



Fervour marks 'Sirimanotsavam'

The annual 'Sirimanotsavam', the major folk festival of Sri Pydithalli Ammavari Jatara, was celebrated with religious fervour on Tuesday. Lakhs of devotees from across north coastal Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh thronged Vizianagaram town to seek the blessings of the presiding deity, Pydithalli Ammavaru. The day began with the hereditary trustee of the Pydithalli Ammavaru Temple, senior TDP leader Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju, and his family offering prayers to the goddess in the morning session. Completing ...



-PAGE: 3

President Droupadi Murmu has called for deeper economic cooperation between India and Algeria, underlining that the African nation's rapid growth and expanding economy offer many opportunities in various sectors. The President in an address to the Algerian-Indian Economic Forum on Monday emphasised India's rapid rise and impressive progress in 'Ease of Doing Business', and invited Algerian companies to join India's 'Make in India' and 'Make for the World' initiatives. "The stepping up of the ...



'Don't see impact on trade ties'

The escalation in the diplomatic row between India and Canada will not have an impact on the bilateral trade and investment ties between the two countries, government sources said on Tuesday. They also said that the bilateral value is not significant and Canadian funds get route their investments through Singapore, the UAE and the US. "India is a preferred investment destination," they said. Canada is India's one of the primary sources of lentils and now that can come from Australia they said, adding -PAGE: 8

AP's new liquor policy from today

CM Naidu warns of stern action against intimidation

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The State government's new liquor policy is set to come into effect on October 16, replacing all government liquor shops with privately licensed outlets. As part of this transition, the winners of the liquor shop licences were selected through a lottery system, and their certificates have been distributed. However, even before the new policy is fully implemented, some licence holders are reportedly facing threats and pressure from local political leaders

and liquor syndicates. In various constituencies, including Palnadu, Visakhapatnam, Kurnool, Anantapur, Vijayawada, Guntur, Sri Satya Sai, and YSR districts, lottery winners have report-ed being coerced into surrendering a portion of their profits. Several winners allege that they are being asked to hand over up to 20% of their earnings without any investment from the parties making these demands. In some cases, political leaders are reportedly offering substantial sums as "goodwill" to take

over the licenses or are demanding a share in the business. Licence holders have claimed that they are being threatened with the inability to operate their businesses unless they comply with these demands. "We will see how you run the business here," some leaders have allegedly warned.



CM instructs officials to protect licencees and ensure smooth implementation of new policy

This pressure is particularly intense for individuals who are new to the liquor business and have no prior affiliations with established liquor syndicates. These syndicates are reportedly targeting independent license holders, attempting to force them to surrender their licenses or offer a portion of their profits in exchange for control over their operations. In cities like Vijayawada and

Guntur, the amounts being offered by these syndicates are significant, with reports of offers reaching Rs1 crore for each shop in Vijayawada and Rs 85 lakh in Guntur. In some areas, syndicates are even proposing a 10%

In cities like Vijayawada and Guntur, the amounts being offered by these syndicates are significant, with reports of offers reaching Rs1 crore for each shop in Vijayawada and Rs 85 lakh in Guntur. In some areas, syndicates are even proposing a 10% share of profits without any upfront investment if the licences are surrendered.

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Licence winners chosen through a

Winners report being pressured to

without any investment.

• Political leaders are allegedly

or demanding a share of the

New licence holders, especially

those inexperienced in the liquor

trade, are targeted by syndicates.

surrender up to 20% of their profits

offering money to take over licences

draw of lots

business.

Upon learning of these developments, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has taken the matter seriously. He has received reports from intelligence agencies and the excise department regarding the involvement of local leaders in threatening new license holders. The Chief Minister has issued a stern warning to those involved, stating that the government will not tolerate any form of harassment or coercion directed at license holders.

Continued on Page 2

Heavy rains lash parts of Andhra Pradesh

PNS AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh in the wake of a wellmarked low pressure area over the Bay of Bengal, which moved from the southeast part of the sea towards the west and northwestward direction and

lay there on Tuesday morning. The weather system is likely to intensify into a depression and continue to move west-northwestwards towards north Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and adjoining south Andhra Pradesh Coasts in the next two days, said the Meteorological Department in a release on Tuesday. According to the Meteorological Department, coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam are likely to witness vigorous monsoon activity on Tuesday with fairly widespread rainfall distribution.

A similar weather pattern has been forecast for the Rayalaseema region of the southern state with widespread rainfall.

Dozens of places received heavy rainfall. Kavali in Nellore district recorded a rainfall of 15 cm, followed by Addanki (Bapatla) 14 cm, Kandukur (Nellore) 12 cm, Yanam 9 cm and Atmakur (Nellore) 8 cm, among others in coastal Andhra Pradesh region.

From the Rayalaseema region, ed along the coast. Kodur in YSR Kadapa district registered a rainfall of 10 cm, followed by Sullurpeta and Gudur (Tirupati) 7 cm and 6 cm respectively, among others.

Low pressure Heavy rains lashed several parts of likely to intensify as depression



P4

Meanwhile, the Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) noted that parts of West Godavari, Eluru, Krishna and NTR districts are likely to receive heavy to very heavy rainfall on Tuesday.

It predicted a similar weather pattern for Guntur, Bapatla, Palnadu, Prakasam, Nellore, Nandyala, Annamayya, Chittoor, Tirupati and Kurnool districts.

Likewise, squally winds reaching up to 55 km per hour speed are expect-

APSDMA managing director R Kurmanadh advised people to stay alert and called on fishermen to refrain from venturing into the sea.

3 new judges appointed to AP High Court Department of Justice has forward-

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended the appointment of three advocates as judges of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh: Maheswara Rao Kuncheam alias Kuncham, Thoota Chandra Dhana Sekar alias TCD Sekhar, and Challa Gunaranjan. In a release on Tuesday, he Supreme Court informed that

ed the recommendation by invoking paragraph 14 of the Memorandum of Procedure. This provision states that if the comments from state constitutional authorities are not received within the prescribed timeframe, it will be presumed that the Governor and the Chief Minister have no additional input on the proposal owing the



TG bureaucrats told to go to Andhra Pradesh

PNS HYDERABAD

IAS officers Vakati Karuna, K. Amrapali, A. Vaniprasad, D. Ronald Ross and G. Srijana had approached the Central Administrat Tribunal

(CAT) seeking cancellation of the

transfer orders issued by the Centre

asking them to go to Andhra

orders mandating their transfer

between Telangana and Andhra

Pradesh, claiming that the decisions

were made without considering

their preferences or the recom-

mendations of the one-man com-

The officers sought relief from the

Pradesh on October 9.

mittee



During the hearing, the CAT made some observations regarding the transfer process





Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shubman Gill, the torchbearers of India's transition phase, will have to be the team's driving force in its quest to lord over an unsettled New Zealand when the two sides square off in a three-Test series beginning here on Wednesday The baton has not been completely passed, but Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma are certainly running their last lap and these two young superstars will have to show that they can carry forward the legacy of the titans. Since a productive series against England . - SPORTS

Farmer trampled to death by tuskers

PNS RAYACHOTI

A herd of wild elephants trampled a farmer to death at B Vandlapalli village in Peleru mandal of Annamayya district on Tuesday.

According to official sources, the deceased, identified as Chinna Raja Reddy, had cultivated crops on his field when a herd of elephants began destroying them. In an attempt to save his crops, Raja Reddy approached the herd, which consisted of about 10 elephants.

As he tried to drive them away, the elephants suddenly went on a rampage, attacking and trampling him to death.

Local farmers immediate-ly alerted forest officials, who rushed to the spot and began efforts to drive the elephants back into the forest.

on May 15, 2024, the Chief Justice Minister of Law and Justice to proof the High Court of Andhra Pradesh, in consultation with his two senior colleagues, recommended these advocates for the appoint-

ment. As the comments of the Chief Minister and 🚄 the Governor of Andhra

Pradesh have not yet been received, the

ceed accordingly. The Supreme Court's release stated that to ascertain the suitability of the above advocates for elevation to the High Court, consultations were held with colleagues familiar

with the affairs of the Andhra Pradesh High Court. **Continued on Page 2**

APSSDC CASE

ED attaches Rs 23.54 cr assets

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached movable and immovable properties worth ?23.54 crore under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, in connection with the misuse of funds in the Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation (APSS-DC) Siemens Project.

In a press release issued on

APSSDC Siemens Project was designed to promote skill development and entrepreneurship in Andhra Pradesh. The ED's investigation followed an FIR registered by the AP CID against M/s Designtech Systems Private Limited (DTSPL) and others for cheating the Andhra Pradesh Government by diverting and misusing the funds invested in the Siemens project for unrelated

purposes The ED's investigation revealed Tuesday, the ED explained that the that Vikas Vinayak Khanvelkar,

Managing Director of M/s DTSPL, Soumyadri Sekhar Bose alias Suman Bose, the former Managing Director of M/s Siemens Industry Software India Pvt. Ltd., and their associates Mukul Chandra Agarwal and Suresh Goyal, were involved in diverting government funds with the help of shell or defunct entities. These funds were siphoned off through complex, multi-layered transactions using bogus invoices under the guise of supplying materials and services.

November 20, while Jharkhand polls will be held in two phases on

and the officers' roles. The CA said that officers should serve in areas that require their expertise and pointed out the floods in Andhra Pradesh

During the hearing, the CAT made some observations regarding the transfer process and the officers' roles. The CAT said that officers

should serve in areas that require their expertise and pointed out the floods in Andhra Pradesh.



EC sounds poll bugle

Maha polls on Nov 20; Jharkhand polls on Nov 13, 20

PNS NEW DELHI

The Assembly polls in Maharashtra

will be held in a single phase on

November 13 and 20, the Election Commission of India announced on Tuesday.

The votes for the two states will be counted on November 23. ed on Page 2

YSRCP offices on closure spree amid exodus of leaders

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), already reeling from a severe defeat in the last elections, is now facing another challenge as several of its offices are being closed across various districts.

Before the party could regroup and recover from its electoral loss, this fresh setback is emerging, with local leaders winding up YSRCP offices in multiple areas.

Senior YSRCP leaders, including former MPs and MLAs, have left the party to join either the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) or the Jana Sena Party (JSP). Now, many of these leaders are also closing down the YSRCP offices they had established.

One such instance involves



YSRCP senior leader P. Gowtham Reddy, who had set up the party office at his residence in 2014. Following the electoral defeat, Gowtham Reddy shut down the office and rented out the space. The removal of banners and cutouts of YS Jagan Mohan Reddy came as a shock to local party workers.

Continued on Page 2

India-Canada ties hit rock bottom New Delhi strongly rejects Ottawa's fresh charges

PNS NEW DELHI

The India-Canada diplomatic row over the killing of Sikh separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar escalated further on Tuesday with Ottawa hinting at possible sanctions against India in view of certain findings in the case and New Delhi vehemently trashing the charges.

The Canadian authorities also attempted to link the Bishnoi gang with Indian government agents in carrying out covert operations including violent criminal activities in Canada and claimed to have clear evidence to back the charges.

As the ties between the two countries hit rock bottom, Canadian Foreign Minister



Melanie Joly did not rule out imposing sanctions against India saying "everything is on the table". In a related development, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau spoke to his British counterpart Keir

Starmer and discussed "developments" related to what the Ottawa described as "targeted campaign against Canadian citizens by agents linked to the government of India"

7 flights get bomb threats via X

PNS NEW DELHI

Seven flights, including one bound for the United States, received bombthreat messages through a social media handle on Tuesday, prompting security agencies to undertake specific counter-terrorist drills at various airports, official sources said.

The threats via microblogging platform X came a day after three international flights originating from Mumbai received bomb threats, causing trouble to hundreds of passengers and airline crew. The messages posted on Monday were declared a hoax.

Continued on Page 2





he pioneer IJAYAWADA | WEDNESDAY | OCTOBER 16, 2024

Naidu staring at an empty treasury amid 'super six' schemes

ndhra Pradesh Chief Minister and head A of the ruling NDA in the state Nara Chandrababu Naidu is facing acute embarrassment with regard to the **POINT** implementation of his

'super six' programmes and staring at an empty treasury due to the fiscal indiscipline of the erstwhile YSR Congress Party(YSRCP) regime. Chandrababu Naidu, who had to go the 'extra mile' to impress people on continuing various schemes of the erstwhile regime, is now facing an uphill task.

Let us consider the Amma Vodi scheme targeted at mothers of schoolgoing children. Under the scheme, an PIN amount of Rs.15,000-00 would be credited to the bank

accounts of the beneficiaries. The scheme, designed by YSRCP president and former chief minister Jaganmohan, had evoked tremendous response from lakhs of mothers of schoolgoing children so much so that dropouts came down in almost every school. Due to financial constraints, the then

Given the huge debt burden inherited by his government. Chandrababu Naidu is unable to move freely in implementing the Amma Vodi scheme

TDP's pre-poll hype about government subsequently implementing it for all schooldecided to make this scheme applicable to only one child from each family. Without going children. Given the huge debt burden

inherited by his government, Chandrababu Naidu is unable committing on paper, YSRCP later publicized that this scheme is meant even for to move freely in implementfamilies with more than one ing the Amma Vodi scheme. child. Now, this part of the Likewise, the proposed promise is hanging fire under scheme for providing women free travel facility in APSRTC the NDA government, despite

buses is also causing much

POLAVARAM PROJECT

New diaphragm wall works in Dec

Main dam construction to be started in Nov 2025: Minister Nimmala

M D RATNA KUMAR

Senior Journalist

concern to the ruling front. Given the strain on fiscal resources caused by similar schemes providing free travel for women in Karnataka and Telangana, Andhra Pradesh has to look at the prospects of APSRTC upon implementing the scheme. Yet, with every passing day, the pressure on the ruling front in AP is mounting for implementing the schemes. Lack of resources has negatively impacted the

Polavaram multi-purpose project, though it had been accorded national project status. Although the Polavaram

project required funds totaling Rs.53,000 crore, successive governments headed by TDP&YSRCP chose to put it on the backburner. The erstwhile Jagan regime spent funds totaling Rs. 2.7 lakh crore, obtained largely as loans, on welfare schemes instead. Obviously due to the finan-cial crunch, the government

government for running the state. Even salaries for lakhs of employees in the state government could not be disbursed on first day of every month. To avoid adverse reaction, the state government prefers to disburse pensions promptly on the first day of every month.

It is perhaps time for Chandrababu Naidu to place headed by Chandrababu is all relevant facts before the people and let them know confining itself to a few programmes like pensions for about the state's fiscal position. He must then spell out various sections of society. The Chief Minister has

how he proposes to imple-ment the super six probeen frequenting Delhi to secure funds from the Union grammes.

WORLD ANATOMY DAY OBSERVED Body donation awareness rally taken out by AIIMS



PNS VIJAYAWADA

In observance of World Anatomy Day, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Mangalagiri's Department of Anatomy orga-nized a Body Donation Awareness Rally, role plays, and various other programmes on Tuesday. The rally was flagged off at the AIIMS West Gate by Dr. Madhabananda Kar, Director & CEO of AIIMS Mangalagiri, along with Dean Academics Dr. Sreemantha Kumar Dash, who also felicitated the Resident Medical Officer of GGH Guntur.

During the event, the Dean explained that World Anatomy Day is commemorated on the research purposes.

2 AP IPS officers in independent SIT

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Director General of Police (DGP) Ch Dwaraka Tirumala Rao has announced that the Supreme Court has ordered an investigation by an independent agency. The probe will consist of two officials from the Central Bureau of Investigation

(CBI) and the Andhra Pradesh ndhra Prade

pressure.

death anniversary of Andreas Vesalius, a renowned anatomist and physician from the medieval era (December 31, 1514, to October 15, 1564). The International Federation of Associations of Anatomists (IFFA), established in 1903, launched World Anatomy Day in 2019 to promote anatomy education, highlight its importance in understanding human health and disease, showcase recent advances, encourage research, and foster collaboration among anatomists worldwide. The initiative also aims to raise public awareness about the significance of cadavers and body donations for educational and

permeability in the project. The minister confirmed that the overall construction of the main dam for the Polavaram project is scheduled to commence in November 2025, with an anticipated completion date in July 2027, as outlined by the Water Resources Department authorities. The construction schedule, developed in collaboration with Polavaram officials, the construction compa-

> A significant workshop is planned for the first week of November 2024, which will

bring together foreign experts, representatives from the Tuesday, DGP Tirumala Rao Central Water Commission revealed that the State govern-(CWC), members of the Dam ment has nominated Inspector Design Review Panel, and General Sarvashreshth Tripathi Polavaram officials. This workshop will cover critical topics, and Deputy Inspector General Gopinath Jetty for the Special Investigation Team (SIT). This from design approval to construction logistics, providing a comprehensive overview of the step aims to ensure a thorough project's next steps. Following ny MEIL and Chief Engineer

phase.

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Water Resources Minister

Nimmala Ramanaidu has

announced that the construc-

tion of a new diaphragm wall

Project is set to begin in

December 2024, with a completion target of November 2025.

This timeline was discussed

Polavaram officials, as the state

aims to address technical chal-

lenges related to seepage and

ny, and other stakeholders, is

currently in its preliminary

and accountable investigation. He further added that the

not interfere with the function-

ing of the independent probe

agency to maintain the impar-

tiality of the investigation and

directed officials to safeguard the

interests of the license holders

and maintain law and order,

ensuring the smooth imple-

mentation of the new liquor pol-

icy without interference from

illegal syndicates or political

all eyes will be on how the state

addresses these early challenges

and ensures a fair and transpar-

ent business environment for

liquor license holders.

As the new policy takes effect,

for the Polavaram Irrigation during a review meeting with

- A workshop will be held in the first week of November 2024, involving foreign experts, Central Water Commission representatives, and Polavaram officials.
- The workshop will cover design approvals and construction logistics, finalizing the project timeline afterwards.
- Preparatory work for construction equipment setup is already underway,

this workshop, the construction timeline will be finalized.

During a review meeting held on Monday evening, Minister Ramanaidu, Special Chief Secretary Saiprasad, and Engineer-in-Chief Μ. Venkateswara Rao discussed the construction plan with officials, including Ch. Subbaiah from the construction compa-

stituency have been wound

with a platform ready by early December and trench cutters arriving by then.

- The Polavaram Project is crucial for water
- Priority repairs for all irrigation projects across the state will commence next month, with a special

action plan being prepared to ensure effective implementation.

Narasimha Murthy. Afri Consult, the state-appointed consultancy, is expected to submit designs for the diaphragm wall-prepared by the German engineering firm BAVAR-to the Polavaram Project Authority by October 16, 2024. These designs will be reviewed during the November workshop, where approval from tioning for the benefit of the the CWC and foreign experts is state.

expected by November 15. Experts from IIT Tirupati are conducting experiments on material blending for the diaphragm wall, and their findings will also be presented at the workshop.

Preparatory work for setting up construction equipment is already underway.

A platform for the diaphragm wall construction will be ready by early December, with three trench cutters scheduled to arrive for panel construction. The first cutter is expected to arrive at the site by December 1.

The Polavaram Project, one of the largest multipurpose irrigation projects in Îndia, is crucial for water management, irrigation, and flood control in the region. The upcoming diaphragm wall construction represents a vital component of the project's next phase.

Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu also stated that priority repairs for all irrigation projects across the state will commence next month.

A special action plan is being prepared, following the Chief Minister's directions, to ensure timely and effective implementation of these repairs.

The minister emphasized the government's commitment to addressing the maintenance and operational needs of key water infrastructure projects, ensuring their efficient func-

Ross, currently in Telangana,

are required to go to Andhra

The CAT refused to grant

interim relief and did not

issue stay orders against the

Centre's decision. The tri-

bunal ordered the petitioners

to file their counter by

November 5, indicating that

the officers would have to

comply with the transfer

The decision marks a sig-

attached fixed deposits

amounting to Rs 31.20 crore

belonging to M/s DTSPL,

which was confirmed by the

Adjudicating Authority (PMLA). The ED also arrest-

ed Vikas Vinayak Khanvelkar,

Suman Bose, Mukul Chandra

Agarwal, and Suresh Goyal,

filing a prosecution complaint

in the Special Court (PMLA),

Visakhapatnam. The court has

taken cognizance of the com-

plaint, and further investiga-

tion is ongoing.

Pradesh

CM appoints district in-charge ministers Sena party have been tasked

PNS VIJAYAWADA

with Eluru and Guntur dis-The TDP-led NDA coalition tricts, while a BJP minister has government, headed by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, been appointed as in-charge of the NTR district. on Tuesday, announced the appointment of ministers as Minister Kondapalli Srinivas district in-charges across the state. To this effect, Principal will serve as in charge, while Parvathipuram Manyam will Secretary Peeyush Kumar issued GO MS No. 3 on be overseen by Atchannaidu, Vizianagaram by Vangalapudi Tuesday. Interestingly, while government orders (GOs) are usually issued in English, this particular GO was released in Telugu.

Several ministers have been given the responsibility of overseeing two districts each. Kinjarapu Atchannaidu, Nimmala Ramanaidu, Gottipati Ravi, and Anagani Sathya Prasad are among those entrusted with double responsibilities. However, in a surprising move, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and Minister Nara Lokesh were excluded from being assigned

any district in-charge roles. Atchannaidu has been given charge of Parvathipuram Manyam and Ambedkar Konaseema districts. Nimmala Ramanaidu will oversee the East Godavari and Kurnool districts. Gottipati Ravi has been assigned to Palnadu and West Godavari, while Anagani Sathya Prasad is responsible for the Sri Sathya Sai and Tirupati districts. Ministers from the Jana

Anita, and Visakhapatnam by Dola Balaveeranjaneva Swamy. Gummadi Sandhya Rani has been assigned to Alluri Sitarama Raju district, and Kollu Ravindra will be in charge of Anakapalli. Ponguru Narayana has been given Kakinada, Nimmala Ramanaidu will manage East Godavari, and Atchannaidu will also oversee B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema district. Nadendla Manohar from

For the Srikakulam district,

Jana Sena will manage Eluru, while Gottipati Ravi Kumar will take charge of West Godavari. Satya Řumar Yadav has been assigned NTR district, and Vasamsetty Subhash will manage the Krishna district. For Palnadu, Gottipati Ravi Kumar will be in charge, and Kandula Durgaesh from Jana Sena will oversee Guntur. Kolusu Parthasarathy has been appointed for Bapatla, Anam Ramnarayana Reddy for Prakasam, and Nasyam Muhammad Farooq for Nellore.

"So today was a really important step. When you look at

what is available in our toolbox,

expelling diplomats is one of

the highest and toughest mea-

sures a country can take under

convention...Everything is on

The ties between India and

Canada came under severe

strain following Canadian

Prime Minister Trudeau's alle-

gations in September last year

of a "potential" involvement of

Indian agents in the killing of

Nijjar. New Delhi rejected

Trúdeau's charges as "absurd".

media briefing on Monday,

Trudeau, referring to findings by the Royal Canadian

Mounted Police (RCMP)

claimed that it has "clear and

compelling evidence that agents

of the government of India have

engaged in, and continue to

engage in, activities that pose a

significant threat to public safe-

information gathering tech-

niques, coercive behaviour tar-

geting South Asian Canadians,

and involvement in over a

dozen threatening and violent

acts, including murder. This is unacceptable," he alleged.

"This includes clandestine

In his comments at the

the table," she said.

the

Vienna



Police, along with one official from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

Speaking to the media on avoid any conflicts of interest.

AP's new liquor policy ...

Continued from Page 1

Naidu has instructed the authorities to take immediate action to protect the licensees and ensure they can operate freely and in accordance with the new rules. He emphasized that the government's liquor and sand policies are final, and any attempts to undermine these policies will result in strict action.

The State government has

TODAY	
ALMANAC	
Month & Paksham:	Sukla Paksh
Tithi:	
Chaturdashi:	Oct 16 12:19 AN
Purnima:	to Oct 16 08:40 PM
Purnima:	Oct 16 08:40 PM to Oct 17 04:56 PM
Nakshatram:	
Uttara Bhadrapada	
Revati:	to Oct 16 07:17 PM Oct 16 07:17 PM
iovati.	to Oct 17 04:20 PN
Rahukalam:	12:01 PM to 1:28 PM
Yamagandam:	7:40 AM to 9:07 AN
Varjyam:	05:49 AM to 07:13 AN
Gulika:	10:34 AM to 12:01 PM
Amritakalam:	03:04 PM to 04:28 PM
Abhijit Muhurtham:	N
HYDERABAD	WFATHER

HADEKARAD MEVIHEK

Forecast: Scattered Showers **Temp:** 29° Humidity: 81% Sunrise: 6:00 AM Sunset: 5:46 PM

Updated: October 15, 2024 5:00 PM

YSRCP offices on closure ...

Continued from Page 1

up. Rosaiah, who contested In the Vijayawada West conthe last election from Guntur stituency, YSRCP once had on a YSRCP ticket, has since four offices, but three of them left the party and joined the JSP. In Mangalagiri, the YSRCP office was closed after the party sidelined local leader Murugudu Lavanya. A similar trend is being observed in Anantapur.

In the Kuppam constituen-Despite the closure of YSRCP offices in key constituencies, party chief ÝS Jagan Mohan Reddy has remained silent on the issue, without issuing any directives to the party leadership.

EC sounds poll...

seats.

Continued from Page 1

Continued from Page 1 The sources said an

7 flights ...

X handle issued threats on Tuesday to seven flights -- an Air India Express flight from Jaipur to Bengaluru via Ayodhya (IX765), a SpiceJet flight from Darbhanga to Mumbai (SG116), an Akasa Air flight from Bagdogra to Bengaluru (QP 1373), an Air India flight from Delhi to Chicago (AI 127), an Indigo flight from Dammam (Saudi Arabia) to Lucknow (6E 98), an Alliance Air Amritsar-Dehradun-Delhi flight (9I 650) and an Air India Express flight (IX 684) from

Madurai to Singapore.

Kumar said elections will be held in both the states on Wednesdays to address the

problem of urban apathy. The BJP is keen to retain power in Maharashtra along with allies Shiv Sena led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and the NCP led by Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar.

The BJP led Mahayuti alliance is facing a challenge from the Maha Vikas Aghadi coalition of the Congress-NCPSP-Shiv SenaUBT, which hopes to repeat its performance in the Lok Sabha elections. The opposition MVA alliance won 31 of the 48 seats in Maharashtra in the Lok Sabha elections.

seat in Maharashtra will be In Jharkhand, the Congress held on November 20. Bypolls is playing second fiddle to the to the Basirhat Lok Sabha seat Jharkhand Mukti Morcha in West Bengal and Milkipur (JMM) led by Chief Minister in Uttar Pradesh were not Hemant Soren, while the BIP announced as election petiis looking to make a cometions are pending for the two back.

No relief to IAS at...

Continued from Page 1

"The people in AP are suffering due to floods. Don't you want to go to such a place and serve them?" the tribunal said, suggesting that the officers should be willing to serve in challenging situations

The CAT also emphasized that the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has full authority over the allocation of IAS officers, and asked whether a locality-based swapping of officers was feasible despite existing guidelines. The officers' counsel

orders until further hearings. argued that the DoPT had ignored the recommendanificant step in the administions of the one-man committrative reshuffling of IAS offitee when issuing the transfer cers between the two states, orders. The counsel pointed with the court stressing that out that the Centre had not public service should be the considered the officers' prefparamount priority for offierences and that their peticers, particularly during critical times like floods and tions were based on the principles of natural justice. other emergencies.

ED attaches Rs 23.54 cr ...

Continued from Page 1

Entry providers were used to facilitate the diversion, for which commissions were paid.

The ED identified the "proceeds of crime" in the possession of the accused, including bank balances, shares, and immovable properties such as residential properties in Delhi NCR, Mumbai, and Pune, all of which have been attached. Previously, the ED had

India-Canada **Continued from Page 1**

On its part, India strongly rejected attempts by Canadian The case involved officers authorities to link Indian agents with criminal gangs in Canada like Srijana, currently working in Andhra Pradesh, who with official sources even sayare now required to move to ing that Ottawa's assertion that Telangana, while officers it shared evidence with New Vakati Karuna, K. Amrapali, Delhi in the Nijjar case was sim-A. Vaniprasad and D. Ronald ply not true.

The sources also rejected Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations that India was engaging in activities including carrying out covert operations targeting Canadian nationals in his country.

At a press conference, Trudeau, pointing fingers at India on the Nijjar case, said Canada will never tolerate the involvement of a foreign government in threatening and killing Canadian citizens on Canadian soil.

On Monday, India expelled six Canadian diplomats and announced withdrawing its high commissioner from Canada after dismissing Ottawa's allegations linking the envoy to a probe into the killing of Sikh extremist Nijjar.

Joly, replying to a question at Trudeau's media briefing, did not rule out further action against India.

3 new judges appointed to ...

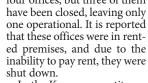
Continued from Page 1

One consultee judge did not provide his views regarding the candidates' suitability. To assess the merit and suitability of the candidates for elevation, the Collegium scrutinized and evaluated the material presented, including observations made by the Department of Justice. Chief Justice of India

Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud, along with Justices Sanjiv Khanna and B.R. Gavai, resolved to recommend that Maheswara Rao Kuncheam, Thoota Chandra Dhana Sekar, and Challa Gunaranjan be appointed as judges of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh, with their inter se seniority determined according to existing practice.

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cy, Chittoor district, the YSRCP office was closed recently, and a hotel now operates in the same building. Similarly, all four YSRCP offices in the Guntur Parliamentary con-

"There are 9.63 crore eligi-

ble voters in Maharashtra,

while the number of eligible

voters in Jharkhand is 2.6

crore," Chief Election

Commissioner Rajiv Kumar

said at a press conference

here. Bypolls will also be held

in 48 assembly seats and two

Lok Sabha seats, the CEC

Bye-elections to 47 assem-

bly seats and the Wayanad

Lok Sabha seat, vacated by

Congress leader Rahul

Gandhi, will be held on

Bypolls to the Kedarnath

assembly seat in Uttarakhand

and the Nanded Lok Sabha

November 13.

said

vijayawada 03

expedite the sanctioning of

loans under the National Urban

Livelihood Mission and the

Prime Minister's Swanidhi

Scheme. This applies to the 4,808 street vendors in the city, whose loans are currently

pending, ensuring that eligible

beneficiaries receive their first,

second, and third tranche loans

Commissioner ordered field

staff, including RPs, COs, social

workers, CDOs, and bank coor-

dinators, to coordinate and

ensure that beneficiaries receive

the loan facilities. NTR District

Lead District Manager (LDM)

To facilitate this process, the

respectively, he said.

Abdul Kalam's legacy continues to inspire us: Union Minister

he pioneer

VIJAYAWADA | WEDNESDAY | OCTOBER 16, 2024

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Jayant Chaudhary, stated that "India is a land of tremendous beauty" while addressing the 93rd birth anniversary celebration of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam at the Andhra Medtech Zone (AMTZ) on Tuesday.

Chaudhary highlighted the unique blend of tradition and innovation that characterizes India. "We have old economy industries right next to us, with chimneys spewing smoke, but we also have here a hub of the best ideas and innovation that could be possible in one place. India tends to do things well." His words resonated throughout the event, which honoured the enduring legacy of Dr. Kalam, a visionary leader whose influence continues to inspire generations.

During his speech, Chaudhary praised AMTZ as a platform for cross-disciplinary collaboration, where diverse enterprises flourish. He acknowledged the organization's contributions to medical technology and lauded the multi-ministerial cooperation that has driven its success. Reflecting on the foresight of Andhra Pradesh's Chief Minister, who conceptualized the AMTZ project in 2018, Chaudhary remarked, "As an institution, AMTZ is still in its



Chaudhary highlighted the unique blend of tradition and innovation that characterizes India. "We have old economy industries right next to us, with chimneys spewing smoke, but we also have here a hub of the best ideas and innovation that could be possible in one place. India tends to do things well"

infancy, with immense potential for learning and growth.' He also reaffirmed the government's commitment to promoting education and skill development within the healthcare sector.

The event featured the inauguration of several vital initiatives, including the Instalimb facility, National Skill Training Institute (NSTI), IITPL Cath



emphasized the importance of teamwork in fulfilling Dr Kalam's vision. "The advancements in prosthetic limbs, cutting-edge CT scanners, and India's first cath lab manufacturing facility are true testa-

ments to our commitment to science and healthcare," Dr Sharma said. He highlighted the collective efforts of manufacturers, innovators, scientists, doctors, and engineers in advancing India's healthcare sector.

Provide loans to Common Interest Groups: VMC chief

Make loan facilities more accessible to public

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Municipal Vijayawada Corporation Commissioner HM Dhyanachandra met townlevel bank managers and Urban Community Development (UCD) staff at the VMC main office on Tuesday. He said that the Central government, through the National Urban Livelihood Mission 2.0, has selected Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam for a pilot project to provide loan facilities to Common Interest Groups (CIGs) in six categories.

As part of this, Dhyanachadra conducted a joint meeting with UCD staff and town-level bank managers. He instructed UCD staff to form CIGs in Vijayawada, similar to self-help groups. He directed the formation of separate

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The delegation emphasised

the need for timely completion

of the project and highlighted

Reddy, met Minister for Finance,

Planning, Commercial Taxes

and Legislative Affairs Payyavula

Keshav at the Secretariat and

submitted a representation in

this regard on Tuesday.

Dhyanachandra further instructed the 19 bank coordinators present at the coordinators present at the meeting to expedite the sanctioning of loans under the National Urban Livelihood Mission and the Prime Minister's Swanidhi Scherne. This applies to the 4,808 street vendors in the city, whose loans are currently pending, ensuring that eligible beneficiaries receive their first, second, and third tranche loans respectively, he said.

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner HM Dhyanachandra addressing a meeting of UCD staff and town-level bank managers on Tuesday

groups for transport, construction, domestic, waste, and care workers. The Commissioner also

Priyanka, UCD Project Officer Venkateswarlu, 19 bank coorrequested the bankers to cooper-Dhyanachandra further dinators, UCD staff, and ate in providing loans to these instructed the 19 bank coordi-MEPMA staff attended the nators present at the meeting to meeting.

'Swachhata Pakhwada' campaign by V'wada railway division ends

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Vijayawada Division of South Central Railway successfully concluded the Swachhata Pakhwada Campaign on Tuesday. Narendra A. Patil, DRM of the Vijayawada Division, highlighted the success of the cleanliness drive that took place from October 1 to 15 under the theme 'Swabhav Swachhata - Sanskar Swachhata'

During the fortnight-long

staff, school and college stu-Patil commended the efforts of dents, Scouts & Guides, and Kishore, Senior DEN (H) M, NGOs. In his address, and the Environment & Housekeeping Department Narendra Patil expressed pride in the collective efforts of the over the past month, noting community, stating, "The cam-paign was not just about cleantheir pivotal role in driving public involvement in cleanliness initiatives and awareness ing but about raising awareness activities.

and instilling a sense of responsibility towards cleanli-Certificates of Appreciation were presented to the officers ness, hygiene, and sanitation." and staff for their exemplary The Vijayawada Division organized a total of 820 events contributions. Patil urged during the Swachhata everyone to continue their efforts towards maintaining a Pakhwada, along with an addients under the cleaner and more sustain

Asamsetti Subhash in-charge minister for Krishna PNS VIJAYAWADA Excise, Kollu Ravindra, has been nominated as the in-

The Minister for Labour, Factories, Boilers, and Insurance Medical



Chandrababu Naidu, Planning Department Principal Secretary Piyush Kumar issued G.O.Ms.No.3 on Tuesday. Meanwhile, Minister for Mines & Geology and

Following



charge minister for the Anakapalli district. Minister Vasam setti Subhash will oversee the development and welfare activities in Krishna

district. Also, he will be conducting the District Review Committee (DRC)

meeting with the MPs, MLCs and MLAs. As per the government orders, the incharge minister will finalise the list of beneficiaries of various welfare schemes.

al aller of the second second



PNS VIJAYAWADA

Minister for Civil Supplies Nadendla Manohar conducted a surprise inspection of a rice mill located at Paritala village in Kanchikacherla mandal on Tuesday and found 100 bags of PDS

rice The Minister inspectshmi Ganana



ject's progress and alleviate the hardships faced by the displaced families.

the importance of addressing the Rehabilitation & Ramakrishna said that once the Veligonda Project is com-Resettlement (R&R) concerns of the displaced people. pleted, as many as 36 mandals The CPI delegation, along in the Prakasam, Nellore, and with the party's State secretari-Kadapa districts will be protectat member G Eswaraiah, ed from drought conditions. Prakasam district secretary ML Also, around 16 lakh people will get drinking water facilities. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Narayanana, and leaders R Venkata Rao and K Veera

CPI seeks Rs 2.000 crore

Naidu laid the foundation stone for the project in 1996. During the past 28 years, around 80 per cent of the project works were completed, he added. He added that the second tunnel, lining work, and the canal from

The Veligonda Project, a significant irrigation initiathe tunnel to the reservoir are tive, has experienced delays. incomplete. Rs.800 crore will be The CPI delegation pointed needed, and Rs.1,000 crore would out that adequate funding is be required to resolve the R&R crucial to resolving the ongopackage for 7,500 beneficiaries ing issues, including the resetfrom 11 villages. So, the government should allocate Rs.2,000 crore in the tlement and support for affectbudget and ensure the

groups organised by UCD staff.

VUAYWADA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

NEPMAAP



Heavy rains: Prakasam Barrage receives 46,381 cusecs of water

PNS VIJAYAWADA

With heavy rains lashing the Maharashtra and Telangana States, the Prakasam Barrage has been receiving around 46,381 cusecs of flood water from the upper regions. Subsequently, Water Resources the Department (Irrigation Department) officials discharged the surplus water of 36,250 cusecs into the sea by lifting 50 gates by one foot.

Over 36,000 cusecs of flood

water is coming from the Pulichintala Project. The authorities released around 36,250 Western and Eastern canals.

to go into the river for fishing.

cusecs of flood water into the Bay of Bengal. Also, they released 3,572 cusecs into the Krishna Further, the Irrigation officials

alerted the officials of Vijayawada and Tadepalli and other areas downstream of the Prakasam Barrage about the flood water coming from the upper catchment. They advised fishermen not Rice Mill and found 100 bags of rice which were meant to be distributed under the Public Distribution System to the ration card holders. The rice millers are blending the PDS rice in the Sambamasuri variety of fine quality rice, recy-

cling it and selling it as fine quality rice at a higher price, the Minister said.

The PDS rice being supplied by the Central and State government jointly is being misused by the private rice millers, he charged. The officials seized the rice and action was being initiated against the rice mill management, official sources said.

request aims to ensure the pro- of the project, he requested.

The CPI

participation from officers,

Swachhata Hi Seva initiative. railway environment.

ZPHS students excel in debating contest

PNS VIJAYAWADA

ed communit

Three students of the Zilla Parishad High School, Nunna, represented NTR district in the State-level debate organised by the Vaaradhi Foundation, and secured third place. G Sandhya, K Salomi and A Aishwarya are the winners.

Retired Chief Secretary Dr Mohan Kanda recently conducted the State-level debate. The Vaaradhi Foundation announced a Rs.27,000 cash prize to the team of NTR district. The trio participated in the State-level debate online.

the temple to the fort three

ZPH School, Anakapalli, bagged first place, while Sri Potti Sriramulu Municipal Corporation High School, Bhimavaram (West



Nunna ZPH School students G Sandhya, K Salomi and A Aishwarya, who won third place in the State-level debate contest organised by the Vaaradhi Foundation

Godavari) secured second place. Prior to the State-level competition, the Nunna ZPH School team participated in the NTR district-level debate on 'Artificial Intelligence Aids Academic Progress' that was held at the Bishop Azaraih Girl's High School

in Vijayawada. ZPH School Physical Science Teacher P Nageswara Rao guided the team. District School Education Officer (DSEO) UV Subba Rao, High School Headmaster Vazrala Bhupal Reddy and others congratulated the girls.

Plea to complete pending compassionate appointments

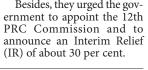
PNS VIJAYAWADA

tional 1 303 e

Andhra Pradesh Teachers Federation (APTF) State president G Hrudaya Raju and general secretary S Chiranjeevi have demanded that the State government complete the pending compassionate appointments in the Panchayat Raj Department. They stated in a press release on Tuesday that these appointments have been pending for the past four years.

delay in appointments, the families of the deceased have been facing severe financial troubles. The State government should make appropriate decisions in this regard. They also requested that the issue be discussed in the Cabinet meeting to be held on Wednesday. Besides, they urged the gov-

They added that due to the





Officials inspect arrangements for Drone Summit

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The State government is set to organise the prestigious Amaravati Drone Summit at the Punnami Ghat on the banks of River Krishna in Vijayawada. The event will be taking place on October 22 and 23. The government aims to develop the State as a Drone Capital.

Investment & Infrastructure Facilities Principal Secretary S Suresh Kumar and NTR District Collector Dr G Srijana inspected the arrangements at the Punnami Ghat and Babburi Grounds on Tuesday. They gave appropriate instructions to the officials concerned about the arrangements. The two-day Drone Summit will be conducted at the CK Convention

Fervour marks 'Sirimanotsavam'

Lakhs of devotees from across north coastal Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh thronged Vizianagaram town to seek the blessings of the presiding deity, Pydithalli Ammavaru.

PNS VIZIANAGARAM

The annual 'Sirimanotsavam', the major folk festival of Sri Pydithalli Ammavari Jatara, was celebrated with religious fervour on Tuesday. Lakhs of devotees from across north coastal Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh thronged Vizianagaram town to seek the blessings of the presiding deity, Pydithalli Ammavaru.

The day began with the hereditary trustee of the Pydithalli Ammavaru Temple, senior TDP leader Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju, and his

family offering prayers to the goddess in the morning session. Completing the traditional rituals, they also witnessed the grand Sirimano tsavam in the evening. The much-awaited

Sirimanu chariot procession, which is the highlight of the festival, commenced at 3:43 p.m. and concluded at 5:30 p.m. Devotees were overjoyed as they witnessed the sacred event. "It is a divine experience to witness this unique tradition. It feels as if the goddess herself is among us, blessing all her children," said one devotee, moved by



the spiritual atmosphere.

times. Devotees threw bananas at him, a symbolic act The Sirimanu, a 55-foot-long wooden pole, moved slowly towards the fort, with the temple's chief priest, Bantupalli Venkata Rao, believed to pacify the goddess. The Sirimanotsavam, though part of a 41-day fesperched atop it in regal robes. tival, is the main attraction, As part of the ritual, the drawing lakhs of devotees to priest, believed to be possessed witness the spectacle of the by the goddess, paraded from priest blessing the crowds

from the elevated pole. "It's truly mesmerizing to see this age-old tradition come alive each year. This festival binds people in faith and devotion," said a local observer. State MSME, SERP, and NRI Affairs Minister

Kondapalli Srinivas, along with MP Kalishetty Appalanaidu, accompanied the Sirimanu chariot throughout its journey. Minister Srinivas expressed his pride in the festival, stating, "The Sirimanotsavam is not just a festival but a celebration of our rich culture and tradi-

tions, bringing people togeth-er in devotion." The royal family members, including MLA Aditi Vijayalakshmi Gajapati Raju,

Sudha Gajapati, and Urmilagajapati, along with other dignitaries such as Gummadi Minister

Sandhyarani, Visakhapatnam MP M Sribharat, Nellimarla MLA Lokam Nagamadhavi, and Undi MLA R. Raghuramakrishnaraju, observed the festival from atop the fort, in line with tradition. Opposition Leader in the State Legislative Council, Botsa Satyanarayana, and his family also graced the occasion.

Security was tight during the festival, with the Vizianagaram police employing drones for surveillance before and during the Sirimanotsavam. Over 2,500 police personnel were deployed across various parts of the town to ensure smooth proceedings and prevent any untoward incidents. Vizianagaram SP Vakul Jindal closely monitored the event from the Command Control Centre, ensuring a peaceful and successful celebration.

at Mangalagiri. Delegates from different parts of the country will attend the Drone Show to be held at Punnami Ghat on October 22.

Suresh Kumar said that Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and several Central and State representatives will attend the event. There should not be any lapse in the arrangements. Drone Show, Laser Light and Sound Show and other cultural activities will be taking place. Officials should set up special galleries for the VVIPs and VIPs.

NTR District Joint Collector Dr Nidhi Meena, Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner HM Dhyana chandra, Deputy Police Commissioner Gowthami Shali and others participated in the inspection.







SP inaugurates official website for women's safety

District Eluru Superintendent of Police, Pratap Shiva Kishore, inaugurated the official website of the Eluru Police Department on Tuesday. The website has been launched to provide comprehensive information focused on women's safety.

The website will feature detailed information on cyber fraud, particularly those occurring through social media platforms, and will highlight the awareness programs conducted by the Eluru Police Department to prevent such incidents. It aims to strengthen the relationship between the police and the public by offering

easy access to resources. The site will include details of social media plat-

forms associated with the charge RSI Narendra.

Eluru district and showcase the good work done by the Eluru District Police.

Information regarding public awareness initiatives, such as those conducted through YouTube and other social media platforms, to educate people on cyber-crimes, will also be available. In addition, the website will provide essential details for the public, including information on local police stations, contact details of police officers, and their

mobile numbers. It will also serve as a resource for district police personnel by providing necessary information. Present at the event were

Additional SP (Admin) N Surya Chandra Rao, Nuzvid DSP Prasad, NIC DIO GVSR Sharma, Ravi Teja, and Eluru District IT in-

I&PR Minister Kolusu lays foundation for roads

Says 'Palle Panduga' aims at rural development

The villagers brought to the minister's attention the acute drinking water shortage, the poor condition of roads, and clogged drainage systems. In response, Minister Parthasarathi directed Panchayat Raj officials to urgently address the water scarcity issue. He also assured the villagers that new roads would be constructed to

PNS ELURU

Minister for Housing and I&PR, K Parthasarathi, laid the

Woman killed

replace the damaged ones.



foundation stone for various Akkireddigudem, each road to development projects at be built at a cost of Rs 15.50 Akkireddigudem village in lakh. During his visit, he inter-Musunuru mandal, Nuzvid acted with villagers, going door constituency, on Tuesday. to door to understand their The minister inaugurated concerns and grievances.

The villagers brought to the the construction of five cement concrete (CC) roads in minister's attention the acute

drinking water shortage, the poor condition of roads, and clogged drainage systems. In response, Minister Partha sarathi directed Panchayat Raj officials to urgently address the water scarcity issue. He also assured the villagers that new roads would be constructed to replace the damaged ones.

The objective of organising 'Palle Panduga' is to ensure rural development and provide all necessary facilities to villages. Ministers and public representatives are visiting every village to understand the issues and take immediate steps to resolve them," he remarked.

Saibaba temple, where the temple chairman, P Narasimha Rao, handed over a cheque of ?50,000 to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund as a

AP govt to ask for fast-track court to try 2 rape cases

PNS AMARAVATI

The Andhra Pradesh government on Tuesday said it will write to the High Court for setting up a fast-track court to hear two recent sensational rape cases in the state.

cannot escape punishment through long-drawn court cases and easily procured State Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha noted that Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu took this decision to ensure that the accused persons in the alleged incidents of rape occurred in Sathya Sai and Bapatla districts were pun-

ished as soon as possible. On October 12, a gang of five thieves including three minors, raped a woman and her daughter-in-law in Chilamathur mandal of Sri Sathyasai district, it is alleged. In a previous incident, 21year-old woman was allegedly raped and murdered at

Épurupalem village in Bapatla district, in June. Anitha said these two cases will be handed over to the fast-track court and it will send a message that culprits booked against him.

bails. Addressing a press conference at the secretariat, Anitha said, "To ensure that the accused persons are punished, the CM has taken a decision. Government will write to the High Court for a fast-track court. This fasttrack court is for this (Sri Sathyasai district) case and another case from Bapatla where a woman was raped and murdered."

Police nabbed five people accused in the Sri Sathyasai district case using technology and by chasing them for about 200 kms in 48 hours, Home Minister said. They were all remanded and one of them had 32 cases - including those of rape and theft -

Later, the minister visited the

donation for flood relief efforts.

Rs 30 cr for roads and drains in Machilipatnam

Minister for Excise and Mines, Kollu Ravindra, announced that roads and drainage facilities in Machilipatnam town will be developed at a cost of Rs 30 crore.

The Minister laid the foundation stone for the construction of an approach road at Tallapalem village in Machilipatnam mandal. This approach road will be constructed at a cost of Rs 38 lakh, utilizing funds from the

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister highlighted that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister K Pawan Kalyan have under the NREGS, with a budget of Rs 4,500 crore.

He mentioned that Gram Sabhas were launched across the state on August 23, during which necessary works were identified in the respective Gram Panchayats. Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan

Liquor cartels under TDP control: YSRCP



next Sankranti festival, with recalled that ground levelling work at the beach had previously been carried out at a cost of Rs 3.50 crore. The Minister lamented that the beach has remained closed for the past five years without

any development. He added that a programme has been initiated to develop infrastructure at the beach, aiming to transform it into an attractive tourist destination that will provide employment and income to residents.

Apartment residents oppose liquor shop

PNS GUNTUR

Residents of local apartments in Tadepalli took to the streets in strong opposition to the establishment of liquor shops in their neighbourhood.

Residents of Amaravati Icon and CSR raised slogans and held placards expressing their discontent regarding the opening of liquor shops on CSR Road. shop is They questioned the locality.



In a tragic road accident, a young woman was killed when the scooter, which she was riding, rammed a stationary car at Boyapalem village in Nallapadu mandal on the national highway on

the outskirts on Tuesday. Police said that the deceased Sheik Mahika (32) was riding a scooter. She rammed a stationary car and suffered a grievous head injury. She died instantaneously. The deceased was a resident of Chinna Bazar in Guntur. The Nallapadu police registered a case and shifted the body to the GGH for postmortem.

20 bus passengers have miraculous escape

PNS AMALAPURAM

As many as 20 passengers travelling in a private travel bus had a miraculous escape when the bus plunged into an irrigation canal at Yerrapota varam village in K Ganga varam mandal in Konaseema

district on Tuesday. Police said that the Meghana Travels bus was going to Yanam from Dwaraka Tirumala. The driver lost

Ganja saplings seized, 2 arrested

saplings, weighing 25 KGs, at Ramakuppam village and arrested two peddlers.

plying ganja saplings to some



PNS CHITTOOR

The police seized ganja

DSP Parthasarathi told the media in Kuppam on Tuesday that on a tip-off the police conducted a raid and arrested two persons Adikeshavulu and Lokesh. The police seized ganja saplings weighing 25 kg from them. They were sup-

canal. All passengers travelling in the bus escaped unhurt.

control over the bus resulting in it veering off the road and plunged into the irrigation

NREGA grant. initiated works across the state





farmers to raise in their fields. The police found that two

farmers raised ganja crops in their fields at Pedduru village.



works at Kankipadu.



plans to reconstruct all roads and drainage systems in the Machilipatnam constituency using the Rs 30 crore budget. The Minister reiterated the target of providing a tap to every household and ensuring

road connectivity and drainage facilities in every village. Minister Kollu Ravindra expressed regret over the incomplete roads previously started at Tallapalem Beach. The current project involves

R&B Minister Venkat not answering my calls: Arvind

authorities on how permis-

sion was granted to open a

liquor shop in such a dense-

ly populated residential area.

concerns that the presence

of liquor shops could lead

to law and order issues, as

anti-social elements may

congregate there. They

demanded that the author-

ities revoke the permission

and ensure that no liquor

shop is opened in their

The residents expressed

PNS HYDERABAD

The BJP's Nizamabad MP, Dharmapuri Arvind, alleged that Roads and Buildings (R&B) Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy is not answering his phone calls when he called Venkat to speak about roads and bridges in his constituency.

Arvind said that Venkat is misleading officials and people regarding development works. He said that he took up the construction of bridges at seven places in Nizamabad Lok Sabha constituency and that he made the 2-lane Madhava Nagar ROB 4-lane by spending Rs 93 crore. However, the state government is not giving funds and bills in time although the Centre deposited funds.

Arvind asked the state government to explain why it has not allocated Young India Integrated Residential School to Nizamabad district.



Arvind asked the state government to explain why it has not allocated Young India attitude. Integrated Residential School to

Nizamabad district. He said the Congress got weakened in Nizamabad district due to him and warned that the Congress

will face the fate of the KCR government if it does not change its

He said that there is no protection for temples under Congress rule. Telangana will develop only if the BJP comes to power, he said

cussed various educational tools

that can be set up in collabora-

PNS NELLORE/ VISAKHAPATNAM

The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) has strongly criticised the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) coalition for allegedly monopolising the State's liquor industry. YSRCP leaders claim that 90% of the wine shops allocated through the lottery system have gone to individu-als associated with the TDP coalition, with the process being overseen by TDP MLAs as part of a deliberate strategy to benefit the party's leaders and their associates.

Addressing the media at the party office in Nellore, former minister Kakani Govardhan Reddy alleged that the wine shop allocation is controlled by a syndicate dominated by the TDP coalition. He pointed out



that this influence extends supporters.

beyond liquor, affecting sectors like sand, gravel, education, Reddy also claimed that all distilleries in the State are under and healthcare. He accused the control of TDP leaders, leading to the sale of low-qual-Ν. Chandrababu Naidu of exploitity liquor at cheaper rates, while ing these resources for personother varieties are sold at inflatal and political gain, framing ed prices. He warned that the rise the liquor policy to primarily benefit TDP leaders and their of illegal liquor outlets, known as belt shops, is becoming a

major concern, and suggested that the government might soon introduce home delivery of alcohol, which would further harm the public

He emphasised that the new liquor policy is designed to favour TDP leaders, a fact made clear by the recent wine shop allocations. Reddy contrasted this with the situation under the previous government, where all revenue from liquor sales went directly into the state treasury. Under the current TDP-led administration, however, liquor syndicates are allegedly diverting this revenue for their own benefit, depriving the state

of vital funds. In a separate press conference in Visakhapatnam, former minister Gudivada Amarnath echoed these concerns. He highlighted that the majority of wine shops have been allocat-

in several major criminal inci-

dents including rapes and rob-

beries. Before committing sex-

ed to TDP-affiliated individuals, leading to an unchecked rise in alcohol availability, including the opening of more belt shops. Amarnath pointed out that when the YSRCP government came to power in 2019, it closed 43,000 belt shops and reduced the number of wine shops from 4,500 to 2,900 to protect poor families from alcohol-related harm.

Amarnath also criticised the TDP's potential plan to introduce a door-to-door liquor delivery scheme, warning that this would worsen the State's growing alcohol problem. He called for the immediate repeal of the current liquor policy, cautioning that if the government failed to act, the public, especially the poor, would protest against its negative impact.

Encourage students to innovate: Lokesh

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh is taking proactive measures to transform the state into a knowledge and innovation hub while simultaneously reducing student dropout rates in government schools. A project-based and peer-to-peer learning system is being established across the country in collaboration with the Agastya International Foundation, which aims to inspire students in the state towards innovation.

Under the leadership of Chandrababu Naidu, the Agastya Campus Creativity Lab was established in 1998 on a sprawling 172-acre site in Kuppam. Building on that foundation, efforts will be made to enhance the development of regional science centres in the state. To this end, representa-



Minister Nara Lokesh discussed various educational tools that can be set up in collaboration with the Agastya International Foundation, including STEM Labs, Mobile STEM Labs, Motor Bikes Labs, and Young Instructor Leaders

tives from the Agastya creativity, and confidence among economically disadvantaged stu-International Foundation met with Minister Lokesh at his resdents and government school idence in Undavalli on Tuesday. teachers across the country. Minister Nara Lokesh dis-

During the meeting, foundation representatives outlined their initiatives designed to foster interest,

with the Agastya tion International Foundation, including STEM Labs, Mobile STEM Labs, Motor Bikes Labs, and Young Instructor Leaders. These resources aim to empower students to excel academically and develop a diverse range of skills.

The representatives shared insights into their creative learning and innovation processes through a PowerPoint presentation. The foundation's goal is to enhance scientific knowledge, leadership abilities, problem-solv-ing skills, self-confidence, and awareness among students.

Agastya International Foundation Chairman Ram G. Raghavan, along with members A. Anjaneyulu, Mukund Jagannath, and C.S. Suresh, as well as CA Pushpa, Chairman of the AP State Council of Higher Education in charge, were present at the meeting.

GANG-RAPE CASE 3 minors among 5 accused arrested

PNS ANATAPUR

Chief

The police achieved a breakthrough in the sensational gang rape of a woman and her daughter-in-law by arresting five persons, including three minor boys.

Minister

Informing to the media in Hindupur on Tuesday, SP Ratna said that the police arrested five persons, including Nagendra and Pravine and three minor. One more accused in the case is absconding and the police teams are searching for him, the SP

added It may be mentioned here that the five-member gang barged into the house of the victims at Bommanapalli village in Chilamattur mandal in Hindupur constituency in SSS



district in the wee hours of ing at a private firm. After sex-Sunday, threatened the two ually assaulting the two women, they robbed Rs 5,200 from them and fled. Two of the men at knifepoint and gang raped a woman and her daughter-in-law. arrested persons were involved

The family migrated to the village from Bellary in Karnataka State and was work-

ual assault on the two women, the gang destroyed the CCTV cameras on the premises. However, one of the cameras captured the faces of the accused which gave the police vital clues to identify them and arrest them in 48 hours, the SP said.

The police are conducting a comprehensive investigation on the heinous crime incident and taking all steps to ensure that the offenders are punished in the court rigorously, the SP said. SP Ratna said that the two rape victims were undergoing treatment in the GGH and they were being extended all needed support.

The police produced the two arrested notorious criminals before the media in the media conference



Nation 05

ACROSS THE STATES



Maha: Man duped of **Rs 14 L by cyber fraudsters**

Police in Maharashtra's Panvel town has arrested a Delhi-based man who allegedly duped a local resident of Rs 14.2 lakh by impersonating a bank official and offering a personal loan. Arrested accused Ashik Ali alias Arif Allanur alias Pappu Khan (32) was suspected to be part of a sophisticated racket that targeted private bank customers, and three more persons were wanted in the case, said a police official of the Panvel cyber cell on Tuesday. The racket was involved in cases of cyber fraud in Chhattisgarh and Telangana too, the official said. The accused gained the victim's trust by sending him a counterfeit ID card of a bank official through WhatsApp, and offered him personal loan. They then hacked his net banking account, duping him of Rs 14,20,000, the official said.



One more held in Baba Siddique murder case

he Mumbai police have arrested one more person in connection with the killing of NCP leader and former Maharashtra minister Baba Siddique, officials said on Tuesday. The accused has been identified as Harishkumar Balakram (23), hailing from Bahraich in Uttar Pradesh, an official said. Balakram was working as a scrap dealer in Maharashtra's Pune, he said, adding the accused was also part of the conspiracy to kill Siddique. He was nabbed from Bahraich, the official said. With this, four persons have so far been arrested in connection with Siddique's killing. Police had earlier arrested Haryana resident Gurmail Baljit Singh (23), Uttar Pradesh native Dharmaraj Rajesh Kashyap (19), both alleged shooters, and "co-conspirator" Pravin Lonkar from Pune.



VIJAYAWADA | WEDNESDAY | OCTOBER 16, 2024

India seals big-ticket deal to procure 31 Predator drones from US

PNS 📕 NEW DELHI

India on Tuesday sealed a mega deal with the US to procure 31 Predator high-altitude long-endurance drones from American defence major General Atomics under the General Atomics under the foreign military sales route at a cost of nearly US\$ 4 billion to crank up Indian military's combat prowess along the con-tested borders with China. The deal, signed in presence of ton defence and strategic

of top defence and strategic brass of India in the national capital, marks a significant upswing in military ties between the two countries, officials said. The procurement of the drones was finalised just weeks ahead of the US presidential elections.

Besides the main contract, a separate agreement was inked between the defence ministry and General Atomics Global India Pvt Ltd for performance-



based logistics for the drones through depot-level maintenance, repair and overhaul of the platforms in India. Last week, the Cabinet

Committee on Security (CCS) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi cleared the procurement of the MQ-9B 'hunter killer' drones.

Vivek Lall, the Chief Executive of General Atomics Global Corporation who played a key role in the negotiations on the deal, was preThe deal, signed in presence of top defence and strategic brass of India in the national capital, marks a significant upswing in military ties between the two countries, officials said

sent at the signing ceremony. The drones are being procured at an estimated cost of around US\$ 4 billion, the officials said.

India is acquiring the drones primarily to crank up the surveillance apparatus of the armed forces, especially along the contested frontier with China.

In June last year, the Defence Ministry approved the procurement of the MQ-9B Predator armed drones from the US under a government-

to-government framework. The MQ-9B drone is a vari-ant of the MQ-9 "Reaper" which was used to launch a modified version of the Hellfire missile that eliminated al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri in the heart of Kabul in July 2022.

While the Navy will get 15 Sea Guardian drones, the Indian Air Force and the Army will get eight Sky Guardian drones each.

ASSEMBLY POLLS

BJP looks to build on gains, Oppn to comeback after setback

tion show in the two states

While the Congress is the

the Shiv Sena

(UBT) are

being seen as

the two main faces of the

alliance. The former Union

minister is con-

sidered as the

key strategist of its campaign. In Jharkhand, Chief

Minister Hemant Soren-led

Jharkhand Mukti Morcha is

the principal opposition party. With 48 Lok Sabha seats

and home to the country's

leading business houses,

Maharashtra is considered a

big prize in the national polit-

PNS NEW DELHI

promises to revitalise its ranks If the BJP's win against odds in the Haryana polls helped it following the Congress defeat in Haryana, where the party blunt the impression of an was seen as the favourite. ascendent Congress, the ruling party will look to decisively biggest opposition party in Maharashtra, its allies Sharad Pawar, who heads an NCP facturn the tables on the INDIA bloc in the elections in tion, and Uddhav Thackeray of Maharashtra and Jharkhand

where regional satraps are being seen as lynchpins to the opposition's campaign.

An impres-sive performance in Jharkhand and, especially, Maharashtra assembly polls next month by the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance will lay to rest the doubts over

the party's political dominance after its underwhelming performance in the Lok Sabha polls and strike a body blow to

BSP to contest on its own in

the opposition. However, a strong opposiical sweepstakes.

Murmu calls for deeper economic ties between India, Algeria

PNS ALGIERS

President Droupadi Murmu has called for deeper economic cooperation between India and Algeria, underlining that the Afgena, underning that the African nation's rapid growth and expanding economy offer many opportunities in various sectors. The President in an address to the Algorian Indian address to the Algerian-Indian Economic Forum on Monday emphasised India's rapid rise and impressive progress in 'Ease of Doing Business', and invited Algerian companies to join India's 'Make in India' and 'Make for the World' initiatives.

"The stepping up of the India-Algeria relations is based on our shared values, common challenges, and mutual trust," Murmu said at the event jointly organised by the Algerian Économic Renewal Council and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and



Industry (FICCI).

The President said Algeria's rapid growth and expanding economy offered many opportunities in various sectors and urged Indian companies to remain invested in the scope the Algerian economy presented, a statement from the President's Office said.

Noting that overall trade between India and Algeria stood at USD 1.7 billion, the President said the economic ties between the two countries have, however, not been able to tap its full potential, adding that India would be happy to share its experiences with its Algerian partners.

PNS LUCKNOW Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati on Tuesday said that her party will contest on that her party will contest on its own in the upcoming state elections in Maharashtra and Jharkhand as well as byelections in nine assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh. In a series of posts on X in

Hindi, Mayawati welcomed the announcement of the poll schedule and said it is the responsibility of the Election Commission to ensure that the elections are held in the shortest possible time and are free from the curse of money and muscle power. 'The BSP will contest elections alone in both these states...," she said, adding it is to ensure that its people remain united and strive to come to power as part of their



mission to protect dignity and self-respect inspired by B R Ambedkar.

"The BSP will field its candidates in the by-elections being held on nine assembly seats in UP and will fight this election on its own strength with full preparation and vigour," the former chief minister said in another post. Assembly polls in Maharashtra will be held in a

single phase on November 20.

held in two phases on November 13 and 20, the Election Commission announced on Tuesday. Voting in the bypolls will be held on November 13. The counting of votes will be held on November The Election Commission

In Jharkhand, elections will be

announced the bypolls for nine of the 10 vacant seats of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly.

COACHING BASEMENT DROWNING Enough evidence to prosecute accused, CBI tells court

PNS NEW DELHI

Principal District and Sessions Judge Anju Bajaj Chandna hear

Dhankhar expresses concern over 'growing threat of demographic disorder'

PNS JAIPUR hoing the sentiments of RSS



speaking at a programme at the

Birla Auditorium in Jaipur.

Passengers praise hygiene, services at Delhi station

n a first of its kind interaction with train passengers, Delhi's Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Sukhvinder Singh held a 'Rail Chaupal' at the New Delhi Railway Station on Tuesday during which he received positive feedback on cleanliness and facilities from dozens of travellers. The Railway Ministry recently instructed all the rail divisions across the country to hold 'Rail Chaupal' sessions on the station premises to collect feedback from passengers on the amenities and resolve their complaints. "Rail Chaupal is a component of the Special Campaign 4.0 initiated by the Railway Board from October 1 to October 31 2024 There are many other passenger-centric activities under the campaign to make their train journey a pleasurable experience," a spokesperson from the Northern Railway said.

INFRA PLANNING IN 27 ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS Goyal launches district master plan under PM GatiShakti

PNS NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday launched a district master plan under the PM GatiShakti initiative for infrastructure plan-

ning in 27 aspirational districts of the country. A national master plan por-

tal is there under the initiative for efficient plan-

ning and implementation of infrastructure projects. Goyal said that the district

master plan will be expanded to cover more than 750 districts across the country in the next 18 months.

The minister also launched the guidelines for preparing Chief Mohan Bhagwat, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Tuesday expressed concern over the "growing threat of demographic disorder" in the country, saying it is no less severe in consequences than a nuclear bomb.

The vice president said "demographic dislocation" is turning certain regions into political fortresses, where elections have no real meaning.



"It is alarming to see how some areas have been affected by this strategic shift, turning

them into impenetrable strongholds where democracy loses its essence," he said while

Vijayadasahmi rally of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in Nagpur on October 12, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat raised the issue of infiltration from Bangladesh and population imbalance caused by it.

The RSS chief said a "tyrannical fundamentalist" nature exists in Bangladesh and a sword hangs over the heads of minorities, including Hindus.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Tuesday informed a Delhi court that there was enough evidence to prosecute the accused persons in the death case connected to the flooding in an Old Rajinder Nagar coaching institute. The civil services aspirants had lost their lives following a torrential downpour in the national

sions of the CBI, which urged the court to take cog nisance of a chargesheet filed in the case.

Among others, the CBI has chargesheeted the CEO of Rau's IAS Study Circle Abhishek Gupta and its coordinator Deshpal Singh.

The defence counsel, however, opposed the CBI submissions, claiming the chargesheet was incomplete.

Odisha to seal borders when kharif paddy procurement begins

PNS BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha government on Tuesday said it will seal borders with neighbouring states when it begins paddy procurement for the kharif season next month.

The decision was taken during a review meeting chaired Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, attended by

ministers and departmental secretaries. The state plans to procure

PNS UNITED NATIONS

terrorism, parochialism and

persecution, New Delhi said in

a strong response to Islamabad

Mission of India to the UN

Eldos Mathew Punnoose exer-

against Pakistan at the Joint

General Debate on decolonisa-

tinues to abuse the UN forum by peddling "falsehoods and

baseless accusations", which

he added is not surprising

given Pakistan's past conduct.

"India symbolises plural-

Counsellor in the Permanent

in the UN.

paddy at Rs 3,100 per quintal, fulfilling a promise made by the BJP before the elections. With the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for paddy set at Rs 2,300, the state will provide an additional Rs 800 per quintal as a bonus at government mandis, an official said

PNS NEW DELHI Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge slammed the BJP-led Centre on Tuesday over the rising inflation and said India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made its people "vishwaguru" in hunger. Kharge's remarks

came following a rise in retail inflation and as India occupied the 105th place in the global hunger index.



"The situation of inflation is such that despite the provision of vegetables. of ration to the poor for food security, Modiji has made the people of the country

'Vishwaguru' in hunger! India has come to the 105th place in the Global Hunger Index," the Congress chief said in a post in Hindi on X.

capital leading to the flooding

at the coaching institute.

India under Modi has made its people 'vishwaguru' in hunger: Kharge

any let up in the BJP's 'loot' even for 10-and-a-half seconds! The politics of diversion will not work any longer. The public will vote on basic issues, Kharge said.

He said retail inflation rose In the 2024 Global Hunger to 5.49 per cent in September, the highest in nine months. It Index, India ranks 105th out of was at 3.65 per cent in August, the 127 countries with suffi-Kharge noted. He also shared cient data to calculate the 2024 GHI scores. With a score of a picture showing high prices 27.3 in the 2024 Global Hunger Index, India has a level of

"In the last 10-and-a-half years, Modiji has not allowed hunger that is serious.

"It is important for Pakistan

TMC slams EC for not announcing **Basirhat bypolls** He added that the PM GatiShakti is India's offering to

PNS NEW DELHI

The Trinamool Congress (TMC) on Tuesday slammed the Election Commission for not announcing the dates of the bypoll in West Bengal's Basirhat, alleging the poll panel was deploying a "delaying tactic" at the behest of the BJP.

The seat fell vacant after cised India's right of reply the death of the party MP SK Nurul Islam due to cancer on September 25 at the age of 61. On Monday, the Election tion here Monday. Punnoose said Pakistan con-

Commission announced dates for assembly polls in Maharashtra and Jharkhand, and by-elections to 47 assembly seats and the Wayanad Lok Sabha seat.

India symbolizes pluralism, democracy while Pakistan reminds world of terrorism'

ism, diversity and democracy. In contrast, Pakistan reminds India symbolises pluralism, the world of terrorism, diversity and democracy while parochialism and persecution. Religious and ethnic minorities Pakistan reminds the world of

> Punnoose said **Pakistan continues** to abuse the UN forum by peddling "falsehoods and baseless accusations", which he added is not surprising given Pakistan's past conduct



and their places of worship are Kashmir during the debate. targeted and vandalised on a regular basis. India's strong to first look inwards and set retort came after Pakistan own house in order instead of raked the issue of Jammu and meddling in the internal affairs of neighboring countries," he said. "The world is witness to the divisive activities that Pakistan tries to undertake day in and day out. India would like to stress that our foundations are built on the enduring pillar of democratic values, unlike Pakistan's."

He said that given their tainted democratic record, Pakistan considers real democratic exercises as sham, as reflected in their statement.

"All countries speak from their experience - sham elections, incarceration of opposition leaders and suppression of political voices are what Pakistan is familiar with. It is natural that Pakistan must be disappointed to see real democracy at work," Punnoose said.



logistics plans to help cities tailor their logistics planning.

the world of tomorrow where

will use for their infra planning in the years to come," he said, adding India's urban plan-

ners, architects, engineers, international organisations that fund many of these projects

infrastructure projects.

would get confidence in India's

over 1,600 layers of data have been accumulated at the central and state levels for faster, better, and



going to be the technology that the world

VIJAYAWADA | WEDNESDAY | OCTOBER 16, 2024

ne pioneer

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souring relations

New Delhi dismisses the Canadian claims of Indian involvement in the Nijjar case as politically driven

he already tense relations between India and Canada have hit a new low, with both countries expelling each other's diplomats. New Delhi expelled six Canadian diplomats, including Acting High Commissioner Stewart Ross Wheeler after Ottawa's expulsion of 'targeted' Indian diplomats. These diplomats were allegedly involved in 'violent criminal activity in Canada.' The situation deteriorated after Trudeau accused Indian intelligence agents of being linked to the Nijjar's murder in British Columbia in 2023. During a press conference, Trudeau, announced the expulsion of six Indian diplomats from Canadian soil, citing their involvement in a 'targeted campaign' against Canadian citizens. India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has responded with forceful rebuttal, describing the allegations as 'preposterous imputations.' The MEA criticised Canada's decision to expel the Indian diplomats, dismissing the accusations as politically motivated and linked to the Trudeau government's domestic challenges. India on its part



has expelled six Canadian diplomats to leave the country by October 19, 2024, and announced the withdrawal of its High Commissioner from Canada.

The root cause of the conflict lies in the ongoing issue of Sikh separatism and Canada's handling of the Khalistan movement. Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a prominent Khalistan supporter, was a Canadian citizen who had long advocated for an independent Sikh state. His murder in 2023 remains a contentious issue, with Canadian authorities suspecting the involvement of Indian agents. India, however, has consistently denied any role in the killing and has accused Canada of providing a safe haven for extremist elements that threat-

en India's national security. It is rather unfortunate that two friendly countries should snap diplomatic relations with each other. Justin Trudeau's electoral compulsions, with elections just a year away, could be behind his recent actions. Justin Trudeau's perceived support for Sikh separatists, particularly those advocating for a Khalistan, stems from a complex blend of domestic political considerations and Canada's multicultural policies. Trudeau's Liberal Party has historically sought the support of the Sikh diaspora, a significant and politically active community in Canada, which includes a segment advocating for Sikh rights and in some cases, Khalistan. By engaging with Sikh community leaders, including some who may have Khalistani sympathies, Trudeau aims to secure votes in regions with a strong Sikh presence. This standoff could affect many areas where people in both countries could be net sufferers. Trade negotiations, immigration policies, and cultural exchanges between the two countries would indeed be affected. The expulsion of diplomats and withdrawal of ambassadors signifies more than just diplomatic posturing; it represents India's sovereignty, security, and the role of foreign governments in its domestic affairs. With both sides showing no signs of backing down, the road to reconciliation appears to be fraught with challenges.



The untold story of Captain Rameshwar Thapa's heroics



pinion 06

Capt Rameshwar Thapa, Nepal's first civilian pilot to command a Russian Mi17 helicopter, played a pivotal role during the country's Maoist insurgency

 \mathbf{T} hen you think of rotary wing aircraft in Nepal some names will crop up: Tula Bahadur Thapa, Narain Singh Pun, Madan KC, all Army Colonels, but among civilians a pioneer is Capt Rameshwar Thapa, the first Russian Mi17 helicopter pilot who trained the then Royal Nepal Army on Mi17 and was later requisitioned by Security Forces during the Maoist People's War. Let's call the Captain, RT who has written the English version of his book in Nepali, Barud Mathi Uddaa titled Into The FIRE, a book 'based on hard facts'. It encapsulates the Maoist insurgency that aimed to capture the state: they came perilously close to doing it. But for RT's heroic efforts, on April 8, 2005 in saving Khara, the epic battle waged by Maoists, by flying in 20 Special Force Rangers after an SOS- 'if no reinforcements in 20-30 minutes, Khara will go'. Despite his helicopter being hit by Maoists on surrounding hills he made a second attempt in a vertical descent to land reinforcements at base camp. Khara was a battle for prestige and honour for both sides, especially Maoists but Rangers saved the day. At the time, I had written reams on the first and second Khara battles, describing Khara II's criticality.

RT rightly calls Khara the turning point, for soon after, their defeat at Khara Maoists sued for peace: choosing ballot over bullet. They signed the 12-point agreement in New Delhi in November 2005 which led to the political transformation of Nepal restoration of democracy and mainstreaming of Maoists. The rest, of course, is history. Into the Fire essentially covers the personal experiences of a co-pilot elevated to Pilot in Command as Mi17 initially had pilots from Russia and Central Asian Republics. Their mission was rescue, relief, reinforcements, casualty evacuation and acting as morale boostwere terrified of



the humanitarian angle of saving lives and security posts at great personal risk. RT turns out to be a cat with nine lives having taken numerous hits and a life-threatening crash landing near Everest Base Camp. Initially, he joined Everest Air which was regularly supplying helicopters to the police as they had none; later, he flew for the Armed Police Force and RNA. King Gyanendra who had usurped power first in 2002

and done a coup in 2005, did not allow the RNA to aid or assist the police which suffered on account of it. He did not even allow PM GP Koirala to use it to break the siege of the Holleri post when 76 policemen were taken hostage. Koirala had to resign but Holleri was an avoidable blot on police's unprofessional record. The Army was only pressed into service after Maoists during a ceasefire and talks attacked Army barracks in November 2001 at Dang. RT explains the politics underpinning the King's embargo on RNA. Flying for the army RT became an enemy of the Maoists' and was advised to send his family abroad for their safety.

the atrocities committed by both sides. RT has narrated several human interest stories like once evacuating a female Maoist who later became a minister and married a fellow Maoist minister. There is a conversation with elders in a village who tell him that they prefer to give their daughters to RNA rather than letting Maoists take them away to join the movement.

His underground life at Oasis Hotel in Nepalgunj is cloak-and-dagger stuff. RT has not shied away from writing about RNA's November 2004 RT HAS NARRATED Pandaun, Kailali 'propaganda' attack under the lyricist SEVERAL HUMAN Divisional Commander, Gen INTEREST STORIES Rajendra Thapa. The Army claimed it had killed 200 to 300 LIKE ONCE Maoists whereas only 4 to 5 bodies were found (Maoists EVACUATING A had an honour code not to FEMALE MAOIST leave behind any bodies). One of the Army's self-afflicted WHO LATER BECAME disasters was enacted at Pili in August 2004 when an A MINISTER AND Engineer Regiment was MARRIED A FELLOW ordered to crash-build a road MAOIST MINISTER Their prize was a huge cache

daily titled 'Maobadi Paradise: Nirmal Nivas', which was Prince Gyanendra's residence. Having been as 'busy as a bee' in the People's War, as a 24X7 helicopter pilot, his life changed after violence ceased. He mentions India's constructive role in the peace process. In his post-conflict avatar, RT became an aviation company czar, a media mogul - with newspapers, radio and TV and an interest in politics. His list of awards will fill a page. So will his contribution to corporate social responsibility. Into The Fire: was released in Delhi last month to a packed house. Striking in the book is the note written by Janardhan Sharmawho was the architect of the Khara debacle-while recently Nepal's Finance Minister. Sitting next to me on the dais RT was a picture of modesty and humility, few people realised his crucial role in the People's War. Immodestly I could not resist mentioning my book The Royal Nepal Army: Meeting the Maoist for King Gyanendra's visit. Challenge released in 2005. But his is a first-hand account.

(The writer a retired Main

General, was Commander,

IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and

An oriental pied hornbill at Ponitora Wild Life Sanctuary, in Morigaon

helicopters which were later ingeniously improvised by RNA as armed platforms to drop 81 mm mortar bombs and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). Many battles in both east and west Nepal are described mainly from

Major encounters revive memories of fighting, their horror, ferocity and barbarity. Villages and towns have not forgotten

sives stored at Pili for road construction. Nearly 160 soldiers were killed as RT conducted casualty evacuation flights. Elsewhere he mentions current

founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence President Ramchandra Poudel Staff; the views expressed are writing an article in Kantipur personal)

The invisible battle for mental health in India



Mental health remains an afterthought in our healthcare narrative. The true healing encompasses both body and mind

s a psychologist, I've seen how health in India isn't just a battle of the body-it's a struggle of the mind. Behind every disease is a person dealing with fear, frustration and, at times, loneliness. Whether in rural areas, where diseases like tuberculosis persist or in urban centres where lifestyle illnesses are on the rise, the emotional toll is often invisible but deeply felt.

In rural India, patients face challenges that go beyond medical diagnoses. I remember a man from a small village battling tuberculosis, but what weighed on him most wasn't just his illness-it was the isolation. He felt forgotten and cut off from the world because healthcare facilities were far away, and his family didn't know how to support him. This emotional isolation is something many rural patients experience, and it can be as damaging as their physical symptoms, compounding their sense of hopelessness. In cities like Gurgaon, the struggles are different but equally pro-



found. I think of Anjali, a conditions-but the emoyoung woman overtional weight people carry

whelmed by anxiety. is often ignored. I've seen To the outside world, she people suffer for years in seemed to have it all-a silence, feeling their emogreat job, a busy social life, tional pain isn't valid and a bright future. But because it can't be measured like a physical illness. inside, she was spiralling. She hesitated for months There's an urgent need for before seeking help, afraid change. India's healthcare that admitting to her strug-gles would make her appear system mirrors this divide. In cities, private care offers weak. This fear of judgment options, but mental health keeps many people from services are still limited asking for help, and it's and expensive. heartbreaking to see how common this is in urban In rural areas, mental health is rarely even discussed. environments.Mental health remains an afterthought in our healthcare system. often put their health-

We focus on physical symptoms-treating heart disease, diabetes, and other cal-on the back burner,

prioritising their families' needs over their own. One of my patients, a mother of two, delayed seeking help for her anxiety for years. She was exhausted, overwhelmed, and losing her sense of self. But like so many women, she felt guilty for even considering that her health deserved attention.

This is a common storytoo many women in India silently endure mental health struggles, dismissing their needs as unimportant, further isolating themselves in the process.

We need to change this narrative. Mental health is not a luxury or a sign of weakness. It is an integral part of overall well-being. We must make mental health care as important as physical health in our conversations and our healthcare system. Only then can we address the full scope of health challenges in India because real healing isn't just about the body; it's about the mind too.

and founder - Kavita Kabira wellness clinic;

ERS LETTI

RTI POWER FADES

Madam —It is really unfortunate that the RTI Act, which came into effect in 2005, promising a new era in transparency in government functioning, has almost died its own death, with the executive not showing any keenness to infuse a fresh life into it. The Act has slowly weakened due to unwarranted amendments, overreach of the executive and restrictive judicial interpretations. Lack of adequate infrastructure and shortage of staff in government offices to deal with RTI applications is another cause for worry. Ever since its ratification, several attempts have been made to deliberately dilute this law and hamper access to information by the public.

The proposed amendments were dropped due to widespread public defiance. In the administration and functioning of a democratic government, the right to access and seek information is a sine qua non for transparency, openness and accountability. Unless citizens are empowered with the right to ask questions, democracies cannot and will not survive. The need of the hour is to promote the free flow of information to limit tvrannical tendencies and reinforce democratic ideals.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

RAILWAY SAFETY NEGLECTED

Madam — Gone are the days when a Railway minister used to apologise for a train accident and even tender his resignation for it. Now, it is too much to expect even an explanation for the snail's pace at which the Train Collision Avoidance System is being installed and loco pilots do the extra shifts. In such a scenario, there is no wonder why train accidents have become a regular event in our country. Train Collision Avoidance System, which was later renamed as Kavach, is an automatic train protection system that helps prevent collisions if two

Peacekeepers under attack



ust a week ago, Israel's Foreign Minister Israel Katz announced that UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has been banned from entering Israel, accusing him of 'supporting" Hamas, Hezbollah,

started for Kavach in 2016. But it has been installed only in less than 1,500 km of tracks out of the total 70,000 km covered by the Indian Railways across the country.

That means this lifesaving device has so far been placed in only a little over 2 per cent of railway tracks in eight years after its field trials! An RTI reply says that of 1,27,644 sanctioned posts of loco pilots and assistant loco pilots, 18,766-nearly 15 per cent - were vacant as of March 1 this year. Indian Railways have been playing with our lives by not filling up vacant posts and by forcing their personnel, even loco pilots, to overwork. How can a loco pilot remain alert if he has to do

Sujit De | Kolkata

LAW AND ORDER CRISIS

Madam - The shooting of Baba Siddiqui could not have come at a worse time for the Mahayuti government in Maharashtra, as elections to the assemtrains are on the same tracks. Senior rail-way officials said that a field trial was sition has been handed over an issue of

Houthis and Iran. Now a new order has been issued from Tel Aviv, which says that all UN peacekeepers should be removed from Lebanon. Israel is accusing without any proof that Hezbollah is using peacekeepers as human shields.

On the contrary, Israel has been continuously attacking the peacekeepers since last week. Dozens of peacekeepers have been injured so far. UNIFIL, a mission of about 9,500 soldiers of various nationalities, was created after Israel invaded Lebanon in 1978. It is currently tasked with monitoring the ceasefire that ended the 33-day war between Israel and Hezbollah in 2006. Israel's actions have been criticised by the whole world, except the US.

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

law and order in the state which is certainly going to be used as ammunition against the government in the electoral campaigning. There is no doubt this issue will resonate with the people of the state. If important political leaders and ex-ministers are not safe, what hope is there for the common citizen? Another disturbing fact is that the alleged kingpin is overseeing operations from jail.

With the right connections, jails seem to have become a holiday resort with all facilities available, like cell phones and wi-fi. The assailants are said to be in the ages of 19-21, and another one is supposedly said to be a minor. The lack of education and scarcity of jobs play their part in getting the young people sucked into the criminal world. Usually, the criminals come from the Northern Hindi belt. Those in charge of the states must find ways and means to stop the young people from entering the world of crime.

Anthony Henriques | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

the lack of manpower that makes even extra shifts?

(The writer is Psychologist

views are personal)

Socioeconomic barriers, especially for women, make it even harder to access mental health care. Women

both emotional and physi-

VIJAYAWADA | WEDNESDAY | OCTOBER 16, 2024

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FIRSTCOLUMIN CLEANLINESS AND SPIRITUALITY

The connection between a clean space and a peaceful mind is undeniable



RAVI VALLURI

hen I recall our college days, particularly the hostel rooms, it takes me on a nostalgic trip. The days were full of fun and frolic, books scattered around, beer and rum bottles lying randomly, with cigarette butts strewn rather carelessly. The rooms were full of stench

Most of the guys would ogle, there was no Google back then, at the girls. Posters of Pink Floyd, the Beatles, and Led Zeppelin populated the grubby and unwashed walls of the rooms. The politically inclined would paste large printed pictures of Che Guevara, Marx and Lenin among others, professing their ideological baggage unequivocally.

Some rooms were relatively cleaner and tidily kept. In our hail-fellowwell-met attitude we ended up ostracising such students. But they were our Gurus during examination times, much to their chagrin. A close friend had put up a poster which read: "Cleanliness is the sign of a sick mind." His room was particularly unclean and stained.

Cleanliness is both the abstract state of being clean and free from dirt, and the process of achieving and maintaining that state. However, to my mind cleanliness and spirituality are intertwined like Siamese twins. The human mind normally slips into a state of meditation and involuntarily has a spiritual experience at places which are relatively clean. Cleanliness is positively next to godliness.

India has of late embarked upon a major cleanliness drive where villages, bijou towns, cities, rivers, among others, places of historical importance and important religious places are being refurbished. This is indeed a positive statement made by the government. A gurdwara is the place of worship for Sikhs. People from all faiths and those who do not pro-



fess any faith too, are welcomed in Sikh gurdwaras. To me gurdwaras are among the cleanest spots in the country and it is a lesson in humility to observe how the devout keep it absolutely spick and span. The mind gravitates to the pristine spirit and listens to the soulful and mellifluous Gurubani being sung. The human mind, which is normally cannonaded by innumerable thoughts, gradually settles down and is at rest

Migration issue polarises Canada ahead of 2025 election

Canada is struggling to reconcile the benefits of foreign influx with stagnant wages, strained services and a housing crisis; analysis by AMAL CHANDRA and AJAY P KARUVALLY

anada has recently cut down on international student per-mits and tightened eligibility for work permits in a bid to cut down on the number of temporary residents. As the federal election approaches in October 2025, immigration remains the most contentious issue in Canadian politics. "Immigration is an advantage for our economy — but when bad actors abuse the system and take advantage of students, we crack down." Said Canada Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, in a post on X. However, things are a little more complicated. Canada presents a unique case of pop-ulation dynamics, with rapid growth despite record-low birth rates. Between 2023 and 2024, Canada's population surged by 3.2 per cent, outpacing even some African nations known for their high population growth. While the population is increasing rapidly, the total fertility rate (TFR) of 1.33 children per woman in 2022 was the lowest in Canadian history. Canada's population growth, despite a very low TFR, is a testament to the power of immigration. In 2023, 97.6 per cent of the growth in the Canadian population came through immigration.

This reliance on immigrants is a long-standing strategy to offset the country's ageing population. While the COVID-19 pandemic temporarily slowed population growth to just 0.4 per cent in 2021, immigration quickly rebounded, fuelling a rapid recovery in population growth. A significant portion of Canada's immigrants come from India, making up 10.8 per cent of all immigrants in 2023. The proportion of Indians among all the immigrant groups entering the country has increased from 9.6 per cent between 1991 and 2000, to 18.6 per cent between 2016 and 2021. Projections for the period between 2022 and 2026 suggest this trend will continue to accelerate.

Canada's Immigration Dilemma: Canada's immigration system comprises four main programs: economic, family, refugee, and temporary work. The first three lead to permanent residency, while temporary workers must follow specific pathways with quotas and critea to attain permanent residency. The preferred route for international students is the Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP), which is issued to foreign students who have completed a diploma or degree at a Canadian institution. This permit allows them to qualify for permanent residency programs. While all immigration programs have grown, the 127 per cent surge in international stu-dent permits issued in 2023 compared to 2006 is particularly remarkable. A 2015 study showed that between 20 per cent and 27 per cent of international students transitioned to permanent residency within ten years of receiving their first study permit. This conversion rate is likely even higher in more recent years, reflecting the growing appeal of Canada as a destination for long-term settlement through the student migration route. Economic Growth or Illusion? The influx of immigrants and their economic activity has fuelled Canada's GDP growth (1.8 per cent average from 2000 to 2023), but population growth is masking underlying economic chal-lenges. The GDP per capita rate for the same period from 2000 to 2023 is only



0.7 per cent, among the lowest in the G7. The Canadian economy and the living standards of its population have largely stagnated over the last decade.

While immigrants are contributing to economic growth, the GDP per capita rates are declining. Many new immigrants earn less than the national average, and there are doubts about their abil-CANADA'S ity to achieve upward mobility as

rapidly as past generations of IMMIGRATION immigrants, especially given that SYSTEM the majority are temporary residents.

COMPRISES The Government's Immigration Gamble: To course-correct a stag-FOUR MAIN nating economy and compensate PROGRAMS: for poor growth rates, Canadian policymakers have made a bet on ECONOMIC, immigration. By letting in massive numbers of permanent and tem-FAMILY, REFUGEE, porary residents, Canada has pri-AND TEMPORARY oritised short-term growth, in hopes this can translate to a sus-WORK. THE FIRST tainable long-term growth strategy through the upward mobili-THREE LEAD TO ty of the recently introduced PERMANENT immigrant cohorts. While it may be too early to say this is not RESIDENCY, working, Canadian public opinion against immigration is at an all-WHILE time low. Many Canadians feel the TEMPORARY rapid influx of immigrants is exacerbating critical issues like the WORKERS MUST housing shortage and the strain on social services, including FOLLOW SPECIFIC healthcare and emergency PATHWAYS WITH

suppressing wages. Although evidence suggests that immigrants have little to no impact on the average wages of native workers, the perception of such effects tends to fuel stronger anti-immigration sentiments. Corporations, however, have capitalised on this dynamic, employing temporary workers, including international students, in low-wage, precarious jobs. The promise of permanent residency keeps them in the system, even when working conditions are poor. For corporations, this represents a windfall of cheap labour.

Coincidentally, working these

low-paying jobs means the immi-

analysis 07

gration. Till 2015, There was minimal discussion or negative sentiments related to international students (see figure below). Starting from around 2015, the number of negative comments saw a sharp rise. This trend peaks significantly after 2020, indicating a growing negative discourse, especially in recent years. The number of positive comments seems to plateaued after 2017. Although positive sentiment persists, sentiment analysis reveals a shift in public discourse toward increasingly negative views on the broader issue of international students in recent years.

Conclusion: A Broken System grants are unlikely to undergo the For many international students and temporary immigrants, these

and peace

It would be interesting to mention that Sri Harmandir Sahib and Sri Darbar Sahib are informally referred to as the Golden Temple. Guru Ram Das constructed the Golden Temple in 1577. He was the fourth Guru in the pantheon of Sikh Gurus. A Sikh friend mentioned that a gurdwara is a community asset and serviced by unpaid and committed volunteers, those who perform seva from the kitchen to the shoe rack.

Mahatma Gandhi, the apostle of peace and non-violence, championed the cause of truth only as he could. His autobiography, The Story of My Experiments with Truth, like his life, documents every aspect where he does not dissemble anything. During my days of quotidian drinking, I drank heavily and remained inebriated. In that state of arrogance and hubris, I walked into the holy precincts of the Golden Temple carrying a packet of Wills Navy Cut. The act was certainly sacrilegious. For perpetrating this sinful act, I could have been trolled on social media. Today, I regret the mistake committed and apologise sincerely from the depths of my heart. I am sober today because of Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and have given up drinking, smoking and eating non-vegetarian fare. The twisted personality in me is making amends and I hope those afflicted with these vices seek the grace of a Guru to extricate themselves from this cesspool of negativity and embark upon the voyage to discover the quintessential quality of cleanliness and spirituality.

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)

response. Despite placing their hopes on immigration, the gov-QUOTAS AND ernment has failed to make parallel investments in infrastructure CRITERIA to support both immigrants and

TO ATTAIN the existing population. ERMANENT to keep pace with inflation and PERMANENT RESIDENCY there is rising concern among Canadians that immigrants are

pward social mobility the government is hoping they would. Rising Hostility and Public Sentiment As frustrations over the government's immigration policies mount, this frustration is being increasingly manifested as resentment toward immigrants themselves. Public sentiment has noticeably shifted in recent years, with more Canadians expressing negative views toward international students and other immigrants. While this is hard to quantify and prove, public sentiment analysis using machine learning models on social media platforms like Reddit provides a

useful indication. We analysed all the comments under posts containing the word "international students" in the r/Canada subreddit (community) from 2010 to 2022. While the r/Canada subreddit is not in any way a reflection of Canadian society, it could be a fair representation of a microcosm of Canadian centrist views on immi-

growing negative sentiments could lead to increased hostility and more barriers to integration. Instances of food bank usage, cultural misunderstandings, and economic struggles may further inflame these tensions. Canada's immigration system, which lacks a strategic vision, seems to benefit neither Canadian citizens nor immigrants.

Without meaningful reforms, only corporations exploiting cheap labour will see long-term gains, while social unrest and economic stagnation will continue to grow. The future of Canada's immigration policy hinges on the ability of the government and its citizens to address the current challenges and find a path forward that benefits all residents.

(Chandra is an author, policy analyst and columnist and Ajay P Karuvally is a Research Fellow at The International Institute of Migration and Development; views are personal)

The divisive legacy of British colonialism: A persistent threat to India's unity

Politicians continue to exploit social divisions for electoral gains, while foreign forces seek to undermine India's unity

he legacy of British colonialism in India remains a contentious issue, with far-reaching consequences that continue to impact the country's social fabric. In the contemporary context, this can be seen in the practice of politics by the opposition parties, par-ticularly the Indian National Congress (INC).

The colonial era strategically exploited India's inherent social and cultural diversities, creating fault lines that persist today. These divisions, crafted to serve the interests of the British Empire, have become entrenched in India's societal landscape, posing a significant challenge to national unity.Post-1857, British authorities, scholars, and missionaries collaborated to divide Dalits, tribals and Muslims



SHIV PRAKASH

from the Hindu community. This agenda leveraged scholars and missionaries to separate Dalits and tribals through conversion and social manipulation, as detailed in Arun Shourie's seminal work, "Missionaries in India." By creating artificial distinc-

tions and fueling social conflict, the British successfully fostered alliances and divisions that endured long after

independence. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently highlighted Congress's departure from its founding principles, embracing leftist ideologies instead. Modi cited Congress's original stance on issues like Swadeshi, Swavalamban, and Panchayat Raj, and Mahatma

slaughter.

dence. His comments fueled separatist sentiments among Khalistani supporters, echoing the tactics employed by British colonialists. Meanwhile, in Sikh communities, Max Arthur Macauliffe

sowed seeds of separation, as detailed in Khushwant Singh's Gandhi's opposition to reli-"The Sikh Gurus, Sacred gious conversion and cow Writings and Authors." These foreign interventions fabricat-Gandhi's post-1920 emphasis ed logic, distorted literature, on eradicating untouchability, and spread misinformation to casteism, alcoholism, and execute their divide-and-rule women's oppression, and propolicy.

moting national unity, has given way to divisive rhetoric. Gandhi's stance resonates with the British-era concept that Congress's current leadership, India is not a nation but a exemplified by Rahul Gandhi, union of states. This contrahas strayed from these ideals. dicts the ancient Indian ethos, Gandhi's recent US visit affirming India's nationhood. The Vedas proclaim, "Vayam Rashtra Jagryam Purahitah" sparked controversy, as he claimed Sikhs face identity crises in India, despite no evi-(We are the guardians of the

nation). Even former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's wish to have his ashes immersed in the Ganges reflects his devotion to Mother India. The British exploited these divisions, nurturing enduring fault lines evident in

the Direct Action orchestrated by the Muslim League, resulting in the brutal massacre of 16,000 Hindus in Calcutta alone.

Notable figures like Jaipal Singh Munda and Jogendra Nath Mandal eventually broke away from the Muslim League, recognising the sinister intentions. Mandal resigned from the Pakistan government and returned to India, highlighting the atrocities faced by Dalits and tribals.

Today, India must recognise and learn from this history,

acknowledging the artificial divisions created by British colonialism and guarding against similar tactics employed by contemporary forces seeking to exploit these fault lines for political gain. Citizens and political parties must remain vigilant, prioritising national unity over sectarian interests.

The 1946 Jharkhand, Chota Nagpur Pakistan Conference and Jogendra Nath Mandal's alliance with the Muslim League exemplified this strategy. British authorities fueled fears among Dalits and tribals, claiming the "Hindu Raj" would oppress them. This manipulation ignored the historical social cohesion and shared struggles of India's diverse communities.

a unified India contrasts sharply with the divisive agenda of some contemporary politicians, who seek to resurrect the British-era fault lines. Gandhi's emphasis on eradicating social evils and promoting national unity has given way to identity politics and vote bank manipulation.

India's democratic fabric demands that citizens and leaders recognise and resist these divisive forces, promoting national unity and social cohesion. The country must acknowledge its complex history and address the lingering consequences of colonialism. By doing so, India can overcome the artificial divisions imposed upon it and forge a path toward true unity and progress.

Despite progress, India faces Mahatma Gandhi's vision for

significant challenges in overcoming the legacy of colonialism. Politicians continue to exploit social divisions for electoral gains, while foreign forces seek to undermine India's unity. The rise of social media has amplified divisive rhetoric, making it easier to spread misinformation and fuel tensions. The divisive legacy of British colonialism remains a pressing concern for India. By acknowledging this history and resisting divisive forces, India can build a more unified future. Citizens must prioritise national interests over sectarian agendas, and leaders must work toward inclusive governance. (The writer is National Joint

General Secretary, Organisation BJP;

views are personal)



Money 08

VIJAYAWADA | WEDNESDAY | OCTOBER 16, 2024

PNS NEW DELHI

Tuesday.

they said.

the UAE and the US.

different countries.

the primary sources of lentils

and now that can come from

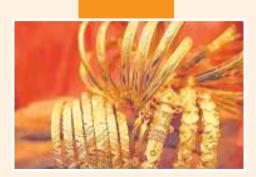
23 to \$8.4 billion in 2023-24.

Canada increased to USD

4.6 billion, while exports

India's imports from

IN BRIEF



Gold retreats from record level; silver plunges Rs 1,000

Gold prices retreated from record high in the national capital on Tuesday, declining Rs 50 to Rs 78,650 per 10 grams following fresh selling by stockists and retailers, according to the All India Sarafa Association. The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity rose Rs 200 to revisit the all-time high level of Rs 78,700 per 10 grams on Monday. Silver prices plunged Rs 1,000 to Rs 92,500 per kg against the previous close of Rs 93,500 per kg. In addition, gold of 99.5 per cent purity decreased Rs 50 to Rs 78,250 per 10 grams. On Monday, it had finished at Rs 78,300 per 10 grams to reclaim its record high. Traders attributed the fall in yellow metal prices due to lacklustre demand from local jewellers. In the futures trade on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold contracts for December delivery rose Rs 54, or 0.07 per cent, to Rs 76,100 per 10 grams.



Govt to sell up to 5 pc in Cochin Shipyard

he government on Tuesday said it will sell up to 5 per cent stake in Cochin Shipyard at a floor price of Rs 1,540 a share starting October 16. "Offer for sale in Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) opens tomorrow for Non-Retail investors. Retail investors and Employees of CSL can bid on Thursday, 17th October," Department of Investment and Public Asset Management Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said on X. The government will divest 2.5 per cent equity or 65.77 lakh shares, with an option to sell an additional 2.5 per cent. At a floor price of Rs 1,540 a piece, the share sale of 5 per cent stake would fetch about Rs 2,000 crore to the exchequer. The floor price is at a discount of close to 8 per cent over Tuesday's closing price of Rs 1,672. Shares of Cochin Shipyard settled at Rs 1,672 per piece on the BSE, up 3.03 per cent.

Central banks are like wicketkeepers: RBI DG

Says always in spotlight during failures

PNS MUMBAI

Reserve Bank of India Deputy Governor Swaminathan J has likened central banks to wicketkeepers in cricket or goalkeepers in football who often go unnoticed in successes but are always in the spotlight during failures.

In his address at the RBI@90 High Level Conference



Initially seen as the lender of last resort, today, central banks are equipped with a broad range of tools -- regulatory, supervisory, and monetary --

to ensure the stability of the financial system. The financial sector, he said, is the backbone of the economy, enabling efficient allocation of resources, managing risks through various instruments, and ensuring smooth to significant vulnerabilities," payments and settlements. It performs crucial functions that he said.

especially systemic ones that, if left unchecked, can have farreaching consequences, the deputy governor said. On the one hand, financial

support investments and dri-

Therefore, the financial sec-

However, the financial sec-

tor becomes the cornerstone of

a well-functioning economy.

tor is vulnerable to risks --

ves economic growth.



other, the growing interconnections between financial institutions, markets, and the broader economy make the system more open to shocks, he said.

"In this increasingly volatile environment, building resilience is crucial to maintaining financial stability. However, resilience is a balancing act -- too much emphasis on safeguarding can stifle innovation and growth, while too little can expose the system

Reliance Industries Ltd,

India's most valuable compa-

ny, on Monday reported a 5

per cent fall in the July-

September quarter net profit as

weak oil refining and petrochemical business hurt opera-

"The domestic market expe-

rienced a downturn, influ-

enced by a mixed global trend and partial profit-booking.

Although declining crude prices are beneficial for the

domestic economy, they signal weakening global demand. Additionally, India's CPI surged driven by food prices,

tional performance.

USD 3.8 billion. During April-July this fis-cal, India's exports stood at



high commissioner and

other "targeted diplomats

and officials" from Canada

after strongly dismissing

Ottawa's allegations linking

the envoy to an investigation

into the killing of Sikh

extremist Hardeep Singh

Nijjar, in a major downturn in already frosty ties

India-Canada diplomatic row

USD 1.3 billion, while imports were USD 1.37 billion.

Australia, they said, adding Think tank Global Trade that Indian students and Research Initiative (GTRI) professionals would also have huge opportunities in too has stated that the diplomatic tensions between The bilateral merchandise India and Canada have so far trade between India and not impacted the bilateral Canada actually grew slighttrade in goods between the ly from \$8.3 billion in 2022two countries.

However, it added that as this dispute drags on, both nations will need to carefully manage their actions to saw a marginal dip, falling to avoid a full-blown economic fallout.

Monday bluntly that the baseless "tar-India on announced withdrawing its geting" of Indian High

The bilateral merchandise trade between India and Canada actually grew slightly from \$8.3 billion in 2022-23 to \$8.4 billion in 2023-24

Commissioner Sanjay Verma and other diplomats and officials was "completely unacceptable".

The strain started when Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau accused India of involvement in the killing of a Canadian citizen and Sikh separatist leader.

between the two nations. This allegation led to a India's decision came back-and-forth expulsion of shortly after the Canadian diplomats and paused Free Charge d'Affaires Stewart Trade Agreement (FTA) Wheelers was summoned to talks. the Ministry of External India has received USD 4 Affairs (MEÁ) and was told

billion foreign direct investments from Canada during April 2000-June 2024.

Sensex falls by 153 pts, RIL major drag after weak Q2 results

which will delay expected rate cuts," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said.

Asian Paints, Adani Ports, UltraTech Cement and HCL Technologies were among the gainers. IT services major HCL Technologies (HCLTech) reported a 10.51 per cent increase in consolidated net profit to Rs 4,235 crore in the July-September quarter and also raised the lower band of its growth guidance on the back of better-than-expected performance.

Guadalajara -- a significant contributor to the Mexican IT ecosystem and known as the 'Silicon Valley' of Mexico with a significant presence of major global IT and tech companies.

> Sitharaman will deliver a keynote address at the India-Mexico Trade and Investment Summit with par-

> > key industry cap-

tains from both

During the visit

the countries.

to the USA from

October 20-26, she will

participate in the annual meet-

ings of the International

Monetary Fund (IMF) and the

World Bank, the 4th G20

Finance Ministers and Central

Bank Governor (FMCBG)

Meetings, besides the G20

Joint Meeting of FMCBGs, Environment Ministers, and

Foreign Ministers; and G7 -

October 17-20, Sitharaman will also hold a bilateral meeting with her counterpart Rogelio Ramirez de la Ŏ, Minister of Finance

and Public Credit of Mexico. Besides, she will also hold discussions with several members of the Mexican Parliament to strengthen parliamentary cooperation and foster economic development, the finance ministry said in a statement.

Sitharaman will also visit the TCS headquarters in Africa Ministerial Roundtable.

Gadkari urges automobile industry to back ethanol, flex fuels

PNS NEW DELHI

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday asked representatives of the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) to look into ways of making ethanol and flex fuels more acceptable to the public.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), in a post on X said, Gadkari chaired a review meeting with representatives of SIAM at Transport Bhawan to discuss the readiness of the automobile industry for ethanol and flex fuels.

The dialogue discussed how the industry is preparing to launch ethanol-powered vehicles in the coming months, it added. Gadkari also engaged in an insightful discussion on how a shift to biofuels from fossil fuels will aid India in being self-reliant.

several rounds of negotiations

Conservative government and

is expected to pick up from the

tion in July, Reynolds indicat-

ed that teams would be "enter-

ing negotiating rooms as soon

as possible" towards completing

the FTA, which is aimed at sig-

nificantly enhancing the GBP 38-billion a year bilateral trade

The Department for Business and Trade (DBT) indicated that

while a timescale for the nego-

tiations to restart remains

unconfirmed, the minister's

comments reiterate the com-

mitment to an India-UK FTA.

in no doubt that under this new

government, Britain is truly

the best place to do business,

It came as DBT confirmed

nearly 38,000 jobs are set to be

created across the UK after a total of GBP 63 billion of invest-

ment was announced at the

International Investment

"After the investments

added Reynolds.

Summit.

"Global investors should be

Soon after the general elec-

previous

the

fourteenth round.

partnership.

under

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will embark on an official visit to Mexico and the USA to participate in the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governor (FMCBG) and fund bank annual meeting. During her maiden visit to Mexico from

ICICI Bank, Bharti Airtel,

Finance minister to embark on 11-day tour to Mexico and US PNS NEW DELHI

Among other engagements,

ticipation from



Domestic air passenger traffic rises 6 pc

omestic carriers flew 1.30 crore passengers in September, which is 6.38 per cent higher compared to the year-ago period, according to official data released on Tuesday. In September last year, airlines carried 1.22 crore passengers. IndiGo's market share rose to 63 per cent while that of Air India climbed to 15.1 per cent in September 2024, as per the data released by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). AIX Connect, which was merged with Air India Express this month, topped the list of airlines in terms of On Time Performance (OTP) at 70.1 per cent, replacing Akasa Air, whose OTP slipped to 62.1 per cent. The data showed that Vistara's market share dipped to 10 per cent and that of AIX Connect slipped to 4.1 per cent last month. The overall domestic market share of Air India Group comprising Air India, AIX Connect and Vistara touched 29.2 per cent. In September, Akasa Air and SpiceJet carried saw 5.73 lakh and 2.61 lakh passengers, respectively. While Akasa Air's market share stood at 4.4 per cent, that of SpiceJet dropped to 2 per cent.

DPIIT relaxes quality control order for cookware, utensils

PNS NEW DELHI

laggards.

PNS MUMBAI

Benchmark Sensex closed

lower by nearly 153 points on

Tuesday due to selling in index

major Reliance Industries,

Bajaj Finance and HDFC Bank

as weak quarterly results and

spike in inflation dented

Paring early gains, the BSE Sensex declined 152.93 points

or 0.19 per cent to settle at

81,820.12. During the day, it

fell by 337.48 points or 0.41 per

The NSE Nifty settled lower

by 70.60 points or 0.28 per cent

to 25,057.35 with 30 of its com-

ponents closing down, 18 with

From the 30 Sensex firms,

Bajaj Finance, Reliance

Industries, Tata Steel, JSW

Steel, Tech Mahindra, Tata

Motors, Kotak Mahindra Bank

and Maruti were the biggest

gains and two unchanged.

cent to a low of 81,635.57.

investor sentiment.

Department for The Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) on Tuesday said it has relaxed the mandatory quality control norms for cookware and utensils for micro units.

The quality control order (QCO) on cookware, utensils and cans for foods and beverages was issued last year to cut imports of sub-standard goods and promote domestic manufacturing. "To enhance ease of doing business, several relaxations have been introduced in the OCO, which includes exemption from the QCO for very small micro-enterprises (i.e. micro-enterprises regis-tered under the Udyam portal) where the investment in plant and machinery does not exceed Rs 25 lakh, and the turnover does not exceed Rs 2 crore," it said.

Cybersecurity jobs jump 14 pc over past year; Bengaluru tops list: Report

PNS MUMBAI

Increasing focus on data safety witnessed an average 14 per cent rise in job postings for cybersecurity professionals over the last one year, according to a report released on Tuesday.

The report by global job site Indeed is based on data derived from job postings and job clicks on its platform between September 2023 and September 2024.

As our lives move online, companies are focusing on keeping data safe, which is driving the demand for cybersecurity experts. It's a fast-growing field with lots of opportu-nities," Indeed India Head of Sales Sashi Kumar said quoting the report.

Cybersecurity job postings jumped 14 per cent over the

increased demand for experts, report noted. he added.

As digital operations expand, businesses in the city Meanwhile, the report are ramping up their focus on revealed that Bengaluru leads the country in cybersecurity cybersecurity, creating a surge job openings, accounting for in demand for professionals, it said.

nearly 10 per cent of listings, followed by Delhi-NCR (4 Delhi-NCR ranks second, per cent), remote jobs (2.2 per cent), Hyderabad (2 per cent), and Mumbai (2 per cent). accounting for 4 per cent of cybersecurity job openings, due to its status as a major cor-Bengaluru's dominance stems from its position as India's top tech hub, home to major IT companies, star-

Trade deal with India remains 'priority', says UK business minister

PNS LONDON

A trade deal with India remains a "priority" for the UK, Business and Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds said during the Labour Party-led government's International flagship Investment Summit in London which coincided with the launch of a new Industrial Strategy green paper. "The Gulf and India are the

priority. I think there are clear economic and commercial reasons why we should pursue those," Reynolds said at the Guildhall on Monday.

'Trade and international investment lie at the heart of our plan to drive growth for the whole country. That's because we know the UK has so much potential as one of the largest, most open economies, a legal system that sets global standards, a regulatory environment with some of the strongest safeguards for investment and the greatest incentives for innovation. We benefit from a skilled and diverse workforce, supported by an immigration system that draws talent from around the globe," he said.

secured as part of this summit, The UK is negotiating a Free my optimism for Britain burns Trade Agreement (FTA) and brighter than ever. It's a sign of Bilateral Investment Treaty with confidence in the British econ-India, which has completed omy.



AI-led firms see remarkable growth: Report

PNS NEW DELHI

Companies embracing AI-led processes globally are experiencing remarkable growth, surpassing their peers with higher revenue growth and greater productivity, according to a report by Accenture.

In India, the percentage of organisations fully modernised with AI has surged from 8 per cent in 2023 to an impressive 25 per cent in 2024, marking a significant leap in operational efficiency and revenue generation, the report said.

The findings are based on a survey of 2,000 executives across 12 countries and 15 industries, including insights from 200 senior executives based in India.

The report,

"Reinventing Enterprise Operations with Gen AI," highlighted that globally, organisations that have adopted intelligent operations are achieving 2.5 times higher revenue growth and 2.4 times greater productivity than their

peers. This trend underscores the transformative power of Generative AI, which has become a catalyst for innovation across various sectors. Notably, 79 per cent of Indian companies reported that their investments in generative AI and automation have met or exceeded expectations, prompting 64 per cent to plan

further enhancements by 2026.

Despite these advancements,



the survey indicates that many organizations still face challenges in fully harnessing the potential of AI.

Approximately 64 per cent of companies worldwide struggle with operational readitechnology. ness, primarily due to inadepercentage of organisa<u>tions</u> fully modernised with AI has surged from 8 per cent in 2023 to an impressive 25 per cent in 2024

In India, the

Accenture Group's Chief quate data foundations and a Executive for Operations lack of talent reinvention Arundhati Chakraborty strategies. In India, 58 per emphasised the urgency for cent of executives expressed concerns about their workbusinesses to adapt, and said force's preparedness for the Generative AI is more than just rapid advancements in AI technology--it requires a mindset change that impacts

the entire enterprise. "Most executives understand the urgency of reinventing with generative AI, but in many cases their enterprise operations are not ready to support large-scale transformation.

"...an end-to-end perspective leveraging talent, leading prac-tices and effective collaboration between business and technology teams is essential for intelligent operations," Chakraborty said.

Outlining four key strategies, the report said centralised data governance, talent-first strategy, collaborative innovation, and utilising cloud-based process mining are essential for business leaders aiming to enhance operational maturity.

porate hub, housing numerous multinational companies, government institutions, and financial organisations, the

past year, reflecting the tups, and global firms, the report added.



Vijayawada | Wednesday October 16, 2024

MORE GLAMOUR, MORE DRAMA, MORE BHAVNA

Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3's title

track gets International twist

◄ he glitz and glamour return as Bhavna Panday, Maheep Kapoor, Neelam Kothari, and Seema Sajdeh light up the screen again in *Fabulous Lives* vs Bollywood Wives Season 3, premiering on October 18. This time, the iconic foursome will welcome new faces from Delhi: Riddhima Kapoor Sahni, Shalini Passi and Kalvani Saha Chawla. As the highly anticipated season approaches, Bhavna Panday, wife of actor Chunky Panday and mother to Bollywood actress Ananya Panday, reflects on her journey through the world of reality television.

"When I first got the show, I was really nervous," Bhavna recalls. "It was the first time Karan (Johar), the girls and I were doing something like this. I wasn't playing a character; I was presenting my real self and my family, which made me cautious and worried about how people would perceive me." Bhavna joked about her collaboration with filmmaker Karan Johar, saying, "You could say I debuted with Karan Johar," laughing at the unexpected path her career has taken.

Talking about her dynamic with the other women. Bhavna shares, "Season 3 feels different. We've all grown more comfortable with each other and the cameras. Our friendships are so natural and real that it translates effortlessly on screen. With each season, our bond only strengthens."

With the growing popularity of the show, Bhavna admits she has become more at ease in front of the camera. "In the beginning, I was conscious-not so much about what I was saying, but how it would come across. Now, with this season, I feel much more confident. I've become comfortable in my own skin and have allowed myself to open up more." Known for her grace and authenticity,

Bhavna embraces a more relaxed approach. "I'm not as concerned about what others think anymore. I just want to continue being myself with more confidence." In previous seasons, Bhavna wowed fans with her natural beauty reg-imen, incorporating organic products and face yoga into her routine. As Season 3 kicks off, audiences are excited to see her shine even brighter, embracing her true self while balancing her roles as

Fabulous Lives vs Bollywood Wives Season 3 promises to deliver more glamour, drama, and, above all, Bhavna Panday at her most confident yet.

rhythms, resulting in a unique sonic experience. Kartik Aaryan, who once again leads the charge as Rooh Baba, delivers flawless dance moves with

his signature swagger, setting the stage for what is sure to become an instant fan favourite. His new

gliding dance steps, paired with his electrifying

presence, add even more excitement to the song.

The music is a blend of modern and traditional,

with Tanishk Bagchi handling the remix magic,

while the original composition is courtesy of Pritam, whose work has already made

the Bhool Bhulaiyaa soundtrack leg-

endary. The track also features the

unmistakable voice of Neerai Shridhar.

a staple of the franchise, alongside

Directed by Anees Bazmee and

spearheaded by Bhushan

Kumar, Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3

continues the legacy of

the horror-comedy hit

series. With a star-stud-

ded cast including Kartik

Aaryan, Vidya Balan,

Madhuri Dixit, and

Triptii Dimri, the film

is poised to deliver

both chills and laughs.

around the title track,

fans can hardly wait

for its full release tomor-

row! Mark your calendars-

Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3 is all set for

November 1, 2024, bringing

you a perfect mix of spooky

fun and entertainment!

grand Diwali release on

As the buzz builds

Pitbull and Diljit Dosanjh, creating a seam-

less fusion of cultures and beats.

a public figure, wife and mother.

Tom Cruise set to return to USA after 5 years in UK fter spending the past five years in the UK working on the A ther spending the past inversion in the or control of the make

his long-awaited return to the United States. The Hollywood megastar, who had made London his home during the filming of Mission:

Impossible—Dead Reckoning Parts I and *II*, is excited to reunite with his son Connor and friends in the U.S. Cruise had been living in Britain throughout his extensive filming schedule, even investing in a luxurious penthouse in central London. Now that production on the Dead Reckoning sequel has wrapped, he's ready to head back to the States. Recently spotted boarding a helicopter in Battersea, London. Cruise bid farewell to his British film crew, marking the end of his time in the UK for now.

A source close to the actor shared, "The UK has been Tom's base for the Dead Reckoning films and the longer he stayed, the more he fell in love with the country. But now that the sequel is finished, he's excited to return to the U.S. to be closer to his son

and friends." Cruise's return coincides with the aftermath of Hurricane Milton, which has caused significant damage across Florida. He owns an apartment in Clearwater. The storm has devastated parts of the state, leaving many homes

his Clearwater apartment since 2016 due to its proximity to Scientology's international headquarters, was reportedly concerned about the hurricane's impact on his property.

returning to the U.S., there's no doubt he'll be back in the UK when the next Mission: Impossible project comes calling

destroyed and millions of residents displaced. Cruise, who has owned

While reflecting on his time in the UK, Cruise expressed his affection for the country, telling, "I spend a lot of time in Britain and it's not just for work; I genuinely love being

here." Though the actor is looking forward to

discharge. It's been three years in which

frustrating I have full faith in the law. I don't

deserve to be pronounced guilty in a trial by the

the matter legally was driven by the failure of the

media outlets to respond to his takedown notices.

OUT IT OUT ! I WAS SAVING

THAT FOOD FOR LATER!

F DOGS HAD BRACES

The court has granted permission to the Juhu Police to

investigate the case and file an FIR against those responsible.

This signals the start of a thorough investigation into the matter,

which Kundra hopes will restore his reputation and hold the responsible

media." He emphasised that his decision to escalate

three judges have changed. Whilst it's

parties accountable.

only Indian celebrity to attend the prestigious event, Mouni topped the list of influencers, alongside notable names such as Hu Bing **Diamonte Harper** Declan Rice and Leigh-Anne Pinnock. Mouni's presence at London Fashion Week not only

highlighted her as a fashion trailblazer but also showcased her ability to represent India on the international stage with

elegance and

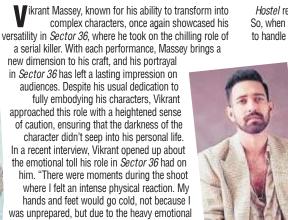
style.

Raj Kundra takes legal action over defamatory media coverage!

Raj Kundra has filed a formal police complaint following defamatory claims made against him in a news article and a YouTube channel, which linked him to an illegal immigration case involving Riva Barade. The Juhu Police Station has registered a case against the authors of these reports under Section 356(3) of the Bharruya Nyay Sanhita, 2023. The complaint, filed based on court orders, aims to address what Kundra describes as deliberate attempts to tarnish his reputation. Kundra expressed his frustration, stating, "I have been compelled by the media to take this step. On multiple occasions, they have tarnished my image by publishing false and defamatory statements. Despite sending takedown notices and giving them the opportunity to retract, no action was taken. My matter is subjudice, I have been fighting in court for my

FUN





was unprepared, but due to the heavy emotional weight of the scenes I was performing. Some scenes offered a chance to explore a deeper, darker side of myself, and that really stayed with me," he revealed.

Reflecting on how previous roles shaped his approach to this challenging character, Vikrant shared, "My past experiences in films like A Death In The Gunj and Love

Hostel really took a toll on my mental and emotional well-being. So, when I signed on for Sector 36, I made a conscious decision to handle it differently. I told myself, 'Work hard, but don't let this

> That mindset helped me stay grounded throughout the shoot." Shooting away from home added another layer of difficulty for the actor. He noted, "Being away from my family made the experience more isolating. After a long day of shooting, instead of returning home, I was going back to an empty hotel room, which can be quite overwhelming. There were times on set where I felt a real sense of fear, my hands would go cold, not out of nervousness but because of the intensity of what I was portraying. That's why I was firm about not carrying the character's energy with me when I left the set each day. Sector 36 recently premiered at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne, where Vikrant

received praise for his haunting performance. Coming off the success of 12th Fail, Massey is continuing his winning streak. Fans and critics alike have lauded his work in Sector 36 and he's already preparing for his next project, The Sabarmati Report, with anticipation running high.

character consume you. Focus on your well-being.

what's brewing?

Vikrant Massey on portraying

a serial killer in Sector 36

ARCHIE



ollowing the overwhelming

Mr.

success of the Bhool

makers have just unveiled a teaser for the film's highly

anticipated title track, leav-

ing fans in awe. In a game-

changing collaboration, T-Series, led by Bhushan Kumar, has brought

together global music

sensation Pitbull-also

Worldwide — and

Punjabi superstar Diljit

ed Diwali release.

Dosanjh to create an elec-

trifying song for the much-await-

This title track promises to

merge Bollywood's high-octane

energy with international

as

known

Bhulaiyaa 3 trailer, the



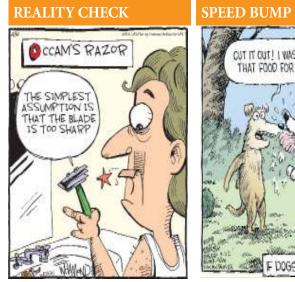


CALVIN AND HOBBES



GARFIELD



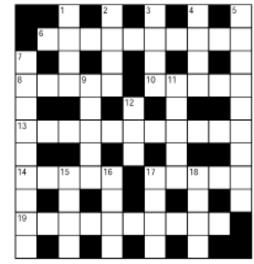


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- 19 Getting better after illness

DOWN

- 1 Bitter-tasting
- 2 Cold winter crystals
- 3 Moist
- 4 A song for one singer
- 5 The most powerful
- 7 Female children





9 A command

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Wednesday October 16, 2024

VERSATILE VIXEN READY TO RULE THE SCREEN

AARTI SREENATH aarti.sreenath9@gmail.com

asleen Kaur is no stranger to transformation. From dazzling pageants to gracing magazine covers and now throwing punches on interna-tional sets, Kaur's journey has been anything but predictable. It all began with the Miss India pageant—a moment she fondly recalls as the "big stepping stone" that opened countless doors.

"It gave me the platform I needed. Suddenly, I was joining agencies, meeting directors and attending events. It was everything a young girl dreams of when she enters a pageant," she says. But while modeling introduced her to the camera, her first attempt at acting came with a sobering real-ity. "My first movie didn't do well," she admits. "I realised I had a lot to learn."

Transitioning from modeling to acting wasn't without its challenges. "When you're a model or Miss India, the roles that come your way are often quite limited. People tend to see you in a certain light and those roles don't always allow you to experiment as an actor." For her, the initial hurdle was breaking through the preconceived notions of what a model-turned-actress could do. She explains that in the acting world, especially when compared to actors trained at prestigious institu-tions like NSD or FTII, or those with formal training abroad, the path wasn't as straightforward. "It takes time for people to warm up to you. I'd often get comments like, 'Oh, we didn't expect this from

you.' And I'd wonder, is that a compliment or not?" This slow acceptance wasn't the only challenge; the learning curve was steep. "If I look at my first audition compared to what I do on screen now, it's completely different. Back then, I didn't even know basic things like where my eyeline should be or how to interact with the camera," she admits with a laugh. The journey from those early auditions to finding her rhythm as an actor took time, but she's grateful for it. "Der aaye durust aaye," she says. Though she hasn't yet ventured into Punjabi cin-ema, her connection to Punjab is undeniable. "I haven't done anything in the Punjabi film industry yet," she says, "but I did a Netflix show called CAT, which was based in Punjab." As someone who has watched the industry's growth from the side-lines, she expresses excitement about the future. "The Punjabi film industry has grown so much, and I'd love to work with actors like Diljit Dosanjh, Gippy Grewal, Amrinder Gill, Satinder Sartaaj, and Jassi Gill. It's a big industry with a dedicated fan following," she adds, her enthusiasm clear. Though her experience is still building, she rec-

ognizes the rich cultural tapestry of Punjabi cin-ema, eagerly anticipating the day she dives into this vibrant world.

Then came Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar, a film that became a turning point in her career. Working alongside Ranbir Kapoor, Shraddha Kapoor and Dimple Kapadia, she found herself learning from some of the industry's best. "That film opened my eyes to what acting is all about. Watching them perform seeing how they prepare for so a whole new world." With each step, she was growing, evolving, and solidifying her place in the industry, one scene at a time. Landing the role of Ranbir Kapoor's sister in Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar was both a thrilling and surreal experience for her. "Working alongside Ranbir was like... OOFFF!! Whoa!!" she exclaims, reflecting on the iconic actor she used to admire from afar. "I remember swooning over him with my college friends, and now, sharing screen space with him felt like a 'pinch me' moment." Despite his stardom, she describes Kapoor as an incredibly humble and helpful co-actor. "He's very considerate of everyone on set, whether you're a newcomer or a veteran. He doesn't treat you like a rookie and goes out of his way to make you comfortable. We'd rehearse scenes together, and hed give me tips, like where to stand or how to hit my mark. He's just so accommodating." To prepare for the sibling dynamics in the film, she drew inspiration from

That brother-sister bond, the quarrels, the emotions—it all came from personal experience," she shares, adding that this helped her portray the nat-ural tension in their characters' relationship.

As she ventures into new genres, she has taken action with *Ruthless Bastards*, an international project that demanded both physical and emotional proparation. "Action is no joke! Hats off to all the actors, directors and stunt teams. I trained for about three weeks, but it was so demanding," she admits. "They say it's like dance choreography, but it takes an immense amount of energy to get those punches right, with the correct momentum and velocity. Screen fighting is different from real fighting—you're not actually hitting someone, but you need to make it look convincing." The cold Canadian weather during the shoot added to the challenges. "I remember packing a punch and feel-ing something off in my back. Turns out, I had a major muscle spasm and had to see a chiropractor." Despite the physical toll, she found the expe-rience exhilarating and is eager to do more action roles in the future.

Having worked across multiple platforms, she highlights the creative differences between OTT shows and traditional cinema, with one of the most

shows and traditional chiefina, with one of the most significant being the length of format. In *Raat Jawaan Hai*, she plays opposite seasoned actor Barun Sobti and their on-screen chemistry was crucial to the storyline. "Barun is such a grounded actor. He gives so much importance to his co-actors. From the first moment on set, he made sure I was comfortable," she shares. Playing husband and wife in the show required a certain level of intimacy and Barun's approach helped ease any first-time jitters. "He's so easygoing. No airs about him at all. He'd pace around, chat casually, and make you feel like you've known him forever. Wed figure out our lines together, rehearse how we'd say them, and it felt like a real partnership." His relaxed demeanour on set allowed for a natural and genuine portrayal of their characters' relationship. In Raat Jawaan Hai, her character tionship. In *Raat Jawaan Hat*, her character Swadha is a working mother juggling her career as a lawyer and a young child. This role resonat-ed with her on a deeply personal level. "I'm not a mother yet, but I've always believed that when I do start a family, I want to keep working," she reflects. "Swadha's storyline felt like my own dreams playing out on screen. She has a supportive husband who's willing to stay at home and share the responsibility, and I loved how emancipating that felt." The show touches on themes of parenthood, equal partnership and mod-ern family dynamics and for her, it was a refreshing portrayal of the kind of family life she envisions for herself in the future. "It's a very liberating storyline and it aligns with how I'd want things to be in my own life someday."

Navigating through diverse projects, she emphasises the importance of authenticity in her roles. "I draw inspiration from reallife people and experiences, often reflecting aspects of my own life in the characters I porshe shares. "Sometimes I pull memories or people I know. I find that when you can feel for the character, you can truly convey their emotions. I believe in grounding my performances in what I've seen and felt in real life. I aim to capture those moments as authentically as possible." Reflecting on the evolving landscape of female narratives in Indian cinema, she acknowledges the progress but also recognizes the work that remains. However, she notes that many films still revolve around male protagonists, often sidelining female narratives unless they are in completely female-led stories. "What I love about projects like Raat *Iawaan Hai* is how the male characters are portrayed. Khyati Putran, the writer, has created male roles that reflect real people-flawed but relatable. It's

her relationship with her own brother, Harsimran. refreshing to see men written as they are, without unnecessary conflict. And when women write women, it's even better because they understand

The pioneer 1 avawada

the intricacies of those experiences." Looking ahead, she shares her aspirations: "Oh, yes. I'd love to play one of those superhero Marvel films where I'm doing a lot of action." Having gained some experience in action sequences, she expresses excitement about the physicality it requires, stating, "I've got a glimpse of what action is, and I'm also working on myself to be more physically fit after my back spasm." She's open to exploring all genres, even villainous roles.

With her fearless attitude and unapologetic approach, Hasleen Kaur embodies the spirit of female empowerment in Bollywood. In an exclusive chat with The Pioneer, she discusses her transition, working alongside Ranbir Kapoor and her latest project, Raat Jawaan Hai

Prevent heart disease with 'ABCDE' algorithm

ost heart problems are asymptomatic at early stages as they generally develop slowly over many years. Damage to the arteries, which can lead to heart attacks and strokes, results from many small choices you make throughout your life, including your dietary habits, physical activity levels, weight management, ability to cope with stress, and whether or not you smoke. That's why, whether you're in your 20s, your 50s or beyond, prevention is the kindest gift you can give your heart and is definitely better than cure. A simple ABCDE algorithm for the prevention of heart disease includes: Assessing your risk, blood pressure control, cigarette cessation and cholesterol control, diabetes treatment and diet optimisation and exercise.

YOUR 40s: BUILD GOOD HABITS

YOUR 20s AND 30s: STAY STRONG 1. Ouit all forms of smoking

Quitting smoking is undoubtedly the best things you can do for heart health. Any form of smoking let it be active or passive is bad

for heart. DE addiction using different methods must be tried. Physical activity seems to prevent the urge to smoke, so going to the gym more often can help you kick the habit. 2. Mediterranean

diet A diet rich in fruits and

vegetables, healthy oils(olive oil, avocados fish oil), whole

grains(brown rice, oatmeal, barley, whole wheat), lower fat dairy (skim or 1 percent milk), lean protein(fish, lean meat or poultry, beans and legumes, nuts, and exclusion of saturated fats and trans fats when cooking proteins), less processed food (choose whole wheat instead of white bread, brown rice instead of white rice), less sugar and spices instead of salt (aim to eat less than 2,400 mg of sodium a day in order to lower blood pressure.

3. Reduce stress It's better to offload stress with exercise, yoga or

social activities than alcohol, emotional eating or binge-watching TV

4. Anger manage ent and relaxation techniques

This is especially helpful if you're hot-tempered. Individuals experiencing frequent angry outbursts are at three-times higher risk of premature heart disease and five times higher risk of heart attack.

1. Healthy lifestyle

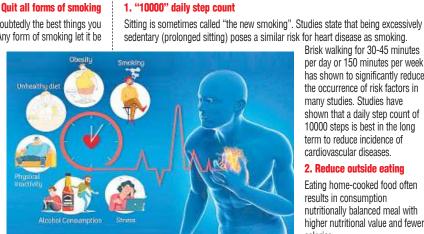
The right diet and exercise matter more than ever because the risk of heart problems rises with age. After menopause, women's heart risks are no longer lower than men's due to loss of oestrogen effect. Aim for at least 30 minutes of aerobic exercise five days a week, or as doctor recommended.

2. Know your warning signs and symptoms

Not all heart-related conditions first show up as chest pain. Fatigue, leg cramps and nausea can all flag problems. For men, difficulty getting or maintaining an erection could signal artery damage that's restricting blood flow-and if it's happening in your genitals, it could be happening in your heart as well

YOUR 60s: BEAT THE RISKS 1. Know your risk of heart attack

YOUR 70s & BEYOND: **FOCUS ON HEALTH**



Brisk walking for 30-45 minutes per day or 150 minutes per week has shown to significantly reduce the occurrence of risk factors in many studies. Studies have shown that a daily step count of 10000 steps is best in the long term to reduce incidence of cardiovascular diseases.

2. Reduce outside eating

Eating home-cooked food often results in consumption nutritionally balanced meal with higher nutritional value and fewer calories

3. Attain targets

It's a good idea to have your blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar and general health assessed every one to two years (more often if you're having symptoms of health problems)

4. Control your weight

A healthy diet and regular exercise will go a long way toward maintaining your weight in a range recommended by your doctor. If you're overweight, ask your doctor about joining a gym or other ways to drop excess pounds. Waist circumference is another important number to track. Larger waistlines are linked to a higher risk of heart disease, diabetes, heart attack and stroke. Belly fat indicates visceral fat, the worst kind of fat, which is stored deep in the belly around vital organs.Ideally, your waistline should be under 35 inches if you're a woman and under 40 inches if you're a man.Maintaining a BMI less than 24.5 is ideal.

5. Stress man

Using food, alcohol, sleeping pills, cigarettes or drugs that aren't prescribed to you only introduces new health problems. Try yoga, other forms of exercise and other healthy ways to manage stress.

One common condition called sleep apnea, in which your airway is briefly blocked during sleep and you stop breathing, is linked to heart disease. Sleep factor can be a risk factor for many cardiac 2 conditions like accelerated atherosclerosis, resistant hypertension, atrial fibrillation, heart blocks and pulmonary hypertension. Weight loss remains an important consideration in management

4. Know "heart attack" symptom

Prompt response and treatment can save your life, your partner's or that of someone you know. This symptom includes chest pain or jaw pain, left hand pain, sweating, shortness of breath and nausea/vomiting

1. Regular update with doctor Using key measures like blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar and sometimes other tests, such as a coronary calcium scan, your doctor can calculate your odds of having a heart attack or a stroke over the next 10 years. 2. Change your life style

It's never too late to make lifestyle tweaks that improve your heart health. Try using an app that helps you count your daily steps, for example, or look for ways to eat more fruits and vegetables.

3. Manage chronic diseases.

When you keep your blood sugar in the recommended range if you have diabetes, or consistently take blood pressure medication as prescribed, you go a long way toward lowering your risk of a heart attack or stroke.

4. Involve in exercises

This move can help protect you against loss of muscle mass as you get older, and it improves the muscles' ability to draw oxygen from the blood. This reduces the need for the heart to pump more blood to the muscles, reducing heart stress

Bring all your medications to each appointment, and keep track of your medical history. Frequent follow up of sugars, blood pressures and your lipids can be important for your physician to know your medications are up-to-date.

2. Never ignore warning signs

If something feels "off" or different for you, get help immediately. Time can make a big difference.

3. Keep up with preventive check ups

As you age, you're more vulnerable to the effects of common illnesses, so it's important to get vaccinated against flu and pneumonia moreover in people with existing heart diseases

(The author. M Sudhakar Rao. is a Consultant -Cardiology, at Manipal Hospital.)

FUSION OF SELF-LOVE & ELECTROPOP!

SELF-LOVE EMPOWERMENT AND INFECTIOUS BEATS CON TOGETHER I MANSHEE **GUJRAĽS** DEBUT EP THE PIONEE HAS HEF ONBOARD FOR AN EXCLUSIVE CHAT, AS SHI THIS UPLIFTIN ELECTROPO COLLECTION which is mor THAN JUS1 MUSIC

SHIKHA DUGGAL shikhaduggalwork@gmail.com

ansheel Gujral, a rising star, is about to release her eagerly awaited debut EP. Three of the EP's most famous electro pop songs are included. Listeners have embraced the first two singles, Chehra and Dooriyan

overwhelmingly. Mansheel is also well-known for her soulful Bollywood songs! She has sang hits like Humsafar from Badrinath Ki Dulhania and Channa Ve from *Bhoot*. With latest EP, Mansheel makes a significant impact by offering listeners a new side of her

music; the EP is emerging as India's definitive electro pop sound. Mansheel leaves a lasting impression on listeners with it!

A Sardarni; who loves going to Goa-her experiences from each of these locations have merged to form her life. She found that combining these languages comes naturally to her so she has had the good fortune to be exposed to a wide variety of musical genres and styles during her upbringing. "I really believe that music,

regardless of language, has the ability to evoke strong feelings. It never feels forced because singing and fusing two worlds has always been a part of my path. The direction of the style is essentially determined by the composition and music.

Beginning to accentuate the concepts of perhaps some romance and self-love in an exclusive chat with us, the singer comments, "Honestly, I don't think it's a

conscious choice every time. As a musician, I believe that my work is a reflection of who I am; I write what feels right. I always tried to write the melodies in a way that would really fit with the singing style I was going

for. Everything just seems to come together and shine out on its own once the melody is solid, in my opinion. The intention is to produce a smooth blend that precisely complements the melody and the music to

create a novel atmosphere. Romance and self-love are the main themes of the multilingual. English, Hindi and Punjabi are used in the songwriting! Every song is designed to encourage listeners to get up and dance. High-energy electropop songs with Punjabi folk influences can be found; they're ideal for all of life's special occasions. About her EP, Mansheel Gujral says, "Making the decision to become a professional musician is not simple. Sometimes you have to wait years to be able to identify as a practicing artist. I wanted my debut EP, to emerge from a position of acceptance because the full EP would be released soon along with the last single. Finding the tone and aesthetic I desired as a self-reliant artist took some time I started working on it and it was simply a cheerful, bouncy, typical love song. However, after I was done, everything changed! It turned into the song I wanted to listen to repeatedly all of a sudden and I felt really proud of myself for accomplishing that."

She finally succeeded after years of compiling many voice memos and melodies on her phone! So, in short, it's an introspective piece. The song Chehra will always serve as a constant reminder to her to pursue her artistic goals. It doesn't matter if she doesn't succeed or if it doesn't seem like the appropriate choice—what counts is that she is being authentic. She is sure she will find her groove sometime along the route. It all comes down to making the leap! "You Get What You Give by New Radicals is one of my favourite songs and I love the lyrics. It serves as a wonderful reminder that each of us has a distinct voice that is just waiting to be heard. I

want these songs to become the soundtrack of people's lives. With new EP, I hope listeners find songs they can sing along to and enjoy during every moment, whether it's a road trip with friends or a night out. The sound of this EP was born from my love for melodies. In

electronica, pop and Punjabi folk, I found the perfect synthesis of worlds that felt like home. It's been a joy to sing these songs live and see the euphoric reaction of listeners

She believes that as a person, she is born with a sense of longing; her parents are from Pune, her workplace is in Mumbai and her heart is in Goa. It is the feelings that she thinks the song captures. *Dooriyan* is her way of accepting that she doesn't want to fully embrace life! Mansheel's career in the music industry started in 2014 when she competed on India's Raw Star. Her obvious singing talent first drew attention from the public when she appeared on the national reality show. Since then, she has established herself in the Bollywood film industry working on hit songs with renowned composers like Sachin-Jigar, Honey Singh, Akhil Sachdeva and Bally Sagoo.

"I've been fortunate enough to contribute my voice to numerous well-known songs. I was an interpreter of the talented music directors I collaborated with on those tunes. Through my EP, I'm developing my ability to channel my own vision. This has been such a learning experience. It has improved my voice awareness and enabled me to use my voice in ways I never would have imagined. However, making my own EP is a whole different story. It's not only singing; I love watching my works come to life. Because I think my voice can achieve that, I want to give my audience everything! I'm really into electro pop right now, and I want people to groove to my music. I would also love to explore other

sung for movies," shares the electropop sensation Since she was a little child, she has also been studying folk and classical music. Her roots are in Indian music because, at the age of 13, she travelled to Punjab to receive training in Punjabi folk music. She was introduced to the world of worldwide music as well as the then-emerging Indian pop culture while growing up in the 1990s and watching MTV and VH1. New sounds and genres become available to listen to thanks to the internet mp3 revolution. It has always been her goal to include that feeling throughout her art. Since she speaks Hindi and Punjabi at home, fusing these languages with other languages felt like the most natural way to convey who she is. "Any artistic work's real beauty lies in allowing people to discover their own happiness or interpretation. Since art is subjective, I would really enjoy it if one listener took the music and gave it a personal meaning. I've had a lot of experience working with talented music directors and have contributed my voice to several genres of music over the years, so I feel like I really know my voice and know how to make the most of it. I've gotten better at modulating my voice to fit the demands of the tune and it really helps to practice this skill every day. I also stick to my vocal range and have discovered that, like anything else, using a mic on stage or in a studio is a talent that takes practice. Thus, when creating the EP, my years of experience have been put to

genres when the moment feels perfect. I believe my

vocals already show off to my audience in the songs I've

use," notes the songbird. The vocalist Mansheel prefers her music to be natural to her; she doesn't try to overthink things. She is currently completely focused on electro music, although her fans have always enjoyed her renditions of love songs. She wants her music to be an enjoyable mash-up of all the things she loves! Thus, she intends to increase both of them and perhaps even surprise herself with a novel endeavour

Join Mansheel on this exciting journey. Experience the celebration of self-love!

sports 11



1ST TEST: GILL, JAISWAL CONTINUE GOOD FORM; KOHLI, ROHIT EYE CONSISTENT RUN

PTI BENGALURU

 ${
m Y}^{
m ashasvi}_{
m Shubman}$ Jaiswal and Gill, the Índia's torchbearers of transition phase, will have to be the team's driving force in its quest to lord over an unsettled New Zealand when the two sides square off in a three-Test series, beginning here on Wednesday.

The baton has not been completely passed, but Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma are certainly running their last lap and these two young superstars will have to show that they can carry forward the legacy of the titans. Since a productive series

against England earlier this year, Gill is now more familiar and comfortable with the rigours of Test cricket. His last 10 innings contain

three hundreds and two fifties, while Jaiswal's last eight outings in Test cricket feature a 214 and five fifties. Those numbers are not to be scoffed at. But at the same time, it is important for them to build on the foundation through this series, a precursor to the much tougher journey to Australia next month.

deliveries from pacers, but a trace of the old failing still remains.

In Chennai, Bangladesh pacer Hasan Mahamud troubled him with nip-backers before eventually grabbing his wicket.

Similarly, Jaiswal has a penchant to go for expansive shots against pace bowlers to get dismissed, evidenced by his three dismissals recently

against Bangladesh quicks. In all, the left-hander has fallen to pacers 12 times in 20 innings, and he would want a better record before facing a clutch of top-class Australian pacers.

While these concerns are not deeply rooted, they serve as cautionary points against a New Zealand attack that has capable hands in pacers Matt Henry, William O'Rourke and the experienced Tim Southee, if he gets to play here after a sharp decline in his form.

There is another angle to the emergence of Jaiswal and Gill as the pillars of the Indian line-up, as Kohli and Rohit have not precisely set the field ablaze.

Rohit, who has played 15 runs in eight Tests at just over innings this year, has made two hundreds but managed



35 Kohli, 53 runs shy of 9000

and while Rohit often perishes in his attempt to grab the momentum, his colleague Gill seems to have sorted his only one fifty in the Test runs, has not made even offers a much more curious 47 (vs Bangladesh), stirring have to keep an eye on New issues with the in-coming 13, totaling 497 a fifty in six innings this year, case. The 35-year-old Kohli the uncomfortable memories Zealand left-arm spinners -

has not been able to convert the two starts he got this year, ending up with 46 (vs SA) and

of that great slump between 2019 and 2023.

The master batter will also

Ajaz Patel and Rachin to be gloomy over the course Ravindra - the tribe which has been a thorn in his flesh in the past.

It has been a while since these two stalwarts embossed their mark across a full series, and a nervy New Zealand could be their golden chance to do so. India has only minor concerns, but New Zealand's troubles across batting and bowling departments are

more pronounced. Their batsmen struggled copiously against Sri Lankan spinners recently while losing an away series 0-2, and here they will have to negate two modern-day modern-day greats in Ravichandran Ashwin and

Ravindra Jadeja. They took 20 wickets together against Bangladesh and with the Chinnaswamy Stadium pitch expected to give some assistance to spinners, the veterans might be itching to have a bowl here.

Besides the duo, the Kiwis will have to contend with the genius of Jasprit Bumrah, who rattled Bangladesh by picking up 11 wickets across two Tests. If they persist with the combination from the last series, Akash Deep will be the third pacer behind Bumrah and Mohammed Sirai. The weather here is expected

of the Test match, and there could be some delayed starts and truncated sessions. The management will take

into account the fact that New Zealand, who have already lost Kane Williamson to an injury, were put through the wringer by Lankan spinners recently.

In another blow, right-arm pacer Ben Sears has been ruled out of the series due to a knee injury. An uncapped Jacob Duffy, who has played six ODIs and 14 T20Is, has been brought into the squad.

Teams (from): India: Rohit Sharma (c), Jasprit Bumrah (vc), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, KL Rahul, Sarfaraz Khan, Rishabh Pant (wk), Dhruv Jurel (wk), Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Siraj, Akash Deep.

New Zealand: Tom Latham (captain), Devon Conway, Kane Williamson, Mark Chapman, Will Young, Daryl

Mitchell, Glenn Phillips, Michael Bracewell, Mitchell Santner, Rachin Ravindra, Tom Blundell (wk), Ajaz Patel, Matt Henry, Tim Southee, William O'Rourke, Jacob Duffy.

Don't want to take undercooked Shami to Australia: Rohit

PTI BENGALURU

India skipper Rohit Sharma has virtually ruled out Mohammed Shami from the upcoming Test tour of Australia, saying that the pacer's recovery from an ankle surgery has been hampered by swelling in knees and it would not be right to take an "undercooked" version of him for the marquee showdown.

Shami last played for India during the ODI World Cup final last year and has been recuperating from an ankle surgery after that.

"To be honest, right now, it's pretty difficult for us to make a call on him, whether he'll be fit for this series or Australia series. He recently had swelling on his knee, which was quite unusual," Rohit told



Zealand.

"He was in the process of getting fit, getting close to 100 per cent, he had swelling in his knee, that put him back a little bit in his recovery. So, he had to start again. Right now, he's at NCA, he's working with the physios and

the doctors at NCA," he added. Rohit said the team management wants Shami to regain full fitness before returning to top-flight

cricket. "We are keeping our fingers crossed, we want him to be 100 per cent fit. We don't want to bring an undercooked Shami to Australia, that is not going to be the right decision for us. "It is quite tough for a fast bowler, having missed so

reporters here on the eve of much of cricket, and then the first Test against New suddenly to come out and be suddenly to come out and be at his best, it is not ideal," he noted.

Rohit said the National Cricket Academy staff will continue to assess Shami's fitness and he might play a couple of internal matches in that process.

"We want to give him enough time to recover and be 100 per cent fit.

The physios, the trainers, the doctors have set a roadmap for him.

"He is supposed to play a couple of (practice) games before he plays international

cricket," he added. Shami has played 64 Tests for India, taking 229 wickets at an impressive average of 27.71.

India will play five Tests in Australia starting November

PTI BENGALURU



New Zeland pacer Ben Sears ruled out of India tour due to knee injury

Kiwis and in 102 First-Class

New Zealand right-arm pacer Ben Sears has been ruled out of the upcoming disappointed for Ben who three-Test series against made a strong start to his Test career during the home ndia due to a knee injury The opening Test begins here on Tuesday.

New Zealand's recent tour of

Sri Lanka. Scans back home

meniscus, prompting medical consultations in

hopes he could be cleared to

"However, following the medical advice, the decision

was made to rule him out of

the series. A plan on the best

course of treatment and

meniscus,

play.

outings he has claimed 299 wickets. "We're obviously

Keeping Jasprit Bumrah quiet will go a long way in winning against India: Pat Cummins

PTI MUMBAI

ustralia will have to find a Away to keep Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah quiet if they are to win the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, reckoned captain Pat Cummins on Tuesday as they draw comfort from success in last two ICC finals against their fierce rivals.

The world's top two Test teams will clash in a fivematch affair starting on November 22 in Perth and India will enter the contest having held the trophy for nearly a decade, which includes winning two consecutive series Down Under.

"I'm a big fan of Bumrah. I think he's a fantastic bowler. Hopefully, if we can keep him quiet, that is going to go a long way to winning the series," Cummins said on the

"Alongside him, he has got some other guys who haven't plaved a lot over here in Australia (that) we haven't seen a lot of. We'll see how it goes," he added. Cummins said Australia will

lean on happy memories of winning the last two ICC finals -- World Test Championship and ODI World Cup -- against Rohit Sharma's India.

Star Sports Press Room.

"The last two series were a long time ago. We have got over it," he said.

"I've never played alongside him (Rohit Sharma), so I don't know him super well. But it has looked like they (Indian team) are pretty organised, pretty wellplanned.

^aFortunately, over the last few years, we've had some success World the Test in Championship final and (in)

view.



a different format for the ODI crickeť. World Cup. We'll be trying to "It was always great playing (against) Pujara. He was one lean on those memories. As I'm sure they're trying to of those guys who never really felt like he was getting away remember some of the previous series over here as from you. But then he would well," he said. (just) bat, bat, bat and bat," he Pujara's absence will give a said.

'different feel'

"I really enjoyed the contest against him. Some days he Cummins said playing against Cheteshwar Pujara, whose won, other days I won. It's stoic resistance with the bat

going to have a bit of a different feel without him. laid the foundation of India's away wins in 2018-19 and Pujara is a great player." 2020-21, was 'real Test "(I) had lots of battles against

him over the years. I quite enjoyed them, to be honest. It was real Test cricket. He might score runs, but you always feel like you're in for a chance."

Cummins said playing against India's former No 3 batter was a battle of outlasting each other. "It comes down to almost

who wants to outlast each other, which I quite like that aspect of Test cricket. It's going to be a shame that he is not there, but I'm sure they'll pick someone else who's in a similar kind of style," he said. Cummins said the India-

Australia rivalry will now be "mirroring" the Ashes given that there will be five Tests hereon.

"I do think it is," said Cummins when asked if India-Australia rivalry matched that of the Ashes. "Particularly, after the Indian

team won the last couple of series at (our) home. We've had more success against England over the past decade. I think it's right up there," he said.

"You know when you play against India, you've got a few Indian fans that are watching. It's a slightly different rivalry to England-Australia rivalry. But again, now having a five-Test match series, it does mirror the Ashes series very closely," he said.

Cummins said India's reputation has been consolidated by winning away from home.

"Winning (in) Test cricket away from home is as tough Cricket said. as it gets in our sport and India have done that around the world. They are really, really good at home but also, one of the better teams to travel as well that's their reputation," he said.

summer and offers a genuine pace option," New Zealand head coach Gary Stead said Sears's departure to India was delayed after he experienced in a statement. pain in his left knee during

"It remains to be seen how long we'll be without him for, but we're hopeful his road to revealed a tear to his a full recovery will be a short one. It's an exciting opportunity for Jacob who has been around Test the squad before. With three Tests ahead of us he has every chance of making his Test debut." Stead hoped Duffy's experience in County Championship would be beneficial for the player.

rehabilitation for the injury will be advised in due course," New Zealand "Jacob's recent experience playing for Nottinghamshire in the County Championship certainly pushed his place. Jacob Duffy has been called in as his replacement and the His performances in whiteuncapped 30-year-old rightball cricket for the Blackcaps arm fast bowler will leave for have always been impressive and we're confident he'll be

India on Wednesday. Duffy has so far played six ODIs and 14 T20Is for the able to contribute if called upon," he said.

Latham looking forward to challenge of beating "well-rounded" India

PTI BENGALURU

New Zealand captain Tom Latham on Tuesday conceded that beating a "well-rounded" India would be an enormous task but said his team is ready to face the challenge over the course of a three-match Test series, beginning here from Wednesday. The presence of a host of

experienced batters and bowlers, Latham said, makes India a formidable opponent.

You obviously look at the spinners when you come over these conditions. But they've got an equally But they ve got an equany good seam attack in Bumrah, Siraj, Akash Deep, who's played the last couple of Tests against Bangladesh. So just a well-rounded side," Latham said in the pre-match press meet here on Tuesday.

You have a lot of match winners who can take a game away from you pretty quickly.

We're looking forward to

couple of times that we've toured," he added.

In that context, Latham said the Kiwis will miss the presence of former captain Kane Williamson, who has been ruled out of the early part of this tour owing to a

groin injury. "It's disappointing not to have Kane here.

Fingers crossed he'll be ready as soon as possible. I think Youngie (Will Young) will play. He'll bat at three. He's batted all over the order. I guess it's his opportunity to put his hand up.

obviously. 'Yeah. "From a batting point of disappointing when you



miss a senior guy like actually did a lot of good Kane, but it gives stuff in that tour. Kane, but it gives opportunities for other guys to put their hand up," he said.

However, Ben Sears getting ruled out because of a knee injury has opened up a chance for out of form veteran Tim Southee to get a place in the eleven. Absolutely. I think last time they played a Test

here, Tim took 7 for 60. Obviously, Ben Sears has been ruled out, so I guess if we do end up going with the three seamers, then obviously Tim will come right into the equation." Latham admitted that the build-up to this series was not ideal after a 0-2 series defeat against Sri Lanka, but hoped to carry over the learning from that contest. "Obviously, results weren't ideal in Sri Lanka.

"And, yeah, I guess you come here to India, it's slightly different conditions. That wicket at Galle didn't offer a lot from a bowling point of view," he noted. Latham is no stranger to

captaincy but being in the hot seat on a permanent basis from the three-match series against India excites the Canterbury man.

The 32-year-old was handed the skipper's arm band after Southee stepped down from the role after a poor away series against Ŝri Lanka.

"It's obviously a huge, exciting privilege for me to be in this position. But regardless whether I'm

captain or not captain, I'm trying to perform my role as best as I can. "That's not going to be any different being contain."

I think that first Test was a reasonably small margin in different being captain, terms of the defeat. But we said Latham.



tollywood

₹120 CRORE BUDGET FOR SAI DURGHA TEJ'S **PERIOD DRAMA?**

n the occasion of Sai Durgha Tey's birth-

n the occasion of Sai Durgha Tei's birth-day, the makers of his upcoming film, ten-tatively titled *SDT18*, released a glimpse of the project. Rohith KP is making his directorial debut with this film, while K Niranjan Reddy and Chaitanya Reddy are producing it. In the video, Sai Durgha Tej looks complete Niranjan Reddy and Chaitanya Reddy are on this weight gain. Now, after watching the teaser, its do n his weight gain. Now, after watching the teaser, its ing lean and losing significant weight. The teaser also introduces a village set, suggesting the statise to ease, showing that the land has long suffered inder evil forces, eagerly awaiting its saviour. Now, that wait is finally over.

under evil forces, eagerly awaiting its saviour. Now, mat wait is finally over.
According to a source, the film's budget is nearly Rs 120 crore. Although Sai Durgha Tej's market has yet to surpass Rs 100 crore, the producers are taking a risk, confident in the film's content. The source also revealed that the story is a period drama, requiring extensive graphic work.
The film is being shot entirely on sets, with villages from the 1950s recreated at Tukkuguda, RFC and Saradhi Sudios, according to the source. Aishwarya Lakshmi plays the female lead, and the cast includes top actors like Jagapathi Babu and Srikanth. The makers are also planning to cast a Bollywood actor as the villain.
Typically, when a star's birthday arrives, multiple is fully focused on *SDT18*, with no other films announced. Hindi, Kannada and Malayalam.



RAJINIKANTH BACK IN ACTION, HALE AND HEALTHY

hamil Rajinikanth fell ill a few days ago and was hospi-talized. Before the release of his film Vettaiyan, the actor underwent surgery, was later discharged and took time to rest at home. Now, it seems the superstar is back to work, as some of the unit members from Vettaiyan recently met with him.

The film was released during the Dasara festival in all languages. The Telugu version is performing well at the box office, along with the Tamil

release. Director T J Gnanavel, music director Anirudh Ravichander and the producer met Rajinikanth on Monday and they all appeared happy with the success of their film.

According to the makers, the film has collected a whopping Rs 240 crore, reaffirming Rajinikanth's box-office power. The telugu version was released under the original Tamil title, which some industry insiders saw as a disadvantage. Many thought it was just the Tamil version, but after a

few days, the collections surged thanks to Rajinikanth's star power. The film also features legendary actors Amitabh Bachchan, Fahadh Faasil, Rana Daggubati, and Manju Warrier. The makers added that the film is now being shown in over 7,250 theaters. Subaskaran, the producer from Lyca Productions, expressed his gratitude for the overwhelming response, saying, "This is a labor of love, and we are humbled by the support from fans across the globe?

Tick tock! *Rewind* is ready to turn back time



Rewind, directed and produced by Kalyan Chakravarthy. The makers have now announced that the film is set to release on October 18 in South India. Music for the film is composed by Ashirwad. The director expressed confidence, stating that small films have been performing remarkably well at the box office, and he hopes *Rewind* will do the same. "I believe in my content and hope the film will be liked by everyone," said Kalyan Chakravarthy. Promotional videos released a few days ago have received a positive response, according to the director. The film's story revolves around time

travel, with Sai Ronak playing the protagonist. The trailer hints at the actor traveling between the present and future, ncountering challenges along the v While several time travel films have been released in recent years, the director is confident he has introduced a fresh concept. Kalyan Chakravarthy also mentioned that the songs from the film have been well received. He added that he showed the film to distributors, who were highly supportive and liked it very much. "I am very thankful to them for their support," he said.





Prashanth Neel pens story for *Bagheera*

fter the success of the *KGF* film. director Prashanth Neel has Abecome one of the most soughtafter directors in India. Following that, he directed Salaar with Prabhas and is now working on a film with Jr NTR. Despite his busy schedule with high-budget projects, he has penned the story

for a film titled Bagheera, directed by Dr. Suri. Sriimurali stars as the leading actor. The makers have now begun promotions for this film and announced that the first single will be released on October 17.

Sriimurali previously starred in Ugramm, which was Prashanth Neel's

debut film. According to the makers, Bagheera promises to deliver an engaging and thrilling cinematic experience. Rukmini Vasanth plays the female lead, while the character actor Prakash Raj has an important role in the film. Bagheera is made in Kannada and the makers are confident it will

set trends in Kannada cinema. Asian Suresh is set to release this film in Telugu. They also announced that the film will be released on October 31 to coincide with the Diwali festival. According to the makers, Sriimurali plays an intense and power-packed role in the film.

Priyanka Upendra launches Ugravataram trailer, seeks blockbuster success

film a blockbuster. Produced by S.G. Satish

under the SGS Creations banner and directed by Gurumurthy, the film stars Priyanka in the lead role alongside a talented ensemble cast that includes Suman, Nataraj, Ajay, Pavitra Lokesh, Sai Dheena, Sudhi Cockroach and Lakshya Shetty.

The event also featured notable personalities like Karate Raju, father of actor Vishwak Sen, actor Satya Prakash, and producer Raj Kandukuri, who participated in the celebrations. The song was unveiled by Karate Raju and Satya Prakash, followed by the trailer launch led by Raj Kandukuri.

Raj Kandukuri expressed his enthusiasm for the film, stating, "Ugravataram is ideally timed for Dussehra. This female-driven narrative

t the trailer launch event for *Ugravataram*, actress Priyanka highlights pressing societal issues, ensuring it resonates with audiences. Gurumurthy has A Upendra made an earnest plea for a proven track record with his past projects, audiences to help make her first pan-Indian and I hope this film, which releases on November 1st, achieves great success. I also

wish Priyanka Upendra all the best, as such films deserve strong media promotion."

Priyanka Upendra reflected on her connection to Hyderabad, sharing, "Hyderabad is a lucky city for me; it's where I first met Upendra

GRAND RELEAS

Garu. This film marks my first venture into action and I accepted this role because of Gurumurthy's faith in me. Cinematographer Nandakumar has beautifully captured the essence of our performances, and Nataraj has

delivered an outstanding portrayal. Raju Garu has provided memorable songs and dialogues in Telugu, while Krishna Basrur's music is exceptional. I hope everyone watches my first pan-Indian film and helps it become a blockbuster."

Actor Satya Prakash high-lighted Priyanka's impressive background. stating, "Priyanka hails from Kolkata, and her performance in this film will remind viewers of Vijavashanthi in Karthavvam. Following this project, I believe Priyanka will become a household name. I'm thrilled to see my son acting in this film and I commend Gurumurthy for his dedication as a director. Let's all rally behind the film, set to release on November 1st and ensure its success."

Get ready to groove! Srimathi Garu song from Lucky Baskhar released

■ollywood fans, get ready! The vibrant video song *Srimathi* Garu from the much-anticipated film Lucky Baskhar has officially launched, featuring a catchy melody that promises to be a chartbuster.

Set to hit theaters worldwide on October 31st, Lucky Baskhar boasts

a star-studded cast and is expected to deliver an entertaining cinematic experience. Don't miss the chance to enjoy the lively visuals and enchanting music by watching the video. As excitement builds for its release, stay tuned for more updates from the Tollywood scene!

