitute a 'dedicated commission' to determine BC reservations in the forthcoming elections to local bodies. The government has tasked the proposed BC Commission to study the BC reservations in polls to local bodies. The petition was filed by R. Krishnaiah, leader of the BC Welfare Association, who argued through his counsel that assigning this responsibility to the BC Commission violated previous Supreme Court judgments. Advocate Prasad, representing the petitioner, contended that similar studies by the BC Commission in other states, like Maharashtra, were dismissed by the courts, deeming it a waste of time if such findings are not acknowledged.

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BR Naidu appointed TTD Chairman

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Media person BR Naidu has been appointed as the chairman of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD), along with the board members. The Andhra Pradesh government has announced the governing council of TDP with a new 24-member board that includes members from various States.

The newly appointed TTD members are: Jyotula Nehru (Jaggampeta MLA), Vemireddy Prashanthi Reddy (Kovvur MLA), MS Raju (Madakasira MLA), Panabaka Lakshmi (former Union Minister), Narsi Reddy (Telangana), Sambasiva Rao and Nannapaneni Sadasiva Rao, Krishnamurthy, Koteswara Rao, Mallela Rajasekhar Goud, Janga Krishnamurthy,

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LAND TRANSFER CASE

ED gets plaint against Amoy, Mittal & Somesh

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has received a complaint against IAS officers Amoy Kumar and Naveen Mittal, along with retired IAS officer Somesh Kumar, alleging their involvement in a land transfer scam. The complainants, Suresh and Vede Raghavaiah, have accused the officials of using fake documents to transfer land fraudulently.

According to the complaint, 42 acres of land were transferred through forged documentation, resulting in significant losses to the rightful owners. ED officials have already begun questioning Amoy Kumar in connection with the case to ascertain the details and extent of the alleged fraud.



This development marks a closer scrutiny over government officials' actions and land dealings, with the ED continuing its investigation to uncover the full scope of the irregularities involved.

3.64% hike in DA, DR for employees and pensioners

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has issued orders revising Dearness Allowance (DA) for its employees and Dearness Relief (DR) for pensioners, effective from July 1, 2022. The government announced 3.64%

DA hike for employees, with DA being revised from 22.75% of basic pay to 26.39% of basic pay from 1st July, 2022. These revisions, detailed in GO Ms.No.120 and G.O.Ms.No.121, are intended to mitigate the impact of inflation on state employees and retirees.

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LAW IS WHAT THE CM SEES

I enforce law sans personal agenda: Revanth

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

"Revanth Reddy enforces the law but does not work with a personal agenda," Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy observed here on Wednesday, apparently in an effort to tamp down criticism in various circles that his government cares two hoots for the law while targeting opposition leaders and those who stand up to him within his own party.

At an awareness meet on caste census organized at Gandhi Bhavan, Revanth Reddy said that he had never worked with personal agenda. He highlighted the Congress's unwavering commitment to social justice, guided by promises made by All India Congress Committee leaders Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi. Revanth affirmed that the 'Indiramma government' in Telangana would conduct a comprehensive socio-economic-political caste census, given Rahul's assurance of implementing it firmly. He referenced Sonia Gandhi's commitment to Telangana during her Tukkuguda rally, emphasizing that the Gandhi family's promises would be kept, regardless of political vicissitudes.



Reflecting on Congress's legacy, Revanth declared, "It's our responsibility to uphold Rahul's word, beyond personal identity. This is about fulfilling our role as protectors of a commitment made by the Gandhi family". Emphasizing the importance of unity, he called on Congress leaders and the party cadre to work relentlessly, with party ideology as their guiding principle.

For the fruition of the caste census, Revanth recommended that 33 observers be appointed across the districts for effective coordination. He stated, "This isn't just an X-ray; it's a mega health check-up for social equity. Our aim is to distribute government resources fairly, as per the Congress's vision of social justice." He announced plans to send a model document of Telangana's caste census to the Central government, suggesting its adoption in future national censuses.

Underlining the government's achievements, Revanth detailed the Congress's efforts to tackle hurdles and fulfill promises, noting that, within 10 months,

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PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a surprising political alignment, both BRS and Congress have been indirectly pushing for Malkajgiri MP Eatala Rajender as the next BJP State president. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's recent speeches have consistently targeted Eatala, often singling him out over other BJP leaders, fueling speculation around this strategic focus. All his challenges are aimed at KTR, Harish and Eatala Rajender concerning Musi. It's very few times that CM named Union Minister G Kishan Reddy.

BRS has been equally instrumental, with a narrative around the "Revanth Sanjay Brothers" (RS Brothers) that indi-

BRS, Cong pave way for Eatala to become BJP TG chief

rectly aids Eatala by positioning him outside Congress' influence. BRS has been hardly critical of existing BJP chief Kishan Reddy.

Sources within political circles suggest that Eatala's appeal lies in his accessibility to leaders across party lines, a factor that has made him a favorable candidate for the role. "Making Eatala the State president will also benefit Congress and BRS strategically. Unlike other BJP leaders, he is more approachable when it comes to people's issues," said a source.

However, Eatala's candidacy has led to a divided opinion within the BJP cadre. Since he has come from complete left to right, the original BJP is not very happy with it. With the role carrying a tenure of three years, potentially extendable during election years,

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Telangana govt reassigns Secretariat security to SPF

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari on Wednesday issued an order reassigning Telangana Secretariat security to the Special Protection Force (SPF).



As per the order, the state government has directed a change in security arrangements at Dr BR Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat. Previously, security duties, including armed guards, patrolling, access control, and anti-sabotage checks, were managed by four companies of the Telangana Special Police, with the Quick Reaction Team (QRT) duties assigned to Octopus, and law and order responsibilities handled by the

responsibilities from the Telangana Special Police. The TGSPF, known for its specialization in protecting high-profile establishments, will assume control of security at the Secretariat with immediate effect. Octopus and Hyderabad City Police will continue their previously assigned duties, as outlined in earlier orders.

Hyderabad City Police.

However, following a request from the Director General of Police, the government has now directed the Director General of Telangana Special Protection Force (TGSPF) to take over these security

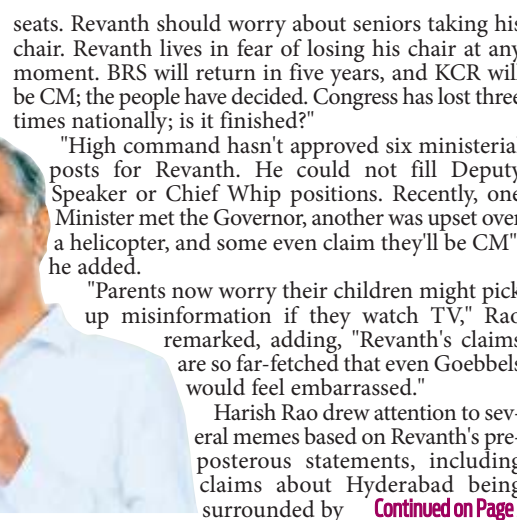
'Face the facts head-on'

Harish picks up the gauntlet, says ready to join CM in padayatra

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Bharat Rashtra Samithi MLA T Harish Rao, during a chat with media persons at the Telangana Bhavan, slammed Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's governance, alleging that his statements were "misleading and damaging public trust". Picking up the gauntlet thrown by the Chief Minister, he said that they were ready to join Revanth Reddy on a 'padayatra' along the Musi to Vadapally. He said he would come along with BRS working president KT Rama Rao and invited Revanth Reddy to step out without security and face the issues head-on. He said, "KTR's is a voice that questions, and he is being targeted with false cases. Allow ACB to investigate Formula E Race. Let us see what cases they will file."

Harish said that Revanth should keep an eye on his chair. "If elections were held now, BRS would win 100



seats. Revanth should worry about seniors taking his chair. Revanth lives in fear of losing his chair at any moment. BRS will return in five years, and KCR will be CM; the people have decided. Congress has lost three times nationally; is it finished?" "High command hasn't approved six ministerial posts for Revanth. He could not fill Deputy Speaker or Chief Whip positions. Recently, one Minister met the Governor, another was upset over a helicopter, and some even claim they'll be CM", he added. "Parents now worry their children might pick up misinformation if they watch TV," Rao remarked, adding, "Revanth's claims are so far-fetched that even Goebbels would feel embarrassed."

Harish Rao drew attention to several memes based on Revanth's preposterous statements, including claims about Hyderabad being surrounded by

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JANWADA RAID

Raj Pakala appears before Mokila Police

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Raj Pakala, who was booked following a raid during a party hosted by him at his place in Janwada late in the night on October 26, appeared before the Mokila Police on Wednesday in the case. He had been booked under sections relating to non duty paid liquor and drugs.

Raj Pakala was taken to his farmhouse in Janwada, where cops searched thoroughly for a mobile phones and other pieces of evidence in connection with the cases booked against him.

During the raid in question at Pakala's place, where family and friends had gathered reportedly as part of house-warming ceremonies, one of the guests allegedly tested positive for cocaine. The Mokila Police and the Excise Department thereafter registered cases against Pakala.

The Mokila Police told The Pioneer correspondent: "The searches and investigation

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Politics and sensationalism collide in Janwada farmhouse raid

The recent controversy surrounding a police raid on the Janwada farmhouse linked to the family of Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president KT Rama Rao (KTR) has sparked a heated political standoff, reflecting the intensifying rivalry between the ruling Congress and the opposition BRS in Telangana. The farmhouse raid was rife with sensationalism, with allegations, rumors, and political mudslinging overshadowing the actual details revealed by the police.

The farmhouse in question belongs to KTR's brother-in-law and has long been under public scrutiny. Reports quickly surfaced in the media, with allegations flying thick and fast, that it was the site of a "rave party" with rampant drug usage. Local media swiftly escalated these claims, circulating unverified details that included the presence of drugs and even asserting that KTR's spouse

was also present. As the story unraveled, it became apparent that initial media coverage might have been orchestrated to embarrass KTR and his family. The official press release from the police, however, did not support many of the more scandalous claims. It simply stated that a few bottles of both Indian and foreign liquor were found at the venue. According to the statement, one attendee tested positive for cocaine, yet there was no mention of a large drug seizure, nor any indication that a rave party was in progress. Regardless, the authorities filed cases under narcotics, excise, and gaming laws.

Technically, under the Excise Act, permission is required to serve alcohol at private events, including house parties, a requirement often disregarded. House parties in Telangana rarely involve obtaining a licence, making the situation

The Janwada farmhouse itself has a complex history that adds a layer of intrigue to the recent events. In 2020, then Congress leader (and now current CM) Revanth Reddy accused KTR of owning the property under a "benami" arrangement and even attempted to fly a drone over the farmhouse to expose what he alleged was an illegal acquisition



RAMESH KANDULA
Chief Editor Swatantra TV and author

legally ambiguous but socially commonplace. The raid found just five foreign liquor bottles and 10 loose IMFL (Indian Made Foreign Liquor) bottles—a minimal amount compared to what could likely be discovered at many similar gatherings in the region, especially in influential circles.

Following the raid, tensions mounted as politicians across party lines leapt at the opportunity to turn the incident into

a fierce public debate. Leaders from both the ruling Congress party and the opposition BRS accused each other of harboring malicious intent. BRS leaders criticized the Congress for what they described as politically motivated harassment, while Congress leaders pointed to the raid as evidence of the BRS's moral failings, adding fuel to the ongoing rivalry.

The Janwada farmhouse itself has a complex history that adds

this drone incident, a punitive measure that many interpreted as BRS retaliating against one of its fiercest political opponents. In light of this back story, some speculate that this latest raid is the Congress government's way of getting even. For those closely following Telangana's power politics, the situation has echoes of an eye-for-an-eye approach, especially since KTR's party was known to be aggressive with opposition leaders while it was in power. Accusations of phone tapping and setting up "sting" operations to implicate opponents have been leveled against the BRS over the years. Now, KTR claims that his party is under similar attack, with more alleged abuses of power on the horizon. He has publicly stated his concern that his family and other BRS leaders are being specifically targeted by the Congress, warning of further "weaponization" of the government apparatus

against his party in the run-up to the elections. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, however, seems unperturbed by such accusations and has been vocal about his intention to root out BRS influence in Telangana. He vowed to dismantle BRS's foothold in the state, leveraging this situation as a means of emphasizing his government's commitment to transparency and justice. Reddy's stance suggests that the ruling Congress is prepared to take a hard line approach in its dealings with the Opposition, even if it means crossing ethical boundaries.

For Telangana, this escalation of politically motivated actions and responses presents a troubling picture. The state, which emerged with the promise of prosperity, development, and unique identity, is now being tarnished by a political climate characterized by vendettas and rivalries. The line between law

enforcement and political retribution appears to be increasingly blurred, with each side accusing the other of using government resources for personal vendettas.

While the controversy surrounding the Janwada raid could ultimately fade, it highlights a troubling trend in Telangana's political landscape, one that continues to drift further from the principles of transparency and public service. Voters are left to wonder whether politicians are genuinely committed to the state's welfare or if their focus is solely on one-upping their rivals. As BRS and Congress continue their verbal-and-legal-skirmishes, many in Telangana hope for a return to the collaborative, development-oriented governance they were once promised. Whether that hope can withstand the state's current climate of political hostility remains to be seen.

CM is scared of Whatsapp status: KTR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS working president KT Rama Rao expressed strong disapproval of an incident in Mahabubnagar where Bhaskar Mudiraj, a resident, was reportedly beaten by CI Appayya with a belt for questioning the election promises of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on WhatsApp. KTR spoke with Bhaskar over the phone, assuring him of support and seeking details of the incident, questioning the police's authority to assault individuals for raising concerns. BRS remarked, "How can you be afraid of a single WhatsApp status, Chitti Naidu!"

Reaching out to Bhaskar, KTR offered words of reassurance, asserting that no number of cases would intimidate them and that he, as the Working President of the BRS, stands ready to support him in every way possible.

"No one needs to fear

intimidation from hollow leaders like Revanth Reddy," KTR affirmed, pledging legal action against the CI involved and announcing plans to approach the BC Commission and Human Rights Commission. He urged Bhaskar not to be deterred by these unlawful acts, assuring that the party stands firmly with him. KTR criticised the Revanth Reddy administration for allegedly using police force against individuals who simply sought answers on unfulfilled promises.

KTR further cautioned the police against behaving like ruling party workers, stating, "Congress-backed police should be mindful of their actions. Once BRS returns to power, every injustice will be addressed." He also held a conversation with former minister Srinivas Goud, indicating that the fight would continue until justice for Bhaskar is ensured.

Cong wants to complete caste census by Dec 7

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud confirmed that the Congress party intends to complete a thorough, unbiased caste census by December 7. In a meeting held at Gandhi Bhavan, Mahesh Kumar Goud expressed public impatience for action against the previous government's alleged misdeeds. Highlighting the urgency, Goud referenced activist Teenmar Mallanna's recent challenge to Harish Rao, calling for his resignation. "If he has the courage, let Harish Rao resign-then we'll see the truth," Goud said.

Goud announced that a meeting with district Congress presidents and civil society leaders will be held on November 2, followed by a broader assembly on November 5 or 6 to address caste census issues with state-wide representatives.



Emphasising the significance of the census, he declared, "Rahul Gandhi has championed a vision for the nation, advocating representation in proportion to each community's presence."

This process, Goud noted, would be guided by the insights of senior leaders and includes a resolution to urge the Central government to support an OBC caste census. "We urge citizens not to fall for the opposition's misleading

claims. The State has taken no missteps regarding the BC Corporation," he said, underscoring that the previous administration failed to conduct a comprehensive survey.

This gathering reflected Congress's commitment to Rahul Gandhi's vision, aims to turn Telangana into a model for fair representation and social justice, he added.

Revanth Reddy named star campaigner for Maha polls

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

As Assembly elections in Maharashtra and Jharkhand approach, the Congress party has intensified its campaign strategy, appointing a list of 40 star campaigners for Maharashtra. Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy was named among the campaigners, reflecting Congress's push to strengthen its position in Maharashtra. AICC General Secretary Kumari Selja, in a communication to the Election Commission, announced the names, a move seen as part of Congress's strategy to consolidate regional influence and make substantial gains.

The announcement came during a high-level meeting attended by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and senior leaders including Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi, Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah, and Telangana CM A Revanth Reddy. This list of campaigners aims to capitalise on the recent Congress victories in Telangana and Karnataka, with hopes to replicate this success in Maharashtra.

In a significant show of commitment, Congress held a coord-

ination meeting in Nanded, Maharashtra, led by senior leaders such as Irrigation & Civil Supplies Minister Capt. N Uttam Kumar Reddy and AICC leader Sachin Pilot, who are acting as observers. This meeting focused on finalising alliance strategies and resolving seat-sharing issues with coalition partners to avoid conflicts that could weaken the Congress-led alliance's position.

The Nanded meeting emphasised the need for a united front, with Uttam Kumar Reddy and Sachin Pilot urging Congress leaders and cadres to maintain strong coordination with local allies. Discussions covered detailed strategies for voter outreach, grassroots mobilisation and addressing issues specific to Maharashtra's demographics and needs. Uttam Kumar Reddy encouraged party workers to conduct door-to-door campaigns, emphasising the need to communicate Congress's promises and counter BJP's narratives effectively.

Pilot and Reddy also reviewed past election outcomes in Maharashtra, analysing both Congress's strengths and areas for improvement.

Salman Khan gets death threat again, Rs 2 cr demand; Bandra resident nabbed

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Bollywood superstar Salman Khan received yet another death threat along with demand to pay up Rs 2 crore, prompting police to launch a probe and arrest a resident of Mumbai's Bandra on Wednesday, an official said.

The Mumbai traffic police on Tuesday received an anonymous message wherein the sender threatened to kill the 58-year-old actor if he did not pay up Rs 2 crore, the official said.

The Worli police registered a case against the unidentified person and launched an investigation.

On Wednesday, police arrested a man, identified as Azam Mohammed Mustafa, a resident of Bandra (East), for allegedly issuing the latest

threat to Khan and demanding Rs 2 crore from him, he said.

The superstar resides at Galaxy Apartments in Bandra (West), a posh locality of Mumbai, where two motorcycle-borne assailants had opened fire in April.

Earlier this month, the Mumbai traffic police's WhatsApp helpline desk had received a threat message demanding Rs 5 crore from the actor. The police had then arrested a man from Jamshedpur in Jharkhand in connection with the threat message. The Mumbai police on Monday arrested a man from Noida in Uttar Pradesh for allegedly issuing a death threat to Khan and NCP leader Zeeshan Siddique, whose father Baba Siddique, was shot dead by three gunmen on October 12 in Bandra (East).

Justice Nagarjun sworn in as TERC chief

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a significant development, Justice Devaraju Nagarjun took oath on Wednesday as the Chairperson of the Telangana Electricity Regulatory Commission (TERC). The ceremony, held in Hyderabad, marked a new chapter in the regulatory landscape of Telangana's power sector, with Justice Nagarjun bringing decades of judicial experience and legal expertise to his new role.

Justice Nagarjun, a native of erstwhile Mahabubnagar's Wanaparthy, has an illustrious academic and professional background. Born on August 15, 1962, he pursued his early education at RLD College and later graduated with a law



degree from SSL Law College, Gulbarga. His career is decorated with advanced qualifications, including an LL.M. in International Law from Osmania University and a post-graduate diploma in Industrialisation and Personnel Management from Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Gulbarga. He also holds a Ph.D in WTO-

GATS and Globalisation of Legal Services from NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad.

During his career, Justice Nagarjun has served in various esteemed roles, including as a Junior Civil Judge, Senior Civil Judge, District Judge and has handled both civil and criminal cases. His tenure as Registrar General of the High Court and his recent position as a judge of the High Court of Telangana have further honed his administrative and legal skills. In his new role as Chairperson, Justice Nagarjun is expected to address key challenges in Telangana's power regulatory framework, focusing on transparency, efficiency and consumer rights.

Indian youth among best in innovation and technology: PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Wednesday that the Indian youth is among the best in innovation and technology after GitHub's CEO Thomas Dohmke said India's rise as a global tech titan is inexorable.

Dohmke, whose firm is a leading developer platform, said on X, "Of course, I have to show some love to India. Now the fastest growing developer population on the planet, India's rise as a global tech titan is inexorable." He said India's developers have gone a leap further as they are increasingly using AI (artificial intelligence) to build AI.

Talks fail between AEOs and principal secretary

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The discussions between Agriculture Extension Officers (AEOs) and the Principal Secretary of the Agriculture Department in Telangana ended unsuccessfully, leading to frustration among the officers. The AEOs walked out of the meeting, citing a lack of clear assurances from senior officials during the talks.

A major point of contention was the enforcement of digital crop survey duties, which AEOs claim has led to undue pressure from higher authorities. Female AEOs expressed concern over inadequate consideration for

their safety, highlighting their grievances regarding the workplace environment.

For the past 30 days, AEOs have been staging peaceful protests against the one-sided stance taken by the senior officials. They announced that a concrete action plan would be made public after Diwali, hinting at state-wide demonstrations if their demands continue to be ignored.

Adding to the discontent, the Principal Secretary's remark, "If you are assistants, why do you need assistants?" was perceived as dismissive, leading to increased resentment among the AEOs.

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham: Krishna Paksha
Tithi: Chaturdash: Oct 30 01:15 PM to Oct 31 03:53 PM
Amavasya: Oct 31 03:53 PM to Nov 01 06:16 PM

Nakshatram:
Chitra: Oct 30 09:43 PM to Nov 01 12:44 AM
Swati: Nov 01 12:44 AM to Nov 02 03:31 AM

Rahukalam: 1:25 PM to 2:50 PM
Yamagandam: 6:17 AM to 7:43 AM
Varjyam: 06:59 AM to 08:46 AM
Gulika: 9:08 AM to 10:34 AM
Amritakalam: 05:32 PM to 07:20 PM
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:36 AM to 12:22 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Showers
Temp: 29°
Humidity: 76%
Sunrise: 6:14 AM
Sunset: 5:45 PM

Updated: October 30, 2024 5:00 PM

TSPSC releases Group-3 exam schedule

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Public Service Commission (TSPSC) informs candidates who applied for Group-III Services Recruitment Notification No: 29/2022, dated 30/12/2022, that the Group-III Services recruitment examination is scheduled for 17/11/2024 (two sessions: Paper-1 from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm and Paper-2 from 03:00 pm to 05:30 pm) and 18/11/2024 (Paper-3 from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm).

Candidates are advised to download their hall tickets from 10/11/2024 on the Commission's website <https://www.tspsc.gov.in> until the exam starts on 17/11/2024.

TSPSC informs that candidates will be allowed into the examination centre from 08:30 a, for the morning session and 1:30 pm for the afternoon session. The gates will close at 09:30 am for the morning session and 2:30 pm for the afternoon session, and no one will be allowed to enter after that.

Candidates are advised to use the same hall ticket downloaded for the first session for the remaining sessions. They should keep their hall ticket and question papers from all sessions until the final selection process is complete, as no duplicate hall tickets will be issued later.

If candidates experience technical issues, they are advised to contact the TSPSC Technical Help Desk at 040-23542185 or 040-23542187, or email Helpdesk@tspsc.gov.in. Help Desk hours are from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm and 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm on all working days.



CATAclysmic DOWNPOUR

A scene of devastation in eastern Spain, where flash floods claimed the lives of at least 72 people on Wednesday

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CITY EVENTS

Conference

Conference on real estate business

Venue

Aduri Infra Pvt Ltd, Plot No 14, KPHB 5th Phase, Kukatpally Housing Board Colony, Kukatpally, Hyderabad
o Telephone: 8068975833
October 31

Matrudevobhava

Matrudevobhava programme By Siddendra Charitable Trust

Venue

Conference Hall - Ravindra Bharathi, Near State Assembly, Lakdikapul Road, Saifabad, Hyderabad
Contact: 9392437796
October 31

Shri Shri Shyama Puja

A Diwali Carnival

Venue

Sri KVMR Pride Gardens Function Hall, Near YSR Circle Floor Mill, Gandipet, Hyderabad o Telephone: 98491-21850
October 31

Live Performance By Yagna (Band)

Venue

Amnesia - Lounge Bar, 1102, 5th Floor 36, Jaya Chambers, Rd Number 41, CBI Colony, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad o Telephone: 99669-98797
October 31st

Toxic

By Abhishek Upmanyu

Venue

Shilpakala Vedika
November 2

City Pioneer



HYDERABAD THURSDAY | OCTOBER 31, 2024

03



I&PR Commissioner meets Media Academy chief

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

S Harish, who took charge as the Special Commissioner of the Telangana State Information and Public Relations department, met Media Academy chairman K Srinivas Reddy at his office in BRK Bhavan on Wednesday for a courtesy call.

During this visit, the Chairman congratulated the new Commissioner, and they discussed welfare measures for journalists.

NRI cell sees 460 petitions related to domestic violence in TG

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Domestic Violence module in Women Safety Wing has received 1,408 cases, resulting in 286 FIRs and 336 cases resolved through professional policing interventions.

The NRI (Non-Resident Indian) Cell has handled 460 petitions, with 152 cases resolved through legal channels, said Shikha Goel, Director General of Women Safety Wing, observing the month of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

The Family Counselling Centres have provided professional support to over 13,000 cases, underscoring Women Safety Wing's dedication to protecting women's rights and fostering well-being.



The NRI Cell assists women abandoned by NRI spouses by collaborating with concerned police officers and other legal partners. This cell offers women the legal aid necessary for resolving complex international issues.

The Women Safety Wing has implemented 751 Women Help Desks in police stations across Telangana. Shikha Goel has stated that

for those in need of support, Centres for Development and Empowerment of Women (CDEW) are readily accessible and provide essential resources for women facing domestic challenges. Individuals can visit the Women Safety Wing's website for centre locations and contact details or go to their nearest police station to submit a petition.

RGIA registers 8 cases on bomb threats to Hyd flights

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

After 10 days of receiving bomb threats to Hyderabad flights there were no such threats on Wednesday. RGIA Police have registered eight cases related to the bomb threats. On Tuesday, there were six bomb threats to Hyderabad flights and every day the search is taking nearly two hours for the police officers.

Speaking to The Pioneer, K Balaraju of the RGIA Airport Police said, "For the past 10 days, we have been handling daily bomb threats every afternoon. On Tuesday, six flights were affected.

Airlines in Delhi are alerting the states, prompting thorough searches. It's a concern for passengers, as we have to check individuals, their baggage and isolate flights, which takes nearly two hours each day." ACP, Shamshabad, speaking to The



Pioneer, said that Rajiv Gandhi International Airport Police have registered eight cases following a series of hoax bomb threats targeting flights.

The suspects could be one individual but threats are from different accounts. The RGIA police are on duty round-the-clock and checking the passengers thoroughly every day.

DCA and Excise Dept bust narcotics network

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Drug Control Administration (DCA) and the Prohibition & Excise department conducted a major joint operation on Wednesday in Hyderabad. They uncovered a network involved in the illegal sale and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

The DCA officials seized a significant amount of drugs at GV Saluja Hospital, including Fentanyl,

Ketamine, Pentazocine, and Midazolam injections. Neha Bhagwath, a resident of Moulali, illegally acquired these drugs and stored them at her home for distribution to unlicensed entities in the State.

Neha Bhagwath has a history of drug offences, including previous cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. Additional raids were also conducted at various hospitals linked to Bhagwath.



Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma seen at the Raj Bhavan illuminated in pink for the fifth consecutive year this October to reflect International Breast Cancer Awareness Month

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Picturesque Laknavaram beckons tourists

PNS ■ MULUGU

Laknavaram Lake is one of the must-visit tourist destinations in Telangana. Surrounded by hills and trees, the lake has a picturesque quality reminiscent of Konaseema, Araku, and Kerala. Currently, two islands are already providing a unique experience for tourists, and a new third island is set to be launched soon, equipped with all modern amenities.

As weekends approach, many people look for peaceful environments to spend their time, often searching for nearby tourist spots. Telangana has numerous tourist centres that attract a large number of visitors. Laknavaram is one of those places, located very close to Hyderabad in the Govindaravupet mandal of Mulugu district.

The newly developed third island at Laknavaram Lake covers around eight acres and has been beautifully developed in partnership with TSRTC and Free Cots. Focusing on tourist enjoyment, this island features lush gardens and a total of 22 cottages, four

of which are designed for family accommodations.

The island boasts five swimming pools, four of which are connected to the private cottages. There is also a special kids' pool and play equipment available. For adults, the island offers two spas, restaurants, and other facilities.

It has been designed to evoke the beauty of world-famous tourist spots like the Maldives, Munnar, and Shimla. Approximately 40 staff members from Free Cots are employed here, and the island is set to be opened to tourists soon.

Laknavaram Lake is located about 210 km from Hyderabad and approximately 70 km from Warangal city. Nestled in the dense forests and hills, this lake is a haven of natural beauty.

Historically, Laknavaram Lake dates back to the Kakatiya era, with records indicating that it was dug by Kakatiya king Prathaparudra. Tourists flock to Laknavaram to enjoy the surrounding natural beauty. Along with the islands, cable bridges around the lake are also a major attraction for visitors.

Irregularities unearthed in Khammam civic body?

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

A recent report from the Vigilance Department has sparked significant controversy in the Khammam Municipal Corporation, revealing troubling irregularities involving numerous officials, particularly in the engineering division, it alleged.

Show-cause notices have been issued to a large number of civic body employees, questioning why they should not face disciplinary action for their alleged misconduct, according to sources.

The investigation focused on irregularities that occurred during the implementation of various projects prior to the last Assembly elections. Allegations surfaced regarding the allocation of contracts worth Rs 20 crore to a single contractor, raising serious concerns about the quality of the work executed. In response to these complaints, the newly elected Congress government initiated a thorough vigilance probe.

Several months ago, vigilance officials conducted an extensive review of the municipal office's files and performed field inspections. Their findings revealed significant quality issues with the cement concrete (CC) roads developed, leading to recommendations for disciplinary action



against several municipal officials. However, there was notable criticism that no action was taken against the contractor responsible for the subpar work.

Numerous complaints had been lodged regarding the quality of CC road and drainage development projects completed before the elections.

Reports indicated that a contractor, allegedly a proxy for a prominent political figure, received the majority of these contracts. A contractor was accused of delivering inferior work while manipulating municipal officials to approve inflated bills.

In light of these findings, Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao ordered a comprehensive vigilance inquiry into the matter. During the initial phase of the investigation, a fine of Rs 2 crore was imposed on the contractor for the poor quality of

work. However, the latest report appears to have drastically reduced this fine to just Rs 21 lakh.

While show-cause notices have been served to executive engineers, deputy engineers, assistant engineers, and other personnel, the officials who approved the bills. Work inspectors, often hired on an outsourced basis, reportedly submitted favorable reports about the contractor's work. Furthermore, third-party quality control personnel also delivered positive assessments of the contractor's work, seemingly in exchange for kickbacks, which expedited the approval of the contractor's bills.

Discussions are ongoing regarding the situation, as many struggle to understand who wielded the authority to shield the contractor and high-ranking officials, while lower-level employees are left to bear the consequences.

STF raids village, seizes black jaggery

PNS ■ NALGONDA

In a significant operation, the Special Task Force (STF) conducted raids on Wednesday at Jodubai Thanda area in Nalgonda district following intelligence about stocking of black jaggery for production of illicitly distilled liquor.

During the raids, the STF team seized a total of 450 kilograms of black jaggery, 50 kilograms of sugar, and 10 liters of hooch. Two vehicles were also confiscated, along with the arrest of two individuals identified as Keshavath Srinivas and Kumar.

The operation was led by Sub-Inspector Balraj. The jaggery was

intended for use in the illicit production of country liquor and was intercepted while being transported from Hyderabad to Jodubai Thanda in a car before being loaded onto auto-rickshaws.

The estimated value of the seized black jaggery and sugar is around Rs 50,000, while the two auto-rickshaws and the car are valued at Rs 4 lakh and Rs5 lakh respectively.

The STF team included head constable Vijay Krishna and constables Yadagiri and Kaushik. They received commendations from VB Kamalasan Reddy, the Director of Enforcement, and Pradeep Rao, the Superintendent of Excise, for their successful operation.



Black Jaggery seized during the operation conducted by STF at Jodubai Thanda in Nalgonda district on Wednesday



Shortfall in procuring custom-milled rice

PNS ■ NIRMAL

The deadline for custom-milled rice (CMR) delivery in the district will come to an end on Thursday. But against the target of collecting 95,000 metric tonnes of CMR, the officials of the Civil Supplies have been able to collect 65,000 metric tonnes only so far. A total of 64 rice mills, including 12 boiled rice mills,

received 95,000 metric tons through various agencies. The government was expected to receive 95,000 metric tonnes of CMR, but so far only 65,000 metric tonnes have been delivered. There are allegations that the apathy on the part of the officials led to a shortfall in collecting CMR in the district. Allegations have it that the officials have been conducting inspections at the rice

mills in name only. Officials are expected to periodically inspect the rice stored in mills at the field level. However, it is being alleged that they are turning a blind eye for the reasons best known to themselves. As the deadline approached, officials visited a few rice mills in a hurry and registered cases against seven mills only. The officials made the registration of cases against rice mills officials.

Street dogs spread panic in Peddapalli dist

PNS ■ PEDDAPALLI

In Peddapalli district, the rampant roaming of street dogs has triggered panic among people. There is no distinction between towns and villages as packs of street dogs roam freely the streets, attacking children, women, and the elderly. They chase cyclists and motorbike riders, creating panic. The dogs are attacking people on the roads indiscriminately, causing severe injuries.

On Wednesday, in the Majid Turning Colony in Ramagundam town, a pack of five street dogs attacked three-year-old Syed Haiman, biting him on the head. The severely injured boy was immediately rushed to the Godavarikhani Government Area Hospital, where he is currently undergoing treatment under medical supervision.

Once, street dogs were referred to as the 'lions' of the village, protecting homes and neighbourhoods. They would



A girl, who was bitten by a pack of street dogs, undergoing treatment in Godavarikhani government hospital on Wednesday

chase away unfamiliar faces at any time of the day. The residents regarded them as protectors, but now, people are scared of street dogs. Attacks are increasingly occurring in Peddapalli, Ramagundam, Godavari Khani, NTPC, Sultanabad, Dharmaram, and other areas.

The residents continue to lodge complaints about the dog attacks, but the authorities have been unable to control the increasing incidents.

Both the village panchayats and municipal authorities are failing to curb the street dog population effectively.

Street dogs are targeting children who are alone. Parents are now afraid to send their children to school alone. People are also anxious about going to the market at night due to the threat posed by street dogs. Every day, there are reports of street dog attacks resulting in injuries at various places in the district.

ELECTIONS TO LOCAL BODIES

Reservations for BCs to be proportionate to population

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

The BC Commission Chairman G Niranjan said on Wednesday that reservations for Backward Classes (BCs) in the elections to the local bodies will be provided based on their proportion in population. The Chairman was holding a public hearing at the Sangareddy Collectorate auditorium.

He stated that factors like political, economic, and social aspects of BC communities would be taken into consideration for deciding reservations. The entire process would be completed in a completely scientific manner. He mentioned that collection people's opinion had already taken place in Adilabad and Karimnagar. The term for local bod-



Backward Classes Commission Chairman G Niranjan holding a public hearing in Sangareddy on Wednesday

ies ended in January, leading to a halt in the Rs 2,000 to 3,000 crore rupees in funds expected from the Central government for village panchay-

ats. He noted that this has made the Panchayats facing challenges. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has decided to conduct elections based on the BC

census. However, the BC Commission has requested the Chief Minister to hold elections only after the enumeration of BC communities, and he agreed to study the reservations for those communities through public inquiries.

Chairman Niranjan stated that a comprehensive family survey will be conducted statewide on November 6 and 7 to enumerate communities. Enumerators will collect data from every household in the village, and citizens are encouraged to provide complete information to the enumerators visiting their homes. Based on this information, clarity will emerge on the population of each community and the percentage of reservations to be provided to them.

BSF constable posing as DSP arrested

PNS ■ MADIKONDA

Madikonda police on Monday night booked BSF constable who masqueraded as DSP, was arrested, according to SI Pulyala Kishan.

According to the SI, the BSF constable, Kokkula Purnachander of Nawabpet of Chityala mandal of Jayashankar Bhupalapalli district, is living in a rented house in Bhattupalli outskirts in Kazipet mandal.

There is a land dispute going on between Bhatupalli Harish and his uncle Suresh and two others of Kottapalli village in Chityala mandal.

Money to be credited within two days of purchasing paddy

Nalgonda Collector Ila Tripathi conducted surprise inspections at two procurement centres on Wednesday

PNS ■ NALGONDA

District Collector Ila Tripathi has directed officials to ensure that money is credited to the bank accounts of farmers selling their paddy within two days.

On Wednesday, she conducted surprise inspections at the paddy procurement centres at Arjalabavi and SLBC Battayi markets near Nalgonda and interacted with the farmers.

She urged farmers to bring their paddy to the procurement centres to



Nalgonda Collector Ila Tripathi interacting with farmers at a paddy procurement centre in Nalgonda district on Wednesday

secure support prices announced by the State government. She assured the farmers that the officials at the procurement centres would by the produce without delay if the moisture content was not excessively high. Importantly, she mentioned that if farmers provide their land pass-books, Aadhaar cards, and photocopies of their bank accounts at the procurement centres, the money would be credited to their accounts within two days of purchasing paddy.

Separate procurement

centres have been established for fine and coarse varieties of paddy, and the State government is providing a bonus of Rs 500 per fine paddy. She encouraged farmers to make the most of this opportunity. The officials at the procurement centre were instructed to expedite paddy purchases, and if necessary, additional trucks would be dispatched to the procurement centres. She also requested millers to ensure that paddy is unloaded immediately without any delay.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT

FORM-VI

(See-Sub-rule (1) of rule-19 and Section-11(1) of the Act-30/2013)

L.A.O. & REVENUE DIVISIONAL OFFICER, BANSWADA PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Collector, Kamareddy File No. G1/5854/2022 Dated: 18-10-2024
Sub Collector, Banswada File No. A/3195/2024 Dated: 11-10-2024
Gazette No. 147 Dated: 22.10.2024

Where as it appears to the Government of Telangana/Collector, Kamareddy that a total extent of Ac.2.14 gts of land is required in the Waddapally Village of Nizamsagar Mandal, Kamareddy District for construction of Manjeera Lift Irrigation Scheme across Manjeera River on Dis of Nizamsagar Project, namely construction of Sub - pressure Main Pipe line.

There is no family is likely to be displaced due to the land acquisition. The reason necessitating such displacement is given below. Joint Collector is appointed as Administrator for the purpose of Rehabilitation and Resettlement of the affected families. Therefore, it is notified that for the above said project in Waddapally Village of Nizamsagar Mandal, Kamareddy District a piece of land measuring, more or less Ac.2.14gts of standard measurement, whose detailed description is as following, is under acquisition.

Village: Waddapally, Mandal: Nizamsagar, District: Kamareddy										
S. No.	Typ of Title	Area under Acquisition	Name of the patta holder	Boarders	Trees	Structure if any	E	W	N	
1	34 (un-est)	0.02	Begon Yerravolu W/o Kashabala (Title Dispute)	47-38-38/34	-	-	-	-	-	
2	36 (Pata)	0.11	Subbasa Reddy S/o Papireddy	34-27-37/36	-	Pipe line 60'	-	-	-	
3	37 (Pata)	0.2	M Ravinder S/o Babakotiah	34-24-38/36	-	Pipe line 47'	-	-	-	
4	36 (Pata)	0.04	M Ravinder S/o Babakotiah	47-37-38/36	-	Bore	-	-	-	
5	43 (Pata)	0.01	Rangini Ramya W/o Vigneshwar	71-43-43/10	1	Taddy Tree	Pipe line 30'	-	-	
6	43 (Pata)	0.005	Rajangi Deshpri W/o Chandras Prasad	71-43-43/10	1	Taddy Tree	Pipe line 30'	-	-	
7	43 (Pata)	0.005	Rajangi Chandras S/o Venkatas	71-43-43/10	-	-	Pipe line 20'	-	-	
8	47 (Pata)	0.18	Sobhali Sajiath W/o Anjanah	48-38-47/47	2	Meen Tree	Pipe line 60'	-	-	
9	48 (Pata)	0.145	B.Srinivas Reddy S/o Koteswar Rao	48-47-73/48	2	Meen Tree	Pipe line 60'	-	-	
10	48 (Pata)	0.815	B.Srinivas Reddy S/o Papireddy (Enjoyed Vagu included title Dispute)	-	-	-	-	-	-	
11	48 (Pata)	0.08	B.Sameey S/o Capal Reddy	48-47-73/48	-	-	Pipe line 47'	-	-	
12	70 (Pata)	0.07	B.Srinivas Reddy S/o Papireddy	70-70-43/48	-	-	Pipe line 100'	-	-	
13	70 (Pata)	0.06	B.Srinivas Reddy S/o Papireddy (Enjoyed Vagu included title Dispute)	47-38-38/34	-	-	-	-	-	
Total							2.14			

This notification is made under the provisions of Section - 11(1) of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Act No. 30/2013) to all whom it may concern.

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office District Collector, Kamareddy & L.A.O./Sub Collector, Banswada on any working day during the working hours. The Government of Telangana / Collector-Appropriate Government is pleased to authorize L.A.O./Sub-Collector, Banswada and his staff to enter upon and survey land, take levels of any land, dig or bore into the sub-soil & do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in section -12 of the said Act.

Under section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the Collector.

Objections to the acquisition, if any, may be filed by the person interested within 60 (sixty) days from the date of publication of this notification as provided under section 15 of the Act before District Collector.

Sd/- L.A.O./ Sub-Collector, Banswada
Sd/- Add. Collector (R), Kamareddy
Sd/- District Collector, Kamareddy

DIPR No.333/LA/PP-Sub/2024-25

ACROSS THE STATES



Tripura to soon get cyber crime police station: DGP

Cyber crime police station will soon be set up in Tripura to effectively deal with such cases, DGP Amitabh Ranjan said on Wednesday. Speaking to the press, Ranjan said insurgency was a closed chapter for the state after the mass surrender of NLFT and ATTF militants. "Now, the CM wants the state police to focus on community policing, and law and order monitoring. Urban crime and urban extremism also need to be tackled effectively," he said. The DGP said the state government was planning for specialist training for Tripura State Rifles (TSR), which used to primarily deal with insurgency, to tackle new challenges. "Now, we will push for specialist training for TSR personnel for the upgradation of their skills. The TSR jawans will get training with forces like NSG and CISF to deal with new challenges," he said. Ranjan said steps were being taken to enhance capabilities of the state police force with help of the central schemes for modernisation.



HC seeks Gopi's response on plea challenging election

The Kerala High Court on Wednesday sought a response of Union Minister Suresh Gopi on a plea challenging his election from the Thiruvananthapuram Lok Sabha seat in June this year. Justice Kauser Edappagath issued notice to Gopi, the Union Minister of State for Petroleum, Natural Gas and Tourism, and sought his response to the plea by November 22. The election petition has been moved by Thiruvananthapuram native Binoy A S, a leader of the All India Youth Federation, his lawyer Santhosh Peter said. In the plea, Binoy has alleged that Gopi engaged in "corrupt practices", including misuse of religious symbols, during his LS poll campaign. Gopi, also an actor, had scripted a historic win for the BJP by ending its over-seven-decades-long political drought in Kerala. He had won the Thiruvananthapuram LS seat with a massive lead of over 74,686 votes.



TN govt allows 2 hours to burst firecrackers

Sticking to the usual 2-hour norm, people may burst firecrackers on Deepavali between 6 am and 7 am and from 7 pm to 8 pm, the Tamil Nadu government said on Wednesday. Citing a Supreme Court judgment of 2018, the government said people could burst crackers during the stipulated time on the day of the festival (October 31, 2024) and shall use green crackers. An official release here said bursting of firecrackers must be avoided in 'silence areas' including those housing hospitals. Also, it should be avoided near huts and other places that may easily catch fire. "Let us celebrate Deepavali, as a festival of lights in an environment friendly manner rather than bursting noisy and smoke emitting crackers," the release added.

Face the facts..

Continued from page 1

three seas and that Rajiv Gandhi invented the computer. Social media has turned these remarks into a source of humor, reflecting the disbelief of the public, he said. Rao also mocked Revanth's idea of airplanes being sold in Dilukhannagar, terming it "laughable." Harish Rao countered Revanth's claims about land acquisition for Mallanna Sagar, clarifying that only seventeen thousand eight hundred seventy-one acres were acquired, contrary to Revanth's figure of fifty thousand acres. "The truth is documented; if you care to look, you'd know," he said, criticizing Revanth for resorting to misinformation.

Rao accused Revanth of deceiving farmers on the promise of loan waivers and failing to deliver on welfare commitments. He condemned Revanth's alleged attempts to use the police as political instruments, warning that such actions would not be forgotten if BRS returned to power. "Revanth does not even trust the police assigned to protect him. Revanth is behaving like a father who does not trust his own children. Does the CM have no time to address constable issues?" he asked Harish said, "We would welcome a grand Gandhi statue at Babu Ghat. Revanth won't even bow to the Ambedkar statue KCR installed, nor allow public access."

Indian, Chinese troops complete disengagement

Exchange of sweets on Diwali: Army sources

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indian and Chinese troops have completed disengagement at two friction points at Demchok and Depsang Plains in eastern Ladakh and patrolling is set to commence soon at these points, Army sources said on Wednesday.

Exchange of sweets between the two sides will take place on Diwali, they said.

Chinese Ambassador to India Xu Feihong, who attended an event in Kolkata, in response to a question on the troops disengagement said, "I hope that under the guidance of this consensus, relations will be moving forward smoothly in the future and not be restricted and interrupted by specific disagreements between the two sides."

"The most important thing is how to handle the differences," he said.

The process follows the agreement firmed up between the two countries on patrolling and disengagement of troops along the LAC in eastern Ladakh, a major breakthrough to end the over four-year standoff.

The move marks a significant development in the pursuit of reduced tension along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh since the fierce clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the

Meeting between Xi and PM Modi 'very important': envoy

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Ambassador of China to India Xu Feihong on Wednesday called the recent meeting between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of BRICS Summit at Kazan in Russia 'very important'.

The diplomat qualified the talks, the first formal one between the two leaders in the past five years, had reached an important understanding and set guidelines for further development of relations between the two neighbours.

Speaking at a session organised by the Merchant Chamber of Commerce and Industry here, the Chinese diplomat said both the leaders reached important common understandings on improving and developing Indo-China relations and set the course to steer bilateral ties back on the path of steady development.

The meeting between Modi and Xi was held in Russia's Kazan on October 23.

Responding to a question on the completed Indo-China border disengagement in Eastern Ladakh, the Chinese

two sides in decades.

The ties between the two Asian giants had nosedived following the clash.

The Indian and Chinese troops have completed dis-

engagement at the two friction points and patrolling will commence soon at these points, an Army source said.

The verification process post-disengagement is in progress and

patrolling modalities are to be decided between ground commanders, they said.

"Talks will continue at the local commander level," the Army source added.



Ambassador said, "I hope that under the guidance of this consensus, relations will be moving forward smoothly in the future and not be restricted and interrupted by specific disagreements between the two sides. The most important thing is how to handle the differences."

Referring to the resumption of direct flights between China and India, he said, "As an ambassador, I am looking forward to this as it saves time. I am also looking forward to smooth cooperation not only in politics but also in business."

Every Indian can be proud of India's journey in defence production: Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday hailed the country's rise in defence production and export, saying every Indian can be proud of this journey, as he gave a passionate call to startups, manufacturers and innovators to be a part of the sector.

In a post on LinkedIn, he

told the youth, startups, manufacturers and innovators that India's defence sector is calling them. This is their moment to be part of history, he added.

"India needs your expertise and enthusiasm. The doors are open for innovation, the policies are supportive, and the opportunity is unprecedented. Together, we will make India

not just Aatmanirbhar in defence but a global leader in defence manufacturing," Modi said. "Together, let's build a stronger, self-reliant Bharat," he said in a piece titled "India's Defence Revolution Takes Flight". From a time when defence forces faced critical equipment shortages to today's era of self-reliance, this is a journey that every Indian can be

proud of, the prime minister said. Days after inaugurating the C-295 aircraft manufacturing complex in Vadodara jointly with his Spanish prime minister Pedro Sanchez, Modi described it as a watershed moment in India's defence and aerospace journey. "The speed of execution is breathtaking -- from foundation stone to operational facility in just two years! This is a clear

manifestation of a new work culture and the capabilities of the people of India," he said. Giving out figures to back his assertion, Modi said India's defence production has soared to Rs 1.27 lakh crore (2023-24) and its exports have skyrocketed from Rs 1,000 crore in 2014 to Rs 21,000 crore today. The production of over 12,300 items has been indigenised in just three years and over Rs

7,500 crore invested in domestic vendors by the defence PSUs, he said, adding that 25 per cent of the defence research and development (R&D) budget was dedicated to the industry-led innovation.

In addition to the numbers as well, there are things which will make everyone very happy, he said, asserting that the complete defence ecosystem is being transformed.

Raj Pakala appears..

Continued from page 1

are under way for the allegations he was charged upon."

However, sources confirmed that the police searched the farmhouse to lay their hands upon a mobile belonging to the person who reportedly tested positive for cocaine.

Earlier, the TG High Court issued orders requiring Raj Pakala to appear before the police. It stated that action will be taken if information or evidence is found during the investigation. The High Court instructed the police to proceed as per regulations.

Mayur Reddy, advocate appearing for Raj Pakala, argued that the petitioner had a party at home and that the police came and attacked him illegally.

It was explained to the High Court, though an employee working in his company tested positive for drugs, Raj Pakala was included as an accused. He told the court that the case was filed with political malice and the police gave notice at 9.30 am on Monday.

3.64 % hike in DA, DR for employees..

Continued from page 1

Under GO Ms.No.120, the increased DA for state government employees applies not only to state employees but also to those in Zilla Parishads, Mandal Parishads, Gram Panchayats, and other municipal entities, as well as teaching and non-teaching staff in aided institutions and universities under the Revised Pay Scales, 2020. For employees on the 2015 pay scale, DA is revised from 59.196% to 63.912% of the basic pay. In addition, teaching staff under UGC/AICTE Pay Scales, 2016, will see an increase from 34% to 38%, while those on the 2006 pay scale will receive an increment from 20.3% to 21.2%.

The government has also sanc-

tioned an additional ad hoc increase of Rs.100 per month for Part-Time Assistants and Village Revenue Assistants, effective July 1, 2022. Payment of the revised DA will commence with November 2024 salaries, and arrears from July 2022 to October 2024 will be credited to the General Provident Fund (GPF) accounts for eligible employees. For those retiring by March 31, 2025, arrears will be paid in 17 equal installments. Similarly, GO Ms.No.121 revises DR for state government pensioners, raising it from 22.75% to 26.39% of the basic pension. This adjustment benefits retired employees under the Revised Pay Scales, 2020, as well as those who retired before July 2018 but receive pensions adjusted to the 2015 scale. For pensioners under

UGC/AICTE Pay Scales, DR is revised to 38% for those on the 2016 scale and to 212% for those on the 2006 scale. These changes apply to various categories of pensioners, including family pensioners and those receiving compassionate pensions. The revised DR will be disbursed along with November 2024 pensions, and arrears will be paid in 17 installments starting January 2025. The government has instructed Treasury Officers to process these payments without further authorization.

These measures reflect the Telangana government's commitment to supporting its employees and pensioners amid rising costs of living, ensuring their financial stability through systematic DA and DR adjustments.

BR Naidu appointed..

Continued from page 1

RN Darshan (Karnataka), Justice HL Dutt (Karnataka), P Rammurthy (Tamil Nadu), Tammishetti Janakidevi, B Mahender Reddy (Telangana), Anugolu Rangashree (Telangana), Suchitra Ella (Telangana, MD Bharat Biotech), Buragapu Anandasi (Telangana), Naresh Kumar (Karnataka), Dr Adit Desai (Gujarat) and Saurabh H Bora (Maharashtra). The board comprises five members from Telangana, three from Karnataka, two from Tamil Nadu, and one each from Gujarat and Maharashtra. Notably, half of the board members are from neighbouring States.

25 lakh diyas lit, 1,121 people..

Continued from page 1

title holder for most people performing diya rotations simultaneously. Congratulations!" Patel declared.

On the second record, the Guinness adjudicator said, "With a total of 25,12,585, which translates into just over 25 lakh, UP Tourism, Govt of UP, District Administration of Ayodhya, and Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Avadh University, you are the new Guinness World Records title holder for the largest display of oil lamps!"

Patel said he was "absolutely delighted" to verify not one but two Guinness World Record titles -- most people performing aarti simultaneously and the largest display of oil lamps.

He said that "most people performing diya rotations (aarti) simultaneously" is a brand new record. "This could not have been set up with just one diya so a minimum target of 250 was set," he said.

For the largest display of oil lamps, the previous record was 22,23,676.

"While it is important that we have the numbers it is also important that you follow the guidelines. You have met the guidelines for both records," Patel noted.

Deepostav -- a glowing spectacle marked by the lighting of diyas -- is being organised in Ayodhya on a day prior to Diwali since 2017 on the banks of the Sarayu river that passes through the holy town revered as the birthplace of Lord Ram.

BRS, Cong pave way for Eatala to..

Continued from page 1

the position of State president is crucial for the party's groundwork ahead of the 2028 assembly elections.

As the BJP assesses its options, other notable contenders like Bandi Sanjay, Dharmapuri Arvind, Katipally Venkatramana Reddy and Raghunandan Rao are also in the race,

each vying to shape the party's trajectory in the State. Whether this maneuvering will culminate in Eatala's appointment remains uncertain, but the ongoing jockeying reflects a deeper, calculated political strategy that both BRS and Congress seem aligned on, showcasing a rare moment of convergence in Telangana's dynamic political landscape.

MAHARASHTRA POLLS

BJP to fight 148 seats, Congress 103



PNS ■ MUMBAI

The ruling BJP is contesting 148 assembly seats in Maharashtra, the highest among half a dozen major political parties in the ruling and opposition camps, followed by the Congress which is contesting 103 seats.

Nearly 8,000 candidates, including those from major political parties in the ruling Mahayuti as well as the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), filed nominations for the 288 assembly seats in Maharashtra at the end of the process on Tuesday.

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena has fielded candidates in 80 seats, while Deputy CM Ajit Pawar's NCP has nominated 53 contestants for the November 20 polls. Five seats were given to other Mahayuti allies while no decision was taken on two segments.

In the MVA, the Congress is contesting 103 seats followed by the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) 89 and Sharad

Pawar's NCP (SP) 87 seats. Six seats were given to other MVA allies, while there was no clarity on three assembly segments.

As many as 7,995 candidates have filed 10,905 nominations with the Election Commission (EC) for the polls, a statement issued by the office of the state's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) said on Tuesday.

Filing of nominations by candidates began on October 22 and the process ended on Tuesday. The verification and scrutiny of nomination papers will take place on Wednesday and the last date for withdrawal of candidatures is November 4 (till 3 pm).

In 2019, a total of 5,543 nominations were received by the EC throughout the state and 3,239 candidates finally contested the assembly polls that year.

As many as 361 candidates have filed 506 nominations in Nashik district for the November 20 assembly elections. Of these, 255 candidates submitted their papers on Tuesday.

Constitute dedicated..

Continued from page 1

Agreeing with the petitioner's arguments, the High Court bench ordered the state government to constitute a dedicated special commission to ensure unbiased study and implementation of BC reservations, including for elections to local bodies. The decision underscores the Court's intent to uphold transparency and compliance with judicial precedents regarding reservation policies.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT FORM-VI
(See-Sub-rule (1) of rule-19 and Section-11(1) of the Act-30/2013)

L.A.O. & REVENUE DIVISIONAL OFFICER, BANSWADA

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Collector, Kamareddy File No. G1/1843/2022 Dated: 18-10-2024
Sub Collector, Banswada File No. A/1954/2022-2 Dated: 15-10-2024
Gazette No. 146 Dated: 22.10.2024

Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/Collector, Kamareddy that a total extent of Ac.0.26 gts of land is required in the Jakkapur Village of Nizamnagar Mandal, Kamareddy District for construction of Manjira Lift Irrigation Scheme across Manjira River on Dis of Nizamnagar Project, namely construction of Sub-pressure Main Pipe line.

There is no family is likely to be displaced due to the land acquisition. The reason necessitating such displacement is given below. Joint Collector is appointed as Administrator for the purpose of Rehabilitation and Resettlement of the affected families. Therefore, it is notified that for the above said project in Jakkapur Village of Nizamnagar Mandal, Kamareddy District a piece of land measuring, more or less Ac.0.28gts of standard measurement, whose detailed description is as following, is under acquisition.

Sl. No.	Type of land	Area under Acquisition	Name of the landholder	Boundaries			Trees	Structure if any
				E	W	N		
1/24	Agri Dry	0.16	M.Krishna Reddy S/o Chokkireddy	27	52	24	24	Pipe line 120'
2/21	Agri Dry	0.12	M.Hannamth Reddy S/o Chokkireddy	37	24	24	27	Near Tree 80'
Total (Ac-Gts)				0.28				

This notification is made under the provisions of Section - 11(1) of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Act No. 30/2013), to all whom it may concern.

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office District Collector, Kamareddy & L.A.O/ Sub Collector, Banswada on any working day during the working hours. The Government of Telangana / Collector-Appropriate Government is pleased to authorize L.A.O/Sub-Collector, Banswada and his staff to enter upon and survey land, take levels of any land, dig or bore into the sub-soil & do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in section -12 of the said Act.

Under section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the Collector.

Objections to the acquisition, if any, may be filed by the person interested within 60 (sixty) days from the date of publication of this notification as provided under section 15 of the Act before District Collector.

Sd/- L.A.O/ Sub-Collector, Banswada
Sd/- Addl. Collector (R), Kamareddy
Sd/- District Collector, Kamareddy
DIPR No.334/LAPP-Pub/2024-25



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Traffic mayhem

On the eve of Diwali, Delhiites found themselves stranded for hours as traffic jams clogged major roads

Diwali is the biggest festival in Delhi. It is awaited eagerly by one and all. While the festivities galore it is also during this time, the Delhiites suffer the most; high pollution levels and traffic jams dampen the festive spirit. On the eve of Diwali, thousands of commuters in Delhi found themselves trapped in an unending traffic nightmare. With the festive season in full swing, the city's roads, particularly around popular market areas, became scenes of frustration as vehicles moved at a snail's pace, leaving commuters stranded for hours. Despite pre-announced traffic measures by Delhi Police, congestion overwhelmed key roads, with frustrated citizens questioning the effectiveness of traffic management efforts. Heavy traffic jams were reported across several areas, including the DND flyway, Ashram Marg, and Sarai Kale Khan, stretching into congested points such as Karol Bagh, Taimur Nagar-Maharani Bagh Road, Punjabi Bagh, and Badarpur Mehrauli Road. As the festive rush built up on



Dhanteras, shoppers headed to market areas in droves. Many took to social media to share images and videos of the gridlocked streets, sparking discussions about the city's recurring traffic woes. In a bid to curb the chaos, Delhi Police had announced intensified road checks, anti-encroachment drives and measures aimed at keeping traffic flowing smoothly. Additionally, non-essential vehicles were restricted from entering the capital, and shoppers were instructed to park only in designated areas. Despite these efforts, the measures seemed insufficient against the overwhelming crowd of festival shoppers. Sarojini Nagar, Sadar Bazar, and Khan

Market saw an enormous influx, leaving shop owners struggling to manage both security and traffic. In some areas, the traffic snarls dampened the Diwali spirit. Ironically, the unexpected security measures, intended to reduce congestion, left sections of the market unusually empty on Dhanteras. As commuters endured bumper-to-bumper delays, voices of discontent grew louder and many people vent their spleen on social media. With Diwali celebrations continuing, these issues are likely to persist. Despite attempts to bolster security and traffic regulation, the administration's efforts seem to have fallen way short, leaving commuters to bear the brunt of another chaotic festive season on Delhi's streets. The traffic jams reflect poorly on the administrations capability to handle it. No denying that more cars are on the roads and given the limited capacity of roads, traffic jams cannot be completely eliminated. But having said that it is also true that the preparedness to deal with such a scenario were inadequate. At places there was no traffic police personnel to control the traffic and many signal lights reportedly did not work. We actively campaigned to bring this issue to the attention of relevant departments through a series of reports well in advance, right before the festive season began. Yet, as always, complacency prevailed.

PICTALK



Artists dance on the Rampath ahead of Deepotsav celebrations, in Ayodhya

‘Trophyisation’ of weapon platforms

In the propaganda war, the symbolic power of “trophy” weapons extends far beyond the battlefield, reshaping the narratives of geopolitical rivalries



BHOPIINDER SINGH

If Ukrainians made a public spectacle of captured Russian weaponry, the Russians did likewise in flaunting captured Western military hardware, from the British Husky tactical support vehicle etc., in a public park. The symbolism supports the Russian narrative that the ‘West/NATO is attacking Russia, and yet the Russians are triumphing. However, the ground truth is more complex as the Russians had invaded Ukraine and the war status is a stalemate at best, as the envisaged ‘10-day operation’ has gone on for over a year and a half. Such displays are common across militaries, and they understandably do not sit well with the other side.

Now, the Chinese have got riled over similar symbolism as the US Navy plans to exhibit a warplane, albeit of its own, that harks back to the 2001 Hainan Island incident that involved a midair collision of a Signal Intelligence aircraft i.e., EP-3E Aries II of the UN Navy, and a Chinese Air Force F-8 fighter plane. Flying over the tense and disputed South China Seas, the US plane had taken off from its Kadena Air Base in Japan and was intercepted by two F-8 fighters midway between the Hainan Islands and Paracel Islands. Whilst making aggressive passes, one of the Chinese fighter planes collided with the American plane and the Chinese fighter plane broke. The Chinese fighter pilot's body was never recovered. The damaged American plane along with its 24 crew members made an emergency landing at China's Hainan airbase without authorization and its crew were detained.

There was a counterclaim by the Chinese that the American plane had deliberately hit the Chinese fighter plane, but it was never substantiated, even though the Chinese had the data from the flight recorders of both planes. 10 days of hectic diplomatic parleys ensued with each side blaming the other for provocation and unreasonable conduct.



China insisted on the illegality of the American plane's presence claiming the region to be part of its exclusive economic zone as per the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea (UNCLOS)—whereas the Americans claimed patrolling rights under its right of Freedom of Navigation. But embarrassing delays in securing the release of American crew were publicly distracting from the more pressing foreign policy issue of launching the ‘War on Terror’ for the then US President, George Bush, in Afghanistan, following 9/11.

A due ‘letter of the two sorries’ (for the death of the Chinese fighter pilot and unauthorized landing) from the American side led the same to be conveniently interpreted as a ‘letter of apology’ by the Chinese media, and the same led to the release of American crew and the return of the disassembled aircraft. 23 years later, the Americans are bringing back the same plane i.e., EP-3E Aries II, at its Pima Air & Space Museum in Tucson, Arizona, for public display. The ‘trophyisation’ will be accompanied by a backstory explaining its significance in a historic incident that was fraught with risks of further escalation, for public consumption. The Chinese fear an American



THERE WAS A COUNTERCLAIM BY THE CHINESE THAT THE AMERICAN PLANE HAD DELIBERATELY HIT THE CHINESE FIGHTER PLANE, BUT IT WAS NEVER SUBSTANTIATED, EVEN THOUGH THE CHINESE HAD THE DATA FROM THE FLIGHT RECORDERS OF BOTH PLANES

narrative of ‘capitulation’ that paints the Chinese reaction in a dim light, even though it had the American plane and its 24 crew members, on its soil. As a riled Chinese social media commentator reacted, “It is not 2001. Wake up! It's 2024” — as if to suggest that the Chinese PLA was no minnow any longer, and it would give a befitting reply.

The unofficial mouthpiece of the Chinese regime i.e., Global Times, captured the reactionary mood in China, “Chinese people saw the incident as a painful memory for the nation and the reported plan to display the US warplane at a sensitive moment when China-US relations are delicate and face uncertainties, is like ‘rubbing salt into the wound’ and reflects an unfriendly stance by the US toward China.”

However, the situation in the choppy South China Seas has not changed much with the Chinese belligerence continuing and growing by the day, and with the Americans still conducting reconnaissance air sorties and naval exercises to counter the same.

Countries like Taiwan, Japan and most recently Philippines, are in the direct line of competing territorial claims, against China. Symbolism with the conceptualisation of con-

cepts like QUAD (Quadrilateral of Sino-wary, Japan, US, Australia and India) or Naval Exercises are part of vital international optics and narrative building. In a dictatorial country like China where propaganda has been elevated to a fine art, Beijing understands the power of public perception, hence its discomfort with the re-posting of the Hainan incident, entailing the return of EP-3E Aries II in public imagination.

The Chinese pipedream would like the new US exhibit to include, “calls from China and other countries worldwide to end US reconnaissance operations near their borders”, but as the most encroaching, expansionist, and coercive neighbour — it would know better than to expect the American exhibit to be kind towards China's propaganda position. With many famous defections of fighter pilots towards ‘enemy’ countries (especially from China to Taiwan), the ‘trophyisation’ of weapon platforms is an old hat, and in that context, the thin-skinned and hyper-reaction by the Chinese recently is churlish.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POPULATION CENSUS 2025

Madam — Regarding ‘Population Census Takes Off in 2025’ (Oct 29), the census is far more than a political activity; it's a strategic framework for development as India progresses toward becoming a superpower. The proposed 31 questions for the census should encompass aspects such as the agricultural workforce, tribal and coastal populations, elderly and infirm populations, women's education and economic standing, the skilled youth workforce, informal sector engagement, child mortality rates, school and college enrollment, residents abroad, border-area inhabitants, those who have traveled or hold properties abroad, and OCI and NRI populations in India. The upcoming election delimitation should ensure fair population representation per constituency for MPs and MLAs.

Although caste census isn't constitutionally mandated, it is often used as a political tool that risks dividing society along caste lines. The lack of exact figures on castes and the absence of official caste records make the legitimacy of caste data contentious, often resulting in disputes and litigation. Furthermore, with the prevalence of inter-caste marriages, the caste census appears increasingly outdated.

Vinod Johri | Delhi

DIGITAL FRAUD

Madam — When a Prime Minister warns citizens about digital fraud, it underscores the gravity of this issue and its deep infiltration at the grassroots level. According to available data, Indian citizens lost around ₹120 crores to digital fraud in the first quarter of 2024 alone—a conservative estimate, as many cases go unreported due to fear of police harassment or lack of awareness. The methods used by fraudsters vary widely and evolve constantly. A common tactic involves scammers posing as relatives to extract bank details, often from numbers originating abroad. This is particularly prevalent in Punjab, where many have relatives overseas, making

Revisit West Asia policy



The editorial on the looming war clouds in West Asia (Oct 28) should resonate more deeply with India than with other nations, given India's critical stakes in the region. For decades, attacks and counterattacks in West Asia have been common, but the current wave of violent escalations and genocides on both sides has far-reaching implications globally. India, in par-

ticular, faces a dilemma. The current administration leans ideologically toward supporting Israel, despite India's historical support for the Palestinian cause. Additionally, India benefits from affordable crude oil sourced from Russia, although these savings are primarily enjoyed by select private players in the oil sector rather than reaching the public. However, as tensions intensify, potentially drawing in the US and Russia, nations worldwide may find themselves compelled to align with one side. This situation could pressure the government to prioritize ideological support for Israel or risk trade disruptions that could affect India's economic stability—already challenged by an unfavorable trade balance. India, surrounded by a region of strained relations, cannot afford isolation in such turbulent times. It is essential for prudence to prevail.

AG Rajmohan | Anantpur

them easy targets.

These foreign-based numbers make tracing the criminals more challenging. While the Digital India initiative launched in 2015 has successfully propelled the nation toward digital empowerment, it has also exposed more citizens to cybercrime. This calls for increased caution, particularly among the elderly and those less familiar with digital technology. Only by staying vigilant can we protect ourselves from these evolving digital threats.

Yash Pal Raihan | Jalandhar

RISING CASES OF STROKES AMONG YOUNG

Madam — Countries worldwide are making significant investments to position themselves at the forefront of the semiconductor industry, with India setting aside \$11 billion and considering an additional \$5–10 billion. These are sizable figures, particularly when compared to the relatively lower investment in labor-intensive industries like leather and handicrafts. But what is the government's ultimate goal with such a massive investment? Is it to establish a base

for a larger electronics sector, or to support the expanding automobile supply chain? Unfortunately, the government's response has been unclear and less than satisfactory, with an emphasis on promoting ‘aatmanirbharta’ or self-reliance.

However, self-reliance may not be entirely practical given the complex nature of global supply chains. Reducing dependence on allied nations like South Korea and Taiwan may not be necessary; rather, the focus could be on lessening reliance on China. A key challenge for the government in implementing this plan will be securing a skilled workforce. A more strategic approach would be to target specific, scalable segments of the supply chain, such as fabrication, design, assembly, and packaging. Instead of focusing solely on self-reliance, India should aim to establish itself as a key player in the global semiconductor supply chain, maximizing the impact of this significant investment.

Pratyush Tiwari | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

The benefits and reality of organic food choices

From freshly harvested crops to packaged foods, the organic label now commands a premium price; is it for real or just a sales gimmick

In recent years, a remarkable trend has emerged, with organic products now prominently displayed on supermarket shelves and featured on packaging across the board. It encompasses everything from freshly harvested crops to essential packaged goods. And, given that the organic brand will cost significantly more, people are questioning if it is worth it. Organic foods offer health, aetiology, and environmental benefits. This type of food is promoted as a more wholesome and righteous option. The concept is straightforward: reduce pesticide use, eliminate synthetic fertilisers, and avoid genetically modified organisms. For numerous individuals, opting for cleaner and more organically cultivated produce justifies the expense. And yet, aren't we, in our way, being chipped away at our true worth as customers? Years ago, before the rise of industrial farming, vegetables like ladyfingers (okra) were a lot less predictable. We often found worms inside, an unpleasant but



natural reminder of the environment in which they grew. These “flaws” assured us that the produce was authentic, untouched by synthetic chemicals. Fast forward to today, and the produce is picture-perfect, but the trade-off has been significant. Our vegetables, once vibrant and full of flavour, are now coated in pesticides that strip them of their natural essence. We've all noticed it: the tomatoes don't taste like they used to, and a bell pepper is just... bland. With the essence of fresh vegetables fading from our experience, many sought refuge in the convenience of pre-packaged meals.

The appeal and taste of fast food or packaged snacks overshadow the presence of vegetables offered alongside them. It's hardly unexpected that many individuals find themselves torn between the less appealing, time-consuming superfoods and the quicker, more delicious meal alternatives. Yet, what is the price to pay? Here's the point: it's not about flavour or ease—it's about well-being. Even minimal exposure to pesticides has been linked to a variety of health issues, including hormone disruption and neurological complications. As time passes, these substances may build up within the human body, and despite increasingly stringent regulations, the long-term consequences remain largely unclear. This justifies the higher price tag, reinforcing the value of organic foods. Is that worth it? “Organic” always synonymous with better quality? Not exactly. Organic does not guarantee perfection. Certification processes have gaps, meaning that pesticide-free does not necessar-

ily equate to “organic.” It promises a reduction in synthetic chemicals and the adoption of more sustainable farming practices. Additionally, organic farming enhances biodiversity and soil health—both essential for the future of our planet. Is this a worthwhile investment? It hinges on what you value most. Choosing organic is a positive move towards minimising chemical exposure and fostering sustainable practices. However, to truly enhance the flavour of your meals, seeking out local farmers and fresh produce that hasn't undergone excessive processing or long-distance transport could be a more effective solution to that issue. Embracing organic choices transcends mere financial considerations; it represents a commitment to your well-being, an enhancement of your culinary experience, and a forward-thinking approach to the future of our food systems. (The writer is a motivator and a freelance journalist; views expressed are personal)



RACHNA LAKHPATRI



FIRST COLUMN

WHERE DO WE GO WRONG?

It is essential to recognise the diverse spiritual paths that humanity traverses



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

I am referring to our relationship with God. To understand this properly, clarity must be there about different classes of men. There are two main ones. The first one is of majority. In this, there are five types. Many do not know God, those who are living in the wilderness, and do have not much connection with civilization. The next are those, who are aware but have no opinion about God. They take a neutral stance in this matter. They are called agnostics. The next level is of those, who are aware of God, but are too lazy to have anything to do with Him, i.e., they don't do any spiritual practices to develop a link with God. The fourth category is of those, who are envious of God. Why is God superior to us, why should we take His shelter, why does He control everything, etc.? And the last category is atheists, who forcefully deny God's existence. Now I come to those, who have faith in God and His instructions, but are of different levels.

The first level is of those who do some spiritual practices as rituals. For example, someone has a murti of Lord Krishna in his home, which he has placed on a shelf. He lights an 'agarbatti' every morning after bath and places it near the murti. Someone else may be chanting Gayatri Mantra three times a day. Or someone maybe worshipping Suryadeva every morning with water. These are very nice activities and bring benefits, which are limited in extent. The worshiper has certain material desires, which he is keen on. He is superior to an ordinary man carrying out his material activities in pur-



suit of material goals like wealth, power, fame, etc. The next level is those who do some rituals and also have some faith in the Lord's instructions, as given in bonafide spiritual texts like the Bhagavad-Geeta. But they restrict themselves for two reasons what they can get from God. They don't do more to please God and become deserving, but displease God by their lusty, greedy, angry, hateful, etc. activities. Is this intelligent?

They end up gaining some material benefits for the spiritual acts done, and also punishments for bad acts done. They don't cancel out, i.e., both come to fruition. The next level of faith is better. They do rituals and try to gain purity in action through their minds, senses, and words. This helps them enhance their mode of goodness. They reap many benefits as a consequence. (The Bhagavad-Geeta 14.6) Then, comes the next level, who can be called devotees. They desire to please God in addition to their senses, minds and bodies. They have faith in God's instructions, i.e., try to act accordingly. But they also don't go far enough. This happens due to many reasons like fault in nature (svabhava) and not great 'sanskars' (cultural training).

They only come to a stage described by Lord Krishna. (6.41) Now we come to the highest level of devotees; he is helplessly attracted towards God due to practice done in the previous life. He transcends the ritualistic part of the Vedas. (6.44) Let us, therefore, not go wrong. We should stop ourselves from denying the existence of God staying neutral or being feeble about connecting with God. We have so much to gain even if we are not thinking of gaining liberation. God has so much to offer like opulence of all six kinds including success.

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

India's shift toward competency-based hiring



DINESH SOOD

The focus on competency over credentials promises not only to improve employability but also to foster a more inclusive workforce



India is moving towards skills-based hiring over degrees, marking a significant shift in the job market. Companies increasingly adopt competency-based hiring practices, focusing on practical skills and inclusivity rather than traditional degrees. This change is influenced by the growing importance of industry-relevant competencies in today's digitised business landscape. IBM India is a notable example of this trend, as it has implemented a 'skills-first' policy, where a college degree is no longer a prerequisite for recruitment. Similarly, companies like TCS, Infosys, and Wipro are also shifting towards skills-based hiring, investing heavily in training programs in the digital economy.

This shift has broad implications for India's education sector, prompting universities and educational institutions to incorporate more industry-relevant training and competency-based curricula. Many Indian universities are partnering with businesses to offer specialized training in artificial intelligence, data analytics, cyber security, and beauty and wellness.

Recently, Medhavi University collaborated with Orane International, a pioneer global institute in beauty-wellness. Such collaborations aim to bridge the gap between academic knowledge and industry requirements, ensuring graduates are job-ready from day one. Reports have shown that such partnerships have significantly increased employability in specialized fields, highlighting the importance of aligning education with industry needs. Competency-based hiring is revolutionising university education and professional development in India. In today's technology-driven economy, continuous learning and upskilling are crucial for career advancement.

Companies like IBM, TCS, and Infosys



THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT RECOGNISES THAT SKILLS DEVELOPMENT IS CRITICAL TO NATIONAL PERFORMANCE AND ECONOMIC GROWTH. AS REFLECTED IN THE 2024 EDUCATION BUDGET, SIGNIFICANT FUNDING HAS BEEN DIRECTED TOWARDS DIGITAL PROJECTS TO PREPARE YOUNG INDIANS FOR A DIGITAL FUTURE

heavily invest in training programs on the digital economy. These programs often include online courses, certifications, and micro-credentials, enabling employees to acquire new skills efficiently.

The Indian government recognizes that skills development is critical to national performance and economic growth. As reflected in the 2024 education budget, significant funding has been directed towards digital projects to prepare young Indians for a digital future.

Over the next five years, approximately 2 million young people will receive skills training. Additionally, 1,000 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) will be modernized, with updated course content tailored to industry needs.

This government support is crucial for India's ambition to remain a talent hub. India stands at a critical juncture in its economic journey, with immense potential for growth but facing a significant challenge in bridging the unemployment-employability gap. As the world's fifth-largest economy, India's vision for "Viksit Bharat" by 2047 hinges on effectively skilling its youth to meet the demands of a rapidly evolving job market.

The Union Budget 2024-25 has highlighted this priority, allocating substantial funds for education, employment, and skilling initiatives. However, the task ahead is daunting, with nearly 73% of workers aged 15-59 years lacking formal or informal vocational training. A multi-pronged

approach is essential to harnessing India's demographic dividend and fueling economic growth. This includes bolstering institutional support, strengthening industry-academia connections, and leveraging innovative financing solutions like impact bonds. As India navigates this crucial phase, the success of its skill development efforts will play a pivotal role in shaping the nation's future and realizing its economic potential. Competency-based hiring transforms the job market and creates opportunities for diverse groups often excluded.

In India, many individuals seeking to re-enter the workforce—often in remote or part-time roles—benefit from this approach. During the pandemic, many women took online courses in digital marketing, content creation, and I.T. services while balancing home responsibilities. This shift towards skills-based hiring opens doors for a more inclusive and diverse workforce and paints an optimistic picture of the future of employment in India, full of opportunities and potential for growth.

India's thriving start-up culture is a testament to the adaptability and practical experience valued in skills-based hiring. Startups, often operating with limited resources, place less emphasis on educational background and more on the skills and potential of their employees.

As a result, startups are setting the pace in adopting skills-based hiring practices, inspiring more giant corporations to follow suit

and revolutionise the job market. Their innovative approach to hiring is not only inspiring but also a sign of the changing times in the Indian job market. Transitioning to skills-based hiring comes with challenges, including the need for accurate and unbiased skills assessments.

Traditional hiring, reliant on academic qualifications, is relatively straightforward. In contrast, evaluating practical skills requires sophisticated testing and assessment techniques. Additionally, companies must train their H.R. teams to recognize and nurture talent based on skills rather than credentials.

Acknowledging these challenges is the first step towards overcoming them, and it prepares us for the future of hiring. By acknowledging these challenges, we can better prepare for the future of hiring and ensure a more effective and inclusive job market.

Despite these challenges, the benefits of competency-based hiring are evident. Companies can access a broader and more diverse talent pool by focusing on skills, including individuals overlooked by traditional hiring processes. This approach helps fill critical skills gaps and fosters a more inclusive and innovative workforce.

(The writer is co-founder and MD of Orane International, a training partner of the National Skill Development Corporation and a network Member of India International Skills Centres, an initiative of GoI. The views expressed are personal)

Reviving Bihar's libraries: Bridging the gap between tradition and technology

A well-conceived hybrid model could revitalise Bihar's libraries, providing a space where traditional and digital learning coexist

In today's era of rapid digital transformation, libraries in Bihar and across India are facing a critical challenge: how to remain relevant in a world increasingly dominated by digital content and online resources. Historically, libraries have been pillars of knowledge and learning, preserving history, culture, science, and philosophy for generations. However, with the rise of the internet, mobile technology, and social media, the traditional role of libraries is being questioned, especially in rural areas and smaller towns. The digital revolution has reshaped the way people, especially the youth, consume information. Where libraries were once the sole custodians of knowledge, the



RINKU KUMARI

Internet now offers instant access to vast amounts of data. E-books, online courses, and educational videos are available at the click of a button, challenging the need for physical spaces to access information. While this shift has opened new avenues for learning, it has also contributed to the neglect and decline of public libraries, particularly in states like Bihar. Bihar's once-thriving

library culture has dramatically deteriorated. Where there were once 540 public libraries in the state during the 1950s, only 51 remain today, according to a 2022 report from the Bihar Assembly Library Committee. Entire districts, including Arwal, Kaimur, Banka, Sheohar, Kishanganj, and Sheikhpura, now have no public libraries at all—neither in rural areas nor in urban centres. The closure of these institutions reflects a deeper cultural shift, where reading and communal learning spaces are no longer central to the lives of many. Muzaffarpur, highlights the concerning reality of the fading library tradition. Its few remaining libraries, such as

the Gandhi Smriti Library and Nav Yuvak Samiti Trust Library, are either poorly resourced or neglected. In a city of this size, there isn't a single well-functioning library that caters to literature lovers or cultural enthusiasts, leaving little hope for their counterparts in rural areas. Yet, as the world embraces digital transformation, the role of libraries must evolve rather than disappear. The challenge lies not in replacing libraries but in reimagining them as hybrid spaces—integrating digital resources with the physical charm and purpose of traditional libraries. Libraries, with their rich legacy of providing knowledge, can be transformed into community hubs that offer more than just



books. They can become centres for digital literacy, e-learning, and skill development, especially in areas where access to the internet and technology is still a challenge. In this context, Vinay, a social worker from Muzaffarpur, suggests a forward-thinking solution: modernizing libraries to meet the needs of the current generation. Libraries should be equipped with computers, internet access, and resources

for career counselling and education. "We need to reconnect young people, who are lost in the virtual world with the world of books," he explains. Libraries can offer both—the serenity and richness of traditional books and the practicality and excitement of digital resources. This transformation would not only make libraries more accessible but also relevant to today's youth, who are accustomed to

consuming knowledge digitally. The success of such an initiative would depend on concerted efforts by local leaders, communities, and governments. For instance, establishing a digital library in every Panchayat would bridge the urban-rural divide, bringing digital literacy to the forefront while preserving the cultural and intellectual heritage libraries represent. Panchayat representatives and village intellectuals can play a critical role in promoting the use of these modernized libraries, ensuring that the younger generation has access to both digital and physical forms of knowledge. The ongoing digital revolution has created an urgent need to rethink the purpose and structure of

libraries. The Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library in Patna, one of the few libraries still thriving in Bihar, is a testament to the potential of such institutions. However, unless libraries across the state are modernized to embrace digital tools and resources, their future seems uncertain. The decline of libraries in Bihar isn't just about the closure of physical spaces—it reflects the broader societal changes driven by technology. But rather than view this as the end of the library's role, it should be seen as an opportunity to redefine its importance in a digital-first world. (The writer is an educator in Muzaffarpur Bihar; views are personal. Charkha Features)

IN BRIEF



JTL Industries ramps up manufacturing capacity

Steel pipes maker JTL Industries Ltd on Wednesday announced increasing its annual manufacturing capacity to 2 lakh tonnes as part of its around Rs 350-crore expansion plan. With this addition, its cumulative pipe manufacturing capacity has reached a level of 6.86 lakh tonne per annum, the company said in an exchange filing. In a filing on Wednesday, JTL Industries said, "It announces successful expansion of its Raipur facility's capacity from 1,00,000 metric tonnes per annum (MTPA) (1 lakh tonne) to 200,000 MTPA. The company is aiming to complete its expansion plan of 4 lakh tonnes by the financial year 2026-27, taking its overall capacity to 10 lakh tonnes per annum, a company official had told PTI earlier. JTL Industries is a leading producer of electric resistance welded steel pipes in India. Besides Raipur, it owns manufacturing facilities in Malegaon in Maharashtra, and Mandi and Derahbasi in Punjab.



Rupee falls 4 paise against US dollar

Rupee depreciated 4 paise to close at 84.09 (provisional) against US dollar on Wednesday, weighed down by weak domestic markets and month-end dollar demand from importers. Forex traders said suspected intervention by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) supported the local currency at lower levels. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 84.06 against the greenback. It traded in a tight range and ended the day at 84.09 (provisional), down 4 paise from its previous close. On Tuesday, the rupee gained 2 paise to settle at 84.05 against the US dollar. The local currency has been hovering around its all-time low level. Rupee touched its lowest closing level of 84.10 against the dollar on October 11. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.15 per cent lower at 104.16. Forex traders said the dollar declined on disappointing jobs data from the US. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.53 per cent to USD 71.50 per barrel in futures trade.



NTPC develops catalyst for methanol production

NTPC has developed a catalyst to produce methanol using gases emitted from fossil-fired power plant, an official statement said Wednesday. The catalyst has been developed by NTPC in collaboration with Indian Institute of Petroleum, the power ministry said. CO2 mitigation is one of a critical challenge faced by fossil-fired power plant. Therefore, capturing CO2 from the flue gas and converting it to valuable fuel and chemicals is in focus, globally. "NTPC Ltd develops indigenous catalyst for methanol production from flue gas CO2 in collaboration with Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP), Dehradun," it said. The purity of methanol produced by this catalyst is more than 99 per cent, the ministry said.

Fiscal deficit at 29.4 pc of full-year target: Govt data

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre's fiscal deficit at the end of the first half of financial year FY25 touched 29.4 per cent of the full-year target, government data showed on Wednesday.

In absolute terms, fiscal deficit -- the gap between government's expenditure and revenue -- was at Rs 4,74,520 crore at September-end, according to data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA).

The deficit stood at 39.3 per cent of the Budget Estimates (BE) in the corresponding period of 2023-24.

In the Union Budget, the government projected to bring down the fiscal deficit to 4.9 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in the current 2024-25 financial year. The deficit was 5.6 per cent of the GDP in 2023-24.

In absolute terms, the government aims to contain the fiscal deficit at Rs 16,13,312 crore during the current fiscal. The revenue-expenditure

data of the Union government for the first six months of 2024-25 showed that the net tax revenue was Rs 12,65 lakh crore or 49 per cent of BE for the current fiscal.

The net tax revenue collection was 49.8 per cent at September-end 2023.

The central government's total expenditure in the six months through September stood at Rs 21.11 lakh crore or 43.8 per cent of BE. Expenditure was 47.1 per cent of BE in the year-ago period.

Of the total expenditure, Rs 16.96 lakh crore was in the revenue account and Rs 4.15 lakh crore in the capital account.

Commenting on the CGA data, Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA said the Centre's fiscal deficit declining to Rs 4.7 lakh crore in H1 FY25 from Rs 7 lakh crore in April-September FY24 has been aided by the Reserve Bank's dividend payment in the early part of the fiscal as well as the continuing year-on-year contraction in capital expenditure.



'India not looking at US-China tension as source of benefit'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India is not looking at the ongoing US-China trade tensions as an opportunity for its own benefit and the country stands on its strengths such as democratic institutions, robust rule of law, and talented youth, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Wednesday.

Speaking at the eighth Future Investment Initiative (FII) Plenary in Riyadh (Saudi Arabia), he said India offers huge opportunities and the world is building stronger ties with the emerging markets.

"India does not look at the US-China tensions as a source of benefit. We believe we can stand on our own feet, on the strength of our democracy, the rule of law that we offer, the strength of our young population, and our demographic dividend works well. It is talented, spirited and aspirational," the minister said.

He was replying to a question about huge economic potential in the country and India is one of the major beneficiaries of the developments in the world like US-China trade tensions. The US has raised customs



duties on a number of goods imported from China.

When asked if the multilateral trade system has failed, Goyal said it has not, but it is going through certain stresses. He said the World Trade Organization (WTO) is grappling with issues like a dysfunctional appellate body to resolve trade disputes among member countries.

"We have challenges on certain agendas where the developed world and the emerging markets think differently. We have not been able to reconcile those differences. But I am one who believes that the future is bright and I am very optimistic about these issues only making things better for all," he said. He added that India

and the US resolved their seven WTO trade disputes bilaterally.

"So we see a great opportunity for diplomacy playing a greater role in resolving the problems of the world and India's approach is that dialogue and diplomacy is the way forward whether it is conflict or economics," he said.

PETROL, DIESEL COMMISSION HIKED No change in retail price

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Commission paid to petrol pump dealers on sale of petrol and diesel has been hiked without change in retail price but rates will go down in several places in states such as Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Himachal Pradesh on account of intrastate freight rationalisation.

Commission on sale of petrol has been hiked by 65 paise a litre and that on diesel by 44 paise per litre. Alongside, the state-owned firms also rationalised intrastate tariffs which could lead to a reduction in rates of up to Rs 4.5 a litre in some parts.

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) -- the state-owned market leader -- on October 29 wrote to dealers informing of



an increase in dealer margin for all categories.

"Considering the hardship of retail outlets selling less than Rs 170 per kilolitre per month, special care has been taken to alleviate the same," it said.

"You will be entitled to an upward revision of dealer margin of approximately Rs 0.65 per litre for petrol and Rs 0.44

a litre of diesel."

This is the first revision in commission paid to dealers in nearly eight years.

All the three state fuel retailers -- IOC, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) -- took to X to announce the revision in dealers' commission.

"IndianOil is pleased to announce a revision in the dealer margins (effective from 30th October 2024), following the resolution of a pending litigation. This will have no additional impact on the Retail Selling Price of products," IOC said in a post on X.

BPCL in a post said the revised commission will be effective October 30. This would be "at no additional cost to consumers".

Govt steps up onion supplies via rail transport to control prices

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Wednesday said about 840 tonne of buffer onion arrived via rail at Delhi's Kishanganj railway station, as part of its multi-pronged strategy to control prices.

This marks the second major rail delivery after 1,600 tonne reached Delhi on October 20 through 'Kanda Express', an official statement said.

The shipment, procured by NAFED under the price stabilization fund, will primarily be released through Azadpur Mandi, with a portion earmarked for retail sale at Rs 35 per kg.

Retail prices of onion are ruling at Rs 60-80 per kg in the national capital depending upon the quality and locality.

In a first, the government has adopted rail transport for timely and cost-effective delivery of onions across regions.

NAFED earlier transported 840 MT to Chennai on October 26, while another consignment of similar quantity departed from Nashik for Guwahati early Wednesday.

The government had built a buffer of 4.7 lakh tonne during the rabi season and began releasing from September 5 through retail and bulk channels.

"Over 1.40 lakh tonne have been dispatched from Nashik and other centres via road transport," the statement said.

The National Cooperative Consumers' Federation (NCCF) has reached 104 destinations across 22 states, while NAFED covers 52 locations in 16 states. The agencies have partnered with SAFAL, Kendriya Bhandar and Reliance Retail for Rs 35 per kg retail sales.

Additionally, 86,500 tonne has been allocated to nine state governments and cooperative societies for retail distribution. The intervention has helped stabilize retail prices across major states including Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, UP, Tamil Nadu and Delhi, with the all-India average retail price remaining steady through October.

Wholesale rates at Nashik mandi have declined from Rs 47 per kg on September 24 to Rs 40 currently.



Sensex, Nifty decline on selling in banking, financial stocks

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty declined on Wednesday, as selling pressure in banking and financial stocks amid a bearish trend in global markets unnerved investors.

Besides, weak earnings numbers and persistent foreign fund outflows hit market sentiments, traders said.

The BSE Sensex tumbled 426.85 points or 0.53 per cent to settle at 79,942.18. During the session, the index hit a high of 80,435.61 and low of 79,821.99.

The NSE Nifty dropped 126 points or 0.51 per cent to 24,340.85.

A moderation in FII selling and a slight correction in the valuation of the domestic equities are positive signals for the Indian market, traders said.

From the 30-share Sensex pack, Infosys, ICICI Bank,



Kotak Mahindra Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, State Bank of India, HCL Technologies, Axis Bank, NTPC and HDFC Bank were among the laggards.

In contrast, Maruti, IndusInd Bank, Adani Ports, ITC and UltraTech Cement defied broader market trends and ended in positive territory.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Tuesday, as they offloaded shares worth Rs 548.69 crore,

according to exchange data.

"In the near term, the market will be influenced by two factors -- one positive and the other negative. The positive is the sharp decline in FII selling to just Rs 548 crore on Tuesday. This is an indication that the FII tactical trade of 'Sell India, Buy China' is coming to an end.

"With more Domestic Institutional Investors (DII) and retail money coming to the market and FII selling tapering off, the market may get a near-term boost, aided by the festive mood. But the uptrend is unlikely to sustain since the Q2 earnings numbers indicate softness in earnings for FY25," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said.

The BSE smallcap gauge jumped 1.54 per cent and midcap index ended marginally up by 0.04 per cent.

Tata Power net profit rises to Rs 1,093 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Tata Power on Wednesday posted nearly 8 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit to Rs 1,093.08 crore for the September quarter, mainly on the back of higher revenues.

The company had reported a net profit of Rs 1,017.41 crore in the quarter ended September 30, a BSE filing showed.

Its total income rose to Rs 16,210.80 crore in the quarter from Rs 16,029.54 crore a year ago. Praveer Sinha, CEO and Managing Director, Tata Power, said,

"Our Generation, Transmission & Distribution, and Renewable businesses continue to witness sustained growth momentum as India sees record power demand and investment in the New Age of Electricity".

India, Saudi discuss ways to increase cooperation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and Saudi Arabia on Wednesday discussed ways to enhance cooperation in areas of fertilizers, petrochemicals, and mining to boost trade and investments. These sectors were discussed during a meeting between Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Saudi Minister for Industry and Mineral Resources Bandar bin Ibrahim Alkhorayef in Riyadh.

Goyal is in Riyadh on an official visit. "We further deliberated and explored potential

areas for cooperation in the fertilizers, petrochemicals, and mining sectors," Goyal said in a post on a social media platform.

The minister also inaugurated the 'Lulu Wali Diwali' at the Lulu Hypermarket.

"From the Apple orchards of Ladakh to the markets of Riyadh! For the first time, Saudi Arabia gets to taste these exotic home-grown delights," he said on X.

India is the second largest trade partner for Saudi Arabia whereas Saudi Arabia is India's fourth largest trading partner.

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The Pioneer - Hyderabad Edition

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TENDER NOTICE NO. 04/24-25 OF SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER/OPERATION/JAGTIAL WITH SPECIFICATIONS NO. 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53/2024-25

Sealed tenders are invited from TGNPDCL registered contractors for execution of various works in Jagtial Circle. The details of the works and other information can be obtained from our Website www.TGNPDCL.in.

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GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

'E' PROCUREMENT NOTICE

NIT No. 29/EE/CIR-20/SLPZ/GHMC/14/2024-25 Date: 29.10.2024

Category of work: Civil Works, Estimate Amount: Rs. 112.00 Lakhs, Start Date / Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids: 30.10.2024 @ 1.30 PM / 06.11.2024 @ 1.30 PM. Name & Address, Officer Call No: EE, CIR-20, SLPZ, GHMC, 9154834248. Sd/- Executive Engineer, R.O. No.: 0666/PVCL/ADVT/11/2024-25, Dt: 30-10-2024. Circle-20, CHMC.

India's gold imports jump to \$27 bn

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The country's gold imports, which have a bearing on the country's current account deficit (CAD), rose by 21.78 per cent to USD 27 billion during April-September this fiscal due to strong domestic demand, according to the government data.

The imports stood at USD 22.25 billion in April-September 2023-24.

An industry expert said that the ongoing festival demand is helping the increase in imports.

In 2023-24, India's gold imports surged 30 per cent to USD 45.54 billion.

Switzerland is the largest exporter of gold, with about 40 per cent share, followed by the UAE (over 16 per cent) and South Africa (about 10 per cent).

The precious metal accounts for over 5 per cent of the country's total imports.

The jump in gold imports pushed the country's trade deficit (difference between imports and exports) to USD 137.44 billion during the first half of the current fiscal com-



pared to USD 119.24 billion during April-September 2023. India is the world's second-biggest gold consumer after China. The imports mainly take care of the demand by the jewellery industry. These ship-

ments declined by 10.89 per cent to USD 13.91 billion during April-September 2024-25.

The country's CAD widened marginally to USD 9.7 billion or 1.1 per cent of GDP in April-June 2024 against USD 8.9 billion or 1 per cent in the year-ago period. A current account deficit occurs when the value of goods and services imported and other payments exceeds the value of the export of goods and services and other receipts by a country in a particular period.

Gold surges Rs 1,000 to breach Rs 82k-mark

Gold prices saw a steep surge of Rs 1,000 and breached the psychological Rs 82,000 per 10 grams mark for the first time in the national capital on Wednesday, amid robust buying by jewellers ahead of Diwali. According to the All India Sarafa Association, the yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity soared by Rs 1,000 to hit a fresh peak of Rs 82,400 per 10 grams in Delhi.

The precious metal of 99.5 per cent purity also climbed Rs 1,000 to hit an all-time high of Rs 82,000 per 10 grams in the local markets. In the previous session, gold of 99.9 per cent and 99.5 per cent purity had closed at Rs 81,400 and Rs 81,000 per 10 grams, respectively. Traders attributed the sharp jump in gold prices to massive buying by local jewellers.



Lighting up Hyd with its culture and charity this Diwali



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This Diwali, *The Pioneer* shines a spotlight on the Uttarayan Socio-Cultural Association, Hyderabad's premier cultural hub that has been illuminating the city's festive landscape for over four decades. Through an exclusive conversation with Subrata Banerjee, General Secretary of the association, we explore the association's rich history, commitment to social causes and more

Hyderabad comes alive each year with the glow of Diwali lights and the warm spirit of community gatherings and the Uttarayan Socio-Cultural Association is a name synonymous with this festive magic. Established over four decades ago, this non-profit association has been a cultural beacon in Hyderabad, drawing together people of all backgrounds to honour the Indian tradition of Diwali with grand celebrations, authentic cultural experiences and charity initiatives that go beyond the lights. Each year, as the evening lights flicker on and the fragrance of incense drifts through Hyderabad, Uttarayan stands as a radiant symbol of community unity. Families gather under its twinkling canopy, young and old alike, drawn by more than just tradition; it's the promise of shared memories, of laughter carried on the cool evening breeze and the warmth of a festive bond that transcends generations. "Our club is a socio-cultural association and is one of the registered non-profit organisations in Hyderabad," shares Subrata Banerjee, General Secretary of Uttarayan. "With a history of over four decades, Uttarayan has been preserving and promoting literature, culture and sports, alongside charitable and philanthropic activities. Every year, the Deepavali festival brings the community together and has even been awarded one of the best celebrations in South India."

The first evening saw a joyful opening with the Ananda Mela, a unique feature of the Uttarayan celebration, blending the flavours of tradition with modern tastes. Local members, primarily homemakers and professional women from the community, set up 14-15 stalls brimming with homemade culinary delights. From Indian street snacks to exotic sweets and even European and Chinese dishes, there was something for every palate. "Our Ananda Mela showcases home talent in its truest form," he shares. "From Indian sweets to fusion foods, this evening celebrates the culinary artistry of our members and it gives them a chance to shine in front of thousands of guests." This year, Ananda Mela even featured a culinary contest judged by Hyderabad's renowned pharmacist Dr. Dibyendu Dey and the Culinary Director of Radisson Blu, John Biswas, ensuring the festive fun is sprinkled with a dash of competition.

On the cultural front, Uttarayan Square brings together a lively performance showcase, this year featuring 30-35 members in a multilingual, multicultural ensemble. "Uttarayan Square started small but has grown into a true celebration of the arts," Banerjee shares. The theme this year? "Taking Indian culture to the world," a mission that, while rooted in tradition, embraces the diversity of Telugu, Tamil and other Indian communities that now call Hyderabad home.

But Uttarayan's legacy goes beyond mere festivity. Each year, Uttarayan takes the spirit of Diwali beyond its festival grounds, reaching out to support those in need. In 2023, the association focused on an orphanage located in Moosapet, where they donated materials worth one lakh rupees, providing essential items to improve the daily lives of its residents. "There is an orphanage run by Shrivastava—perhaps called Vivekananda Shrivastava—where we coordinated with their team to understand their needs," he shares. Uttarayan's charitable efforts don't stop with one event.

Each year, the association allocates between one and 1.5 lakh rupees for similar donations, whether to orphanages, old-age homes, or other community initiatives that need a helping hand. The association believes these efforts amplify the festival's message of light, kindness and shared humanity. With a guest list of over 6,000 people per day, the Uttarayan celebration draws people from all walks of life and even offers an opportunity for local businesses and brands to showcase themselves. Major sponsors find a unique platform within the festive premises to connect with a spirited audience, adding a dynamic dimension to this community gathering.

Closing out the Diwali celebrations this year are two illustrious performers, singer Trisha Parui on October 31 and Sovan Ganguly on November 1, who promise to leave attendees with a musical finale that captures the soul of the celebration. Under the dynamic leadership of President Sri Aniruddha Sengupta and General Secretary Sri Subrata Banerjee, Uttarayan Club continues to thrive as a vibrant hub of cultural and charitable activities, uniting the community in celebration and service.



MENOPAUSE, MINDFULLY MANAGED

Menopause is a significant life transition that literally affects every woman in this world for half of her life, at this time women grapple with 40+ harsh symptoms, including hot flashes, decrease in brain health, cardiovascular issues, aches & pains, low energy, skin & hair issues, gut problems and so many more. The emotional, physical and mental toll can be profound, in fact there are medically backed solutions, yet there is silence. With around one billion women globally experiencing menopause, its impact on health and well-being cannot be overlooked. Unfortunately, many women feel unprepared for menopause. According to an online survey published in PubMed Central, 94.1% of women had never received menopause education in school and nearly half felt uninformed about it (PMC). Understanding the challenges of menopause, including hot flashes, mood swings and bone density loss, is critical for women experiencing this transition. The right combination of supplementation, lifestyle changes and emotional support can make a significant difference.

Role of supplementation in menopause relief

Many women have turned to natural supplements to manage menopausal symptoms. Research indicates that targeted supplementation can play a vital role in supporting hormonal balance and overall health. Trans-resveratrol, a powerful antioxidant, stands out as a promising option. Studies have shown that resveratrol supplementation can lead to significant improvements in cognitive performance, particularly among women aged 65 and older (Zaw et al., 2021). It may help alleviate common menopausal symptoms, including hot flashes and mood swings.

Phytoestrogens for symptom relief

Incorporating phytoestrogens into the diet can also provide relief from menopausal symptoms. Found in sources like soy and flaxseeds, phytoestrogens mimic estrogen in the body, helping to balance hormonal fluctuations. This can be particularly beneficial for women experiencing symptoms such as hot flashes, night sweats, and mood swings. As a natural alternative, phytoestrogens can be a valuable addition to a woman's dietary regimen during menopause.

Vitamins and minerals

Menopause significantly speeds up bone loss, increasing the risk of osteoporosis, with up to 20% of bone loss occurring during this stage. Osteoporosis affects approximately one in ten women over 60 globally, and studies show that women can lose up to 10% of their bone density in the first five years after menopause (better health). To counteract this, it is essential to focus on key vitamins and minerals such as vitamin D, calcium and magnesium. Targeted supplementation of these nutrients can reduce the risk of osteoporosis and support overall well-being. Ensuring adequate intake can help maintain bone density and overall health during this critical time.



Lifestyle changes

In addition to supplementation and community support, lifestyle changes can enhance well-being during menopause. Regular exercise, a balanced diet and effective stress management techniques are crucial. Activities like yoga, walking and mindfulness practices not only improve physical health but also promote emotional stability and resilience. A balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains and healthy fats can help manage weight, which is often a concern during menopause. Regular exercise strengthens bones, improves mood and enhances overall health, making it an essential part of any menopausal strategy. Mindfulness and relaxation techniques can further alleviate stress, helping women maintain emotional equilibrium during this transition. Menopause can be tough, but women can manage it better by exploring new supplements and taking a holistic approach. This includes taking Transresveratrol, phytoestrogens and important vitamins, joining supportive communities and making healthy lifestyle changes. As awareness of menopause increases, it is important to focus on education and support for women going through this natural stage of life. By improving our understanding of menopause, we can help women take charge of their health and well-being during this significant transition.

Holistic approach: Emotional and psychological support

A holistic approach to menopause goes beyond physical symptoms, addressing emotional and psychological well-being. Many women experience anxiety, depression, or feelings of isolation during this transitional phase. Engaging with supportive communities, specifically designed for women in perimenopause and menopause, can provide valuable emotional support. Sharing experiences and gaining insights from others facing similar challenges fosters a sense of belonging and understanding, significantly impacting women's mental health.

(The author, Sanjith Sheety, is the CEO of Miror.)

Mithya 2: Elevating murder mystery genre

TEJAL SINHA
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ZEE5 is ready to begin November on a high note with the release of the second season of its hit series *Mithya*. Titled *Mithya: The Darker Chapter*, this psychological thriller guarantees to lead viewers through a journey full of drama, suspense, excitement and feelings.

PLOT

Mithya 2 picks up where the first season left off, with Juhi Adhikary (played by Huma Qureshi) seeking revenge against those who wronged her. The series explores themes of trauma, deception and the consequences of playing with fire. The plot thickens as Juhi's actions unleash a chain reaction, affecting those around her. Juhi, a renowned writer, faces a potential danger to her achievements from a mysterious character, Amit Chaudhary (played by Naveen Kasturia). Amit blames her for copying his work, establishing the mood for an exciting story. Season 2 gives the viewers a glimpse into more new and deep levels of conflict, this season.



HIGHLIGHTS

Mithya stands out as a successful thriller, despite being a mediocre murder mystery, a genre that has been popular for a long time. The writer's certainty in their storytelling keeps readers intrigued, as they are constantly surprised by new plot twists that leave them questioning. *Mithya 2* has an intricate storyline with unexpected twists and turns, keeping viewers hooked. Though the series as a whole, the first and second seasons, touch on issues like toxic relationships, gaslighting and small-town societal pressures, this season buckles down to being more complex

and, as the title says, 'darker'. The unexpected smaller or bigger twists and turns, beyond a doubt, are the major highlights of the season.

DRAWBACKS

Some viewers may find the pacing uneven in a few scenes here and there, feeling slow or dragged out. Being an ardent thriller and crime fanatic, a few scenes did feel to me a little overdramatic, taking away from the show's overall realism. Fans of fast-paced thrillers might find some scenes too slow. Viewers who prefer straightforward mysteries might

REVIEW



find *Mithya 2*'s complex plot overwhelming. A few supporting characters seem to have a limited development. Though the twists and turns that this season brings might be a highlight to many, some would, however, get confused. Apart from all of this, as the series progresses, there feel some unresolved subplots.

PERFORMANCES

Huma Qureshi, with her talent in acting and stunning curls, is certainly the best part of the whole series. Her acting keeps you hooked throughout, just like she does always. Post-season 1, it's a delight

to watch her as her character progresses. The intricate character development, particularly between the two sisters, is a notable strength of *Mithya*. Huma Qureshi, recognised for her impactful portrayals, makes a comeback as the elder sibling burdened with emotional baggage. Their connection with Avantika Dassani as Rhea Rajguru grows this season as their competition intensifies. Unlike in the first season, season 2 sees Avantika's character developing so well. You'll love the intensity she brings in.

Let's not forget that Naveen Kasturia is taking on a secretive role, and, although we cannot reveal much about his character, it's certain that he will cause a lot of excitement.

Meanwhile, the supporting cast—Rajit Kapoor, Indraneil Sengupta, Avantika Akerkar, Rushad Rana and Krishna Bisht, all make sure that each character contributes their own issues, resulting in a complex network of deceit and disloyalty.

TECHNICAL ASPECTS

Apart from the plot this season, the location will also captivate you. The setting for Season 2 takes place in Darjeeling, providing a beautiful visual background

that enhances the psychological suspense. Kapil Sharma, the director, has assured that this season will feature eye-catching scenery that contrasts heavily with the dark, intricate storyline unfolding on screen. The soundtracks further enhance the overall experiences.

VERDICT

Mithya 2: The Darker Chapter is a gripping thriller that excels with its intricate plot, unexpected twists, and outstanding performances, particularly by Huma Qureshi. Minor pacing issues aside, the series' captivating setting, soundtrack and direction make it a must-watch.

Directed by: Kapil Sharma

Produced by: Applause Entertainment in association with Rose Audio Visual Production

Cast: Huma Qureshi, Avantika Dasani, Naveen Kasturia, Rajit Kapoor, Indraneil Sengupta, Avantika Akerkar, Rushad Rana and Krishna Bisht

Streaming on: Zee5

Rating: 4/5

what's brewing?

Look dapper this Diwali with Aalim Hakim's top hairstyles for men

With Diwali around the corner, it is time to elevate your festive look with the perfect hairstyle.

Whether you're dressing up for a family gathering or heading to a party with friends, make a powerful statement this Diwali with these easy yet stylish hairdos recommended by celebrity hairstylist Aalim Hakim.

Here are his recommended hairstyles using just a good quality hair wax, to compliment your festive attire.

Slicked back hairstyle: Perfect for a last-minute fix, this hairstyle offers a clean, sophisticated look. Start by pushing the hair on the top upwards, away from the forehead. Take a coin sized amount of a styling Gel wax, rub it evenly between your palms and then apply it while pushing the hair diagonally upwards. Using this water-based transparent wax provides high hold with a slick and shiny finish.

The faded faux hawk hairstyle: If you're looking to make a bold statement that lasts through long Diwali celebrations, the faded faux hawk is your go-to. With short, faded sides and strong volume on top, this style has just the right amount of edge. To create this look, take a small amount of wax and apply it on your hair, styling it upwards. Faux Hawk is a modern mohawk with texture and volume on sides tapering into drop fade. For a more defined look, opt for a styling clay wax that provides an ultra-matte finish that lasts throughout the day.

The Indian pompadour hairstyle: A modern twist to the classic pompadour, this style is ideal for those with medium to thick hair. Start with blow drying your hair while lifting the roots for volume. Shape the top into a high, swept-back style using a comb, and finish with a styling matte wax for a defined look that maintains a natural appearance with minimal gloss.

To achieve these looks, Aalim Hakim suggests using Set Wet's range of hair waxes, suitable for all hair types. These waxes not only help create defined styles but are also free of alcohol and harmful chemicals like sulphates, keeping your hair healthy and moisturized. So, grab your favourite hair wax, try these easy-to-create looks, and step into the celebrations with confidence and style.



Roots Collegium celebrated the festival of lights, Diwali with a heartwarming gesture of kindness and inclusivity. The students and faculty of the college visited the Bass Orphanage, bringing joy and warmth to the lives of the resident children. The celebration began with the distribution of sweets, stationery kits and blankets. The students then joined the orphan children in bursting crackers, adding to the festive atmosphere.



PARTY



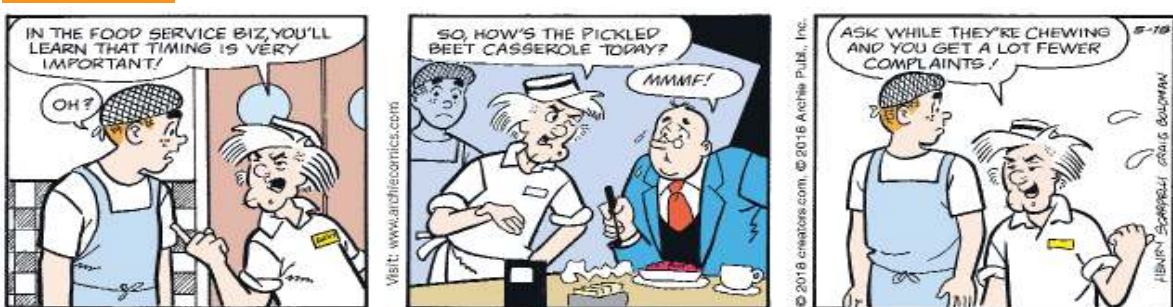
VSP Capital organised a seminar at T-Hub about EB5 (Employment Based 5) issued for US investments. Abdul Arif (Arif, Collins Attorneys by Law), Vikram Sagar, Founder of Core Tracker and VSP Capital Investments, Srinivas Marri, Head of Kalaraj Media and Karunakar Reddy and Dr. Khajim Himathi, marked their presence at the event.

The Osmania University Inter Collegiate Chess and Table Tennis Championship for Women 2024-25 was hosted by Villa Marie Degree College in Somajiguda. S. Mohan Kumar, ACP of Punjagutta, attended the valedictory function as the Chief Guest, presenting medals, certificates and trophies to the players. In the Table Tennis championship, Villa Marie defeated Avinash College with 2-1 and in the chess competition; Villa Marie was ranked first, followed by St. Anns, GDC Begumpet and CBIT.



FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



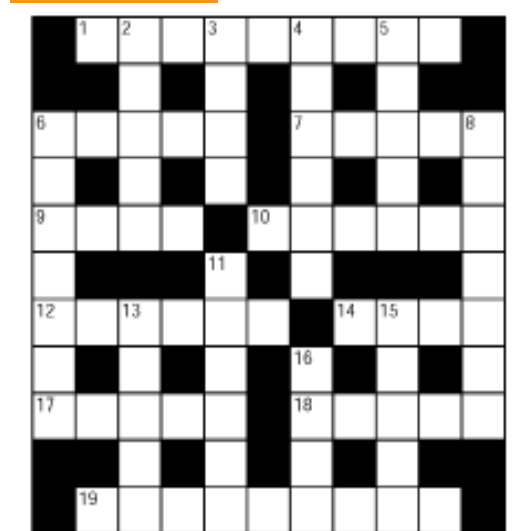
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



NANCY



SUDOKU



Yesterday's solution
7 3 4 8 1 5 2 9 6
2 1 9 3 4 6 8 5 7
6 8 5 2 7 9 3 1 4
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5 6 3 4 9 7 1 2 8
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Rules
• Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9) exactly once.
• The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

ACROSS

- 1 Not sure
- 6 Grape plants
- 7 Get to
- 9 Utters
- 10 Choose
- 12 A passenger's document
- 14 Accompanying
- 17 Less wet
- 18 Finished
- 19 A big, important church

DOWN

- 2 A nursemaid for children
- 3 A compass direction
- 4 This has a bull's-eye
- 5 Mirror reflection



GINGER MEGGS





'I am not a failed actor': Kiran Abbavaram

SURESH KAVIRAYANI
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Actor Kiran Abbavaram got emotional at the pre-release event of his upcoming film *KA* delivering a strong response to his critics. He shared how he rose from a lower-middle-class background and has always given his best to every project. "I am not a failed actor," he asserted, addressing those trolling him. Last year, a filmmaker had mocked Kiran through a dialogue in a film, which hurt Kiran and disappointed his fans. This pre-release event marked his first public speech after a year-long break, where he addressed the incident.

"Eight of my films have been released and four were decent hits. No actor has a hundred percent hit rate; there are hits and failures. You can't troll me in your films," Kiran said in an emotional speech.

The actor also opened up about his mother's struggles to ensure he and his brother could attend an English-medium school. "My mother was a daily wage labourer and wanted us to go to an English-medium school. So, when I was a kid, she went to Kuwait. I don't know what she did there, but she used to send money back. I only spent two years with her during my childhood," he revealed. Kiran also shared that he made his second film, *SR Kalyanamandapam*, without financial help from anyone!

He further addressed the rumours surrounding his background. "What's your problem with Kiran Abbavaram? Some people say I'm the son of an MP or a politician. Don't you check before making such statements? I come from a labour-class background, so why

wouldn't I have the right to grow?" he asked, confronting his detractors.

Kiran also spoke warmly about Naga Chaitanya, who attended the event as the chief guest. "I met Naga Chaitanya for the first time in Chennai and we spent nearly two hours together. The way he received me and spoke to me was truly special, which is why I invited him to be the chief guest," said Kiran. He reiterated his commitment to his work, stating, "If people don't like *KA*, I promise not to make any more movies."

Following Kiran's speech, Naga Chaitanya expressed his admiration for Kiran's journey. "I'm a huge fan of Kiran Abbavaram's journey," said Naga Chaitanya. He shared that he doesn't often meet new people due to his introverted nature but felt an instant connection with Kiran. "I recently met Kiran in Chennai and felt like a close friend. I wanted to support him. I entered into this industry with my family support, while Kiran has risen on his own and his success story is truly inspirational and he deserves success," said Naga Chaitanya. He also added that Kiran is a role model for the newcomers!

SUNDEEP KISHAN'S TANTRUMS DISRUPT MAJAKA SHOOT

PNS | HYDERABAD

Actor Sundeep Kishan is currently filming his upcoming project *Majaka*, directed by Nakkinu Trinadha Rao and produced by Razes Danda. Production began a few months ago, and recently the team has been shooting in Visakhapatnam. However, according to sources, Sundeep Kishan's on-set tantrums have been causing considerable disruption for the entire crew, including the producer.

When the shoot was in Hyderabad, Sundeep Kishan was expected on set at 9 a.m., but he often arrived around 2 p.m., causing filming to extend until 10 p.m., which put additional strain on the production. "This became a financial burden for the producer," a source from the production house revealed. Additionally, Sundeep Kishan's frequent angry outbursts have reportedly been directed at crew members, further impacting morale.

The situation has been particularly challenging in Visakhapatnam, where the team is working through a demanding schedule. "When the unit went outside cities for shooting, generally actors come early to complete their shooting. But Sundeep Kishan reached the shooting spot at around 2 pm in the afternoon, which everyone has to wait

for," said the source. He even didn't bother to tell the unit people or the producer, when he was coming to shoot also.

In one instance, it was almost a 15-day schedule in Visakhapatnam and one day, Sundeep Kishan suddenly is said to have disappeared from the shooting spot without informing anyone about his whereabouts. "The actor went to Tamil actor Suriya's film *Kanguva* event which was held in Visakhapatnam. He spent nearly two hours at the event and after Suriya left the event, Sundeep Kishan went back to the shooting spot. The entire unit was waiting for him and the shooting started at 10 pm in which the producer has to pay double the amount to all the employees who are working for the film," said a source from the production house. Because of the actor's behaviour the shooting is running very slow and the budget is also increasing for the producer.

The source also reveals that the producer had planned another film with Kishan, but due to these disruptions, the project has been shelved. Other producers who had previously announced projects with Kishan are also reconsidering, concerned about the potential strain on their budgets due to his behaviour.

The production house is reportedly planning to approach the Telugu Producers Council and the Telugu Film Chamber of Commerce to address these issues with Kishan's on-set conduct, according to the source.



Ravi Teja's new film titled *Mass Jathara*

Irrespective of the result of his films, Ravi Teja is busy with multiple projects. Known as 'Mass Maharaja', Ravi Teja is now shooting a film with director Bhanu Bhogavarapu. Incidentally, this is Ravi Teja's 75th film. Popular production house Sithara Entertainments is producing this film and they revealed the title of this film on the occasion of Deepavali. The film title is *Mass Jathara* and they also announced the release date as May 9, 2025.

The makers said that this film is a massive entertainer and confident that it definitely enthralles Ravi Teja fans. They released a poster with Ravi Teja walking in a stylish way. The director Bhanu Bhogavarapu and the producers are confident that Ravi Teja will make a huge comeback with this film at the box office. Sreeleela, who worked earlier with Ravi Teja for the successful *Dhamaka*, is again pairing opposite him in this film. Bheems Ceciroleo is composing music and his combination with Ravi Teja has already proved successful. Suryadevara Naga Vamsi and Sai Soujanya are the producers.



SAI PALLAVI OPENS UP ON HER 'SITA' ROLE

Actress Sai

Pallavi is one of the superstars down south where she has a huge fan following. Her upcoming film *Amaran* is hitting the screens this Friday on the occasion of Deepavali. The story is based on Major Mukund Varadarajan and it is directed by Rajkumar Periasamy. The actress promoted the Telugu version of this film and spoke to different media channels in Hyderabad.

The actress revealed that she met Major Mukund family members and got to know many things. "The parents talk high about their son and also feel proud that their son laid down his life for the country," said Sai Pallavi. She added that the family members feel bad, but they never showed up on their faces. "When I got this offer, I didn't think about my role or length as I wanted to do this film," she reveals. She added that this is an important film for her, so she did it.

The actress also talks about her upcoming film *Ramayana* where she is playing the role of Sita. "I can't speak much about this role as I am in contract. But I feel lucky that I got Sita role in my career," said Sai Pallavi. She added that she has heard of the *Ramayana* from her childhood. "I am doing this Sita role as a devotee of Sita," she said. Ranbir Kapoor is playing as Lord Rama, while Yash is playing Ravana. Nitish Tiwari is directing this mythological film.



YVS Chowdary introduces NTR's great-grandson to silver screen

Director YVS Chowdary is returning with a film after a long gap, introducing Hari Krishna's grandson, also named N T Ramarao. Chowdary's wife, Geetha, is producing the film under their newly launched banner, New Talent Roars. On Wednesday, the director unveiled the look of the lead actor, NT Ramarao. Until now, Chowdary kept the actor's face hidden, choosing to reveal it to the public before the shoot commenced. Venah Rao has been cast as the lead actress in the film.

Interestingly, NTR is the fourth generation of actors from the Nandamuri family and is also

the great-grandson of the legendary actor, the late NT Rama Rao. The actor's uncles, Jr NTR and Kalyan Ram, are also notable actors.

"I told many times that I am a big fan of late NTR and I entered into the industry with the inspiration from him. Today I am making a film with the great-grandson of NTR which I believe is an honour to me," said YVS Chowdary on this occasion. He added that from the last 18 months he shared his knowledge with the young actor. "He was just 19 years old and he is dedicated and passionate about his work. His voice is mesmerising and I am sure he is going

to be a big star in the future," said YVS.

Senior producer Ashwini Dutt and veteran director K Raghavendra Rao attended the event as special guests. YVS has immense respect for both, having worked with them during the early days of his career. The young NTR looked captivating with his long hair and impressive physique. The makers have also brought on board Oscar-winning composer MM Keeravani as music director and Chandrabose as lyricist. Burra Sai Madhav is the dialogue writer, with YVS Chowdary handling the story and screenplay.

EASWARAN, NITISH REDDY, PRASIDH TO BE UNDER CLOSE SCRUTINY

PTI ■ MACKAY (AUSTRALIA)

The outings of Abhimanyu Easwaran, Nitish Kumar Reddy and Prasad Krishna will be the primary focal points of India A's four-day match against their Australian counterparts, starting here on Thursday. Easwaran, Nitish and Prasad have been included in India's squad for the five-Test Border-Gavaskar Trophy series, beginning on November 22, and the thinktank will be eager to know how they fare in Australian conditions. Easwaran's performance will, however, have far more significance as the 29-year-old opener could potentially replace Rohit Sharma's replacement if the captain skips a match or two against Australia for personal reasons. Easwaran, who is also the vice-captain of India A here, is a vastly experienced campaigner having played 99 First-Class matches to score 7638 runs with 27 hundreds and 29 fifties. He has also been part of the India squad in the past but what inspires confidence is his recent form in First-Class

matches. The right-hander struck 157 and 116 for India B in the Duleep Trophy before making a 191 against Mumbai for Rest of India in the Irani Trophy and made another hundred in his final red-ball game before flying out to Australia - an unbeaten 127 against Uttar Pradesh in the Ranji Trophy. So, he has the body of work to feel in fine fettle ahead of the match against Australia A, though the conditions here will be vastly different from what he has experienced so far this season in India. On the other hand, Nitish does not boast of such impressive First-Class numbers, as he has been drafted into squad for his perceived ability as a pace-bowling all-rounder and, even in that, batting is his stronger suit. In the Duleep Trophy earlier this year, Nitish made two ducks with a highest of 40 in five matches while grabbing just two wickets. But the selectors have backed him ahead of senior names such as Shardul Thakur, who has resumed playing domestic matches after recovering from an injury.



INDIA A vs AUSTRALIA A

So, this will be a good opportunity for the selectors to check how the Andhra man measures up to a very capable Australia A side that includes the likes of Camrean Bancroft, Marcus Harris, Michael Neser, Cooper Connolly and Scott Boland. Prasad is a late addition to the India A squad in place of initially picked up Yash Dayal, and the Karnataka pacer needs to find some rhythm here. Since his return from injury, Prasad has picked up just seven wickets in as many innings across Duleep Trophy, Irani Cup and Ranji Trophy. But the selectors seemed to have been influenced by the theoretical advantage his height brings in on the Australian decks. Prasad can use this opportunity to keep himself ready if he gets a call-up to the first eleven as the third seamer behind Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj or if the management wants to rest one of the frontline pacers as part of workload management during the tour. Other than this aforementioned trio, the likes of skipper Rituraj Gaikwad, top-order batter B

Sai Sudharsan, pacers Yash Dayal and Navdeep Saini and middle-order batter Devdutt Padikkal can look forward to churn out some good efforts to keep themselves on the periphery of selection in case of an eventuality in the senior side. Ishan Kishan, the wicketkeeper batter, too will be eager to make the most of this chance after a finding his favour back with the powers that be. **TEAMS (FROM):** India A: Rituraj Gaikwad (capt), Abhimanyu Easwaran (vice-capt), Devdutt Padikkal, Sai Sudharsan, B Indrajith, Abhishek Porel (wk), Ishan Kishan (wk), Mukesh Kumar, Ricky Bhui, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Manav Suthar, Navdeep Saini, Khaleel Ahmed, Tanush Kotian, Prasad Krishna. Australia A: Nathan McSweeney (c), Cameron Bancroft, Scott Boland, Jordan Buckingham, Cooper Connolly, Ollie Davies, Brendan Doggett, Marcus Harris, Sam Konstas, Nathan McAndrew, Michael Neser, Todd Murphy, Fergus O'Neill, Jimmy Peirson, Josh Philippe, Corey Rocchiccioli, Beau Webster.

Need to be patient with Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, says Nayar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India's assistant coach Abhishek Nayar on Wednesday insisted that they do not ask for tailor-made pitches in Tests and also backed out-of-form legends Virat Kohli and skipper Rohit Sharma, saying that they must be given "space and time to come back". After suffering their first-ever Test series loss at home in 12 years, India will strive to salvage their pride when they clash with New Zealand in the third and final Test from Friday. Playing on a track that assisted spinners, India lost the Pune Test by 113 runs. It is being speculated that the pitch at Wankhede Stadium here could again favour the spinners. Nayar refuted suggestions that turning tracks are being made at the behest of the team. "I wish we could curate pitches, but we don't. The curators do. Whatever we're provided with, we go on and play (whether) that'd be a pitch that seamed or a pitch that turned. We don't try and get conditions according to what we want," Nayar said on eve of the final Test. Both Rohit and Kohli are woefully out of form, and that has impacted team's performance. Nayar said there is nothing wrong with the modern-day greats and all they need is just a bit of time and backing. "I've seen nothing but love for them all over. When a top player, when someone who's been through the journey, goes through a lull, a lot of times it's about giving them their space and trusting that they will come back. They will put in the work," he said. "Everyone's worked really hard, everyone wants to do well, whether you're Virat Kohli or Rohit Sharma or even someone as young as Shubman Gill. The effort is there." "Sometimes, sometimes you've got to be a little patient, even with the greatest of players,



and they can have tough times. I'm pretty sure sooner rather than later, we'll have more to praise about Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma and everyone else as well," he said. Nayar said it would be "harsh" to say the current Indian batters do not play spin as well as those in the past. "That's a bit of a harsh statement. When you're trying to achieve something, there's always going to be a time when you take a certain dip because you're trying to play cricket in a different way and you're trying to push yourself out of the comfort zone," he said. "Sometimes the results don't go your way, but if you're patient enough and when that upward curve hits the team and hits an individual, then your purple patch lasts for really long." "We're hoping that the transition that we're trying to have in terms of the mindset and the approach of the players in Team India, (given) that we're facing this dip now, but once we start hitting the upward curve, it'll be a long curve." Nayar said the dressing room atmosphere hasn't changed over the last two matches. "There are going to be times when you don't do so well. When India lost the World Cup (final) in India, that was a low point in Indian cricket for everyone..." "In the same breath, a couple

(eight) of months later, we were world champions. Coming back is always a great journey. That's how stories and legacies are made. "Hopefully we can be part of creating something as special as that in the future, but the atmosphere is great. Still a lot of jokes and bubbly cricketers in the dressing room. You'll see our (training) sessions (are) filled with fun and nothing has changed. India have collapsed thrice so far in the series, starting with 46 all-out for lowest Test innings total at home in Bengaluru. After that, India made 156 in the first essay of Pune Test and crumbled to 245 all-out from 81/1. Nayar refused to read much into it and said, "I wouldn't call it a collapse, when you lose wickets in a bunch or when we pick wickets in a bunch - like we did in the last game as well, where we got seven wickets in 51 runs - I think that tends to happen in this game of cricket." "Sometimes it is the mindset. It may not be perceived from outside as trying to be aggressive or trying to have intent, but intent is not necessarily swinging at the ball. Intent is more about your approach towards the ball. "Is it worrying? Well, the only way we look at it is how we can get out of it. That's our thought process (and) mindset."

India still have wood on New Zealand while playing on turning wickets: Ajaz Patel

PTI ■ MUMBAI

A first ever series loss at home to New Zealand notwithstanding, India still have the "wood on us" while playing on turning wickets, said Kiwis spinner Ajaz Patel here on Wednesday. New Zealand have outplayed India on all fronts in their backyard so far in the three-Test series, particularly in the spin department as they head into the third and final match starting here on Friday with an unassailable lead of 2-0. While New Zealand hammered India in a rain-truncated opening Test at Bengaluru by eight wickets, exposing their shortcomings on a challenging pitch at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, the world No 2 side was given a taste of its own medicine on a spin-friendly track in Pune in the second Test, which the hosts lost by 113 runs. Ahead of the final Test at the Wankhede Stadium, another spin-friendly track is in making despite the struggles of the Indian batters. Patel hoped that New Zealand,

who have an opportunity to inflict a 3-0 whitewash on India, would need to continue to make all the right moves despite the hosts being more adept in playing on such tracks. "India still have the wood on us when it comes to playing on turning wickets, and traditionally, the Indian batters have done well in turning surfaces," Patel told the media after New Zealand's training session. "Obviously, they haven't had maybe as much success as they would have liked in this series so far but they're certainly an opposition that are very, very skilled and not the easiest to come up against." "Their skill set is very vast and for us as a spin group, especially it's about being able to control what we can control and making sure that we can apply pressure for long periods of time and making sure that we're delivering the best balls on a given surface," he added. New Zealand's accuracy and recentness in attack, both with the bat and the ball, has been the feature of their first-ever



series win in India and Patel acknowledged that the visitors will need to stick to the basics. "It is really about continuing to challenge them. As a batter it's not easy out there when you're facing a ball that's turning as much, and so it's about us making sure we put the balls in good areas for long periods of time," he said. "On the flip side, India have got phenomenal spinners so our batters are trying to do the opposite and they're trying to create opportunities to score runs," he added. Patel, who created history here

"To be honest with you my memory is very poor so I don't exactly remember the surface that well but one thing I do remember was it looked a lot drier to start with," he added. Patel, who had to play second fiddle to fellow left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner in the Pune Test, said he was happy to keep exerting pressure on India from the other end. "It's (about) looking at what roles you're playing for the team when it comes to a bowling perspective," he said. "Mitch (Santner) was bowling exceptionally well from the other end so for me it was really important that from my end while I'm still trying to take wickets, I'm also performing the holding role and trying to restrict as many runs as possible so that pressure doesn't come back on us." "The way Mitch was bowling, there was no real need for me to try too many things. It was about trying to keep it as simple as possible. Once again, going into a new surface and a new game that may completely flip again," he said.

Retirement thought hit me after we lost to India in T20 WC: Matthew Wade

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Former Australia wicketkeeper-batter Matthew Wade has revealed that his team's defeat to India in the T20 World Cup earlier this year was probably the moment that ended his career as it was the first time that the thought of retirement crossed his mind. India, led by skipper Rohit Sharma's superb 41-ball 92, defeated the Aussies by 24 runs in a crucial Group 1 Super Eight match at St Lucia to book a semifinal berth and eventually went on to bag the title. "It (the thought about retirement) probably hit home after we lost against

India. That was when I really sat down and reflected that that was probably the end of my career. That was an emotional moment," Wade, who announced his retirement from international cricket on Tuesday, told cricket.Com.Au Wade, who generally batted down the order in T20 Internationals, said the arrival of Josh Inglis as a wicketkeeper who could bat top of the order too influenced his decision. "The time was right for 'Ingo' (Josh Inglis) to come in. You can see what he's done in the last (few months) that he's been in the team as the No.1 keeper. He was



certainly ready to come in and take that role. "They're looking for maybe someone who can bat more top to middle order now as well and that suits him really well." The Tasmanian also said he is unlikely to participate in the upcoming IPL mega auction as it will be tough to make himself available for the entire duration of the event. Wade has been a part of Gujarat Titans over the last two seasons. "I'm doing the IIT20 which will be straight after the BBL. I'm doing the (Abu Dhabi) T10, which leads straight into BBL. "So, I'm going over to Dubai at the end of this month. I've got some Tassie (Tasmania) one-dayers that I've been playing as well. I won't be in the IPL," said Wade, who will be Australia's wicket-keeping and fielding coach during the white ball series against Pakistan.



Shubman Gill takes pay cut to keep core in tact

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gujarat Titans captain Shubman Gill has decided to take a pay cut and will be the second player retained by the IPL franchise ahead of the October 31 deadline. Gill led Titans for the first time this season and both he and the management are now keen to retain the core group of players. The first retention for the franchise would be star spinner Rashid Khan, followed by Gill, Sai Sudharsan and two uncapped players in Rahul Tewatia and Shahrukh Khan. Titans will also have the option of retaining another squad member via the right to match card at the mega auction next month. Gill is seen a future leader in the Indian cricket setup. "Gill has decided to take a pay cut to ensure the core players are retained and build a stronger team," an IPL source said. As per the IPL retention

guidelines released ahead of the mega auction, a team will lose Rs 18 crore from the increased purse of Rs 120 crore for the first player retained, Rs 14 crore for second, Rs 11 for third while for the uncapped players, a team will have to shell out Rs 4 crore each. If a team retains five capped players, they will lose Rs 75 crore from the auction pot. The mega auction is likely to be held overseas in the last week of November. The auction purse has been increased to Rs 120 crore from the Rs 100 crore teams had at their disposal at last year's auction. The total salary cap now comprises an auction purse, incremental performance pay and match fees. The match fee, set at Rs 7.5 lakh per game, has been introduced ahead of the next season. The teams can retain up to six players, via retention or right to match, from the existing squad, the highest in IPL history.