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FOR PANIC, ENOUGH OIL AVAILABLE IN THE WORLD



'Suhas' of late paternity experience elevated his **PERFORMANCE**

evidence regarding this. I request the Congress Government to revive the Bathukamma Kunta Lake and ensure that women can celebrate Bathukamma next

— V. Hanumantha Rao,

senior Congress leader

QUOTE OF THE DAY

the pioneer

BRS leader Sudhakar Reddy

Advocate General and give

encroached on the Amberpet Bathukamma Kunta Lake in the name of the 'Neeru-Meeru' programme. I have evidence of Sudhakar Reddy's encroachment on Bathukamma Kunta Lake. The Bathukamma Kunta Lake is the first one encroached by BRS leaders in Hyderabad city. I will meet the

Officials urged to promote use of...

West Godavari District Collector Chadalavada Nagarani stressed the need to encourage the use of drones in agriculture to make farming more profitable.An awareness and registration programme on the use of drones was organised by the DRDA, Agriculture Department, and Byrraju Foundation here on Tuesday. Addressing the gathering, Collector Nagarani said that promoting drones in agriculture could help farmers increase their profits by reducing pesticide wastage. She highlighted that drones enable..

Breakfasts should be high-carb for...

For losing weight, breakfasts should be high-carb for men and high-fat for women, suggested researchers, who created mathematical models depicting men's and women's metabolisms. They showed that metabolic processes in men responded better to a meal high on carbohydrates like oats and grains, while those in women responded better to a meal high on fat such as omelettes and avocados. While men are known to derive energy from metabolism of carbohydrates, women...

Rajasthan seeks

Rajasthan Minister Rajyavardhan Rathore on Tuesday said the state

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marauders eye...

Hat-trick for BJP in Haryana, J&K backs Cong-NC HARYANA JAMMU & KASHMIR

PNS CHANDIGARH/SRINAGAR

The BJP on Tuesday clinched a stunning hat-trick win in Haryana overcoming anti-incumbency and dashing Congress' hopes of a comeback while the National Conference-Congress combine pulled off a spectacular victory in maiden elections in Jammu and Kashmir after abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

The BJP's decisive victory in the Haryana Assembly elections for which Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini gave credit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi came as a big boost for the saffron party ahead of the crucial polls in Maharashtra, where along with its two allies it is bracing for a tough battle, and also in Jharkhand and Delhi. The BJP as well as the NC-

Congress alliance got a comfortable majority in Haryana and J and K respectively where the Assemblies had an identical strength of 90.

While Saini, the 54-year-old OBC leader who was made CM

Abdullah will be the chief minis-

just six months ago to replace ter, a post he had held between Manohar Lal Khattar in an unex- 2009 and 2014. pected appointment, is likely to retain his post, NC President Farooq Abdullah announced that

EXIT POLLS GET IT WRONG YET AGAIN

PNS NEW DELHI

Exit polls, which had given a clear majority to Congress in Haryana and an edge to National Conference in Jammu and Kashmir, appear to have failed to feel the pulse of the voters once again.

The results of the assembly elections showed that BJP was set to form the government for a record ure mark.

third consecutive term in Haryana and the National Conference-Congress alliance comfortably coming to power in Jammu and Kashmir.

Virtually all exit polls had forecast more than 50 seats for the Congress in the 90-member Haryana assembly and showed the BJP struggling to cross the 30-fig-

In a series of posts, Prime Minister Modi hailed BJP's performance in Haryana as a 'grand victory', saying politics of develop-ment and good governance has won. He also complimented the NC for its 'commendable' showing in J and K, and said he was proud of BJP's showing in the union ter-

Modi later addressed BJP workers at the party headquarters in Delhi and said people of Haryana have stamped out falsehood and that polls in J and K were a victory for India's Constitution and democracy.

He wished NC on its win and noted that the BJP was the largest party in terms of vote share.

CM apprises PM of AP's financial crisis

Says matching grants not provided for Central projects in last 5 years

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has informed Prime Minister Narendra Modi about the State's financial situation and the destruction caused during the previous regime over the past five years.

As part of his two-day visit to Delhi, the Chief Minister arrived on Monday and met with PM Modi and other Union Ministers.

Speaking to the media on Tuesday, he stated that he explained to the Prime Minister that no matching grants had been provided for Central projects in the last five years.

Naidu also discussed the Swarnandhra Vision Document and announced that work on the Polavaram Diaphragm Wall would commence soon. Additionally, he brought to the Prime Minister's attention the World Bank funds allocated for Amaravati.

During his discussions, CM Naidu requested the Prime Minister to expedite the completion of pending works related to National Highways across Andhra Pradesh. He mentioned the gas

CM discusses Swarnandhra Vision Document with PM Modi.

Announces the start of work on the Polavaram Diaphragm Wall.

Requests completion of pending National Highway works.

Discusses the establishment of the Visakhapatnam Railway Zone and requested additional railway lines.

Clarifies that the tribal university in Salur will continue without changes.

Seeks a permanent solution for the Vizag Steel Plant, stressing its importance to

subsidy expected from the Centre and highlighted upcoming road and construction projects in Amaravati, scheduled to begin in December. The Chief Minister also spoke with Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav regarding the Visakhapatnam Railway Zone. He noted that the previous government had failed to provide land for the Railway Zone, but the current coalition government has successfully allocated the required land. The foundation stone for the Railway Zone works will be laid

investors'...

is seeking investment from across sectors in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) bloc. Speaking to reporters after a the state's Minister for Industry and Commerce said, "We are appealing to all sectors in ASEAN, wherever and whatever they specialise in to participate in the development in Rajasthan". He cited Singapore as an example for its expertise in urban development, ports and airlines..

India's T20

An India so dominant that Bangladesh is admittedly clueless about how to match the "skills and mentality" of Survakumar Yadav's men. The script is not expected to deviate much when the two sides clash in the second T20 International here on Wednesday with the home team's young mavericks proving more than a handful for the full-strength visitors. Bangladesh have hardly looked like the plucky opponents that they are hyped to be but India have looked every bit the marauding force that...

Minor girl raped, Pawan condemns

DNS KAKINADA

In a shocking incident, a 16-yearold girl was abducted and later allegedly raped Madhavapuram dumping yard in Pithapuram on Monday evening. Parents of the rape victim

complained to the police on Tuesday. According to them, the 16-year-old girl was going home on foot. A man and a woman stopped the girl and asked her for an address at Sturvartpet. When the girl was telling the address, they sprayed a substance at the face of the girl and later they whisked her away in an auto rickshaw to the dumping yard, located at Madhavapuram on the outskirts. The man molested the girl. When the duo were carrying the rape victim, who was in an unconscious State, on their shoulder, to the auto-rickshaw, a ragpicker woman, on suspicion, questioned them.

The ragpicker woman identified the girl and informed the matter to her parents. The passersby apprehended the man and the woman. The girl was admitted to the GGH.

CM meets host of Union Ministers

The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh held meetings with several Union Ministers during his visit to New Delhi on Tuesday. He met Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport and Highways; Piyush Goyal, Minister of and Industries: HD Kumaraswamy, Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries; and Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, discussing multiple priority issues for the state.

In his meeting with Minister Gadkari, the Chief Minister focused on the overall development of National and State Highways in Andhra Pradesh. Key discussions included the development of the Vijayawada Eastern Bypass, support for State Highway improvements through Government of India grants, and fast-tracking the Kuppam-Hosur



In his meeting with Minister Gadkari, Naidu focused on the development of National and State Highways in AP. Key discussions included the development of the V'wada Eastern Bypass, support for State Highway improvements through Gol grants, and fast-tracking the Kuppam-Hosur Greenfield Project.

Greenfield Project to ensure timely need for the Mulapeta to Vizag green-field coastal highway project, address-ed structures that integrate flyovers

ing restrictions on access to completion. He also highlighted the Bhogapuram Airport, and resolving

choke points by constructing elevat-

and metro services. Additionally, he proposed upgrading the Hyderabad-Vijayawada expressway from 4 to 8 lanes to manage high traffic and reduce accidents, as well as develop-ing a greenfield express highway from Hyderabad to Amaravati and an Outer Ring Road (ORR) for the Amaravati capital region. The Minister assured his commitment to fast-tracking these projects to enhance Andhra Pradesh's connectivity and economic growth.

During his meeting with Minister Goyal, the Chief Minister discussed the formation of a joint committee involving the Government of Andhra Pradesh, DPIIT, and the Ministry of Shipping to expedite the transfer of salt land for project development within a defined timeframe. Continued on Page 2

Centre releases Rs 2,800 crore for Polavaram

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's two-day visit to Delhi has Central government releasing Rs 2,800 crore for the Polavaram project on Monday.

However, there is no clear information regarding the specific allocation for this amount. According to project officials, Rs 800 crore has been released as reimbursement for old bills, while ?2,000 crore has been provided as an advance for ongoing works.

Since Polavaram was declared a national project in 2014, the Central government has been reimbursing funds.

Continued on Page 2

Court records Nag's statement in case against Surekha

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Actor Nagarjuna appeared in court and recorded his statement along with witness Yarlagadda Supriya in a defamation case filed against Minister Konda Surekha on Tuesday. The complaint was filed under Section 356 of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhitha (BNS) in court on October 3.

The case was filed after Surekha allegedly spoke about the divorce between actor Naga Chaitanya and



actress Samantha. In his statement, Nagarjuna told the court that he had a good image in the film industry. "A Minister made some false statements regarding Nagachaitanya's divorce with

political intentions and it was published in the media and due to that my family suffered a lot," he said.

Witness Yarlagadda Supriya also gave her statements in court. She said that the Minister told the media that Nagachaitanya and Samantha were divorced due to a former minister in connection with the N Convention hall. The counsel for the petitioner said that Nagarjuna requested the court to take action against Surekha as per law. It is a private case and not a police case.

70[™] NATIONAL FILM AWARDS

Inspector's mother kidnapped, murdered

PNS VIJAYAWADA

In a shocking incident in Sri Satva Sai district, a 62-year-old woman was kidnapped and brutally mur-

dered by her neighbour. N Swarna Kumari, the mother of Dharmavaram Circle Inspector Nagendra Prasad, was allegedly abducted and killed by her neighbour, Venkatesh. The victim's body was later found on the outskirts of

Madanapalle Town in Annamayya district.

According to K Venkataramana, Inspector of Madanapalle, Swarna Kumari, who lived alone in YSR Colony on the town's outskirts, she had been missing since 29th September. That morning, she was last seen riding pillion on Venkatesh's bike, reportedly heading to visit a priest on Punganur

Physics Nobel goes to 2 AI scientists

PNS STOCKHOLM

Two pioneers of artificial intelligence - John Hopfield and Geoffrey Hinton - won the Nobel Prize in physics Tuesday for helping create the building blocks of machine learning that is revolutionising the way we work and live but also creates new threats to humanity, one of the winners said. Hinton, who is known as the

Godfather of artificial intelligence, is a citizen of Canada and Britain who works at the University of Toronto and Hopfield is an American working at Princeton. "This year's two Nobel Laureates in

physics have used tools from physics to develop methods that are the foundation of today's powerful machine learning," the Nobel committee said in a press release.

Ellen Moons, a member of the Nobel committee at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, said the two laureates "used fundamental concepts concerns about our future.



from statistical physics to design artificial neural networks that function as associative memories and find patterns in large data sets."

She said that such networks have been used to advance research in physics and "have also become part of our daily lives, for instance in facial recognition and language translation."

While the committee honoured the science behind machine learning and AI, Moons also mentioned its flipside, saying that "while machine learning has enormous benefits, its rapid development has also raised

President honours Mithun Chakraborty, other winners PNS NEW DELHI Only 15 of the over 85 recipients of the

National Film Awards are women, President Droupadi Murmu noted on Tuesday while presenting the Dadasaheb Phalke Award to veteran star Mithun Chakraborty at the 70th National Film Awards that honoured cinema across the country. "The total number of award winners

today is more than 85. In most high-

er-education institutions, the number of girl students receiving awards exceeds that of male students. "The impact these mediums have on creating awareness among people is not possible through any other medium,' she added. Chakraborty, who was



from the spectators. wearing an arm brace in his right hand, "I have come on this stage once again received the award amid loud applause

handed to me on a platter, I struggled a lot. But today, after receiving this thanks to your blessings... Nothing was award, I have stopped complaining.

Thank you God, you gave me everything back and with interest," the 74year-old, said in his speech. Malayalam film "Aattam" won the top prize of the best feature film.

Ekarshi said winning three National Awards for his debut movie was special. "It is a huge honour for us. It really helps in the viewership of the film all the more on the international level..." Ekarshi said.

Sooraj R Barjatya received the best director award for "Uunchai".

The award for best actor went to Shetty for the Kannada hit "Kantara".

"Every film impacts society. Our goal is to make a difference. We strive to create meaningful stories that resonate with people," Shetty said. Menen (Tamil film "Thiruchitrambalam") and Parekh (Gujarati movie "Kutch

Express") were named joint winners in the best actress category 'Uunchai" registered another win

with Neena Gupta earning the best supporting actress accolade. This is her second award in the category.

Pavan Malhotra was named the best supporting actor for the Haryanvi film 'Fouja". First-time filmmaker Pramod

Kumar won the award for best debut film of a director for "Fouja". "Kutch Express" too scooped up two other National Awards -- best feature

film promoting national, social and environmental values, and best costume design for Niki Joshi. Rahman won the National Film

Award for Mani Ratnam's "Ponnyin Selvan - I", which was also named the best Tamil film.



Pawan's new avatar may endanger his future

t was a jolt for the NDA government in Andhra Pradesh to see its Deputy Chief Minister, film star turned politician Pawan Kalyan's new avatar as 'Sanatan Dharm **POINT** Parirakshak.'

Picking up the issue of the desecration of the sacred laddu prasadam of Lord Sri Venkateswara at the Tirumala shrine, Pawan Kalyan, the person who toiled hard to build a viable, united opposition to topple for-mer chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, announced that he would try to defend Sanatan Dharma and is proud to be called a Sanatan Dharm Rakshak. He also announced the Vaarahi Declaration meant to protect Sanatan Dharma. Pawan hastily added that he would respect

faiths like Islam and Christianity. Pawan called upon Hindus to unite and uphold the values of Hinduism. The desecration of the laddu prasadam which hurt

Hindus made Pawan Kalyan do a 11-day penance. Penance is intended to neutralise sin, which means that those who commit a serious sin must do that.

Here Pawan had to act like this because of his inability to detect the 'crime' committed by the YSRC government in the form of the desecration of the sacred sweet (laddu) of Lord Balaji. Although there was criticism from his adversaries questioning the propriety of his taking such a decision, Pawan rejected that. He addressed a meeting named Vaarahi Declaration and declared himself a Rakshak of Sanatan Dharma.

The way he conveyed his new ideology of Sanatan Dharma resembled his launching of the Jana Sena 13 years ago. He decided not to contest the 2014 Assembly election and opted to declare unconditional support

Pawan had to act like this because of his inability to detect the 'crime' committed by the YSRC government in the form of the desecration of the sacred sweet (laddu) of Lord Balaji. Although there was criticism from his adversaries questioning the propriety of his taking such a decision, Pawan rejected that. He addressed a meeting named Vaarahi **Declaration and declared himself a Rakshak** of Sanatan Dharma

for Narendra Modi who was then declared the PM candidate of the NDA.

After sailing with Modi, Pawan decided to part ways with the NDA as it rejected the demand to grant Special Category Status (SCS) for residual AP by criticising the special package declared by the Centre instead of SCS.

Pawan realised his blunder of leaving the NDA after getting a big zero in the 2019 polls. Immediately after the elections,

he joined the NDA without a single MP in the Lok Sabha. But he was given a warm welcome by Modi and Pawan became Modi's strong supporter.

Pawan drew accolades from Modi during the first NDA meeting held in Parliament in which $\bar{\text{M}}\text{odi}$ described Pawan as a 'toofan' by hailing his role in building a viable alternative in AP that finally broke the spine of the YSRC government.

After getting a suitable post in the AP government headed by



TDP supremo N Chandrababu Naidu at the behest of Modi, Pawan seems to be sticking to Modi's ideology. It's nothing but the ideology of Hinduism.

What is Sanatan Dharma? What are its contents? These are the questions that need to be discussed. By chanting Sanatan Dharma and declaring himself a rakshak of Sanatan Dharma on

deeksha, Pawan presented himself as a completely new man.

Andhra Pradesh politics is controlled by the two major castes of Kammas and Reddys. Reddys had a monopoly in politics till the entry of the TDP in 1982. The TDP headed by film star NT Rama Rao (NTR) grabbed power in its first attempt in the elections held in January 1983. This created a sensation in the country as a 9-month-old regional party ended the 35-year continuous rule of the Congress.

Another important caste is the Kapus which has more numbers than all the other castes and has been looking for an opportunity to grab power. Due to its lack of leadership, the Kapu dream of becoming the ruling caste never got fulfilled. Pawan's elder brother Chiranjeevi tried to become an alternative to both the Kammas and Reddys by floating the Praja

ident of the PRP then. Unable to run the party, Chiranjeevi merged his PRP with the Congress. He said goodbye to politics after his term in the Rajya Sabha.

Pawan chose a different path from that of his brother in politics and blazed his own way. That's why he stood behind Modi without contesting elec-tions that could have split the vote bank of Modi. Pawan chose to be part of the government despite getting enough seats to be the main opposition. Now Pawan seems to be getting

fame by projecting himself as a man defending Sanatan Dharma at the behest of Modi. Promoting Sanatan Dharma is nothing but paving the way for continuing NDA rule. Many states are going to Assembly polls soon and the results might decide the fate of the BJP.

Coming back to Sanatan dharma blended with the caste poli-

the dais of the Vaarahi Declaration meeting held at Chiranjeevi failed in his attempt. Pawan was the youth wing presPawan was the youth wing presPawan was the youth wing presPath tics of Andhra Pradesh, there may be very little scope for people to get influenced by religion. The BJP may have got seats earlier. But that was due to national leaders and not because of religion. People in southern states like AP do not have strong feelings on religious issues. Many from AP took part in the demolition of the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya on December 6, 1992 The Andhra region of United AP is controlled by Kapus and all political parties need their sup-port. This caste has been looking for a leader. Pawan somehow got this mantle and Kapus rallied

pehind him helping the NDA.
Pawan's 100% strike rate in the recent elections is simply because of this kind of followers. They may turn against him simply because of his new ideology. Pawan's future could be in danger as most people in AP do not favour religious fanaticism as in AP caste is more powerful than

MAJOR HEALTHCARE BREAKTHROUGH

VIMS launches free lifesaving stroke injections

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

In a pioneering healthcare initiative, the Visakha Institute of Medical Sciences (VIMS) has begun offering the most expensive and critical injections used for brain stroke treatment completely free of charge. The injections, known as Tenecteplase, typically priced between Rs. 40,000 and Rs. 50,000, are now available to all stroke patients at government hospitals. This effort aims to provide timely, effective care to those who might otherwise be unable to

In an exclusive interview with The Pioneer, Dr. K. Rambabu, Director of VIMS, stressed the importance of prompt treatment for stroke victims. He remarked, "Timely intervention is crucial for those suffering from brain strokes. Many patients, con-cerned about potential delays in government hospitals, turn to private care, where treatment expenses can skyrocket into lakhs. Unfortunately, this is not a viable option for the less fortunate. That's why the government has intervened, offering these expensive injections free of charge, ensuring not prevent access to life-sav- been remarkable.

ing care."

The free injections are a crucial element of care during the "golden hour," the first three hours following a stroke. Administering Tenecteplase during this period dramatically increases the chances of recovery. "If a stroke patient arrives within those first three hours, the likelihood of recovery is significantly higher," explained Dr. Rambabu. He also stressed the importance of recognizing stroke symptoms, which include numbness in the limbs, facial drooping, extreme lethargy, and, in some cases, seizures or drooping

"People must act swiftly if these symptoms occur," he advised. "Once at the hospital, a CT scan is done to determine whether the stroke is caused by a blood clot or brain bleeding. If it's a clot, we administer Tenecteplase to dissolve it, allowing blood to flow freely and restore normal function. This process, called thrombolysis, can help patients recover within hours.

To handle the surge in stroke patients, VIMS has established a specialized clinic that operates around the clock with a dedicated neurol-The results have

Minor girl raped, Pawan...

Continued from Page 1

It is learnt that the accused forcibly made the girl drink alcohol before committing the heinous crime. CI Srinivas and SI Manikumar registered a case and visited the scene of offence. Responding to the heinous crime incident, which took place

in his constituency Pithapuram, Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Panchayat Raj K Pawan Kalyan expressed grief. He directed the officials in Pithapuram to visit the parents and take steps to provide better medical treatment for the girl. In a statement here on Tuesday, he said that all people should

condemn such heinous crimes in society.

The Deputy Chief Minister assured the victim's family of all help and support. He said that steps would be taken to ensure that the accused are punished stringently. He also asked Jana Sena leader in Pithapuram to meet the family members of the rape victim and extend all help.

TODAY ALMANAC Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha Tithi: Shashthi: Oct 08 11:18 AM Saptami Oct 09 12:14 PM to Oct 10 12:32 PM Nakshatram: Oct 09 04:08 AM Moola: to Oct 10 05:15 AM Oct 10 05:15 AM to Oct 11 05:41 AM 12:03 PM to 1:31 PM Rahukalam: 7:39 AM to 9:07 AM Yamagandam: 03:01 PM to 04:39 PM Varjyam: 10:35 AM to 12:03 PM Gulika: 10:38 PM to 12:18 AM Amritakalam: Abhiiit Muhurtham VIJAYAWADA WEATHER Forecast: Scattered Thunderstorms **Temp:** 33°° Humidity: 75% Sunrise: 5:59 AM Sunset: 5:50 PM **Updated:** October 8, 2024 5:00 PM

Inspector's mother...

Continued from Page 1

Venkatesh is said to have kidnapped her, murdered her, and buried her body at a graveyard on the outskirts of Madanapalle.

A friend of the victim had attempted to contact her on the same day, but only received a call-forwarding message. When Swarna Kumari did not return home and failed to collect her pension by October 1, concerned locals informed her son, CI Nagendra Prasad.

He immediately rushed to Madanapalle and, unable to trace her, lodged a missing person's complaint at the Madanapalle Taluk police station.

WUA polls notification soon

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu announced on Tuesday that the State government will issue a notification for conducting elections to the Water Users Associations (WUA) on October 16. He instructed district collectors to devise plans to complete the election process within 40 days.

Minister Ramanaidu made this announcement during a video conference with district collectors, Chief Engineers (CE), and Superintending Engineers (SE) from the Irrigation Department. Among the officials present were Special Chief Secretary of the Water Resources Department G. Sai Prasad, CADA Commissioner Rama Sundara Reddy, and Engineer-in-Chief M. Venkateswara Rao.

The government plans to hold elections for all 6,219 WUAs, 252 Distributary Committees (DCs), and 56



Irrigation Minister Nimmala Rama Naidu holding a video conference with officials on Tuesday

Project Committees (PCs). Ramanaidu emphasised that the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) has prioritised the irrigation sector since the time of former CM Dr. NT Rama Rao and continues to do so under the current leadership of CM Chandrababu Naidu. He criticised the previous YSRCP government for neglecting this sector, which has resulted in silt accumulation in canals and drains, adversely affecting

farmers' access to irrigation

Ramanaidu urged officials to promptly submit any new project proposals after localising them to the CADA Commissioner. He mentioned that the elections will be conducted based on the new district boundaries, and both leaseholders and tenants with CCRC cards will be included in the voter list. He also highlighted the importance of identify-

ing problematic areas in advance to ensure smooth election processes across dis-

In the video conference conducted at the Secretariat on Tuesday, Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu, Special Chief Secretary G. Sai Prasad, Engineer-in-Chief M. Venkateswara Rao, and CADA Commissioner Rama Sundara Reddy participated alongside the collectors.

APPSC warns of fake appointment letters

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC) has issued a public alert regarding the circulation of fraudulent appointment let-ters, allegedly being issued in the name of an APPSC member. The Commission clarified that these letters are entirely fake, unauthorised, and have no connection to any official recruitment process. In an official statement on

Tuesday, the APPSC emphasised that all legitimate appointments are made solely through the respective government departments, following established procedures and proper channels. The Commission also reiterated that no appointment letters are issued by any individual member of the APPSC, and any claims of securing jobs through a member's office should be viewed with suspicion.

The public, especially job aspirants, are urged to remain cautious and not fall prey to such fraudulent schemes. The Commission advised against paying money to anyone promising jobs or appointments, as such offers are illegal. It also encouraged anyone encountering these fraudulent activities to report them immediately to the authorities.

A complaint has already been filed at a local police station, and the Commission warned that legal action would be taken against individuals found involved in creating or circulating these fake letters.

For verification or inquiries, the APPSC has provided a helpline (0866-2527821) and an official email (app-schelpdesk@gmail.com). The Commission reminded the public that official recruitment notifications are published exclusively on its official website (https://psc.ap.gov.in).

Centre release...

Continued from Page 1

This process involves the

ful. For the first time, the Modi

government has agreed to

Women not safe in State: YSRC

VISAKHAPATNAM

The YSR Congress Party over the declining safety of women under the coalition government, stating that incidents of attacks, harassment, and rapes against women have become alarmingly frequent, even in districts represented by the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, and the woman Home Minister.

Speaking to the media at the party's central office on Tuesday, YSRCP Spokesperson Shyamala criticised the govern-

ment for its lack of decisive incident in Punganur, she conpunishment in the past four months. She emphasised that saved her life. She mentioned would continue to advocate for victims. She noted that women even families of police officers are no longer safe, citing the case of a Circle Inspector's mother, who was kidnapped and brutally murdered in Sri Sathya Sai district.

Shyamala also highlighted a recent incident in Pithapuram, where a TDP leader allegedly kidnapped and assaulted a minor girl. She stated that the police only registered the case after significant pressure from the victim's family. In another

a case in Nandyal where the body of a brutally murdered girl remains unidentified.

She accused the TDP of spreading false information, particularly through social media, sharing her experience of harassment since becoming a YSRCP spokesperson. Shyamala revealed that she receives over 900 calls and thousands of abusive messages daily, with her phone number being circulated on TDP platforms.

action, pointing out that not a demned the police for not act- Shyamala asserted that she single culprit has faced severe ing on a complaint regarding a would not back down and cy, questioning the state's comfrom the film industry are being targeted if they enter politics unless they align with the TDP.

In a separate press conference held in Visakhapatnam, YSRCP Women's Wing President and MLC Varudu Kalyani expressed outrage over the lack of safety for women in Andhra Pradesh, criticising the government for its inaction. She condemned Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan for his silence regarding the alleged

Despite the harassment, rape of a 16-year-old girl by a hyamala asserted that she TDP leader in his constituenmitment to protecting women. recent kidnapping and murder of a police officer's mother, highlighting the deteriorating law and order situation. Additionally, she accused the government of failing to control soaring prices of essential commodities and colluding with

state government first spending on the project and then submitting the bills for verification, after which the Centre releases the funds in ments. It may be recalled that the previous Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy government had also requested advance funds, but those efforts were unsuccess-

provide an advance, fulfilling its promise on Monday. businesses like Heritage Supermarket. She warned that With the formation of the TDP-led NDA government if the government does not take swift action, her party will in Andhra Pradesh, the fight on behalf of the people to Polavaram project has gained ensure safety and fair prices.

CM apprises...

Continued from Page 1

Naidu also requested the railway minister to lay four tracks in congested areas and proposed a railway line connecting Amaravati to Vijayawada, along with connections from Machilipatnam to Raypalle and Narasapuram to Machilipatnam, and Raypalle to Bapatla.

Bullet train works to start by 2027 Chandrababu Naidu further requested the initiation of a bullet train service connecting four major cities in South India: Hyderabad, Amaravati, Chennai, and Bangalore. He argued that establishing this bullet train service would enhance economic activities in these economic hubs and urged the Union Minister to consider the project, to commence work by 2027. The Chief Minister also discussed railway lines between Nadikudi and Srikalahasti, and Kotipalli and Narasapuram, requesting matching grants for certain railway lines. Currently, railway works worth ?75,000 crores are underway across Andhra Pradesh. Naidu also urged the Centre to establish IT literacy and digital hubs, along with a data centre to encourage AI-driven startups

Proposal for Hyd-Machilipatnam expressway

Naidu announced plans to widen the beach road leading to Bhogapuram airport and develop transportation to the airport via highways, beach roads, and a metro line. He proposed the construction of an expressway from Hyderabad to Machilipatnam, which received a positive response from Union Minister Gadkari.

Discussion on Vizag Steel Plant

During his discussions, CM Naidu clarified that the tribal university in Salur would continue, with no intention to change its status. He also spoke with Union Minister Kumaraswamy about the Vizag Steel Plant, seeking a permanent resolution to the issues facing the plant, which he noted is a matter of public sentiment.

Naidu meets... Continued from Page 1

They also addressed the expedited development of industrial parks by NICDIT and the need for sectoral policies to attract investment. The Minister assured that he would consider the discussed issues and support Andhra Pradesh in achieving its developmental vision.

In the meeting with Minister Kumaraswamy, the Chief Minister focused on the growth of the steel sector in the state. The Secretary of Steel briefed him on the challenges faced by RINL, including raw material availability, loan repayment, and the need for capital investment for effective capacity utilisation. The Minister mentioned the Government of India's efforts to sustain RINL through financial infusion. The Chief Minister requested that the Government of India identify ways to support RINL and ensure its operational sustainability. The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries assured his commitment to considering the revival of RINL and supporting the industrial landscape in Andhra Pradesh.

Hat-trick for BJP in...

Continued from Page 1

As the poll results bucked exit poll projections for both Harvana and I and K, the first major direct contest between the BJP and the Congress after the Lok Sabha verdict in June saw the ruling party emerge triumphant with its largest tally of 48 seats, up from 41 in 2019. The BJP also overcame the setback in the Lok Sabha polls when its tally dropped

"I give full credit to Modi ji. With his blessings, under his guidance, people of Haryana have put a stamp on the government's policies," Saini told reporters.

from 10 in 2019 to five seats.

Despite the good showing of the BJP in Haryana, eight out of 10 ministers were defeated per the Election Commission data. Assembly Speaker Gian Chand Gupta also lost.

The BJP hailed its victory in Haryana as "historic" and also accepted the people's mandate in J and K. As the vote count in

Haryana witnessed some close contests, the faction-ridden Congress, which was hoping to

consolidate its gains from the increased its vote share by a Lok Sabha verdict by targeting the incumbent government on farmers' plight and cent. Agnipath recruitment scheme for non-commissioned posts in the Armed Forces, notched 36 seats, five more than it got last time. It was also leading in one.

Significantly, the vote share of the BJP and Congress was and 39.04 per cent respectively. While the Congress the day.

massive 11 per cent, the BJP's vote share rose by three per Among the Congress' high

profile winners was Vinesh Phogat, the wrestler-turnedpolitician who broke a million hearts when she lost out on her Olympic medals. She won the Julana seat by 6,015 almost same--39.94 per cent votes. However, hers was also a seesaw battle for much of

EXIT POLLS GET IT WRONG YET...

Continued from Page 1

C-Voter-India Today exit polls had pegged the Congress at 50-58 seats and the BJP at 20-28, the Republic Bharat-Matrize had predicted 55-62 seats for the Congress and 18-24 for the BJP. As the results trickled in, the BJP had won 48 seats in the 90member assembly, while the Congress was restricted to 37 seats. The C-Voter-India Today exit poll had given 40-48 seats to the National Conference-Congress alliance, with the regional outfit getting 33 seats, and the BJP was forecast to win 27-32 seats.

The Republic-Gulistan poll had given 28-30 seats to the National Conference, 3-6 seats to the Congress, and 28-30 seats to the BJP. The Peoples' Pulse had predicted 33-35 seats to the National Conference, 13-15 seats to the Congress and 23-27 seats to the BJP. The actual results had the National Conference winning 42 seats, while the Congress managed to win six seats.

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5.50 cr workdays to be provided under NREGA for **2024-25 FY: Deputy CM**



PNS VIJAYAWADA

Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Panchayat Raj K Pawan Kalyan has announced that it has been decided to provide 25.50 crore workdays under the NREGA for the financial year 2024-25 The Deputy Chief Minister held a video conference with made it clear.

the district Collectors from the Secretariat on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, Pawan Kalyan said NREGA wages which had been pending since May 20, worth Rs 2,081 crore, have been disbursed. He announced that Rs 4,500 crore worth 30,000 works would be taken up during the Palle Panduga programme under the NREGA in various districts.

Pawan Kalyan advocated the right to get work within 15 days of seeking work, unemployment benefits, and 10% of daily wages if the place of work is more than 5 km away from the residence. Facilities like first aid, drinking water, and shade at workplaces should be provided to the workers and the wage rate fixed by the

Central government is Rs 300 should be paid.

A compensation of Rs 50,000 should be paid to the family of a labourer, in case of death, or disabled at the workplace, he stated. He said that the main purpose of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural **Employment Guarantee Act is** to provide salaried employment for at least 100 days in a vear to rural families in the villages, where they reside, to establish sustainable assets and improve their livelihoods.

'It has been decided to provide 25.50 crore workdays under the NREGA for the financial year 2024-25. It has also been decided to provide 100 days of work to 8 lakh families. so far 17.95 crore workdays have been provided while 1.30 lakh families," he

The deputy Chief Minister said that it has been decided to construct 3000 km of cement roads, and 500 km BT roads during the 2024-25 FY. He highlighted that it has also been proposed to dig up 65,000 horticulture ponds and 25000 farm ponds and set up 22,525 Gokulalu. He directed the Collectors to complete the construction of roads by the Sankranthi festival.

Panchayat Raj principal secretary Seshibhushan Kumar, Commission Krishnateja and other officials were present.

Pawan Kalyan directed the Collector to make arrangements to organize 'Palle Panduga' programmes from October 14 to 20 in all dis-

Support Alapati in Grad MLC poll: Kollu

Minister for Mines, Geology, and Excise, Kollu Ravindra, has called on TDP leaders and members to support Alapati Rajendra Prasad, the former minister nominated by the TDP as the MLC candidate for the Krishna-Guntur Graduate Constituency in the upcoming elections. Minister Ravindra stressed the importance of securing a victory for Rajendra Prasad, who had sacrificed his Tenali Assembly Constituency ticket for Minister Nadendla Manohar in the recent general elections.

The TDP leadership has officially nominated former minister Alapati Rajendra Prasad for the Krishna-Guntur Graduate MLC Constituency. TDP leaders are currentĺy organising meetings at the constituency level to introduce Rajendra Prasad to local party leaders and members. Introduction meetings for Alapati Rajendra Prasad were conducted at Machilipatnam and Gannavaram in Krishna district. During a meeting in Gannavaram, Yarlagadda Venkata Rao introduced Alapati Rajendra Prasad to party leaders and members.

Speaking at the gathering in Machilipatnam, Minister Ravindra urged party leaders and members to work towards securing the votes of graduates for MLC candidate Rajendra Prasad. He praised the voters for their support in the recent general elections and encouraged graduates

The TDP leadership has officially nominated former minister Alapati Rajendra Prasad for the Krishna-Guntur Graduate MLC Constituency. TDP leaders are currently organising meetings at the constituency level to introduce Rajendra

Prasad to local party leaders and members. Introduction meetings for Alapati Rajendra Prasad were conducted at Machilipatnam and Gannavaram in Krishna district. During a meeting in Gannavaram, MLA Yarlagadda Venkata Rao introduced Alapati Rajendra Prasad to party leaders and members.

and teachers to cast their votes for Rajendra Prasad in the upcoming MLC elections. Furthermore, Minister Ravindra highlighted Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's efforts for the state's development and his commitment to creating job opportu-

nities through BPCL.

He urged party leaders and members to register graduates as voters in the Krishna-Graduate Guntur Constituency, emphasising that it is a collective responsibility. Additionally, he instructed the leaders to reach out to graduates who pursued higher education in other states and countries, educating them about enrolling as graduate voters. He assured Rajendra Prasad that the Krishna-Guntur Graduate MLC position would be supported by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu.

TDP MLC Paruchuri Ashok Babu, APSRTC Chairman Konakalla Narayana Rao, and TDP leaders B. Veda Vyas, Konakalla Jagannadhara Rao alias Bullaiah, D. Gopi Chand, K. Venkateswara Rao, and Jana Sena Party in-charge Bandi Ramakrishna were also present

Pregnant women left without medicare at Chintapalli Hosp

50 to 100 women visit the hospital daily for routine health check-ups

PNS PADERU

Medical services for pregnant women have come to a sudden halt at the Chintapalli Area Hospital, leaving dozens of expectant mothers without crucial care. With one doctor resigning and two others on leave, services like ultrasound scanning and health checks for pregnant women have been suspended.

The hospital typically serves pregnant and lactating women from 11 primary health centres (PHCs) in Chintapalli and GK Vedhi mandals. Ôn any given day, 50 to 100 women arrive at the hospital for routine health check-ups. Additionally, women from surrounding areas such as Seeleru, Dharakonda, Pedavalasa, GKVedhi, Korukonda, and Tajangi depend on the hospital for ultrasound scans. Under the Prime Minister's Safe Motherhood Campaign, health check-ups for pregnant women are usually conducted on the 9th and 10th of every month, but this month's appointments are now in jeopardy.

The disruption stems from recent staffing changes. Dr S Praveena, one of the three female doctors at the hospital, resigned just two days ago to join Paderu Medical College as a senior resident. Another doctor, Srilatha, is currently on maternity leave, and Dr. Sudhasaradha has been on leave for the past four days.



Expectant mothers awaiting medical care

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Although Dr. Sudhasaradha was transferred to Narsipatnam Area Hospital a month ago, she is yet to be relieved of her duties due to a lack of available replacements.

'We are aware of the serious shortage of female doctors and anaesthetists at the hospital," said Dr G Prabhavathi, Superintendent. "We have brought the issue to the attention of our superiors. The Collector and Vaidya Vidhana Parishad officials are working diligently to resolve the matter.

Unfortunately, many doctors are unwilling to work in tribal areas." Despite the ongoing issues, Dr Prabhavathi assured that alternative doctors will be arranged to minimise disruption for pregnant women. "We will do everything in our power to ensure pregnant women do not face discomfort during this time," she added.

This staffing crisis has placed added pressure on healthcare services in the region, affecting not just Chintapalli but neigh bouring mandals as well.

Vizianagaram gears up for a grand festival

Celebrations to reflect district's illustrious past

PNS VIZIANAGARAM

Minister for MSME, SERP, and NRI Affairs, Kondapalli Srinivas, has announced that preparations are underway for a grand festival to celebrate Vijayanagar district's rich historical legacy and enhance its reputation. "We are committed to making this festival a reflection Srinivas said during an inspection of festival venues on Tuesday. "These celebrations will remind us of our district's heritage and contribute to its

growing reputation."

The Minister, accompanied by MLA Pusapati Aditi Vijayalakshmi Gajapathiraju, inspected Vizzy stadium's newly built multi-purpose indoor stadium and instructed officials to finalise preparations for its opening. He emphasised the need for a 160 KV transformer to ensure power supply and recommended installing floodlights, nets, and improved security measures at the stadium. "The stadium needs to be fully equipped for upcoming competitions, and it is crucial to ensure the safety and comfort of

athletes and spectators," he said. The festival will feature



Uttarandhra-level sports competitions at Vizzy stadium, showcasing the district's sporting spirit. Srinivas highlighted the importance of accommodating athletes, providing transportation facilities, and inaugurating the new indoor stadium during the festival. He criticised the previous government for neglecting the stadium's completion, now 95 per cent done. The previous administration failed to prioritise the stadium's completion. We are committed to opening it now and bringing back the district sports schools, which are crucial for the youth."

MLA Aditi Gajapathiraju reaffirmed their focus on raising Vizzy stadium to international standards. "This stadium, opened in 1985 under former Union Minister Ashok Gajapathiraju's leadership, remains a key venue for nurturing talent and preparing young people for careers in the police, army, and other recruitments."

The festival, set to begin on October 10, will also include the All India Dwakra Bazaar (Saras) at Mansa Ground, featuring flower display stalls and cultural programmes. Minister Srinivas unveiled posters and pamphlets for the event. Municipal Commissioner Nallanaiah and District Sports Development Officer Venkateshwarrao were also pre-

No lapses on Moola Nakshatram, officials warned

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner HM Dhyanachandra held a teleconference on Tuesday with department heads and officials engaged in fieldwork in connection with the Dasara Sarannavaratri festivities.

During the meeting, he emphasised that there is likely to be a significant influx of devotees on the day of Moola Nakshatram. He instructed the



HM Dhyanachandra

officials to ensure that devotees do not face any difficulties or He commended the staff for

their efforts so far in maintaining proper arrangements. He directed them to ensure there are no lapses on Moola Nakshatram Day. The officials were instructed to check on the staff attending to devotees and to make sure that drinking water is provided to those standing in line, without any

Challenging gynaecological surgery performed on 29 YO

PNS VIJAYAWADA

In a remarkable feat, the doctors of Ankura Hospital, Vijayawada, have successfully performed a challenging gynaecological surgery on a 29-year-old woman, who was suffering from abdominal distention (a tight and swollen abdomen). An open Myomectomy was performed on the patient by the doctors, thereby curing her of the discomfort and preserving her

Speaking about the surgery,

Dr Pujita Myneni, Senior Obstetrician, Gynaecologist, and Laparoscopic Surgeon, said, "The patient presented with abdominal distention. Further investigations revealed that she had a large fibroid, which required immediate care. Hysterectomy is normally recommended for patients with such large fibroids. However, keeping in mind the age of the patient, we preferred to proceed with Myomectomy that would remove only the portion with fibroids.

Students in a spot as AU keeps postponing pre-PhD exams

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Hundreds of research students, enrolled in the Transdisciplinary Research (TDR) hub at Andhra University, are facing uncertainty as their pre-PhD examinations continue to be postponed. Over 400 students, including parttime and executive PhD candidates, were scheduled to take their exams this year. However, technical delays and changes in university administration have

halted the exam process. Many students, who have been preparing for these exams, are now left waiting indefinitely.
"We've been ready for months, but the repeated postponements have put everything on hold," said one candidate. These delays



not only affect the exams, but also the next stages of their research, including the requirement to publish in Scopus-indexed journals and complete their thesis submissions.

The research students have been urging the university to take

swift action to resolve the issue. "We've been waiting for too long," another student complained. "We need clear direction and timely exams so we can move forward with our research."

In addition to the exam delays, there is growing concern among

coalition government came to power, Andhra University appointed a new Vice-Chancellor (VC) and other officials. Shortly after, allegations of corruption and irregularities in TDR hub admissions were raised, leading to an investigation by a special committee formed by the VC. "As soon as the new VC took

students over the future of the TDR hub itself. After the new

charge, many complaints about corruption in TDR admissions surfaced," explained a research student. "We're worried about what will happen to our programmes now that admissions have been suspended for the next academic year." The university has halted admissions to the TDR hub for the 2024-25 academic year. The investigation is underway, adding to the growing anxiety among current stu-

Despite the rising concerns, university officials have assured students that the pre-PhD exams will take place soon. "A file has already been submitted to the higher authorities, and we expect the exams to be scheduled in the coming days for those who have applied," said a university spokesperson. However, many students remain skeptical about whether the process will be completed in time, fearing further delays could hinder their

NTPC Simhadri hosts CSR stakeholders' meet

sent during the inspections.

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

NTPC Simhadri conducted a successful CSR Stakeholders Meet on Tuesday, reaffirming its commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) under CC-CSR policy guidelines. The meeting brought together key stakeholders from various sectors to discuss ongoing and upcoming development initiatives.

Chief General Manager Sanjay Kumar Sinha expressed gratitude to local communities for their cooperation, crediting their support as a critical factor behind the power station's success. "Though we operate within budgetary constraints, our focus remains on implementing impactful CSR projects," he said. NTPC Simhadri has contributed extensively to infrastructure, healthcare, education, water supply, and skill development, making Parawada mandal one of the most developed regions

in Anakapalle district. BB Patra, AGM (HR). emphasised the importance of



two-way communication for enhancing NTPC's CSR initiatives. "Our goal is to create sustainable impact by working collectively, ensuring that the development of our neighbor-

ing communities goes handin-hand with the growth of NTPC," said Patra.

The event featured a com-

ous year and plans for financial year 2024-25. Stakeholders shared feedback and suggested further prehensive presentation of CSR activities from the previnceds during the interactive

session. Prominent attendees included representatives from government departments, medical officers, and principals from local Junior Colleges.

Prof. Krishna wins IGU Lifetime Achievement Award

He is Dean of the School of Science at GITAM

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Prof Kolluru Sree Krishna, academic and researcher, has been awarded the Dr Hari Narain Lifetime Achievement Award in Geoscience for 2024. The prestigious recognition, bestowed by the Indian Geophysical Union (IGU), acknowledges his exceptional contributions to the field of Earth and Ocean Sciences.

Prof. Krishna, who serves as the Dean of the School of Science at GITAM Deemed to be University, has dedicated over four decades to understanding the intricacies of Plate Tectonics and Lithospheric Dynamics.

Throughout his academic journey, Prof. Krishna has inspired countless students at institutions such as the Academy of Scientific & Innovative Research (AcSIR),



University of Hyderabad, and GITAM. His pioneering research has shed light on the evolution of the Indian Ocean lithosphere, contributing significantly to the exploration efforts of ONGC, DGH, and

In recognition of his outstanding contributions, Prof. Krishna has been honoUred with several awards, including

the JC Bose National Fellowship, the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize, and fellowships from the Indian Academy of Sciences, Indian National Science Academy, and National Academy of Sciences, India. His expertise was also instrumental in India's successful claim for extended seabed territory at the United Nations. Expressing his gratitude, Prof. Krishna said, "It is truly

great news to join the club of very eminent Geoscience researchers in the country. This recognition will inspire me to pursue my passion for some more years. The Dr. Hari Narain Lifetime Achievement Award

will be formally presented to Prof. Krishna at the IGU annual convention, scheduled to take place from December 3-5, at Banaras Hindu University (BHU) in Varanasi.



Officials urged to promote | SP conducts surprise night inspections use of drones in farming

PNS BHIMAVARAM

West Godavari District Collector Chadalavada Nagarani stressed the need to encourage the use of drones in agriculture to make farming more profitable.

An awareness and registration programme on the use of drones was organised by the DRDA, Agriculture Department, and Byrraju Foundation here on Tuesday. Addressing the gathering, Collector Nagarani said that promoting drones in agriculture could help farmers increase their profits by reducing pesticide wastage. She highlighted that drones enable more efficient pesticide spraying, minimising both costs and health risks.

The Collector explained that manual pesticide spraying requires more time, higher quantities of chemicals, and increased labour costs. Additionally, workers exposed to pesticides during spraying face potential health hazards, which could sometimes be fatal,

FLOOD RELIEF

TDP accuses

politicisation

TDP MLAs Gadde Rama

Mohana Rao (Vijayawada East), Vasantha Krishna Prasad (Mylavaram), Bode

Prasad (Penamaluru), and Yarlagadda Venkata Rao

(Gannavaram) have accused

the YSR Congress Party

(YSRCP) of engaging in

conspiracy politics regarding

the financial support

extended by the TDP-led

NDA government for people

affected by the recent floods.

During a press conference held at the TDP district

office at Auto Nagar in

Vijayawada, the MLAs alleged that YSRCP leaders

are attempting to undermine the efforts of the NDA

government by politicising

They expressed concerns

over YSRCP's approach,

claiming it is designed to

discredit the assistance pro-

vided to flood-affected peo-

the relief measures.

for political gains.

YSRCP of

PNS VIJAYAWADA



The Collector explained that manual pesticide spraying requires more time, higher quantities of chemicals, and increased labour costs. Additionally, workers exposed to pesticides during spraying face potential health hazards, which could sometimes be fatal, she cautioned

she cautioned.

Collector Nagarani revealed that Coromandel Fertilizers had provided six drones to selected farmers in the district. The farmers have completed their training and are now using the drones. A drone worth approximately ?10 lakh was handed over with an 80%

PNS AMALAPURAM

In an unusual display of devo-

tion, the devotees decorated

goddess Mahalakshmi with

currency notes worth Rs 3.33

crore in the Vasavi Kanvaka

The organisers and devo-

goddess Sri Vasav

Parameswari temple here.

She further noted that the National Skill Training Institute would offer a 15-day training programme on drone operations to interested women from Self Help Groups (SHGs), along with certification. After completing the training, they would be able to operate drones in the farming sector and earn a livelihood. The training, which

Goddess Lakshmi decorated with

currency notes worth Rs 3.33 cr

rate the goddess and temple

premises with new currency

notes, worth Rs 3.33 crore.

The temple is located in

The organizers and devo-

tees used currency notes in 100, 200, and 500 denomina-

tions. Garlands were made

Amalapuram town.

Kanyaka Parameswari deco- which were decorated to the ebrations.

would typically cost ?40,000, is being offered at ?25,000 with the support of the National Skill Training Institute, she added.

DRDA MSS Venugopal, Agriculture Officer J. Venkateswara Rao, KVK Coordinator Mallikharjun Rao, and Byrraju Foundation Coordinator P. Bhanumurthy were also present at the event.

Superintendent of Police K Pratap Siva Kishore conducted surprise night inspections at various locations during the night of Monday to maintain law and order

The SP personally inspected the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Government Railway Police (GRP) stations. He inquired about the security measures in place and interacted with passengers to gather feedback.

The SP held discussions with RPF and GRP personnel regarding their patrolling procedures, passenger safety measures, and the overall security of trains. He provided the necessary guidance and suggestions. At the old bus stand, SP Shiva Kishore



inquired about the identity and destination of individuals present during the night. He interacted with night

patrol teams and emphasized the need to be vigilant and take strict action against suspicious individuals. The SP

personally participated in vehicle inspections at the Kalaparru toll plaza along with other officers



Evolve plans to develop Prakasam dist: Minister

PNS ■ ONGOLE

Minister for Social Welfare Dola Bala Veeranjaneya Swamy has urged officials to devise plans to develop Prakasam district as 'Swarna Prakasam' by 2047 and called on everyone to contribute to this development mission.

A workshop on 'Swarndhra@2047, AP Vision Agenda' was held here on Tuesday, attended by the MP, MLAs, Collector, and others. Addressing the workshop, Minister Bala Veeranjaneya Swamy stated that the Chandrababu Naidu-led government is making concerted efforts to advance the State under the 'Swarndra@2047

The Minister clarified that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu aims to steer the State towards progress, tackle unemployment, and improve the living standards and per capita

income of the people.

He highlighted ongoing initiatives to boost agriculture and its allied sectors, noting that Anantapur district, previously known for drought, has transformed into a horticulture

PNS HYDERABAD

hub due to measures taken by centre and resolve land acquithe then TDP government between 2014 and 2019.

The coalition government in AP has set a target of generating 20 lakh jobs over the next five years and is working diligently towards this goal. Initiatives for skill development among youth are underway, including a skill census to assess their abilities and provide necessary technical training for job opportunities," the Minister observed.

He added that the government plans to promote the granite and pharmaceutical sectors in the Prakasam district, alongside efforts to advance agriculture and its allied sectors.

focused on completing the Veligonda project expeditiously. Measures are being taken to construct check dams for effective water management in the district. Additionally, required infrastructure will be provided to the Markapuram Medical College, which will be inaugurated soon," Bala Veeranjaneya Swamy said. He also mentioned efforts to develop Donakonda as an industrial

sition issues for various pro-

MP Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy announced his appointment as Chairman of the Central Housing and Urban Development Parliament Committee on the recommendation of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. He stated that the Committee oversees the implementation of the Amrit and Swachh Bharat programmes and expressed his commitment to supporting the development of the Prakasam district. He urged officials to formulate a proper plan for utilising CSR

Collector A. Thameem Swarnandhra@2040 Vision document is being developed and that the workshop aims to train officials. MLAs Damacharla Janardhan, M. Ashok Reddy, Kandula Narayana Reddy, and Mukku Ugranarasimha Reddy also spoke. Officials from agriculture, horticulture, fisheries, irrigation, and rural water supply presented a PowerPoint on the vision document.

All set for 'Palle Panduga' in 300 panchayats: DC



PNS RAJAHMUNDRY

East Godavari District Collector P Prashanthi has said that all arrangements have been made to organize 'Palle Panduga' programmes under NREGA in 300 village panchayats in the district.

Deputy Chief Minister K Pawan Kalyan held a video conference with the Collectors of all districts on Tuesday and discussed organizing the Palle Panduga in village panchayats.

Speaking on the occasion, Collector Prashanthi said that preparations are being made to the full extent to organize Palle Panduga in East Godavari district from October 14 to 21. She said that the work schedule has been finalized by contacting local Legislators and public representatives and involving them, adding that village meetings were held in the district on August 23 and the works were identified.

"The administrative approval has been given for 999 works related to Panchavati Rai and RWS to be carried out at a cost of Rs.96.71 crore. The technical aspects of the RWS-Drains works have been brought to the attention of the State level officials. The works of 698 CC roads of the Panchayat Raj to be carried out at a cost of Rs 67.73 crore and 301 drainage works of RWS to be carried out at a cost of Rs 28.98 crore and the proposals of the works were prepared," the Collector made it clear.

Durga Devi blesses devout as Sri Maha Lakshmi Silk robes and sare from various temples presented

PNS VIJAYAWADA

During Sarannavaratri celebrations at the Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam atop Indrakeeladri, on Tuesday, a large number of devotees visited the temple to offer prayers to Durga Devi. On the sixth day, Kanaka Durga Devi appeared in the attire of Sri Maha Lakshmi Devi Avataram to give darshan to the devotees.

Keeping with tradition, silk robes and sare from various temples were presented to the goddess during the festival. P Guru Prasada, the Executive Officer, Kanipakam Varasiddhi Vinayaka Swamy Devasthanam from Kanipakam in the Chittoor district offered Silk Robes and Sare to the ornately dressed goddess Sri Maha Lakshmi Devi.

Similarly, Srikalahasti Devasthanam also participated in this ritual, with the temple's Executive Officer Chandrasekhar Azad presenting the silk robes to Kanaka Durga Devi. Also, Puthalapattu MLA Murali Mohan presented silk robes and sare to the presiding deity. Executive Officer KS Rama



Rao welcomed them with temple etiquette.

Following the tradition, this year, the Yanamalakuduru Shiva temple also joined in this sacred offering and presented silk robes to the presiding deity. The group received Prasadam, Seshavastram and a portrait of the goddess as a token of appreciation. Srikalahasti EO Azad mentioned that it has been a longstanding tradition to offer silk clothes to Kanaka Durgamma during the Dasara festivities

Meanwhile, Minister for Revenue, Registration and Stamps Anagani Satya Prasad visited the temple along with his family members. He interacted with the devotees and reviewed the arrangements to ensure a smooth darshan experience for the visiting devotees.

DGP Dwaraka Tirumala Rao and others visited the temple. He emphasised that the Police Department is committed to providing seam-

less access to darshan for the general public. He urged the devotees coming for VIP darshan to follow their allotted time slots to avoid congestion.

goddess and the temple

premises. A large number of

devotees thronged the temple to have a glimpse of decorat-

ing the temple using currency notes worth Rs 3.33 crore.

Temple organizers said that

the currency notes were given by devotees three days before

In the light of the auspicious day of Moola Nakshatram, when the crowd is expected to swell, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu will present silk robes to Durga Devi. In this connection, DGP Dwaraka Tirumala Rao instructed the police to ensure a hassle-free darshan for all devotees. The temple authorities expect more than two to three lakh devotees to visit the temple on the auspicious day.

Minister for Endowments Anam Ramanrayana Reddy, Principal Secretary Satyanarayana, NTR District Collector Dr G Srijana and Police Commissioner SV Rajasekhar Babu inspected the arrangements atop Indrakeeladri and surrounding areas.

On the seventh day, Durga Devi will give darshan in Sri Saraswathi Devi Avataram. Many students will have darshan and temple authorities will allow the devotees to have darshan at

Alleging that lands given by the former Prime Minister, the late Indira Gandhi, to the poor

Kavitha celebrated Bathukamma

but did not protect Amberpet

Bathukamma Kunta Lake: VH

were grabbed by 'Doras' during the BRS government, senior Congress leader V. Hanumantha Rao said that BRS MLC Kavitha played Bathukamma but failed to protect the Amberpet Bathukamma Kunta Lake. Many lakes were encroached on during BRS rule, VH said. He said that BRS leader

Sudhakar Reddy grabbed the Amberpet Bathukamma Kunta Lake in the name of the 'Neeru-Meeru' programme. VH said that he has evidence of the encroachment of the Bathukamma Kunta Lake by Sudhakar Reddy. He demanded that Chief

Minister Revanth Reddy revive Bathukamma Kunta Lake. It is the responsibility of the tival next year.

Congress government, VH said. He demanded that the government should take action against Sudhakar Reddy, who encroached on t Bathukamma Kunta Lake.

Speaking to the media at the Gandhi Bhavan on Tuesday, VH said that one Ahmed Ajam had handed over the Bathukamma Kunta Lake to the government during NTR's rule. He appealed to Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka to visit the Bathukamma Kunta Lake area

VH said that Bathukamma Kuntal Lake is the first lake encroached by BRS leaders and that he will meet the Advocate General and give the evidence regarding Bathukamma Kunta Lake. He requested the Congress government to revive the Bathukamma Kunta Lake the and ensure that women can celebrate the Bathukamma fes-

Man dies in mishap, wife ends life

PNS VIJAYAWADA

A woman has committed suicide unable to bare the news of her husband's death in a road accident on Tuesday in Vijayawada. According to Vijayawada. According to Gunadala Inspector V Srinu, R Nagaraju (27) and Usha (23) were married 18 months ago and are residing in Ajith Singh Nagar. In the wee hours of Tuesday, Nagaraju, who worked as a chef, was returning from the restaurant at Nidamanuru

on his motorcycle and died in a fatal road accident. Police shifted Nagaraju's body to the government hospital and informed his wife Usha.

Usha rushed to the hospital, and on seeing his husband's lifeless body she was incon-solable. After the police took Nagaraju's body for a postmortem, Usha returned home and committed suicide. Family members rushed her to the hospital where the death was confirmed.

Lawyer Sunkara's wife dies in mishap

PNS VIJAYAWADA

In a tragic incident early on Tuesday, Gullapalli Jyotsna, 55, the wife of senior lawyer and Bar Council of Andhra Pradesh member Sunkara Rajendra Prasad, lost her life in a road accident in Ajmer, Rajasthan. Also, another 11 were injured including Sunkara Rajendra Prasad. All injured advocates were rushed to the hospital in Jaipur and they have undergone treatment. The accident occurred when the bus in which they were

travelling collided with a parked truck on the Jodhpur Highway at 4 AM. The impact of the crash proved fatal for Jyotsna. However, the sources added that some of the senior advocates escaped from this accident. The sudden demise of Jyotsna has left her family, friends, and the legal community in shock.

8 kg ganja seized, 10 arrested

PNS MACHILIPATNAM

The police seized 8 kg of ganja and arrested 15 peddlers at Pedaparupudi village. On a tip-off that some people were selling ganja, the police team conducted a raid and arrested the

drug peddlers. The police seized 8 kg of ganja, six mobile phones and a motorcycle from them. Police said that the accused youth brought 10 kg of ganja from Sileru in the ASR district and was selling and consuming

Efforts on to raise Mission LiFE awareness

The Government of India's Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) initiative, the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), under the Ministry of Power, is spearheading efforts to raise awareness campaign in Tirupati. By promoting Mission LiFE's principles in Turupati, BEE aims to inspire both pilgrims and the local

population to adopt environmentally conscious behav-

Media Adviser BEE Chandra Shekhar Reddy said that the issues were among the key topics discussed at the International Conference on Environmental Management (ICEM), organised by the Indian Society of Geomatics (ISG) in collaboration with JNTU Hyderabad. He explained that although BEE will not be implementing specific energy-efficiency measures in Tirupati, the city holds strategic importance for promoting Mission LiFE's objectives due to the sheer volume of devotees visiting daily.

Saying that Tirupati's example could potentially serve as a global model for other pilgrimage centres worldwide, Chandrasekhar Reddy said,

"Tirupati illustrate how largescale events and daily gatherings can be leveraged to promote environmental stewardship. These campaigns are not merely about policy changes, but about transforming mindsets. The aim is to engage the citizens, encouraging them to make simple yet impactful lifestyle changes that contribute to reducing environmental degradation.



ACROSS THE STATES



Govt to set up 10 new ESIC medical colleges

he government will set up 10 new ESIC medical colleges and extend the unemployment allowance scheme for ESI Corporation members until June 2026, the Labour & Employment Ministry said on Tuesday. Labour & Employment Mansukh Mandaviya at a meeting of ESI Corporation here announced several key decisions for further strengthening the infrastructure and medical facilities of ESIC, the ministry said in a release. Mandaviya announced the establishment of 10 New ESIC Medical Colleges across various locations in the country. This decision will support the announcement made by Prime Minister during the independence day (2024) speech of creating new 75000 medical seats in the next 5 years, the ministry said. He has given extension to Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna for a period another two years starting July 1, 2024 upto June 30,2026.



Railways offers Navratri meal at over 150 stations

ndian Railways has launched a special meal at over 150 railway stations for the convenience of passengers travelling during the festive season of Navratri, a press release from the Railway Ministry said. It added, "Passengers can order this delicious Navratri Vrat Special Thali online through mobile app and website." According to the Ministry, while travelling, passengers celebrating Navratri often face various challenges regarding food and drink. To address these issues, Indian Railways has introduced the Navratri Special Thali at over 150 stations. Some of these stations are Mumbai Central, Delhi Junction, Surat, Jaipur, Lucknow, Patna Junction, Ludhiana, Durg, Chennai Central, Secunderabad, Amravati, Hyderabad, Tirupati, Jalandhar City, Udaipur City, Bengaluru Cantt, New Delhi, Thane, Pune. Mangalore Central Station among others.



Odisha enhances gratuity limit to Rs 20 lakh

disha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Tuesday raised the gratuity limit for government employees from Rs 15 lakh to Rs 20 lakh. This raise applies to the Death-Cum-Retirement Gratuity (DCRG) and is effective retroactively from January 1, 2024, for all regular state government employees, according to an official release from the Chief Minister's Office. The decision follows requests from various service associations in the state for an increase in the DCRG ceiling. The move aligns with the central government's recent adjustment to the retirement and death gratuity under the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 2021, which also took effect from January 1, 2024.

India, Argentina conclude productive JC meeting: EAM

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said India and Argentina on Tuesday concluded a "productive and wideranging" Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) here during which the two sides took stock of the bilateral ties in a range of areas.

In his opening remarks, Jaishankar also said he has promised visiting Argentinian Foreign Minister Diana Mondino that he will "reciprocate with an early visit" to her country along with a business delegation.

Jaishankar and Mondino took part in the 7th India-Argentina Joint Commission

At the start of the meeting, the external affairs minister extended a very warm welcome to Mondino.

"I recall our last meeting which was in the beginning of this year, in Munich. And, I am glad yesterday we had an opportunity to actually have, what I thought was, a very practical and useful session with your business delegation. I particularly thank you for bringing them," Jaishankar

Later, in a post on X, he said they also exchanged views on regional and global issues.

"Concluded a productive and wide-ranging 7th India-

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Mondino. "I recall our last meeting which was in the beginning of this year, in Munich. And, I am glad yesterday we had an opportunity to actually have, what I thought was, a very practical and useful session with your business delegation. I particularly thank you for bringing them," Jaishankar said

Argentina JCM along with FM DianaMondino today in New Delhi. Took stock of our bilateral ties including in trade, space, nuclear, railways, agriculture, fisheries, health, AYUSH, people-to-people and defence ties," he said.

"Also exchanged views on

regional and global issues and our cooperation in multilateral fora," the external affairs minister said.

Jaishankar said India was 'very pleased' with her participation at the Voice of the Global South Summit, and "it is something that I appreciate very much".

in his opening reception, he added, "I know you have met a lot of my ministerial col-

ter of satisfaction.'

And, India-Argentina have also marked 75 years of establishment of the diplomatic relations, he said.

"I think economically, trades being good, had a minor dip, but we hope to be back to the levels which we had earlier. And, I promised you yesterday that I will reciprocate with an early visit along with a business delegation," the EAM said.

Today, we do a meeting of our Joint Commission and I think, we look across very wide range of domains. We have colleagues from other ministries who will be supplementing our positions," he

Jaishankar on Monday, along with Mondino and business and industry leaders from Argentina, discussed ways to expand bilateral trade and investment partnership.

He had also shared on X pictures of the Monday meeting in

"Joined Foreign and Trade Minister @DianaMondino for a fruitful meeting with industry and business leaders from Argentina.

Discussed ways to expand our bilateral trade and investment partnership, including in the sectors of energy transition, minerals, health, agri-tech, defence and technology," he wrote in his post on X.

'Can't accept Haryana verdict'

Democracy lost, establishment won: Congress



PNS NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday said it cannot accept the Haryana Assembly polls verdict as there were "serious issues" about the integrity of the counting process and functioning of the EVMs in some districts, and asserted that it would take up the mat-ter with the Election Commission.

Alleging a conspiracy, the opposition party said that in Haryana "democracy had lost and establishment had won".

"Serious questions have been raised by our candidates. We will bring it to the notice of the Commission," Election Congress general secretary incharge communications Jairam Ramesh said at a press conference with AICC media and publicity department head Pawan Khera.

"What we have seen today in Haryana is a victory of manipulation and subverting the will of the people. It is a defeat of transparent, democratic processes. The chapter on Haryana is not complete, it will continue," he said.

Ramesh said the results in Haryana are "totally unexpected, completely surprising and counterintuitive". They go against ground reality, against what the people of Haryana had made their mind up for which was for change and transforma-tion, he added.

Khera alleged that complaints had been received from Hisar, Mahendragarh and Panipat that there were electronic voting machines (EVMs) with 99 per cent battery on which the BIP won while units with 60-70 per cent battery saw the Congress

Gross enrolments under Atal Pension Yojana cross 7 cr mark

PNS NEW DELHI

The gross enrolments under the Atal Pension Yojana have crossed the 7 crore mark, the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority said on Tuesday.

This is the 10th year of the rollout of the Atal Pension Yojana (APY).

The scheme was launched on May 9, 2015, to create a universal social security sys-

tem for all Indians, especially the poor, underprivileged and workers in the unorgan-

The total gross enrolments under the scheme have crossed 7 crore, with an enrolment of over 56 lakh members in the current financial year 2024-25, the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) said in a state-



Haryana polls outcome will boost **BJP morale in Maha: Analysts**

PNS MUMBAI

The Haryana victory will be a morale booster for the BJP and increase its bargaining power in the Mahayuti's seat-sharing talks for the upcoming Maharashtra assembly elections, according to political analysts.

Conversely, the Congress, which had won the maximum number of constituencies during Lok Sabha polls in Maharashtra, may lose the edge in Maha Vikas Aghadi's seat-sharing deliberations.

The BIP coasted towards a

hat-trick win with its biggest tally in Haryana and the National Conference-Congress combine was set to form government in Jammu and Kashmir, voters in both places giving the victors a decisive edge as counting day progressed with many a sur-

prise on Tuesday.

"During the seat-sharing talks (of the ruling Mahayuti in Maharashtra), the BJP was initially criticised for its poor performance in the Lok Sabha elections (held earlier this year)," said political analyst Abhay Deshpande.

Democracy revived in J-K: Amit Shah

PNS NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said democracy has been revived in Jammu and Kashmir with the successful conduct of "transparent and peaceful" assembly elections in the Union Territory, as promised by Prime Minister Narendra

Reacting to the results of the Haryana assembly polls, Shah said the massive victory of the

BJP in the state is a victory of the unwavering faith of farmers, poor, backward, soldiers and youth in the BJP government led by Prime Minister Modi and a rejection of the "negative and divisive politics" of the Congress.

Congratulating people of J&K for their participation in the polls, Shah said for the first time since the advent of terrorism in the 1980s, the people of the Union Territory witnessed such a "transparent and peace-



ful" election and participated in

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir remember the 1987 assembly elections very well, when the Congress made a mockery of democracy by openly rigging the elections. Democracy has now been revived in the same Kashmir valley," he said in a series of post on X in Hindi. Shah said Prime Minister Modi had promised the people of the country that peaceful and fair elections will be conducted in

Humsafar Policy to provide essential facilities on national highways: Gadkari

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday launched the 'Humsafar Policy' to provide essential facilities like clean toilets and baby care rooms along the country's national highways network.

The Humsafar Policy will see the introduction of facilities, such as clean toilets, baby care rooms, provisions for wheelchairs, EV charging stations, parking spaces, and dormitory services at fuel stations, according to a statement.

The policy will also offer a convenient, safe, and enjoyable experience for highway users while empowering entrepreneurs, generating jobs, and enhancing livelihoods for service providers, the statement said.

Addressing the launch cere-mony, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Gadkari said the Humsafar brand will become synonymous with utmost safety and comfort



Addressing the launch ceremony, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Gadkari said the Humsafar brand will become synonymous with utmost safety and comfort for travellers and drivers along the nation's world-class highway network.

for travellers and drivers along the nation's world-class highway network.

"If one is collecting the toll, then one has to ensure the safe-

ty and comfort of travellers," Gadkari said. He also emphasised the need to deliver high-quality and standardised services across the national highways.

Gadkari said local marginal sections of the society will benefit from this initiative.

He underscored that this scheme will help the facilitation

journey for users. It will be environment friend-

ly and has been prepared to keep the ecology and cleanliness in perspective, the minister said. He also said that water conservation, soil conservation,

waste recycling, and solar energy, among others, have been kept in mind while formulating this The minister asked petrol

pump owners alongside national highways to ensure basic amenities at the petrol pump as per norms. He said it is mandatory for

petrol pumps along the highways to keep the washroom clean and also open for public

"I have seen that at many petrol pumps, the washrooms are locked. It is mandatory for petrol pumps on highways to keep washrooms clean and open for public use. Failure to do so can lead to closure of petrol pumps," he added.

FOR WEIGHT LOSS

Breakfasts should be high-carb for men, high-fat for women

PNS NEW DELHI

For losing weight, breakfasts should be high-carb for men and high-fat for women, suggested researchers, who created mathematical models depicting men's and women's

metabolisms. They showed that metabolic processes in men responded better to a meal high on carbohydrates like oats and grains, while those in women responded better to a meal high on fat such as omelettes and avoca-

While men are known to derive energy from metabolism of carbohydrates, women are known to obtain energy from metabolism of fat, resulting in significant sex-specific differences across metabolic states such as fasting and feeding.

"Since women have more body fat on average than men, you would think that they would burn less fat for energy, but they don't," said Anita Layton, a professor of applied mathematics, University of Waterloo, Canada, and coauthor of the study published in the journal Computers in

Biology and Medicine. "The results of the model suggest that women store more fat immediately after a meal but also burn more fat during a fast," Lavton said.

For their analysis, the researchers used techniques of computational biology -- it makes use of computers and statistics to understand biolog-

ical systems. The team created a model depicting human food intake and comprising varied parts of



one's body -- adipose tissue (body tissue containing stored fat) and organs such as liver,

heart and brain. They also modelled the short-term fasting.

metabolic response to consuming meals containing both carbohydrates and fat immediately after eating and during

The model was tailored to represent the metabolic state of a healthy young adult man or

The model's predictions of

sex-specific differences in metabolism were more pronounced during short-term fasting, the researchers said.

Further, the increased reliance of women on burning fat comes from sex-specific differences in liver and adipose tissue, they added.

Specifically, they found that a woman's liver diverts more glycerol (formed from burning fat) than a man's liver towards gluconeogenesis -- a metabolic process that produces glucose from non-carbohydrate sources, such as glycerol, and vital for maintaining blood

sugar levels.
"Whether attempting to lose weight, maintain weight, or just keep up your energy, understanding your diet's impact on your metabolism is important," Layton said.

AAP fails to make mark in Haryana, draws a blank

PNS CHANDIGARH

The Haryana Assembly poll outcome has come as a blow to the Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which hoped to make a mark in the

The party drew a blank so far with its senior vice president of the state unit Anurag Dhanda is among those set to suffer a big defeat. Dhanda, who contested from the Kalayat seat in the Kaithal district, was at the seventh position with Congress' Vikas Saharan leading by a

margin of 13,419 votes. No AAP nominee was in the contest in any of the 90 assem-

bly seats, as per the ECI data. AAP, which has governments in Delhi and Punjab, did not have any electoral success in the Lok Sabha polls earlier this year.

AAP contested the assembly



polls solo after talks with the Congress for stitching an alliance could not fructify. During his poll campaigns,

party national convener Arvind Kejriwal said that had he been released from jail three to four months back, his party would have formed its government in the state after the polls. Whatever government is formed in Haryana, it will be formed with the support of the Aam Aadmi Party," he claimed.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

One year of Gaza war

With no clear end in sight, the war in Gaza risks becoming a protracted conflict that destabilises the entire West Asia

s the Gaza war enters its second year, the devastation continues to deepen, turning a political and military confrontation into a full-blown humanitarian crisis. The conflict, which began as a violent flare-up between Israel and Palestinian militants, has now drawn in regional players like Lebanon and Iran, making the prospects for peace even more elusive. The war's impact has rippled across borders, leaving countless civilians trapped in a spiral of violence, displacement and suffering. One year into the war, Gaza's population bears the brunt of the ongoing violence. Entire neighbourhoods have been reduced to rubble, essential infrastructure is in ruins, and thousands of lives have been lost. With over two million people crammed into a strip of land roughly 140 square miles, Gaza was already grappling with poverty, unemployment and limited access to basic services. The war has exacerbated these challenges to catastrophic levels. Hospitals are overwhelmed, clean water is scarce and electricity is available for just a few hours



a day. The United Nations has described the situation as a humanitarian disaster. Around half of Gaza's population is now displaced, living in overcrowded shelters or temporary camps, with limited access to aid. The ongoing blockade of the strip has further restricted the entry of essential supplies, worsening the plight of ordinary citizens. Children, in particular, are facing the harshest consequences, with many losing access to education and mental health support, which adds another layer to the enduring trauma of the war.

What began as a localised conflict between Israel and Hamas has now escalated into a broader regional confrontation, with Lebanon's Hezbollah and Iran's proxy

forces becoming increasingly involved. Hezbollah, the powerful Shia militant group based in Lebanon, has launched attacks on northern Israel, adding a new front to the war. This has drawn in Israeli forces, threatening to destabilise Lebanon, a country already grappling with its own internal crises. Iran's involvement, through its support of Hezbollah and various Palestinian factions, has further complicated the conflict. Tehran's backing of these groups is part of a broader regional strategy, aimed at countering Israeli and the US influence in the West Asia. As Iran's involvement grows, so does the risk of a wider regional war. The US and other global powers have expressed concern over the possibility of an all-out confrontation between Israel and Iran. Diplomatic efforts have been ineffective so far, with talks breaking down repeatedly. The involvement of Hezbollah and Iran signals that the war is no longer confined to Israel and Gaza but is part of a larger geopolitical struggle, further complicating any peace process. In Gaza, the humanitarian situation will continue to deteriorate unless there is an immediate intervention. The conflict has reached a point where military solutions alone cannot resolve the underlying issues. The time is running out, the UN must intervene to avert a crisis that could snowball into a regional catastrophe.



Devotees carry an idol of Goddess Durga to a puja venue, in Nadia

Sports: A catalyst for social change and unity



Sports have long transcended mere competition, emerging as a profound social force capable of uniting diverse communities and inspiring meaningful change

THE 1971 'PING-

BETWEEN THE

UNITED STATES

AND CHINA IS A

PRIME EXAMPLE,

WHERE A SIMPLE

MATCH OPENED THE

TABLE TENNIS

DOORS TO

RELATIONS

BETWEEN TWO

SUPERPOWERS

PONG DIPLOMACY'

elson Mandela, a Black nationalist and the first Black president of South Africa, once asserted, "Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It is more powerful than governments in breaking down racial barriers. It laughs in the face of all types of discrimination." This sentiment underscores the profound influence sports can have on society.

Recently, Indian shooter Manu Bhaker, the first female athlete from her country to win an Olympic medal in shooting, echoed this sentiment, emphasising that one does not have to pursue conventional careers like medicine or engineering. She expressed that "sports life is a beautiful life," showcasing how sports can be a fulfilling and empowering path. The release of the Ga-Mashie Boxing Heritage photobook and video in Ghana ighlights the socio-cultural dimensions of sports, suggesting that these occurrences should not be viewed in isolation but rather as part of a broader sociological and anthropological landscape. Throughout history, from ancient traditions to contemporary contexts, sports have blurred the lines between sociology and anthropology, influencing everything from local culture to global events.

Breaking Down Barriers Sports possess a unique ability to dismantle barriers related to race, gender and disability. Historically, they have served as a battleground for challenging exclusionary practices and promoting inclusivity. In ancient Greece, for instance, Spartan girls participated in physical training and competed in sports, an early testament to gender equality in athletics. Ghana, renowned for producing worldclass boxers, has long viewed the sport as a symbol of hope and resilience.

often signified broader societal changes. A landmark moment in American history was Jackie Robinson's breaking of Major League Baseball's colour barrier in 1947. His courage in facing racial hostility while excelling on

the field not only inspired future generations of athletes but also set the stage for the Civil Rights Movement.

Catalyst for Social Change Beyond unification, sports have historically acted as powerful catalysts for social change. Athletes often leverage their platforms to advocate for justice and equality, using their visibility to challenge societal norms and highlight injustices. The Paralympic Games, which began in 1960, have been instrumental in promoting inclusion and accessibility for athletes with disabilities.

Sports icons like Muhammad Ali, Jackie Robinson, and Billie Jean King have used their influence to push for racial and gender equality. Ali's refusal to be drafted into the Vietnam War due to his opposition to racial injustice is one of the most significant acts of protest in sports history. The 1968 Olympics in Mexico City became a global stage for protest when American sprinters Tommie Smith and John Carlos raised their fists in a Black Power salute during the medal ceremony, drawing attention to the struggles of African Americans and other marginalised groups.

Moreover, sports diplomacy has been a strategy for nations to ease tensions. A notable example is the 1971 "Ping-Pong Diplomacy" between the United States and China, where a simple table tennis match opened the door to diplomatic relations between

the two superpowers.

Community Development Sports play a crucial role in community development, especially in underserved areas. Youth sports programmes provide numerous benefits, including improved physical health, enhanced social skills, and academic achievement. For many, these programmes serve as a safe haven, offering structure, mentorship, and opportunities that might otherwise be unavailable. At the community level, sports unite people around common goals. Local teams often foster a sense of pride and identity, bringing communities together to support their athletes. This sense of unity not only strengthens social bonds but also helps reduce crime rates and enhance communi-

Cultural Dimensions of

ty cohesion.

The sociological and anthropological impact of sports is undeniable. In India, for instance, sports reflect a complex interplay of caste, community, gender, and sexuality. Historical traditions such as Mallakhamb', an ancient Indian martial art that blends yoga and exercise, illustrate how sports can embody cultural heritage. Similarly, tradi-tional games like 'Kabaddi' in Odisha and 'Jallikattu' in Tamil Nadu showcase the socio-cultural significance of sports in various regions.

Sports events and local traditions can serve as powerful

E EDITO

tools for social change, transforming communities and promoting inclusivity. The 1995 Rugby World Cup in South Africa is a prominent example, where sports helped bridge the divide between black and white South Africans during Mandela's presidency.

A Continuing Legacy

The stories of athletes who have championed justice, the communities transformed by sports initiatives, and the barriers dismantled through athletic achievement illustrate the transformative power of sports. The recent resurgence of movements like Black Lives Matter has reemphasised the social power of sports. Athletes across various leagues have taken stands against racial injustice, using actions like taking a knee during the national anthem to raise awareness. Major sports organisations have embraced these movements, reflecting a growing recognition of the role sports play in advancing social justice. As we look to the future, it is evident that sports will continue to be a powerful force for good, uniting people, inspiring change, and contributing to a better world. The power of sports to foster connection and dvocate for justice is more important than ever.

(The writer is associate professor and head, Journalism and Mass Communication. Rama Devi Women's University, Bhubaneswar; viéws are personal)

The rich heritage of Indian astrology and its global Influences



Indian astrology, deeply rooted in the Vedic traditions, has a history that intertwines spirituality, mathematics and cosmic wisdom

→ ndian astrology has a long and rich history. It all starts with the Vedas. The Yaga rituals prescribed in the Rigveda demanded accuracy in all respects. The Yagasalai — the tent where the rituals are performed — had to be built with precise measurements. The means and methods to compute these measurements later evolved into Vastu or Indian architecture. The Yaga rituals were to begin at an auspicious time, when planetary positions aligned in a certain order.

The methods to compute such auspicious times -Muhurta, in Sanskrit — paved the way to the development of astronomy and astrology in India.Indian astronomy has a long and strong association with scholars from the other civilisations. ancient Suryasiddhanta, one of the ancient Indian treatises on astronomy, begins with the author's prayer to the Sun God asking Him to reveal the secrets of the universe. The Sun God then appears and advises the seeker to go and meet Turamaya in the Romaka country to learn more about cosmological systems and their calculations.



Experts in the field, including Dr Ebenezer Burgess who translated the text to English, opine that Turamaya mentioned in the text is the great astronomer Ptolemy, and Romaka stands for Roman Egypt. Indian predictive astrology too has a strong bond with Greece. One of the very first texts on predictive astrology, which is still widely used by Indian astrologers, is the Yavana-Jataka, or the Greek Horoscopy, authored Sphujiddhvaja

Yavaneswara. The word Yavana derives from Ionian, and broadly means Greece. Another text of the same lineage is the Vruddha-Yavana-Jataka, or the Great Greek Horoscopy. The ancient astrological texts often mention the Greek astrologers and astronomers with reverence and respect. Indian astrology made its mark through Varahamihira, who is considered as the fore-

most authority of ancient times. His text, the Horasastra oped their own system of is the most widely used astrological text. Varahamihira method of predicting the was a Maga-Brahmin, Priestly class of Hindus who wor-shipped Sun. It should be Ashtamangala Prashna. In the field of Mathematics, the noted that his book on the lives of philosophers, Diogenes Laertius writes that the great Democritus learned from Magi-Priests. This could be the class of Varahamihira. It should be noted that Varahamihira was also a great mathematician and an astronomer who authored detailed treatises on these subjects. Indian kings and the elite class had their own team of astrologers, who advised them on the military strategies. Astrology was one of the chief components of Indian knowledge system and was metaphorically mentioned as the eye of the Veda. Under this branch, many subjects developed including astronomy and mathematics. Later, when the Mughal invaders tried to attack this knowledge system in the northern part of India, the center of Indian

intellectual debates and stud-

ies shifted to the south of

India. Astrology to Mathematics thrived in south

oped their own system of horary astrology, a detailed future, and named it Madhava of Samgamagrama independently discovered Infinite Series for the Trigonometric Functions, which is known today as the "Madhava-Gregory-Leibniz Series."India and Indian Astrology contributed heavily towards the development of science specifically in the fields of astronomy, astrology, and

mathematics. We always appreciated and respected scholars from civilisations and cultures foreign to us too. In the Veda, there is a line "Yatra Viswam Bhavatyeka Needam" which means, here the world becomes a single nest. In the arena of knowledge systems, we lived up to it. The world was a single and simple nest to us. Many birds, scholars and intellectuals, from many trees, many countries, resided in that nest harmoniously.

(The writer is a vedic scholar based in Kerala; views are personal)

IS 'MAKE IN INDIA' JUST A SLOGAN

Madam —This refers to the write-up on Make in India (October 7). Make in India is more a slogan than a solution. This is because the investments made in the production sector come from FDIs, FIIs or FPIs which are basically known as butterfly capital that tend to fly away anytime for little more benefit offered elsewhere. They are coming in without any conditionality like increasing employment, exports, or tax income. China utilised the system of foreign capital coming into China by imposing conditions like employing the locals, ensuring exports, bringing in new technology, etc.

With such conditions, the country could transform itself from Make in China to Made in China and is able to threaten even the most advanced economies. The Indian model is functioning under 'Ease of doing business' where land, power, tax benefits and cheap labour are offered with the least monitoring, control or regulatory system in vogue or muted. The example of Samsung is to explain this. The management is facing a prolonged strike by the workers on basic demands like a hike in wage and the right to form a union of their choice. The government is neither able to convince the management nor compel them to respect the law of the land. All under the fear of losing future investments. Therefore, Make in India is a slogan but not a solution, as even after some decades the country will have no scope under the present system to transform to Make in India.

AG Rajmohan | Anantapur

OBAMA BACKS KAMALA HARRIS

Madam — That former President of the United States (US), Barack Obama, is all set to undertake a 27-day campaign for Democratic Party presidential candidate Kamala Harris should be music to the latter's ears. Obama came to power in 2009 with high expectations, riding on the catchy "yes, we can" slogan, and

Antarctica turning green



mages of some regions of Antarctica's ice landscape turning green definite-Lly ring as an alarm bell to the whole globe and give a grim message alerting mankind to watch where we are heading to. This dramatic transformation, with its icy landscape increasingly turning green, reveals that the rate of this change has accelerated by over 30 per cent in recent

ruled the fortunes of his country for eight good years. To prevail against the maverick Donald Trump, Kamala Harris would require Obama's sage counsel. Kamala Harris and Obama have known each other for over two decades, and it was she who endorsed Obama for president in 2009.

The Democratic campaign is now "all hands on deck," and beginning from Pennsylvania, where Obama has a huge clout could push Kamala Harris ahead, although, as Obama himself has admitted, it's going to be a "fight." Local galvanisation of supporters cannot be more crucial and relevant under the circumstances. Kamala Harris has hired some key aides of Obama who helped him in his campaign. Obama knows stakes are very high in this election. He also knows another Trump era could spell disaster for the US in many ways. Can the "mentor" swing the votes for his "pupil"? The answer may decide whether or not Kamala Harris will take over as

the 47th US President. Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

years. Scientists and environmentalists say that this "greening" of the Antarctic Peninsula, highlights the urgent consequences of a warming period and the tenfold rise underscores the significant

impact of climate change. A study made between 1986 and 2021 by researchers has revealed that an increase in the vegetation cover across the Antarctic Peninsula has soared from less than one square kilometre to nearly 12 square kilometres within a period of 35 years, which according to the global clock is a short period. Global players, heads and the whole global community must come together and chalk out urgent measures to check this because if this is kept unchecked and ignored it will only end up in disaster resulting in an apocalypse. M Pradyu | Kannur

STAMPEDE AT AIR SHOW

Madam — Stampede is an expected incident in mass gatherings. The Air show at Marina Beach was a muchawaited event for the nation to inspire youth to be a part of the armed forces. Events like this must be planned meticulously by the state government to create an enthusiasm amongst the youth to be a part of the armed forces. Unfortunately, the stampede and deaths of five civilians during the show have left a void in the magnificent showcase of

Indian Air Force power. Hopefully the venue, climatic condition and safety of the viewers are kept in mind while the state government plans such brilliant airshows. The magnitude of the event was such that the roaring Chennai shore saw the best of the showcase by the air warriors and the applause by the audience was one of immense

Mythili Vinod | Secunderabad

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FIRST COLUMN

NAVIGATING THE WORLD OF EXTREMES

Yoga meditation, combined with values, is our best hope for navigating these turbulent times



RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR NIKUNJ JI

The world we live in today is full of extremists who seek to exert control over humanity. Unfortunately, a large part of the population is now influenced by factions that adopt agitative approaches to fulfil their social, economic, political, or religious demands. They are termed extremists because they abandon moderation, resorting to overactivism, and in many cases, extreme violence. These groups are willing to go to any lengths to ensure their voices are heard and their demands met by the authorities. They disrupt public peace, and their activities reflect over-assertiveness, rigid attitudes, and a lack of appreciation for the views and interests of other communities or groups. In the process, what often gets sacrificed is any possibility of dialogue or mutual understanding, leading to a cycle of retaliation and resentment.

A closer look at society today reveals that, to some extent, we are all extremists in one way or another. Science and technology are racing toward their extremes. Trade, commerce, and consumerism have adopted a global, expansive form, becoming multinational and mega-scale. The world's largest corporations have achieved levels of influence and control that were once unimaginable. Corporate expansion and monopolistic behaviour continue to push the boundaries of ethics, often leaving smaller businesses struggling to survive.

Environmental pollution has reached disastrous proportions due to unchecked industrial expansion and the selfishness of a few. Entire ecosystems are being pushed to the brink, and climate change is now a pressing global crisis. A small number of individuals and corporations continue to profit at the expense of the planet's future. The increasing use of the internet is contributing to an overwhelming flood of information.



The rapid expansion of cities and transportation networks, have also brought their share of chaos. While these extremes might be seen as signs of development, they come with significant trade-offs, including the erosion of quality of life, mental well-being, and social cohesion. However, amidst all these extremes, the most concerning trend is the rise of anger, jealousy, hatred, violence, greed, and lust. These emotions are spinning out of control, leading to a breakdown in family structures and social harmony. Consumerism, commercialism, and materialism are snaping the very fabric of society, convincing people that their worth is tied to what they own rather than who they are. This pursuit of material success has left many spiritually impoverished, disconnected from their inner selves, and chasing superficial goals that do little to provide

The current trends give us cause for concern, as we witness increasing divisions, social unrest, and the degradation of our environment. The question now becomes: how long can we continue down this path before we reach a breaking point? In such times, when self-control and moderation have all but vanished, and extremism has become the norm, we must learn how to restore our inner calm and balance. Yoga meditation, combined with values, is our best hope for navigating these turbulent times. Meditation can help us return to a state of self-control, calmness, and equilibrium. It purifies the mind and quenches our deep thirst for peace. Through meditation and the cultivation of moral and spiritual values, individuals can learn to be fully engaged in life yet detached from material cravings. They can contribute to the world without succumbing to greed and excess, achieving a balance between material success and spiritual well-being. So, let us make yoga and meditation a daily practice, not just for physical health but to combat the extremism we face within ourselves and in the world around us. Only through this inner journey can we reclaim the purity and peace that seem so elusive in today's fast-paced, hyper-connected world.

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

Ten years of Swachh Bharat: The road ahead-



From improved groundwater quality to managing solid and liquid waste, the mission's impact has been substantial, but the journey towards a cleaner India must continue



wachh Bharat Abhiyan was launched by PM Narendra Modi on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti in 2014. The mission has completed ten years and during this period 120 million families have been provided access to safe sanitation at their homes. The rural household latrines have transformed the lives of the masses, especially about human health and well-being. It has cut open defeca-tion and UNICEF's report in 2018 indi-cates that there is a saving of 5.2 per cent of GDP in a year on this count. The other observed benefits are preventing pollution of groundwater, less infant mortality and better attendance for girl children in schools. Though nearly 4000 cities are certified to have maintained hygiene and cleanliness, the challenge for users and managers is to keep it all functional and used contin-

The golden decade of Indian sanitation is being celebrated this year starting from 17th September 2024 (PM's birthday) to 2nd October 2024, Gandhi Jayanti. Let me examine in this piece as to what are the hits and misses of the mission and also indicate the possible roadmap for the future. Civic agencies and local bodies have done their bit for the success of the mission. The annual ranking of city corporations on this front has made them highly competitive. Cities like Indore, Mysuru and Lucknow and several others have secured high ranks, which has induced other city corporations to do more work for better ranks. The segregation of solid wastes into wet and dry has taken a big leap. The processing of urban wastes which used to be 18 per cent in 2014 has gone up to 80 per cent today. The management of solid waste disposal sites has remained a challenge. The generation of electricity and biofuel from dry wastes has not picked up as yet. However, use of the wet wastes to generate compost and biogas is relatively better performing. More innovation, use of technolo-



INTRODUCTION IN TRAINS HAS THE PLATFORMS USED TO BE FILLED WITH HUMAN EXCRETA, A REPULSIVE SITE THAT NO ONE LIKES TO LOOK AT. THIS HAS BEEN OVERCOME THROUGH WONDERFUL INNOVATION

gy and investment can be a game changer. The bigger problem is the management of nearly 220 million tonnes of waste in the landfills around many cities. Mountains of garbage at Ghazipur, Okhala, Bhalswa and Bandhwari in and around the national capital have been engaging the attention of garbage at ing the attention of governments, THE experts and Courts for quite some time, but no workable solution has been found.

OF BIO-LATRINES problem. The civic agencies allowing sewage to flow through open drains have to ensure that BEEN QUITE A all such drains are concealed, lest REVOLUTION. the sewage mixes with the flood water and can find its way into BEFORE 2014 urban water bodies. Further, the sewer lines carrying household TRAIN TRACKS sewage and the soak pits are to be periodically checked and repaired EVEN ABETTING so that no leakage takes place and underground aquifers are not contaminated. A sewage treatment plant (STP) provided at the inlet point of a water body should be functional and no untreated sewage should be allowed to ingress into the water body without treatment. Local bodies and municipalities must ensure that individual houses do not connect their sewer line to stormwater drains, which often happens in thickly populated slums. The water flowing in stormwater drains ends up in the water body directly without going through any treatment. The mixing of sewage in the stormwater drains can be quite harmful and must be prevented at all costs. Bengaluru's city corporation used to generate 1400 Million litres per day (MLD) of sewage in 2005-06 and 2006-07, however, less than 400 MLD used to go through STP. Going through STP does not mean that

often the managers of STP switched off power mischievously to save on cost. At present 1700 MLD sewage is generated, and nearly three-quarters of it goes through STP. The story in other metropolitan cities is similar. STP capacity has to be increased across the country to prevent the contamination of groundwater, which is otherwise the source of many water-borne diseases. Further, there should be stricter vigilance on the management so that these do not malfunction. Plastics and polythene have become the parts of our lives.
It has its share of impacting our health and also that of wild animals and livestock. Especially single-use plastics are thrown haphazardly and find their way either into the mountain of garbage or into the water bodies. It is also directly consumed by livestock, wild animals as well as aquatic life, some of which suffocate and die. Imagine fishes feeding on it and our non-vegetarian friends relishing fishes. Microplastics are in all our blood and are a very big health hazard. The introduction of bio-latrines in trains has been quite a revolution. Before 2014 train tracks even abetting the platforms used to be filled with human excreta, a repulsive site that no one likes to look at. This has been overcome through wonderful innovation. However, as the trains pass

through the outskirts of big cities,

the dumps containing plastics and

polythene are seen on either side.

It is often very painful to watch.

We need to make changes in our

behaviour and ensure that the

uses are brought to a minimum.

We must honour the ban on sin-

gle-use plastics imposed by the

the said quantity was treated;

central government. Education and awareness campaigns must be run this fortnight when we are celebrating the golden decade of Indian sanitation. Burning of debris is often found to be an easy method in the dry season to get rid of weeds and garbage. Punjab and Haryana farmers after harvesting the paddy are in the habit of burning the stubble to prepare the field for growing wheat. Unfortunately, the season of stubble burning coincides with a weather system that has practically no vertical circulation of air and oxides of nitrogen and carbon emitted during burning do not escape into the upper atmosphere resulting in smog all around big cities.

This causes difficulties in breathing and is a serious health hazard for the citizens. Most aware citizens have been preventing any burning of weeds and garbage in their neighbourhood. This fortnight provides an opportunity to conduct many education and awareness campaigns. When plastics and polythene are burnt along with garbage and weeds, more obnoxious gases are emitted and it may be very difficult to stay around. All such emissions are greenhouse gases and find a place in the upper atmosphere when the weather pattern Is favourable. Among these gases, carbon dioxide is a nonreactive compound and it stays in the atmosphere for hundreds of years. It accelerates the temperature rise. We are already facing adverse consequences in the warming world. We must bring changes in our behaviour.

(The writer is Retired Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Head of Forest Force, Karnataka; views are personal)

How shared decision-making and digital solutions are transforming healthcare

Digital innovations like the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission offer hope for improving communication and fostering patient autonomy in healthcare decisions

n the evolving landscape of healthcare, patient satis-I faction and engagement as equal partners in their care journey have become pivotal. The quality of the patient experience—how well they feel cared for—greatly influences their perception of healthcare services. Many countries, such as the United Kingdom and Australia, have recognised this and introduced standards that emphasize active patient involvement to improve care outcomes. Shared decision-making (SDM) has gained significant global traction as a means to promote patient autonomy and foster truly patient-centered care.

Promoting Patient Autonomy: Shared decisionmaking is a collaborative



process where patients and healthcare professionals work together to make informed decisions about treatment plans. This collaboration spans various aspects, from immediate treatment needs to longterm care plans, such as advance care planning. Healthcare providers play a crucial role in facilitating this process by offering clear infor-

deliberation, empowering er recovery from illness or individuals to make decisions based on their preferences, values, and informed consent. Engaging patients in the decision-making process is essential to improving healthcare outcomes and experiences. When patients are confident and well-informed, they are more likely to choose treatments that align with their personal beliefs and preferences. This also increases health literacy, leading to better longterm decisions and greater satisfaction. Active patient participation can result in faster recovery times, reduced anxiety, and improved adherence to treatment plans. Patients who are actively involved in their care tend to have better outcomes, including improved mation and supporting patient overall well-being and quick-

surgery.

Moreover, patients who feel respected and valued in the decision-making process tend to develop stronger relationships with their healthcare providers. This trust benefits both the patient and the provider, often leading to better treatment outcomes and reducing the risk of medical litigation. In today's healthcare environment, where patientcentered care is increasingly prioritized, the active participation of patients is key to achieving meaningful and lasting improvements. From a business perspective, higher patient satisfaction can lead to more returning patients, better reviews, and an increase in foot traffic for healthcare Challenges of Patient Engagement in India:

In India, the desire for more patient involvement in healthcare decisions is growing, but significant barriers remain. Many patients report feeling inadequately informed about treatment plans even after consenting to surgery, often seeking external sources of information. A study conducted at a tertiary hospital revealed that although all patients were aware of their diagnosis, less than one-third knew about the risks of their treatment or alternative options. Consequently, many sought answers outside their treating doctor, demonstrating a gap in communication between patients and

providers. Patient involvement in treat-

ment decisions is largely limited to high-end healthcare institutions such as tertiary care centers, academic hospitals, or high-cost therapies. Overworked clinical staff in India often lack the time to engage patients meaningfully in the decision-making

Leveraging Digital Solutions for Better Patient Care: Digital technologies offer significant hope for improving patient engagement. These innovations enhance patient deliberation, promote selfresponsibility, and strengthen patient-provider interactions. For resource-limited, overburdened healthcare systems like India's, digital solutions can save clinicians' time while boosting patient engagement, making them especially suit-

able for low-resource environments.

India's Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) aims to create an interoperable ecosystem that engages all healthcare stakeholders, providing tools to promote patient autonomy and facilitate patient-centered care.

The convergence of global discourse, national policies, rising patient demand for participation, and available digital solutions presents an excellent opportunity to mainstream this approach across India.

One of the significant ways digital solutions enhance patient engagement is by providing patients with access to comprehensive health records. When patients have control over their health information,

they can make better-informed decisions, improving their involvement in the care process. For clinicians, access to long-term records enables more personalized treatment

Through the ABDM, patient records are linked by a unique 14-digit Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA), ensuring that all health datafrom diagnostics to treatment histories—are stored in one place. This enables providers to help patients make informed decisions based on accurate, comprehensive histories, while patients can participate activey by accessing their records at

(The writer is Founder & Director - Ujala Cygnus Healthcare Services; views are

IN BRIEF



Gold retreats from record level amid weak global trend

old prices retreated from record high in the national capital on Tuesday, plunging Rs 400 to Rs 78,300 per 10 grams following fresh selling by stockists triggered by a bearish trend in the global markets. The precious metal had closed at an all-time level of Rs 78,700 per 10 grams on Monday, according to the All India Sarafa Association. Silver, however, remained flat at Rs 94,000 per kg due to profit booking after the white metal traded lower in the overseas markets. Additionally, gold of 99.5 per cent purity also pulled back from its record level and slumped Rs 400 to Rs 77,900 per 10 grams. It ended at Rs 78,300 per 10 grams in the previous close on Monday. Traders attributed the fall in yellow metal prices due to lacklustre demand from local jewellers amid a weak trend in the global markets.



Rupee rises 4 paise to 83.96 against US dollar

he rupee rose 4 paise to close at 83.96 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, tracking a recovery in I the domestic equity markets after six consecutive sessions of free fall. A weakening dollar against international currencies further boosted the domestic unit, forex traders said, but added that a rise in crude oil prices and increased foreign fund outflows capped sharper gains. Some experts said the markets rebounded following the BJP's victory in the Haryana assembly elections, which in turn helped the rupee. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 83.97 against the greenback and traded in the range of 83.92-83.97 during the day. It settled at 83.96 (provisional) against the US dollar, 4 paise higher than its Monday's close



Amneal Pharmaceuticals to invest up to \$200 mn

S-based Amneal Pharmaceuticals on Tuesday said it will invest up to \$200 million (nearly Rs 1,680 crore) n India over the next four to five years to build two new manufacturing facilities in Ahmedabad. Of two greenfield facilities planned, one will be for peptide synthesis and one for advanced sterile fill-finish manufacturing, the company said in a statement. "In this latest expansion in India, Amneal will make a total net investment of between \$150 million and \$200 million over the next four to five years to build two new greenfield facilities...." it said. Commenting on the development. Amneal Pharmaceuticals Co-Founders and Co-Chief Executive Officers Chirag Patel and Chintu Patel said, "With these new facilities, we are proud to be at the forefront of developing and manufacturing innovative, branded medicines at scale in India, which will supply the local market and the rest of the world."

No need for panic, enough oil available in the world

Puri on impact of war on oil

PNS NEW DELHI

India will be able to navigate through any oil supply shock that may result from the potential widening of the con-flict in the Middle East, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Tuesday.

International oil prices have flared to near USD 79 per bar-rel from about USD 70 per barrel in just over a week's time, as the market waited to see if Israel would retaliate against Iran for the October 1 missile attack.

"There is no cause for panic," Puri said. "More than enough oil is available in the

While India, the world's third largest oil importing and consuming nation, is more than 85 per cent dependent on imports to meet its crude oil needs, the situation is "manageable", he said. There is no need for concern."

'We are pretty confident we will be able to navigate as we had done in the past," he said. This is primarily because the market is awash with oil

supplies and if some parties hold back production or there are supply issues, there are new suppliers in the market to fill in the void.

"More than enough oil is coming into the market," he said at the FT's Energy Transition Summit India.

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

The Strait of Hormuz, located between Oman and Iran, connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea. A fifth of global oil flows through the Strait. Oil from all major oil producers -Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait and UAE -- is exported via the

Only Saudi Arabia and the

This is primarily because the market is awash with oil supplies and if some parties hold back production or there are supply issues, there are new suppliers in the market to fill in the void

United Arab Emirates (UAE) have operating pipelines that can circumvent the Strait of Hormuz.

Prior to the spike last week, the most since January 2023, there were hopes of a cut in petrol and diesel prices. The price of a basket of crude oil India imports had averaged USD 73.69 per barrel in September, down from about USD 83-84 a barrel in March when petrol and diesel prices were last cut by Rs 2 per litre.

GOVT TO RETAILERS

Pass benefit of declining wholesale price to consumers

The government on Tuesday asked retailers of pulses to pass on the benefit of decline in wholesale prices to consumers and said it will take necessary steps if they make abnormal

Affairs, chaired a meeting with R e t a i l e r s Association of India (RAI) and major organised retail chains on Tuesday to discuss the scenario and trends in prices of major pulses, according to an official statement.

The meeting is timely and significant considering the festive season. Pertinently, mandi (wholesale) prices of most pulses are on a declining trend in recent months against improved availability and higher sown area of Kharif pulses

this year, it added. Khare informed that "prices of tur and urad in major mandis had declined, on an average, by almost 10 per cent during last three months, but retail prices have not seen a similar

CAG asks for advancing date of

decline."

In respect of chana, a decline in mandi prices has been observed in the past one month, but retail prices continue to increase, she added.

"She pointed out diverging trends between wholesale mandi prices and retail prices Nidhi Khare, Secretary, are indicative of increasingly Department of Consumer unwarranted margins that

> extracting out of the market dvnamics. The trends are being closely tracked and necessary measures will have to be initiated if the divergences

retailers are

are found to be widening," the statement said.

The meeting was attended by officials of RAI and representatives from Reliance Retail Ltd, Vishal Mart, D Mart, Spencer and More Retail.

"Considering the current availability situation and easing of mandi prices, the Secretary asked the retail industry to extend all possible support to the government in its efforts to keep prices of dals affordable to the consumers," the statement

FOR DATA ON EMPLOYMENT, **EMIGRATION**

Mandaviya for integrating Centre, state portals

PNS NEW DELHI

Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has suggested integration of the Centre and state portals for comprehensive data on employment and emigration trends, an official statement said on Tuesday.

Minister of Labour & Employment and Youth Affairs & Sports made these suggestions on Monday during a meeting focusing on the key issues related to employment data and overseas emigration trends, the statement said.

"Mandaviya highlighted the need for a mechanism to have complete data of citizens going abroad for jobs/ studies to ECR/ Non-ÉCR countries.

should be an integration of National Career Service (NCS) portal, MY Bharat Platform, MADAD, eMigrate, eShram portals, state portals etc for a comprehensive view of supply and demand side of employment," the statement said.

The industry associations can play a pivotal role in collating the employment data and NITI Aayog can facilitate the compilation of employment-related data from various min-

istries, he said. It was also discussed that contracts with foreign employers should be standardised and the Migration and Mobility Partnership Arrangements (MMPA) & Social Security Agreements (SSA) should be reviewed to get feedback on the efficacy of

Indian regulators made system more transparent: FM

PNS MUMBAI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday commend-

ed Indian financial sector regulators for doing a "worldclass job" and bringing greater transparency into the system. Underlining that she is not against questioning or critiquing regulators, Sitharaman said there is a need to be "extremely conscious" about contributions made by them as well.

Speaking at the Financial Express Best Banks Awards here, the finance minister asked everybody to look at the emerging facts that are coming out in the Sebi mat-ter, where the regulator's chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch has been accused of impropriety.

closure of states' monthly accounts

PNS NEW DELHI

CAG Girish Chandra Murmu on Tuesday urged all stakeholders to work in tandem to advance the date of finalising of monthly accounts in states by 10th of the succeeding month instead of 25th.

He was speaking at the first State Finance Secretaries Conference organised by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India.

In his inaugural address, Murmu focused on the need for harmonisation of expenditure at the disaggregate level of 'Object Heads' for all state governments and the Centre, a matter that has engaged the attention of a number of stakeholders for some time now. He also urged stakeholders

to work in tandem to enable advancing the date of finalisation of monthly accounts in states by the 10th of the succeeding month from the exist



ing timeline of 25th of the succeeding month, CAG said in a

should remain engaged with stakeholders, especially the Union and state governments, to strengthen and make the public financial management architecture robust and sustainable, he added. Murmu also emphasised that the reforms in the financial management applications, such as the Central PFMS, State IFMS, and RBI's e-Kuber need to closely interface with the CAG's accounting application in the states for

Deputy CAG (Government Accounts) Jayant Sinha stated that it has been decided to make the conference an annual event in the fiscal calendar. This would provide an opportunity for engaging with the state governments and related stakeholders in the fiscal space on the broader issue of public financial management.

The conference under the aegis of the CAG of India was attended by Secretary (Expenditure), Government of Îndia, Additional Chief Secretaries / Principal Secre taries / Secretaries (Finance) of the states, representatives from the RBI, constituted accounting services of the Centre and Union Ministry of Finance.

State Accountants General dealing with the accounting and entitlements functions of the states and senior management and officials of the CAG of India, also attended the

Stock markets end six-day slide on value buying

PNS MUMBAI

Stock markets snapped the sixday losing run on Tuesday with benchmark Sensex climbing nearly 585 points on the back of value buying in blue-chips like HDFC Bank, Reliance Industries and Mahindra & Mahindra.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rose by 584.81 points or 0.72 per cent to close at 81,634.81. During the day, it surged 713.28 points or 0.88 per cent to hit an intraday high of 81,763.28.

The NSE Nifty rose 217.40 points or 0.88 per cent to 25,013.15. It jumped 248.25 points or 1 per cent to hit an high of 25,044.

From the Sensex pack, Adani Ports & Special Economic Zones, Mahindra & Mahindra, Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, Larsen & Toubro, NTPC, State Bank of



India, UltraTech Cement and Kotak Mahindra Bank were the major gainers.

In contrast, Tata Steel, Titan, Bajaj Finsery, JSW Steel, Bajaj Finance, Hindustan Unilever, ITC, Tata Motors and Tata Consultancy Services were among the laggards.

"After sessions of corrections, India is getting some support at the level of 25,800 for Nifty50. Good state election result for the ruling party, contrary to the exit polls, has brought some optimism in the

domestic market," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

Market participants also kept a close eye on the RBI's monetary policy to be announced on Wednesday. The reconstituted rate-setting panel of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) started deliberations on the next bi-monthly monetary policy on Monday.

In the current context, experts feel that the RBI may not follow the US Federal Reserve, which lowered the benchmark rates by 50 basis points, and the central banks of some developed nations, which have since reduced the interest rates

'RBI policy outcome, though no cut is expected, a plausible change in stance to neutral is anticipated. And investors are likely to focus on the upcoming Q2 results where earnings are likely to improve marginally on a QoQ basis," Nair added.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge jumped 1.86 per cent and smallcap index soared 2.44 per cent.

Sector-wise, services surged by 3.25 per cent, while services jumped by 3.25 per cent, Capital Goods by 2.82 per cent, Industrials by 2.81 per cent, Power by 2.44 per cent, and Telcommunication by 2.35 per cent.

Metal is the only index which ended lower.

Rajasthan seeks investors' participation from ASEAN

PNS SINGAPORE

Rajasthan Minister Rajyavardhan Rathore on Tuesday said the state is seeking investment from across sectors in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) bloc.

Speaking to reporters after a roadshow on 'Rising Rajasthan', the state's Minister for Industry and Commerce said, "We are appealing to all sectors in ASEAN, wherever and whatever they specialise in to participate in the development in Rajasthan"

He cited Singapore as an example for its expertise in urban development, ports and airlines, among others, saying Rajasthan is open to all types of industries as it has vast space for industrial development and sits next to the Indian capital city. "We are appealing to all these sectors in the ASEAN region," he said, pointing out that some of these industries have already made inroads into Rajasthan.

There are opportunities for education centres and textile mills from some of the other ASEAN countries as well. "We are setting up textile

parks in Rajasthan," he said. Elaborating on the scope of developments, he pointed out the large acreage for the solar sector in Rajasthan, which has 320 days of sunshine. He invited investors to join the largescale solar development in the

"Solar response has been good," the minister said.

The original target of setting up 100 GW of RE energy in four years can now be achieved in two years, Rathore said.

The minister also touched on the huge potential of Singapore's participation in the state's petrochemical industry and said he has gained knowledge from the city state's expertise in port for inland port development.

The state's huge oil reserves can be used as feedstock for the petrochemical plant in Rajasthan, he noted

During his four-day visit to promote "Rising Rajasthan", Rathore met Singapore Manpower Minister Tan See Leng and Minister of Law and



Sebi proposes policy for sharing data for analysis purposes

PNS NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi on Tuesday proposed that stock exchanges and other market infrastructure institutions frame their own policy for sharing data for the purpose of research to promote data democratisation, data priva-

cy and data accountability. However, data shared with vendors for commercial purposes will not fall under this policy, Sebi suggested in its

consultation paper. The markets regulator has a data sharing policy to share anonymised data that are not publicly available. However, since Sebi is not the originator of most of the market data, the scope of sharing data under the extant data sharing policy of Sebi was deliberated by its Market Data (MDAC).

The committee suggested that in order to achieve the balance between data privacy vis-a-vis providing access to data, organizations, which are the actual source of data, will need to have a policy on data collection, processing, storage, dissemination and sharing.

Accordingly, the regulator, in its consultation paper, has proposed that "stock exchanges, depositories and clearing corporations will have their own policy for sharing data separately for

research purposes only The regulator has proposed that market infrastructure



The committee suggested that in order to achieve the balance between data privacy visa-vis providing access to data, organizations, which are the actual source of data, will need to have a policy on data collection, processing, storage, dissemination and sharing

institutions (MIIs) -- stock exchanges, depositories and clearing corporations -should segregate data available, for each market segment, into two baskets.

Data in the first basket will be those which can be shared with the public. These should be aggregate and analysed data only. This basket will also include reporting and disclosure data that are mandated by the regulators. The principle should be to avoid disclosing any personal, sensitive or confidential information in

the public domain. Data in the second basket will contain information that cannot be shared with the public. This data would information/trade logs/hold-

ing details of an entity among others with the identity of the entity. This would also include anonymised data that could be used to identify an entity directly or indirectly.

MIIs have been proposed to identify data in the baskets and accordingly frame their data sharing policy. Further, the categorisation of data into the two baskets should be uniform and market segment wise for each category of MIIs.

The data made available through the first basket should be in a stakeholder

friendly format. Securities and The Exchange Board of India (Sebi) had sought public comments till October 29 on the proposals.

Vijayawada | Wednesday October 9, 2024

what's brewing?

Grammy winner Cissy Houston loses Al Pacino and Noor Alfallah go separate ways battle with Alzheimer's at 91

Light of the pacino, who is known for Scarface, The Kathleen Quinlan, is also a father to three other children. Alongside his

issy Houston, the Grammy-winning singer of soul and gospel music and mother of the late Whitney Houston, passed away at her New Jersey residence at the age of 91. The experienced musician who performed alongside Aretha Franklin, Elvis Presley and other celebrities was receiving hospice care due to Alzheimer's disease. Her daughter-in-law Pat Houston shared a statement, "Our hearts are

filled with pain and sadness. We lost the matriarch of our family. Mother Cissy has been a strong and towering figure in our lives. A woman of deep faith and conviction, who cared greatly about family, ministry and community. Her more than sevendecade career in music and entertainment will remain at the forefront of our hearts."

Pat added, "Her contributions to popular music and culture are unparalleled. We are blessed and grateful that God allowed her to spend so many years with us and we are thankful for all the many valuable life lessons that she taught us. May she rest in peace, alongside her

daughter, Whitney and grand-

daughter Bobbi Kristina and

other cherished family

members."

ollywood legend Al Pacino, who is known for *Scarface*, *The Godfather*, *House of Gucci* and others, has ended his relationship with film producer Noor Alfallah.

The couple, who had a significant age gap, seemed to grow closer during the pandemic, even welcoming their son Roman into the world in June 2023, as per reports.

The actor was recently quizzed about his current romantic status and he made it clear he was flying solo, stating, "No. I have friendship," when asked if he was in a relationship.

A spokesperson for the actor further explained to the publication that the pair have transitioned from partners to friends and are jointly dedicated to raising their child: "Al and Noor are very good friends, have been for years and are coparents to their son Roman."

Al Pacino, whose romantic history includes high-profile relationships with stars like Diane Keaton, Beverly D'Angelo and newborn Roman, he has a 34-year-old daughter Julie with acting coach Jan Tarrant and 23-year-old twins Anton and Olivia with actress Beverly

As per further reports, in his forthcoming memoir Sonny Boy, the actor refers to marriage as "an entrance to the pain train," sharing his personal take on commitment with 'People' magazine, "Everything's a ticket to the pain train. A ticket or nothing. 'Are you

going to go or not?'. 'No, I'll stay here. I'll stay here at the station;

I'm not getting on'". He also elaborated on his perspective of relationships, suggesting that while marriage might work for some, it never felt right for him, as he said, "(Marriage) can suit you, by all means. But I just didn't feel it ever suited me for some reason. I loved living together (with women) and then it depends on who you are getting along with.'

"If you live together with someone, there's got to be... you have to have this communion. If you don't, it's almost an invasion", he added.

ARJUN 'HOUNDED' ROHIT FOR WORK AFTER WATCHING GOLMAAL 3

The much-awaited trailer for *Singham Again* by Rohit Shetty is finally out. It is noteworthy that it is the initial project where Rohit Shetty and Arjun Kapoor work together, with Kapoor portraying the antagonist. Arjun's depiction of a contemporary Raavan in the trailer has drawn focus, thanks to his intimidating appearance that leaves a powerful impression. Arjun Kapoor shared his astonishment at being involved in the high-energy trailer launch while

interacting with the media. Reflecting on his earlier attempts to collaborate with Rohit, Arjun said, "I feel honored and blessed that Rohit sir chose me for this film. I've gone to cinema halls to watch Golmaal and Singham. In fact, I even reached out to him to express my desire to work with him. I also wanted to collaborate with Ajay, sir. I didn't realise dreams could come true to this extent! I'm a bit overwhelmed by that."

Arjun Kapoor revealed that it was after watching the third installment of Golmaal that he persistently reached out to Rohit Shetty. He shared, "Whenever I saw 'Rohit Shetty and team,' I wanted to be a part of that team. I watched Singham at Chandan Cinemas and Singham Returns at Gaiety. After watching Golmaal 3, I hounded him to express how much I wanted to work with him." The action entertainer can be seen as a contemporary

interpretation of the Ramayana, with a star-studded cast consisting of Ajay Devgn, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Akshay Kumar, Ranveer Singh, Deepika Padukone, Arjun Kapoor, Tiger Shroff, Jackie Shroff, and Ravi Kishan. At the same time, Singham Again is scheduled to come out in theaters on November 1 and go head-to-head with Kartik Kaushal on the big screen in the film. The film will be released

SLB's latest revelations of Love & War have us hooked

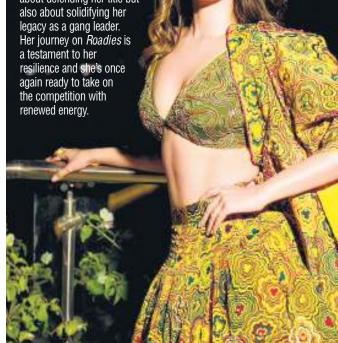
S anjay Leela Bhansali's upcoming epic saga Love & War has been in the bood! ever since it was announced. Starring Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt and Vicky Kaushal, the film is eagerly awaited by the audience. While SLB has always mesmerised viewers with his remarkable cinema, everyone is excited to see what he brings to the table with Love & War. Amid growing anticipation, SLB was seen sharing major updates about the film. In an interview, Bhansali stated that it's a film he is very excited about. "It's a very special film because it's now not in the period; there are no pillars, no more costumes, no more horses; it's contemporary. It's different; the music is different." He continued by saying that he enjoys making it and has wonderful actors. Regarding Ranbir, SLB stated that he is collaborating with the star after 18 years. Furthermore, the anticipation builds for SLB's next Love & War. It's thrilling to look forward to the monumental collaboration of Sanjay Leela Bhansali and the talented trio of Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt and Vicky

on March 20, 2026.

RHEA CHAKRABORTY

hea Chakraborty is back with a bang, returning as a gang leader in the latest season of *MTV Roadies*! After a thrilling victory in the previous season, where her leadership and strategic instincts led her team to the top, she's ready to claim her position as one of the most formidable leaders once again. Her presence in the last season showcased her ability to mentor and motivate contestants with both strength and empathy, cementing her as a key figure in the competition. This season, Rhea is bringing even more fire and determination. With her signature fearless attitude and a keen sense of strategy, she's looking to build another powerhouse team. Her return is highly anticipated and fans are eager to see her dynamic approach to the challenges, both mental and physical, that *Roadies* throws her





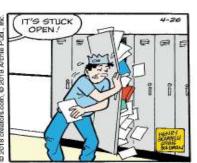
Zeenat Aman took the audience on a nostalgic journey - the first edition of Carvaan LIVE's Yeh Shaam *Mastani*. Held at the Sri Shanmukhananda Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi Auditorium in Sion, the event was a heartfelt tribute to the golden era of Bollywood, blending music, nostalgia and stories that have shaped Indian cinema.



ARCHIE





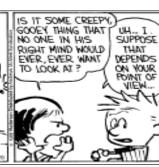


CALVIN AND HOBBES



REALITY CHECK





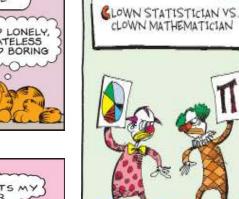


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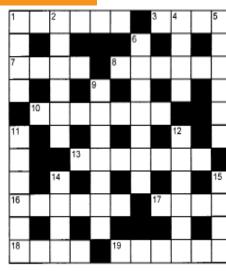








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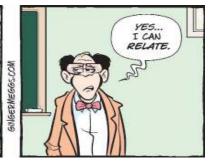
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- 17 Wicked 18 Gritty stuff on the beach
- Close and open one eye

GINGER MEGGS









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Wednesday October 9, 2024

Uncovering patterns keeping you in depression!

■ ith Mental Health Day approaching, it's crucial to shed light on the realities of depression and dispel the damaging myths surrounding it. By addressing these misconceptions, we aim to foster better understanding and support for those affected by this condition

Understanding nature of

Depression is often misunderstood, shrouded in myths that prevent proper understanding and treatment. One of the most prevalent misconceptions is the idea that those suffering from depression simply don't want to be happy. This belief fails to consider the complexities of the condition and the wide range of contributing factors that lead to its onset.

It's not about willpower

Contrary to popular belief, depression is not a reflection of weak will or lack of personal strength. No one consciously chooses to feel miserable or remain stuck in a cycle of sadness. Just as one cannot "will" themselves out of a physical illness, a person cannot overcome depression solely through determination. It is a complex condition that often requires professional intervention and supportive care. Another common misconception is that depression is solely triggered by external factors, such as life traumas or undesirable circumstances. While these can certainly play a role in its development, they don't fully explain why or when depression begins.

Complex interplay

Biologically, depression is linked to chemical imbalances in the brain. Neurotransmitters like serotonin, norepinephrine and dopamineresponsible for regulating mood—can become disrupted, leading to the symptoms of depression. This biochemical disturbance impacts normal brain function and can be a significant factor in the onset of the disorder. Psychologically, depression often stems from negative thought patterns and selfperceptions. Persistent self-criticism, distorted beliefs about oneself and a negative worldview can feed into a cycle of depression. These cognitive patterns reinforce feelings of hopelessness and despair, making it challenging to break free. Social factors also play a crucial role. A history of trauma, exposure to stressful life events, social isolation, or a lack of meaningful support systems can all contribute to the development and persistence of depressive symptoms These external influences may not only exacerbate the condition but also impact the speed of recovery.

Overcoming mental hurdles

competence, or stability. This stigma perpetuates harmful narratives and deepens the individual's sense of helplessness, causing them to retreat even further. A more compassionate and respectful

When someone is experiencing

pathological lens that views them as

lacking something vital, like happiness,

depression, they are often met with one of two unhelpful responses-either a dismissal of their feelings or a

approach to mental health can make a significant difference. While it's important to acknowledge one's grief, shifting to a kinder, more understanding view of the illness can foster a renewed sense of selfworth and improve self-esteem.

Challenge voice of depression One of the key symptoms of depression is

the presence of an automatic, unhelpful inner voice. This voice may discourage self-care or personal growth, making the sufferer feel that nothing is worth the effort. Recognising this inner dialogue is the first step toward overcoming it. For example, depression may make everything seem monotonous or pointless. In response to the thought, "Why bother?" one could say, "It's better than sitting idle and feeling worse." With time, this small shift in perspective can weaken the grip of automatic negative thoughts, leading to positive changes in behavior and emotions.

Incorporate deep breathing and meditation

One of the most effective and accessible

tools for managing depression is

conscious deep breathing. Deep breathing helps activate the parasympathetic nervous system, which is responsible for calming the mind and body, reducing stress and bringing about mental clarity. Simple breathing exercises such as box breathing (inhaling for four counts, holding for four counts, exhaling for four counts, and holding for four counts) can be practiced daily to improve mood and overall well-being. Similarly, meditation can be a powerful tool for regulating emotions and thoughts. Mindfulness meditation, for example, allows individuals to observe their thoughts without judgment, creating space to detach from negative thinking patterns. By spending just a few minutes a day meditating, one can gradually build resilience to the emotional ups and downs that accompany depression. Meditation also promotes a sense of inner peace and balance, helping to alleviate the menta fog that often comes with depressive

(The author, Anurag Rishi, is a holistic



FROM STUDYING MECHANICAL ENGINEERING TO ENGINEERING FASHION SHAMKHAN BECOMES **'KINGMAKER' OF FASHION SHOWS**

Stepping into the spotlight, Shamkhan A is currently all over the news for being the director of the latest Miss **Universe India pageant.** The Pioneer has the fashion show's new emperor on board, taking us through his transition from mechanical engineering to fashion shows, directing the recent pageant

and more

TEJAL SINHA tejal.sinha30@gmail.com

the world of fashion, glamour and pageantry, Shamkhan A stands out as a talent that's been behind some astonishing fashion shows; Miss Universe India being his latest work. Beginning his journey by studying to be a mechanical engineer, he however found his calling in engineering fashion shows. From a fashion choreographer, Shamkhan has now evolved into a show director and worked for Miss India Earth, Miss India International, Miss

India Globe and many more. Looking back at his journey, which really started off as a model back in 2013 and continued for the next three years, he later started working as a professional choreographer and directing shows in 2017.

"I began as an event coordinator in my youth organisation at Lovely Professional

University," begins Khan in an exclusive chat with *The* **Pioneer.** During that time, he coordinated an on several shows and

events Going ahead, he recalls, "It was during my college days itself that I started

choreographing, being the team head for the fashion team." His feelings of directing the Miss Universe

India pageant have been no less than an overwhelming and proud moment. Having already directed many more shows, including Miss India and Miss India International, Miss India Tourism and Miss Asia Pacific, he enthuses, 'My ultimate goal in the pageant industry is to direct Miss Universe and Miss India, where the contestant goes for Miss World. With this opportunity, my dream had come true. With Miss Universe India, I had to work a lot compared to other beauty pageants. I knew I had to give it my all." But, of course, for him to

tor and how we'd blend it with the particular season. It's a collection of group work that goes Just like in a movie, where the director takes

Not only is he a beauty pageant director, but

he also directs runway shows. And so, "It all

depends on the designer, the national direc-

ity. "Depends on the project," he says.

reach where he is today, he had to

fight the odds, convincing his parents and the pressure he had to choose the fashion world over

mechanical engineering.
With Miss Universe, "They have changed a lot of criteria, like

the age; married women can participate and even transgen-

der people. It was all about womanliness and freedom. I took this as an inspiration to

direct the pageant this time."

Beyond a doubt, the Miss
Universe India was a success,

but guess what? Shamkhan

doesn't take any of it as a chal-

lenge, though the time frame was one of it. He took it up

as a strength over challenge.

Further comes a revelation:

"We had completed the entire work of the Miss Universe India pageant in just 2 days."

He went on to credit his

national director of the

Miss Universe organisa-tion, Nikhil Anand, for

being a great support to me. "He has always inspired me a lot. He's been very supportive and

has given me complete authority to do the event

with ease. I had no pressure to work in any cer-

tain way and use my own creativity. He is someone who has had

the past experience of working with Miss Earth as well as Miss

International. He put

in his confidence that

I could finish the work even if given a

day."
Working on this

pageant was a

for him. As we went

ahead in this chat,

we wondered how

he keeps up with his creativ-

charge of the entire process, he says, similarly, the fashion show director is important behind the success of a show and controls the entire functioning. Not long back, he had finished working on

two back-to-back shows, one of them being Miss Universe India and the other one being Miss Global India.

Tour de Force into depths of Madhubani painting

AARTI SREENATH aarti.sreenath9@gmail.com

Synopsis

Mithila Art: A 360 Degree Review of Madhubani Painting presents an extensive exploration of Madhubani painting, a traditional art form that hails from the Mithila region of Bihar, India. This anthology compiles essays and artworks from a diverse group of contributors, offering insights into the history, techniques and cultural significance of this vibrant art form. The book examines the intricate patterns, themes and stories depicted in Madhubani paintings, making it an essential read for art enthusiasts, students, and cultural historians alike. Through a multidisciplinary lens, the editors highlight how Madhubani art serves as both a visual delight and a vital narrative of the socio-cultural fabric of India.

Background

The editors—Binita Mallik, an accomplished artist and curator; Dr. Minu Agarwal, a respected art historian and Dr. Laura Zizka, an international art consultant—bring their diverse expertise to the compilation. Their backgrounds not only enrich the narrative but also ground it in historical and contemporary contexts. The book aims to raise awareness about the preservation of this ancient art form, which faces challenges in the modern era due to commercialisation and the pressures of globalisation. By showcasing the work of both established and emerging artists, Mithila Art serves as a platform for dialogue about the importance of cultural heritage in an increasingly homogenised world.

Themes and arguments

A central theme of Mithila Art is the interplay between tradition and modernity. The book delves into how Madhubani painting has evolved over time while remaining deeply rooted in cultural traditions. The editors argue for the significance of cultural preservation and underscore the role of women artists

in keeping this art form vibrant and relevant. Many contributions highlight the themes prevalent in Madhubani art—such as nature, mythology and social issues demonstrating that these works are not merely decorative but carry profound narratives that reflect the lives and beliefs of the people who create them. Another critical argument presented is the

idea that Madhubani painting serves as a means of empowerment for women in the region. Historically, women were the primary artists in this tradition and the book examines how this art form has provided them with a voice and a means of financial independence. This empowerment aspect enriches the narrative and adds depth to the discussion about gender roles in art.

Style and tone

The writing style varies significantly among the contributions, ranging from scholarly essays rich in historical detail to personal narratives by contemporary artists that are reflective and engaging. This diversity makes the book accessible to a wide audience, from art scholars to casual readers. The tone throughout is celebratory and informative, inviting readers to immerse themselves in the beauty and complexity of Madhubani art. The editors maintain an inviting atmosphere, encouraging a dialogue about the art form rather than simply presenting information.

While the book primarily focuses on the art form itself, it does introduce key artists and their contributions to Madhubani painting. Profiles of notable figures, such as Shanti Devi and Ganga Devi, help to humanize the art and provide insight into the lives of the creators and the cultural contexts that inspire their work. These personal stories are woven into the narrative, illustrating how each artist interprets and expands upon the traditions of Madhubani painting.

Structure and pacing

Mithila Art is well-organised, with clear sections dedicated to various aspects of Madhubani painting, including its historical roots, artistic techniques and

contemporary relevance. Each Binita Mallik, Dr. Minu Agarwal, Dr.

Laura Zizka Managing editor: Dr Prashant Das

Editors:

storytelling.

ages readers to engage deeply with the material. The pacing is steady, allowing readers to absorb the information without feeling overwhelmed. The editors have done an admirable job of balancing academic rigor with engaging

cohesive

reading

experience

that encour-

Visuals and presentation

The book is beautifully presented, featuring high-quality reproductions of Madhubani paintings that are both vibrant and detailed. These visuals not only enhance the text but also serve as a testament to the beauty and intricacy of the art form. The layout is thoughtfully designed, with images accompanying relevant text, allowing readers to appreciate the connection between the written word and the visual art. The quality of the images invites readers to linger on each page, appreciating the colors and details that characterise Madhubani art.

Critique and evaluation

Overall, Mithila Art is a valuable resource for anyone interested in Indian art and culture. Its strengths lie in its comprehensive approach, scholarly contributions, and stunning visuals. The editors have successfully created a narrative that intertwines history, personal stories and cultural critique. However, some readers may find certain academic sections dense, which could limit accessibility for those unfamiliar with chapter flows logically into the next, art history. A glossary of terms or a more extensive introduction to the cultural context could have further enhanced the reader's experience. creating a

In conclusion, *Mithila Art: A 360 Degree Review of Madhubani Painting* is an essential addition to the library of art lovers, students and cultural historians. It effectively celebrates the rich heritage of Madhubani painting while advocating for its continued relevance in contemporary society. By bridging traditional practices with modern interpretations, this book invites readers to appreciate the enduring beauty of Madhubani art and the stories it tells. Whether you are an art enthusiast or a casual reader, this book offers insights that are both educational and inspiring, making it a highly recommended read for anyone looking to deepen their understanding of this unique and beautiful art form.

India look to fix batting woes, bolster NRR against Sri Lanka in Women's T20 WC

n a sticky wicket after a mixed start to the campaign, India will look to fix their batting woes to bolster their net run rate when they take on bottomplaced Sri Lanka in their third and penultimate Group A match of the T20 Women's World Cup here on Wednesday.
It has not been smooth sailing

for the Indians in the showpiece event so far, having lost to New Zealand by 58 runs in their tournament-opener and then scampering home in 18.5 overs against arch-rivals Pakistan while chasing a modest 105.

India's main problem in the tournament so far is the performance of their batters, especially the explosive opening combination of Shafali Verma and vicecaptain Smriti Mandhana.

While Shafali scored just 2 and 32 in the first two games, Mandhana also faired poorly managing 12 and 7 runs.

And it's time the duo fires in unison to ease the pressure on the middle-order. To make matters worse for

India, skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, who scored 15 and 29 retired hurt, is doubtful for the match against Sri Lanka after suffering a neck injury while

batting against Pakistan.
The likes of Jemimah
Rodrigues, Deepti Sharma and Richa Ghosh too need to step up with the bat and share the burden of responsibility. While medium

Arundhati Reddy sparkled against Pakistan with the ball, returning with figures of 3/19, she would look for more support from the likes of fellow pace colleagues Renuka Singh and Pooja Vastrakar, who didn't play the previous game because of an injury.



The Indian team relies heavily on Deepti Sharma in the spin department but she hasn't quite managed to hit her strides in the tournament so

Young off-spinner Shreyanka

Patil and leg-spinner Asha Shobhana have done a decent job, picking up a few wickets. The Indians will need to lift themselves in all departments of the game as in Australia a strong opponent awaits them

in their last group match. India will not only need to win but record a victory big enough against Sri Lanka to boost their Net Run Rate (NRR) before the do-or-die league game against defending

champions Australia on October 13.Sri Lanka might have lost both their opening matches, but the islanders won't be an easy opponent for India, especially after the win in the Asia Cup final in August. India opener Shafali admitted that Sri Lanka are no longer only dependent on their skipper Chamarai Athapaththu.

"There was a time when Chamari was the one scoring most of the runs and taking wickets, but in the Asia Cup, her entire team performed well. They've improved a lot, which is why they won the cup," Shafali has said.
"Chamari carries the pressure

of being a key player, and it's inspiring to see how she handles it and performs for her country." India pacer Renuka also knows how important it is to dismiss the Sri Lankan skipper cheaply as she can take the game away in a flash with her audacious strokeplay.

'Chamari Athapaththu is very interesting. She's the only one from Sri Lanka who takes the team to the other side. I try to get her out as soon as possible

because if she is set, she can take over the match. So I have a plan on how to get her out," Renuka has said.

Teams (From): India: Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Verma, Deepti Sharma, Iemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh (wk), Yastika Bhatia, Pooja Vastrakar, Arundhati

Reddy, Renuka Singh Thakur, Davalan Hemalatha, Asha Sobhana, Radha Yadav, Shreyanka Patil, Saieevan SriLanka: Vishmi Gunaratne, Harshitha Samarawickrama, Hasini Perera, Anushka Sanjeewani (wk), Nilakshika

Silva, Chamari Athapaththu (c), Kavisha Dilhari, Ama Inoshi Kanchana, Priyadharshani, Shashini Gimhani, Achini Kulasuriya, Sugandika Kumari, Sachini Nisansala, Udeshika Prabodhani,

India's T20 marauders eye another big win; Bangladesh hope for turnaround



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

n India so dominant that A Bangladesh is admittedly clueless about how to match the "skills and mentality" of Suryakumar Yadav's men.

The script is not expected to deviate much when the two sides clash in the second T20 International here on Wednesday with the home this opportunity here and get team's young mavericks proving more than a handful for the full-strength visitors. Bangladesh have hardly looked like the plucky opponents that they are hyped to be but India have looked every bit the marauding force that loves to

intimidate on home turf. So, even with key players such as Rishabh Pant, Axar Patel, and Jasprit Bumrah rested, India's remarkable depth in white-ball cricket shone through in a comfortable seven-wicket victory in the opening game in Gwalior.

One man who made a strong statement of intent in that game on Sunday was Sanju Samson.

Confirmed by Suryakumar as an opener for the series, Samson has been in and out of the national set up since his debut in 2015 and his lack of consistency has been a major contributing factor.

In the series-opener in Gwalior, the keeper-batter, who usually comes in the middle order, revelled in his new role as opener and played some delightful strokes in his 19-ball 29, showcasing his ability to play freely in the powerplay. However, he couldn't convert

his promising start, much like fashion a turnaround and stay his opening partner Abhishek alive in the three-match

Sharma, who showcased sheer power before running himself out.

With first choice openers Jaiswal Yashasvi Shubman Gill rested for this series, both Samson and Sharma would be keen to prove they can go beyond mere cameos.

The duo would look to seize a big score on Wednesday night in front of, what is likely to be a sellout crowd. The stakes are higher for the

29-year-old Samson, who is aiming to solidify his position as wicketkeeper in the absence of Pant.

With the T20 Wor two years away, a series of consistent performances as opener both wicketkeeper could make him a strong contender for future selections in the white-

ball formats. The hosts are unlikely to tinker with their playing XI after everything went India's

way in the opener.

Debutant Mayank Yadav dazzled with his fiery pace, while fellow first-timer Nitish Kumar Reddy made a mark as a seam-bowling all-rounder, a rarity in Indian cricket.

Arshdeep Singh capably led the pace attack and mystery spinner Varun Chakaravarthy made a striking comeback after staying away from the national team for three years. He will be eyeing the spin allrounder's spot left vacant by Ravindra Jadeja as will

Washington Sundar.
On the other hand, the tourists will have to regroup quickly if they want to

Bangladesh, who went with more or less than same side they fielded at the World Cup earlier this year, have the advantage of experience but the side has just not been able to crack the T20 format.

"I wouldn't say we played badly. We are a better team than this. We haven't done well in this format for a long time, but I don't believe we are such a bad team," captain Najmul Hossain Shanto conceded in Gwalior.

Batting continues to remain their weak link and it wasn't a surprise to see the side struggle against India's disciplined bowling attack. Senior players like Liton Das and Mahmuddullah have to

get their act together. The Bangladesh bowlers have the ability to spice up things but against India's formidable lineup, they would need plenty of runs on the board. Squads:

India: Suryakumar Yadav (C), Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (wk), Rinku Singh, Hardik Pandya, Riyan Parag, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Tilak Varma, Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Varun Chakaravarthy, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Arshdeep Singh, Harshit Rana, Mayank Yadav.

Bangladesh: Najmul Hossain Shanto (C), Tanzid Hasan Tamim, Parvez Hossain Emon, Tawhid Hridoy, Mahmud Ullah, Litton Kumer Das, Jaker Ali Anik, Mehidy Hassan Miraz, Shak Mahedi Hasan, Rishad Hossain, Mustafizur Rahman, Taskin Ahmed, Shoriful Islam, Tanzim Hasan Sakib, Rakibul Hasan.

Jaiswal can play in any conditions, needs mental adjustment for Australia tour: Lara

Tndia opener Yashasvi Jaiswal Lis equipped to "play in any conditions" but will need to some mental adjustments for the upcoming tour of Australia, the legendary Brian Lara said here on Tuesday. Jaiswal has established himself

as a vital cog in the Test side with 929 runs in only eight matches this year at 66.35, his two centuries and six fifties putting him as the leading run-scorer for India in 2024. "He has got the ability to play in any conditions. I saw him in the Caribbean. Obviously, the pitches in Australia are slightly different, but if you take that sort of strength that you have, you're going to play good

cricket in any conditions. "I expect to see him do well," Lara told the media during the launch of the International Masters League. The West Indies great said

Jaiswal will need to make some

continue his success Down

adiustments

"I think the adjustment is upstairs," said Lara, pointing towards his head when asked if the Indian opener will have to make any adjustments. "The adjustment is your ability to back your talent in whatever conditions. I say this with a

pinch of salt because conditions in India have changed. "With the IPL you've got international players coming. You are feeding your players a different level of competition, which is great, so I don't think

there's much that he has to do

technically," he added. "I just think, mentally, travelling away from home,

playing against Australia on their shores is a different beast. But I believe that the Indian team that I've seen going to Australia over the last couple

exciting Indian batters" right

of occasions, are very capa \bar{b} le of winning," he said.

Lara picked Jaiswal and another southpaw Abhishek Sharma as the "two most

"Iaiswal and Abhishek Sharma. First of all, they're left-handers. They're very young. They play

the game in a style, very attacking and very stylish," he

"Of course the relationship I have had with them over the last couple of years has been very special. It's great to see them go from strength to strength," he added.

Lara said having a "good plan" will be crucial for India's success in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, which will comprise five Tests for the first time. You have got to have a plan.

And your plan has to be something that when it comes to fruition, you get the success," he said. When you're coming up

against Australia, you've got to have a damn good plan, and you've got to be able to soak in pressure because they're going to apply a lot of pressure."
"From an Indian scenario,

they've got to play good cricket. They've got to believe in themselves and they've got to play each session at a time. They can't think way beyond

that," he added. While the former West Indies

captain praised aggressive approach to force a result in the rain-hit Kanpur Test against Bangladesh to try and earn World Test Championship points, Lara said such an outcome is not possible every time.

"(It was) not just (about) the points. It's a situation where India knows that they have the advantage in terms of being the better playing team against Bangladesh, and they've got to put themselves," he said.

"They've got to give themselves the opportunity. I love the way that they went about it in such a short space of time to put Bangladesh pressure. under performance by India with the bat was always to put Bangladesh under pressure."

Test cricket is about attrition. Not every single day you're going to have 2-3 days washed out. I want to see a lot of games going into the fourth and the fifth day. I want to see batters holding on, battling if they have to battle. Bowlers being as disciplined as possible."

Two years just flew by enjoying highs, lows of my game: Arshdeep

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

T20 World Cup-winner Arshdeep Singh doesn't like fretting over the future or dwelling on the past. The left-arm pacer prefers to embrace the present.

The 25-year-old, who is leading the Indian pace attack in the ongoing threematch T20I series against Bangladesh, made his debut just two years ago but has already played 55 T20Is, including two World Cups. "I am enjoying my game and didn't even realise how these two years flew by. I just try and stay in the present, enjoy the highs and lows, that is my focus," Arshdeep said ahead of the second T20I against

Bangladesh on Tuesday.
"My life's mantra is to enjoy the present. Today is my rest day so I will enjoy my rest today. Kal ka Kal dekhenge (Will think about tomorrow when it comes). The T20 World Cup is two years away,



very far I don't think much about the future," he added when a question on his future was thrown his way. The Punjab pacer, who honed his red-ball skills in

county cricket last season and put up a stellar display in

the Duleep Trophy recently, has been making a case for a maiden Test cap too but doesn't want to talk about that.

"I want to do my best in all the formats wherever I get the opportunity," he said

Asked what difference he has felt in his white-ball skills since becoming an all-format player, Arshdeep said, "I enjoy that we can see how quickly you can adapt to the conditions, ground

conditions, ground dimensions and format.

"It gives opportunity to the players to explore their skills. How he can take wickets in different ways, how to absorb pressure.

'Playing in different formats teaches players a lot. In red ball, you get more overs to bowl, it teaches you patience, here (in T20s) you don't need patience, you have to think about what a batter can do." The hosts lead the series 1-0 and the second game is expected to be a high-scoring affair. In the five matches that the Arun Jaitley Stadium hosted in the IPL earlier this year, teams crossed the 200run mark eight times.

"We (Punjab Kings) didn't have a match here in the IPL this season but seeing the scores at this ground, I didn't feel like seeing the wicket.

"We will come tomorrow and assess the conditions and make plans accordingly. The coach and captain will check the wicket and tell us the plan," Arshdeep said.

England off to brisk start after Agha century propels Pakistan to 556 in 1st test

AP MULTAN(PAKISTAN)

 $E_{\text{Pakistan's}}^{\text{ngland}} \ _{\text{massive}}^{\text{chipped}} \ _{\text{556}}^{\text{at}},$ three-centuries total by reaching 96-1 at stumps on day two Tuesday of the first

Pakistan started the day on 328-4 and was spearheaded by Salman Ali Agha's unbeaten 104 and Saud Shakeel's 82.

On a pitch which still looks good for batting with little help for fast bowlers or spinners, England raced at

a stunning one-handed catch by a diving Aamer Jamal at midwicket off England did well in the first

Naseem Shah. England trails Pakistan by 460 runs.

Pope had to open the innings after Ben Duckett injured his left thumb while grabbing a sharp chest-high catch of No. 11 Abrar Ahmed in the slips that finally ended England's heatsapping 5 1/2 sessions on the field at Multan Stadium. Whether Duckett bats was yet to be determined.

England's Jack Leach took 3-160 and Shoaib Bashir 1-124 but Pakistan dominated spinners, England raced at nearly five-runs-per-over as Zac Crawley smashed 11 fours in his unbeaten 64. Joe Root was not out on 32.
England lost stand-in captain Ollie Pope without scoring in the second over to a standing are a per banded. without finding any reverse



session and allowed Pakistan only 69 runs with Carse nightwatchman Naseem, catch to Root in the slips. who gloved a legside catch Agha took charge with after scoring his test-best 33.

Naseem denied England a sweeps.

breakthrough for 1 1/2 His third test century hours and braved a couple of blows. He got a knock on the back of his helmet when he was struck hard by an Atkinson short ball and also received brief treatment when Carse struck the batter's right thumb off another short ball before round-the-wicket worked for the right arm fast bowler.

Leach had Mohammad Rizwan caught at mid-off for a 12-ball duck.Shakeel, who began the day on 35, showed plenty of resistance and raised his half-century with a swept boundary off

Bashir. Shakeel was undone by the off-spinner after breaking the resistance of lunch and feathered a low

> followed tons by captain Shan Masood (151) and Abdullah Shafique (102) on day one.

Agha gave Pakistan an ideal finish on the benign pitch. In the company of Shaheen Shah Afridi (26), Agha hit 10 boundaries and three sixes in his 119-ball knock to propel Pakistan past 550. England was scratchy late in Pakistan's innings as wicketkeeper Jamie Smith missed an easy stumping of Abrar, and Atkinson couldn't judge a catch over his shoulder before Root folded the innings.



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s the Dasara festival approaches. several Telugu films are set to hit the screens, one of them being Janaka Ayithe Ganaka. Directed by Sandeep Reddy, with Suhas playing the lead role, the film is slated for release on October 12. The makers have already screened the film in various cities, receiving positive responses. "We've shown the film to people ranging from young kids to 90-year-olds and they all appreciated and enjoyed it," said Sandeep. The idea for the film, Sandeep revealed, was inspired by people in his own circle of family and friends. "I come from a middle-class background and I like telling stories that reflect that experience," he said. In Janaka Ayithe Ganaka, the protagonist sues a condom company, and the film also highlights issues like the exorbitant fees in private schools. "One school asked for an Rs. 8 lakh donation for a fourth-class student. I've included facts like these in the film, along with middle-class emotions and a courtroom drama," Sandeep explained. The film is narrated in a humorous yet emotionally resonant manner. "I've always been a fan of Jandhyala and his films. If you like his style, you'll definitely enjoy my film," said Sandeep, adding that there are no adult dialogues in the movie. "It's a clean

entertainer and the censor board has already

Sandeep initially narrated the story to Naga

cleared it with a U/A certificate.

Chaitanya, who responded positively However, due to his commitments to Sekhar Kammula's film, Naga Chaitanya couldn't take up the project. "I then approached Dil Raju Garu, who accepted the story immediately and suggested Suhas for the lead role," Sandeep shared. He also praised Suhas' exceptional performance. "During the shoot, Suhas' wife gave birth and that personal experience helped him connect deeply with the story. The director noted that while films like Vicky Donor and Badhaai Ho have succeeded in Bollywood, such out-of-the-box stories are rare in Telugu cinema. "When Dil Raju accepted my story right away, I was a bit surprised. But Telugu audiences always support good films and I'm confident they'll appreciate this one too." Sangeerthana, the female lead, has a well-defined role, Sandeep said. "After

considering many actresses, I randomly

found Sangeerthana on Instagram. We

conducted a workshop before filming to

fine-tune her language skills. She dubbed

her own lines and speaks just like a native

will thoroughly enjoy, I can assure you,"

about Janaka Ayithe Ganaka.

Telugu girl." "It's a hilarious film that people

Sandeep concluded, speaking with confidence

New face alert! Megna enters spotlight with Baraabar Premistha

Get ready to fall in love with Megna Mukherjee because she's all set to woo the Telugu audience with

her debut, in Baraabar Premistha. In an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*, she discusses her humble

beginnings, from modelling to the film industry, getting onboard, learning Telugu and more

TEJAL SINHA

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debut into the world of Telugu cinema is heading towards its release! Having placed multiple feathers in her hat, Megna Mukherjee is now all set to woo the Telugu audience with her mesmerising beauty and extremely talented prowess.

Which movie, you ask? Well, it's the upcoming film Baraabar Premistha, starring none other than the 'attitude star' Chandrahass.

The former Miss India Finalist has been one artiste in the Indian entertainment industry who's shown the spirit and vibe of being a go-getter for all the right reasons. One of the finest trained jazz dancers in the industry, as far as her acting chops are concerned, she'd gone viral last year in an advertisement with Sourav Ganguly for all the right

> Directed by Sampath V Rudra, the film is jointly being produced by producers Geda Chandu, Gayathri Chinni and Venkateswar Rao.

The Baraabar Premistha team is all set to head toward the promotions of the film and here we have the lead actress for an exclusive chat. "I am very excited," expresses Megna with an immense sense of excitement for her debut. "The shoot has been completed and it's ready for release. The film will mostly be releasing by October end or the first week of November. It's all going to happen in the next 30-40 days! The promotions will start in the next few days. I'm super excited because this is going to be my first Telugu movie. I've

been preparing for it, learning Telugu for this

and my future projects." Acting was something she knew that she had to take forward ever since she was about 15 years old. She had to go through her own process, which included performing in the school plays, making her shine up for herself, of course with no idea about how industry worked. "It was then that I got an opportunity to participate in Times Fresh Face and then a year later, Miss India happened," she harks back, adding, "Along with that, I was doing my college. I began auditioning for television commercials; I locked a few and did a few. One of them went viral. It was with Sourab Ganguly that went viral." These opportunities opened the doors for Megna, as she had begun getting in talks for films and web series. "It was then that this film came to me; I did the look test and here I am making my debut," she enthuses with great regards. A new language, a new industry—were you a little nervous?

We ask her and she quickly affirms, "On the first day, I was

very nervous because I didn't know the language. I've

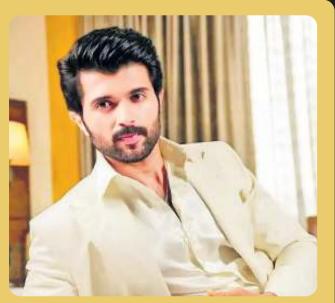
grown up in Mumbai. It was nerve-wracking for me. I don't know how I'd perform here. Never wanted language as a barrier. However, our director was so confident that as long as I emote, I'll be able to do my lines well. He gave me the confidence largely to believe

in myself and not be afraid of speaking in a new language. But getting the right slang? She adorably asks us, 'Ela Unaru' and we laugh out loud. "I began working a month before the film started. Every day, I

was learning my lines with a Telugu teacher. She helped me a lot through the process. I was learning a language that I had no idea about. But now I actually understand everything that everyone is saying around. I've picked up a few words and a few sentences;-maybe 15% of the language. I even had a person on the set who was constantly helping me with the lines."

Baraabar Premistha is a story about two college-going youngsters who are around 19-20 years old. They hail from two different villages and both of the villages have a rivalry. Though Megna and Chandrahass' characters both hate each other initially, they eventually fall in love later. Overcoming the obstacles—what happens next—you'll have to watch on the big screen. "My character's name is Buiamma and everyone calls her Bujji. I'm a 20-year-old girl in this film who's not shy, doesn't have inhibitions and doesn't tolerate bad attitudes from anyone. My character is not this stereotypical shy girl. That usually is, you know, what you expect in a love story. I think my character in the film is also someone who speaks out what comes to her mind and I'm also someone like that in my real life.' Going ahead, she also speaks of her camaraderie with her co-star: "What really helped me was that I think we were of very similar age. I was 23. He was 24. We were almost the same age. There was some kind of relatability while we were working together. We did shoot for 5-6 months. We became good friends over a period of time. We've laughed together, cried together and fought with each other but I think that's how you become a really good friend."

Baraabar Premistha, she reveals, was shot in three different locations: Hyderabad, Karimnagar and Kerala. "Ideally, it was like you start your day at 6 AM, you get ready and you do your first shot by 8:30ish. Everyday was a different experience, emotionally and work-wise. But let me tell you, the best thing about the South is that you wrap up the work at 6 every day. You get to have your own little me time," she gleefully shares as we were about to end the interview. But again, there was something she had to say to our dearest readers: "I actually have signed another film, but I can't talk too much about it because it's not been announced yet. I would love to tell the audience that I hope I can make a small place in vour heart. I've worked really hard and I hope people go watch the film.



Injury prevention or fitness frenzy; VD keeps his physiotherapist close

pon seeing the initial appearance of Vijay Deverakonda and director Gowtam Tinnanuri's movie, the actor's transformation piques everyone's interest. Vijay consistently puts forth his maximum effort in each film and diligently strives to embody the character. The movie is not officially titled, but the creators refer to it as VD12 and it falls under the action genre. Bhagyashree Bhorse plays the main female role.

Vijay Deverakonda is being extra cautious to avoid injuries as

According to a source, "Vijay Deverakonda is all set to explore the action genre in VD 12. To avoid injuries while preparing for his action-packed role, the actor always has his physio with him. His physio is always there while shooting the action sequences, so that he is able to complete it without any injury."

This update truly demonstrates Vijay Deverakonda's awareness of personal safety and well-being, making it quite interesting. It also emphasises the actor's dedication to creating an exciting entertainment with VD 12 by putting in a lot of effort. The film is scheduled for release on March 28, 2025 by the makers.

I DON'T PARTICULARLY LIKE WATER, SO UNDERWATER SCENES ARE TOUGH FOR ME: JR NTR

NTR is feeling content despite the mixed reception of his film Devara, as it has performed well at the box office and is on its way to becoming a blockbuster. The setting of the movie is the ocean and the creators built a large set in Hyderabad specifically for this purpose. Some action scenes take place underwater on screen, but executing them during filming is extremely challenging.

The actor discusses the challenging scenes and how they were filmed underwater. "The underwater sequences, along with the shark scenes, took us about 35 days to shoot and it wasn't easy," he explained. Water added another layer of complexity to the process. "I don't particularly like water; I'm more of a mountain person, so it was tough," he admitted. Yet, as an actor, he understands the necessity of facing extreme situations, regardless of personal comfort.
The physical demands of underwater filming were intense. "Being in the water for long periods took a toll on my health," he added,

highlighting the challenges posed by the winter cold and the rigors of constantly getting in and out of the pool. Despite these hardships, the rewards of seeing the film's release and receiving applause made the struggle worthwhile. "When you see the applause—especially for that sequence—it makes you forget the hard work." One of the more technical aspects of underwater filming involves breath control. "As for how long I can hold my breath? About a minute, which is enough to get the shots," he explained. However, the depths they filmed at—around 10 to 12 feet added another layer of difficulty, with pressure changes requiring constant ear adjustments. "Visibility is tough; after removing my goggles, everything becomes a blur," he described, adding that chlorine often result-

ed in red eves. "It was thrilling enough to keep doing it every day. It truly was a beautiful experience," said Jr NTR.



Odela 2 lands in Odela village for final schedule ¶amannaah Bhatia, Madhu began in Kashi with Mahadev's Creations, and Sampath Nandi are all working

together to bring a new and exciting character to life in the highly awaited sequel Odela 2. directed by Ashok Teja, is the sequel to the 2021 blockbuster hit Odela Railway Station. The initial glance, poster and behind-the-scenes material have already caused a stir. Tamannaah is portraying Shivashakti (Naga Sadhu) for the

first time in her career in this movie. The final shoot of Odela 2 is taking

place in Odela Village. The exciting follow-up, which

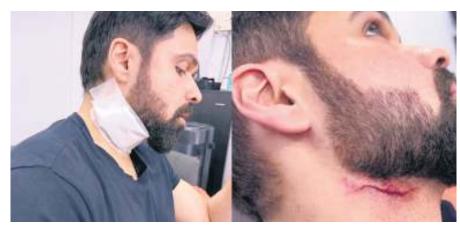
blessings, is currently being filmed in Odela Mallanna Kshetra. Key scenes are being filmed by the team at the picturesque sites of the us Odela Mallanna temple and village. Tamannaah, Murali Sharma, Hebba Patel, Yuva, along

with other actors, are taking part in the filming. This is the first time Tamannaah is filming in Odela village. The producers expressed their appreciation to the Odela villagers for their assistance in creating the last timetable. Under the direction of Sampath

Nandi, Odela 2 will offer an immersive film experience with a mix of emotions and intense action. Highly skilled technicians are employed on this movie. Ajanish Loknath, known from Kantara, is creating the music. The DVP position is held by experienced cine-



Emraan Hashmi suffers injury while shooting Goodachari 2



mraan Hashmi, sustained an injury while filming for Goodachari 2. The actor Adivi Sesh takes on the lead role, while Vinay Kumar serves as the director. Per the producers, Emraan Hashmi was filming a high-octane action scene that required him to leap from a distance and sustain a neck injury. The creators stated that the injury is not serious and the actor is in good condi-

Adivi Sesh is the main actor in Goodachari 2, which is the follow-up to the successful movie Goodachari. Adivi Sesh's previous movie *Major* was launched in various languages such as Hindi, Tamil, Kannada and

Malayalam, excluding Telugu. Therefore, the actor is currently strategizing to launch Goodachari 2 in multiple languages. The source explains that is the reason why they enlisted Bollywood actor Emraan Hashmi for an important part!

The Bollywood actor has recently agreed to be in another Telugu movie called OG alongside AP Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. The actor is very occupied in the southern region with these two movies. The makers mentioned that the team of s will start a foreign schedule shortly to film crucial scenes with the main cast. The movie will be coming out in 2025.