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PROPOSALS



Ananya awaits her big commercial

the pioneer KTR and Harish Rao are competing with each other to occupy KCR's place. KTR and Harish Rao are not doing anything for the people except conducting press conferences to get photos published in newspapers. The BRS is not a political party. The BRS means KCR, KTR, Kavitha, Harish and Santhosh. KTR, Harish, Kavitha and Santhosh functioned with the objective of looting. The KCR family should release a white paper on their assets before and after 2014

QUOTE OF THE DAY

- Kadiam Srihari, Station Ghanpur MLA

Rich tributes paid to police martyrs....

Minister for Social Welfare, Dola Bala Veeranjaneya Swamy, and SP AR Damodhar paid tributes to martyrs on Police Commemoration Day, remembering the supreme sacrifices made by security personnel to safeguard the nation's sovereignty and maintain law and order. The Police Commemoration Day ceremony took place at the police parade ground, where the Minister and the SP honoured the martyrs by placing wreaths at the police memorial. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Bala Veeranjaneya Swamy....

25 teams of NDRF on standby in...

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has kept 14 teams in West Bengal and 11 teams in Odisha on standby for deployment in the wake of an impending cyclonic storm in the Bay of Bengal which is likely to make a landfall between Puri and Sagar Island on Thursday, a government statement said Monday. In a meeting of the National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) to review preparedness for the impending cyclone on Monday, Cabinet Secretary T V Somanathan was also informed...

When scammers cloned Mittal's...

Scammers often use Al voice clones to con commoners to transfer money or disclose financial information but it's rare when they try to impersonate a billionaire. This is exactly what scammers tried to do telecom czar Sunil Bharti Mittal's voice to scam his executive in Dubai to transfer money. Fortunately, the executive was smart enough to realise Mittal won't ask for such a huge money transfer and the scam was stopped in its tracks. On Monday, speaking at the NDTV World...

-PAGE: 8

Pressure on Siraj after only 19...

Indian skipper Rohit Sharma believes in consistency when it comes to team selection but he will have to take a leap of faith to retain speedster Mohammed Siraj in the playing eleven for the second Test against New Zealand considering his poor run in home conditions. The match starts in Pune from October 24 and inclusion of spin howling allrounder Washington Sundar as the fifth slow bowler is an indication that coach Gautam Gambhir and Rohit might go for the jugular on a spin-friendly track..



Rs 11,000 crore HUDCO loan for Amaravati works

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Municipal and Urban Development Minister Ponguru Narayana announced that the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) has agreed to provide a loan of Rs 11,000 crore for the construction of Amaravati, the new capital of Andhra Pradesh. The minister, accompanied by Special Chief Secretary Anil Kumar Singhal, held discussions with HUDCO officials during a visit to New Delhi on Monday.

They met with HUDCO CMD Sanjay Kul Shrestha and HUDĆO Vijayawada Regional Chief B.S.N. Murthy. Minister Narayana presented the government's vision for the construction of Amaravati to the HUDCO officials. Satisfied with the government's plans, the HUDCO CMD approved the loan of Rs 11,000 crore to the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region

Development Authority (APCR-DA) for the project.

The minister stated that the government, after coming to power, has been focused on securing funds for the capital's development. The estimated cost for completing Phase-1 of Amaravati's construction is Rs 26,000 crore. The World Bank and the Asian Development Bank have already agreed to provide Rs 15,000 crore in loans, and with HUDCO's additional Rs 11,000 crore, the capital works will progress rapidly, he said.

Minister Narayana further explained that following Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's relaunch of the Amaravati project, several banks and financial institutions have shown interest in supporting the construction of the world-class capital. The government is committed to adhering to a fixed timeline for completing buildings and essential infrastructure in the capital.

AP police a brand: CM

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu paid homage to police martyrs, honouring their sacrifices, and announced a Rs 20 crore annual allocation for the welfare of police personnel on Monday.

Speaking at the Police Commemoration Day event at the Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium in Vijayawada, the Chief Minister praised the police forces for their relentless efforts. He highlighted that the police work tirelessly, 24 hours a day, without rest, to ensure the safety of the public. "Andhra Pradesh police is a brand and has a proud history of suppressing factionalism, rowdyism, and Naxalism in the State," said Chandrababu Naidu.

He also promised to further strengthen the police system, stating that Rs 100 crore had been released for the department over the last four months. He criticised the previous government, pointing out that while the former Chief Minister spent Rs 12 crore on fencing his house, he failed to release Rs10 crore for fingerprint identification technology. Chandrababu noted that despite spending Rs 700 crore on survey stones, the former regime did not allocate Rs 10 crore for installing CCTV cameras, and bills worth Rs 763 crore were left pending.



 Naidu pays tribute to police martyrs during Commemoration Day event in Vijayawada.

 Praises the police for working tirelessly, ensuring public safety 24/7.

Criticises the previous government for not funding police

infrastructure like fingerprint tech and CCTV cameras.

 Announces that 6,100 vacant constable posts will be filled soon.

 Promises modern technology and updated equipment for the police force.

 Clears over Rs 100 crore in pending bills, including Central Government's Rs 61 crore share.

 Emphasises the need to address rising cybercrime with advanced technology.

 Assures that the government would firmly support the police against forces trying to destabilise the system.

'AP govt keen on housing for poor'

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Housing and I & PR Minister K Parthasarathi has said that the Andhra Pradesh government, under the leadership of Nara Chandrababu Naidu, is committed to providing pucca houses to all eligible households within the next five years. A two-day regional workshop and pacity-building programme f Awaas+ 2024 App, under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) Gramin, commenced in Guntur on Monday.

Speaking at the event, the minister said the State will leverage the PMAY Gramin 2.0 scheme to identify all eligible households in rural areas and ensure they receive sanctions under the pro-

gramme. He mentioned that while the state could only secure sanctions for 2.46 lakh houses under PMAY Gramin 1.0, scheme

it successfully received approvals for 21 lakh houses under the PMAY Urban 1.0

300 sale deeds of assets seized by ED

PNS NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate Monday said it has seized more than 300 sale deeds of properties 'acquired' by former YSRCP MP M V V Satyanarayana and some others, apart ing raids against them in an Andhra Pradesh government land grab case.

The federal agency conducted searches against the former legislator and an auditor, Gannamaneni Venkateswara Rao, on October 19 at five locations in Visakhapatnam.

'Deepam' from Diwali CM Naidu says 3 LPG cylinders will be supplied to eligible households per annum

PNS VIJAYAWADA

has announced that free cooking gas cylinders will be supplied to al gible women across the State, starting from October 31, to mark the Deepavali festival.

The Chief Minister held a meeting at the State Secretariat on Monday with Minister for Civil Supplies, Nadendla Manohar, officials from the Civil Supplies Department, and rep-

resentatives from Indian Oil Corporation, Hindustan Petroleum Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu Corporation, and Bharat Petroleum Corporation.

ing guidelines for implementing the 'Deepam' scheme. Despite financial constraints, the State government is committed to implementing welfare schemes

that benefit the people, especially the poor, Naidu said.

Low pressure area to intensify into cyclonic storm by tomorrow

PNS AMARAVATI

The India Meteorological Department on Monday said a new low-pressure area has formed over the Bay of Bengal, and is likely to intensify into a cyclonic storm by October 23.

According to the weather department, the low pressure formed over east-central Bay of Bengal and adjoining north Andaman Sea around 5:30 am on Monday, influenced by Sunday's upper air cyclonic circulation over north Andaman Sea and adjoining east-central and southeast part of the sea.

Actor Allu Arjun files quash petition PNS VIJAYAWADA

quash petition in the Andhra Pradesh High Court on Monday, seeking to have a case filed against him during the 2024 general elec-tions in Andhra Pradesh dismissed. The case was registered in May when the actor visited Nandyal town to support YSRCP candidate Shilpa Ravi Chandra Kishore Reddy, during a time when Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code and Police Act 30 were in force. The court has admitted the petition and is expected to take it up for hearing on

During the elections, Allu Arjun participated in a large public gather-Tollywood star Allu Arjun filed a ing in Nandyal, where his fans turned out in huge numbers to join the rally. Since Section 144 and Police Act 30 were in effect at the time, prior permission was required for any large assembly. However, Allu Arjun did not obtain the necessary permission, leading to a case being filed against him for violating the Model Code of Conduct and attending gatherings without approval. According to reports, Allu Arjun was accused of allowing a large pub-

lic gathering at Shilpa Ravi Chandra

Kishore Reddy's house, resulting in

a breach of the code of conduct.

Dy CM consoles kin of diarrhoea victims

PNS VIZIANAGARAM

Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Rural Development and Rural Water Supply, Pawan Kalyan, visited Gurla village on Monday to offer condolences to families who recently lost loved ones due to diarrhoea linked to polluted water. The outbreak has devastated nearly 140 households, resulting in the heart-breaking loss of seven lives.

Expressing his deep sorrow during the visit, Pawan Kalyan stressed the government's commitment to delivering the highest quality medical care for those affected. "I wanted to ensure that those affected are receiving the best possible care," he said, following a tour of the local Gurla Hospital where he engaged with medical staff about the being.



patients' conditions. His visit underscored the urgency of addressing the ongoing health crisis, demonstrating his dedication to the community's well-

Before meeting with the bereaved families, Pawan Kalyan convened discussions with relevant officials to investigate the source of the water con-

Drone Policy within a month AP competes with developed nations: Lokesh

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Secretary (Political) to the Government of Andhra Pradesh (Political), S Suresh Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) will be signed during the Drone Conference set to commence on Tuesday, October 22. Addressing the media on Monday alongside K Dinesh Kumar, MD, AP Drones Corporation, Suresh Kumar provided details about the "Amaravati Drone

at the state secretariat. He stated that an agreement has been reached with the Quality Council of India, and the Andhra Pradesh Drone Corporation will soon be recognised as a certified agency. The corporation will undertake various initiatives, including drone pilot training.

Summit - 2024" during a briefing

"We are set to enter into a knowledge partnership with IIT Tirupati. Several companies have expressed interest in signing MoUs, and after Kumar, announced that two careful evaluation, we will proceed with the process. Additionally, a concept paper outlining the

strategy framework for the drone ecosystem will be released during the conference and distributed to attendees. After reviewing the feedback, we plan to finalise the drone policy within a month," Suresh

Kumar said. He further highlighted that Tuesday's event will be one of the largest drone showcases in the country, featuring 5,500 drones. The drone show will take place at Punnami Ghat, near the Krishna River in Vijayawada, from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM, accompanied by cultural programmes.

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Minister for Education, Information Technology (IT), and Electronics, Nara Lokesh, stated on Monday that the Andhra Pradesh government is competing not only with other Indian states but also with developed nations in the IT and Electronics sectors. Lokesh made this observation

during a meeting with representatives of the Indian Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA) in New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by ICEA Chairman, Pankaj Mahindroo. Lokesh explained in detail the initiatives being taken by the Andhra Pradesh Government to transform the state into an electronics hub, taking advantage of its

favourable environment. He informed the gathering that the State government has estab-



Lokesh made this observation during a meeting with representatives of the Indian Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA) in New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by ICEA Chairman, Pankaj Mahindroo. He highlighted that the IT and Electronics sector wil play a crucial role in Andhra Pradesh over the next five years, with plans to create 20 lakh jobs for the youth.

Lokesh assured the attendees that the State is ready to provide various incentives for those with viable proposals to set up industries. He also announced that Visakhapatnam is being developed as the IT powerhouse and the capital for Artificial Intelligence (AI), while Tirupati will be developed as the electronics hub. Lokesh called

Andhra Pradesh is advancing rap-

idly under the leadership of Chief

Minister N Chandrababu Naidu,

now serving his fourth term.

for the cooperation of industrialists to achieve these goals. He further mentioned that Anantapur and Kurnool districts will be developed as centres for the automobile and electronics indus-

tries and that the government is focusing on developing Amaravati along the lines of Washington, D.C. in the United States.

lished a task force comprising renowned industrialists to regularly discuss challenges faced by the industry and the necessary steps to address them. He highlighted that the IT and Electronics sector will

play a crucial role in Andhra

Pradesh over the next five years, with plans to create 20 lakh jobs for the youth. A customised policy for the IT and Electronics industry will soon be introduced to facilitate this growth.

Lokesh also emphasised that

Andhra Pradesh is adopting one of the most industry-friendly policies and creating an ecosystem that is conducive to all industries. The State is progressing with its "Speed-of-Doing Business" approach, he said, adding that

TCS on hunt for office in Vizag after Lokesh's announcement

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Following the announcement by IT and Human Resource Development Minister Nara Lokesh that Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) will establish a campus

Visakhapatnam, representa-tives from the IT giant have commenced the search for suitable vacant buildings in the city. Lokesh had revealed that the foundation stone for the campus would be laid within the next 100 days, sparking significant excitement in the local business community.

"We are thrilled to welcome TCS to Visakhapatnam. This will not only generate new job opportunities but also strengthen the city's position as an emerging IT hub," said Rushikonda IT Park Association vice-president O. Naresh Kumar. He added, "The government is committed to supporting TCS in every way possible, including providing



land and necessary infrastruc-

TCS is currently considering vacant buildings at Millennium Tower in Rushikonda IT Hills or renting private properties as a temporary solution until its permanent facilities are built. A TCS spokesperson confirmed, "We are actively considering all options to begin operations swiftly. While the

Besides Millennium Tower, we have inspected three other buildings Visakhapatnam. For the initial phase, we need at least 100,000 square feet," an unnamed TCS official said. The company plans to employ around 15,000 people at the new campus, with recruitment in phases.
A high-level TCS team is

expected to Visakhapatnam soon to inspect both the Millennium Tower and other private buildings under consideration. "Once the site is finalized, we will work with the state government to discuss next steps, including securing land for our permanent campus," the TCS representative added. The news of TCS's entry into Visakhapatnam is being seen as a significant boost for the region's economy, and local officials have expressed their enthusiastic support for the ini-

Four killed as bus hits auto

PNS RAYACHOTI

Four people were killed, and three others were injured when a private travel bus collided with an auto rickshaw on the Kadapa-Chittoor highway at Kalakada village in Sambepalli mandal on Monday.

According to the police, the auto rickshaw was en route to Sorakayalapet village in Sambepalli mandal from Devabadla village. Sambepalli and Kalakada

police swiftly arrived at the accident site and transported the injured to the Government General Hospital (GGH). The deceased have yet to be identified, but all of them were travelling in the auto rick-

The condition of two of the injured individuals is reported to be critical.

The accident caused traffic on the busy Kadapa-Chittoor highway to come to a standstill, with a large number of vehicles stranded on either

Irrigation Minister seeks detailed report on Veligonda Project

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Minister for Water Resources, Nimmala Ramanaidu, criticised the previous YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) government for the delays in completing the Veligonda Project. În a video conference review meeting on Monday, he discussed the current status of key water projects, including Veligonda, Handri-Neeva, the Polavaram Project, and the Polavaram Left Main Canal, with officials from the Water

Resources Department. The meeting, held in his chamber at the Secretariat, was attended by Special Chief Secretary of the Water Resources Department G Sai Prasad, Engineer-In-Chief M Venkateswara Rao, and other senior officials. Ramanaidu inquired about the progress of these projects and requested estimates on the time needed for their completion.

The minister stressed that, under the leadership of Chief



Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu conducting a review meeting with Irrigation department officials at the Secretariat in Velagapudi on Monday.

Naidu, efforts are being made to expedite work on the Veligonda Project. He announced plans to visit the project site personally to ensure that work progresses at a faster pace.

Ramanaidu emphasised that, once completed, the Veligonda Project would address the irrigation and drinking water challenges faced by the underdeveloped Prakasam district.

He also instructed officials to submit a detailed report on the expenditure required to complete the project. Further, he directed the Water Resources Department to prepare a plan to begin the Handri-Neeva Main Canal extension and lining works by November, along with a comprehensive schedule for the project.

In addition, the minister reviewed the progress of the Diaphragm-Wall construction at the Polavaram Project and held discussions with engineers from Megha Engineering Company Limited. He announced that the government is also initiating work on the Polavaram Left Main Canal to ensure adequate water supply for both irrigation and drinking needs in the North



Jagan to tour Guntur, YSR districts on Oct 23

PNS VIJAYAWADA

YSRCP president and former chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy will be visiting Guntur and YSR districts on Wednesday, October 23.

During his visit, he will meet and console the families of young girls who were subjected to heinous crimes. He will begin his visit by meeting the family of a young woman from Tenali, who has fallen into a comatose state due to the cruel actions of a TDP worker and rowdy sheeter. He will visit the young woman currently undergoing treatment at Guntur GGH in the morning and offer his condolences to her family.

Later in the afternoon, he will meet the family of a young girl who was brutally assaulted and murdered in Badvel After his visit Jagan will proceed to Pulivendula

SDRF rescues over 14,000 people during Budameru floods

Millennium Tower is promis-

ing, we are also looking at other

private properties in the city."

Towers at Rushikonda IT Hills,

which spans approximately

three lakh square feet, remains

unoccupied and could serve as

a temporary space for TCS.

However, certain regulatory

challenges must be addressed

One of the two Millennium

PNS VIJAYAWADA

In an extraordinary show of resilience and coordination, the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) successfully evacuated over 14,188 people during the devastating Budameru floods that affected several areas, including Ajith Singh Nagar, Payakapuram, LIC Colony, Devi Nagar, and RR Peta, between August 31 and September 12, 2024.

In a release issued on the occasion of Police Commemoration Day, the SDRF highlighted their rapid response to the disaster. As widespread flooding wreaked havoc, the SDRF teams swiftly mobilised 35 inflatable rubber boats, enabling large-scale evacuations and saving countless lives. In addition to rescuing people, they also shifted 544 livestock, including sheep and goats, to safer locations between August 1 and August 2, 2024. These operations were carried out under the guidance of senior officers Ch. Srikanth. Inspector General of Police (L&O), and B. Raja Kumari,

Police, APSP Battalions.



The SDRF reported the successful evacuation of 14,188 people from flood-affected areas, the saving of lives through timely interventions, and the critical rescue of individuals requiring medical attention, including pregnant women. Ongoing relief efforts are providing food, shelter, and medical assistance, with rehabilitation and recovery continuing to be a key focus as operations progress.

The affected communities expressed their gratitude for crucial role in mitigating the SDRF's swift response. are thankful for the ery and dedication of the itation.

SDRF teams, who have gone above and beyond to save lives," said one local resident. Another added, "The quick evacuation and rescue efforts helped minimise the impact of the disaster.'

As recovery efforts continue, the SDRF's relentless work remains a vital force in supporting those impacted by the Budameru floods. Their dedication to ensuring safety and providing assistance has played a the disaster's effects and

Govt failed on women's safety: Roja filing false cases against YSRCP

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Former minister RK Roia criticised the state government for failing to protect women, citing rising incidents of rape and murder. She called on Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, and Home Minister Anita to resign if they cannot ensure

women's safety.
Speaking to the media in Nagari, Roja pointed out that despite the frequent crimes against women, the state government continues to ignore these issues. She highlighted recent incidents such as the brutal rape and murder of a young woman in Badvel and the attack on a woman in Tenali, who is now brain-dead. Despite these tragedies, CM Chandrababu flew to Hyderabad to attend a



TV show recording with MLA Balakrishna instead of meeting the victims' families.

Roja also criticised Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan for his silence on the issue, questioning his previous promises to take strong action against criminals. She remarked that the TDP government was more focused on political vendettas,

leaders, while using the police for personal gains instead of maintaining law and order.

Roja demanded that the government immediately push for the implementation of the Disha Act for women's safety and restore women's police stations. She warned that if the government continues to neglect women's safety, the public would respond by teachng them a lesson.

In a separate press conference in Tadepalli, YSRCP leader TJR Sudhakar Babu highlighted several other critical concerns. He pointed out the government's failure to maintain law and order, specifically criticising Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu for not taking serious steps to control the increasing violence against

women. He stressed that if the Disha app had been operational, many incidents could have been avoided, directly blaming the current administration for this lapse.

Sudhakar Babu also focused on the misuse of police forces for political revenge, accusing the government of intentionally targeting Dalit leaders in the YSRCP through false cases against former MP Nandigam Suresh and Pinipe Viswaroop's son. Additionally, he expressed disappointment over the government's disregard for women's safety, citing the lack of punishment in 74 incidents involving rape and murder of women in the past four months. He argued that this neglect emboldens criminals and shows the government's indifference towards the safety of vulnerable populations.

300 sale deeds of...

Continued from Page 1

TODAY

Shashthi:

Saptami:

Nakshatram:

Punarvasu:

Rahukalam

Varjyam:

Amritakalam:

Gulika:

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham

Satyanarayana was a YSRCP MP from 2019 to 2024. He unsuccessfully contested the Andhra Pradesh assembly polls earlier this year from the Visakhapatnam East seat. The case pertains to a 12.51-acre land (with a market value of more than Rs 200 crore) that was allotted by the State government to the promoters of a company for creating housing projects for old-age people and orphans. The ED said in a statement that the Andhra Pradesh Police FIR file at the Arilova police station in Visakhapatnam charged Satyanarayana, Rao and a third person, Gadde Brahmaji, for 'forging' signatures, 'fabricating' sale documents and

Krishna Paksha

Oct 22 02:29 AM

Oct 23 01:29 AM

Oct 22 05:51 AM

Oct 23 05:38 AM

to Oct 24 06:15 AM

2:53 PM to 4:19 PM

9:07 AM to 10:34 AM

05:57 PM to 07:35 PM

12:00 PM to 1:26 PM

07:44 PM to 09:19 PM

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

Updated: October 21, 2024 5:00 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Partly Cloudy

Temp: 33°° Humidity: 73% Sunrise: 6:02 AM

Sunset: 5:42 PM

to Oct 23 01:29 AM

to Oct 24 01:19 AM

located in Yendana village of Visakhapatnam was allotted by the state government in 2008 to a company named Hayagreeva Farms and Developers for the construction of cottages for the elderly and orphans.

The land, according to the ED, was registered in the name of the company in 2010 on payment of Rs 5.63 crore. "However, as per records of Andhra Pradesh Registration and Stamps Department, the market value of the said property as on the date of convevance deed was around Rs 30.25 crore," it said. "After the accused fraudulently acquired the ownership of the said land, it was divided into small plots and alienated from 2021

onwards via means of registered agreements of sale and sale deeds to various persons thereby generating proceeds of crime of more than Rs 150 crore," the agency added.

Searches at the residences and office premises of the accused persons resulted in he seizure of digital devices and incriminating documents in the form of benami land mutation passbooks; more than 300 sale deeds of immovable properties acquired in the names of Rao, Satyanarayana and their family members, and cash transactions of more than Rs 50 crore in the acquisition of immovable properties, the ED claimed. The complainant in the case said in the June 22 police FIR that once the land was allotted to him, he engaged Rao, who in turn, introduced him to Satyanarayana and Brahmaji for developing the governmentmandated project on it.

'AP govt keen on...

Continued from Page 1

He also highlighted that on 9th August 2024, the Prime Minister approved the "Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Gramin 2.0." The state of Andhra Pradesh is per house and is providing 20 metric tonnes of free sand, worth Rs 15,000 per house. Additionally, SHG groups are being offered loans at a 3% interest rate, he added.

Union Minister P. Chandrasekhar addressed the gathering, emphasising the Government of India's commitment to achieving "Housing for All" in rural areas. He noted that PMAY-G had been launched in April 2016, and under its first phase from 2016-17 to 2023-24, the Centre had sanctioned 2.95 crore houses, of which 2.66 crore have already been completed, a remarkable achievement under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

The union minister urged participants from various states, as well as officials from APSHCL at the state and district levels, to take full advantage of the workshop by famil-

iarising themselves with the procedures and technical details, which would aid in the effective implementation of the PMAY Gramin programme in the coming years.

He also pointed out that concost of Rs 1.20 lakh per house, as provided by the Government of India, is challenging in Andhra Pradesh. The Ministry of Urban Housing Affairs is allocating a unit cost of Rs 2.50 lakh (with Rs 1.50 lakh from the Centre and Rs 1.00 lakh from the state) under PMAY Urban 2.0 in UDA areas. Therefore, he urged the Ministry of Rural Development to revise the unit cost for rural housing to at least Rs 2.50 lakh, in line with the urban housing

Several key officials, including Special Chief Secretary for Housing Ajay Jain, Secretary of the Ministry of Rural Development V. Sailesh Kumar, MD of Housing Corporation Raja Babu, and Housing Corporation Chairman Tatayya Babu, also addressed the

Dv CM consoles kin...

Continued from Page 1

He learned that the Champavati River was severely polluted due to the direct release of drainage water, raising significant concerns about the quality of drinking water in the region. "The health of our people is paramount, and we must tackle the root causes of this pollution immediately," he asserted.

specially arranged venue in the vi

lage, Pawan Kalyan met with families mourning their losses. "I am deeply saddened by this unfortunate incident," he remarked, acknowledging the emotional toll the crisis has taken on the community. He assured the families that the government would provide essential support during this challenging time, pledging, "If any of the deceased have children studying, we will take full responsibility for their education.' This commitment highlighted his concern for the future of the affected families.

After discussions with Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Pawan Kalyan vowed to implement prompt measures to address the crisis. "We are committed to preventing future water pollution not only in Gurla but also in the surrounding areas," he stated, outlining a comprehensive strategy to tackle the issue head-on. Listening attentively to the victims' concerns, Pawan Kalyan reinforced the government's proactive stance in seeking effective solutions.

"We are preparing a plan to make full use of the Jala Jeevan Mission scheme to ensure that every family has access to purified drinking water," he added, emphasizing the importance of long-term infrastructure improvements to protect public health.

Later, speaking to the media, Minister Pawan Kalyan expressed deep sorrow over the deaths caused by contaminated water, attributing the crisis to previous government negligence in sanitation funding. He noted ongoing sanitation issues statewide, which had sparked local concerns during recent Gudivada festivals. Kalyan assured immediate action, revealing contamination in Gurla's water supply and calling for the eradication of open defecation.

Rs 11,000 crore HUDCO... Continued from Page 1

It is estimated that Rs 50,000 crore will be required to complete the remaining works, which include constructing government office complexes, developing infrastructure in returnable plots provided to farmers through land pooling, and establishing essential facilities like roads, drainage, and drinking water supply. Phase-1 of the capital's construction alone is expected to cost Rs 26,000 crore.

'Deepam' from... AP police a brand: CM...

Continued from Page 1

The Chief Minister announced that 6,100 vacant constable posts would soon be filled, and assured that the police force would be equipped with modern technology and infrastructure.

Paying tribute to police personnel who sacrificed their lives, the Chief Minister reflected on the significance of Police Commemoration Day, observed every year on October 21. He recalled how Indian forces were ambushed by Chinese troops at Ladakh on October 21, 1959, and despite knowing they would lose their lives, the Indian forces bravely fought the battle.

Chandrababu emphasised the crucial role the police play in ensuring the safety and security of society and praised their invaluable service. He pointed

out that since 2014, various reforms have been introduced in the police system, and necessary vehicles and infrastructure have been provided according to their requirements.

As soon as I took charge as Chief Minister, I prioritised the police system. It is the government's basic responsibility to equip the police with the necessary tools. Now, modern technology will be provided, and the police system. I assure you equipment will be updated," he

The Chief Minister further stated that pending bills of over Rs 100 crore have been cleared in recent months, including another Rs 97 crore, with Rs 61 crore being the Central Government's share. He regretted that the police system had

police work beyond hatred or political bias.

Acknowledging the challenges faced by the police, particularly the rise in cybercrime, the Chief Minister stressed the need for updating technology to address this growing issue. "Only by having the upper hand can we control criminals. It's concerning that certain forces are trying to destabilise that the State Government will stand firmly by your side to handle such situations,"

Chandrababu Naidu said. Chief Secretary Neerab Kumar Prasad, Director General of Police Dwaraka Tirumala Rao, Inspector General of Police (Intelligence) Ch Srikanth, and senior police been misused by the previous officers, along with other pergovernment for political sonnel, participated in the revenge but assured that the event.

Continued from Page 1

Under the 'Deepam' scheme, free cooking gas cylinders will be supplied to eligible women in a transparent manner start-

ing from Deepavali.
Each eligible household will receive three free cylinders per year. The Chief Minister directed officials to ensure that bookings for the cylinders begin in advance, starting from October 24, with the supply commencing on October 31

"The money that women have spent on gas cylinders so far can now be used for other household needs," Naidu said, expressing confidence that such schemes would improve the liv-

ing conditions of the poor.
He emphasised that the State Government's decision to move ahead with the scheme, despite financial challenges, was driven by its commitment to public

welfare. Naidu also stressed that officials must ensure there are no complaints from eligible beneficiaries and reaffirmed the government's dedication to the welfare of women in the

Civil Supplies Secretary Veerapandyan gave a presentation on the scheme, noting that the current retail price of a domestic gas cylinder is Rs 876, with the Centre providing a Rs 25 subsidy. He informed the meeting that the scheme would place an additional burden of Rs 13,423 crore on the State over the next five years, amounting to Rs 2,684 crore annually.

The State government has already fulfilled several promises made during the election, including reopening Anna Canteens, and is now moving forward with the implementation of the 'Deepam' scheme.

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Homage paid to martyrs on Police Commemoration Day

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Minister for Mines & Geology and Excise, Kollu Ravindra, has stated that the sacrifices of the police officials who lost their lives while ensuring the safety of citizens and maintaining law and order are unforgettable. "It is impossible to imagine what kind of conditions

would prevail in present society if there were no police," he said. As part of the Police Commemoration Day observance held on Monday, tributes were paid to the police martyrs from Krishna district. Minister Kollu Ravindra along with Krishna District Superintendent of Police (SP) R Gangadhara Rao paid homage to them at the Police Parade Grounds in Machilipatnam.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister said the efforts, dedication and commitment of the police personnel towards maintaining law and order and safeguarding the country's interests are immeasurable. The government is ready to strengthen the State Police Department and wishes to implement people-friendly policing in the State, he added.

Minister Ravindra further alleged that the State's image was ruined due to some police officers' actions.

However, his government would make the department hold their

heads high, he added. SP R Gangadhara Rao said that at least 216 policemen were martyred during 2023-24 while on duty across the country, 10 of whom in Krishna district. He said that they will always be remembered for their extraordinary

Later, the police organised a rally from the parade grounds to Lakshmi Talkies Centre, which was flagged off by Kollu Ravindra. Ravindra donated Rs.50,000 to the Krishna District Police Welfare Fund. Jana Sena leader Bandi Rama Krishna, DRO K Chandra Sekhar Rao, RDO K Swathi and



Minister Kollu Ravindra and SP R Gangadhara Rao paying tributes to police martyrs on the occasion of the Police Commemoration Day at the Police Parade Grounds in Machilipatnam on Monday





GVMC fully prepared for cyclone threat: Commissioner

Depression in Bay of Bengal expected to intensify into a cyclone by Wednesday

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

The Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) is fully geared up to tackle the impending cyclone, announced Commissioner Dr P Sampath Kumar in a press release on Monday. The depression in the Bay of Bengal is expected to intensify into a cyclone by Wednesday. "The GVMC is equipped to provide essential services to the public in the event of any threat," Dr Sampath Kumar stated. He urged residents of the hilly and inland areas of the city to remain vigilant as the low pressure may intensify into a

In a coordinated effort, District Collector MN Harendhira Prasad has directed GVMC machinery to be on standby to address the potential threat of the cyclone through teleconference. To safeguard those affected by the cyclone, the GVMC has established rehabilitation centers. Dr Sampath Kumar highlighted the increased risk of falling trees due to the storm, explaining, "We have prepared vehicles, tree-cutting machines, and personnel to ensure timely removal of any hazards." Additionally, he noted that authorities have been advised to take necessary precautions against the potential for strong winds to down electricity poles.

in Gummadigonda and Allipudi resulted in Rs 2 crore

being looted. We seized 48,000

metric tonnes of illegal sand in

Narsipatnam and imposed Rs 18 crore in fines, all due to the

actions of the former MLA.'

"We will give opportunities to those who work hard. Those

who disrupt progress won't be

given any chance," he added. He reaffirmed his commitment to fulfilling promises made by Chief Minister

Chandrababu Naidu, particu-

larly regarding the Tandava Lift

Irrigation Project under

Polavaram, estimated at Rs

2,900 crore. "I will ensure its

completion in the coming days

and repay the trust of the con-

stituency's people. I won't

deceive them.'

HONOURING THE DESIGNER OF NATIONAL FLAG



Machilipatnam Medical College named after Pingali Venkaiah

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh State government has renamed the Government Medical College in Machilipatnam as Sri Pingali Venkaiah Government Medical College. The Medical College is named after Pingali Venkaiah, the freedom fighter and designer of the Indian flag, recognising his significant contributions to the nation. The renaming fulfils a long-held aspiration to celebrate his lega-

On a Monday, the official order G.O.Ms.No.132 was issued by the Special Chief Secretary for Health, Medical, and Family Welfare, MT Krishna Babu. Prior to this decision, the Health, Medical

and Family Department received two proposals requesting to change the name of the Machilipatnam Government Medical College to Sri Pingali Venkaiah Government Medical College. The Director of Medical Education and the Krishna District Collector sent two separate proposals recently in this regard.

After considering these prooosals, the government took the decision. He directed the Director of Medical Education, Vijayawada, to take necessary

Meanwhile, Machilipatnam MP Vallabhaneni Balashoury thanked the government and Minister Chief Chandrababu Naidu.

He said that he strived to release funds for the construction of the Medical College in Machilipatnam from the Union government by conducting meetings with the Union Health Minister sever-

Further, he said that he had requested the previous government to rename the Medical College, which the govern-

ment ignored. He took the issue to the notice of CM Chandrababu Naidu while he participated in the 'Swachhtha Hi Seva' programme in Machilipatnam on October 2.

Soon after receiving the request, the government renamed the Medical College, he explained.



Pawan Kalyan raises concerns over 'Rushikonda Palace'

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Deputy Chief Minister Shri Pawan Kalyan made a detour to inspect the controversial constructions at Rushikonda, known locally as the "Rushikonda Palace." These opulent buildings, worth a staggering Rs 500 crore, were hidden from public view until

after the recent elections. Pawan Kalyan, who had previously raised concerns about the construction during his pre-election visits, took the opportunity to explore the site first-hand. Accompanied by MP M. Sribharat, the Deputy CM was briefed on the seven large buildings and three houses that have been constructed on the land.

"The previous government kept these constructions under wraps, restricting public access even before the elections," MP Sribharat stated. "The secretive nature of this project raises serious questions." Pawan Kalyan spent time exploring the surroundings of the palace, including the sea viewpoint. He interacted with the staff working there, posing for photos with them. He also expressed curiosity about the project's legal and financial aspects.

Local MLA Sundarapu Visakhapatnam Corporator P Murthy Yadav provided a detailed explanation regarding the height, area, market value, and legal implications of the buildings. "The scale of these constructions is unprecedented in this area,' MLA Vijay Kumar explained. 'We ensured that the Deputy Chief Minister was wellinformed about all aspects."

After a 30-minute inspection, Pawan Kalyan left for the airport. Speaking afterward, he remarked, "These buildings raise many questions about the transparency and intent of the previous administration. It is important for the public to know the facts. The visit has reignited concerns about the lavish constructions and their impact on the local environment and

Student attacks college official with knife

PNS VIJAYAWADA

An intermediate first-year student has attacked an administrative officer with a knife. His condition is reported to be critical. The incident took place on

Sunday night during a routine bag inspection at a local college. According to the Tiruchanoor police, an administrative officer of a private college, N Venkataramana (52), who hails from Adasupalli in Somala mandal of Punganur, was conducting a routine check of students' belongings when he discovered a knife in one of the bags. When Venkataramana questioned the boy about why he had brought the knife, the boy reportedly attacked the officer, stabbing him in the nec Venkataramana sustained severe injuries and was rushed to Ruia Hospital in Tirupati by the staff members

Drunk man kills wife

PNS VIJAYAWADA

A man brutally murdered his wife under the influence of alcohol in Vijayawada on Monday. According to the police, the incident occurred in Kamsalipeta, where Sheikh Nagina (32) and her husband Baji were residing. Nagina worked as a labourer in a tiffin centre. Baji's alcohol addiction often led to arguments and quarrels between the couple.

Ayyanna Patrudu lays stone for road works

Says he secured Rs 40 crore for Narsipatnam constituency in 100 days

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Andhra Pradesh Assembly Speaker Chintakayala Ayyanna Patrudu participated in the Monday, where he laid the foundation stone for road

works worth Rs 40 lakh. During his address at the festival, Ayyanna Patrudu highlighted his achievements in the Narsipatnam constituency. "In just 100 days, I have secured Rs 40 crore for the Narsipatnam constituency. Of that, Rs 14 crore has been allocated to Natavaram mandal." He emphasised the importance of timely investments in infrastructure to foster growth and improve residents' quality

Ayyanna Patrudu didn't hold back in criticising the previous MLA, saying, "The former MLA claimed to have brought crores to the constituency, yet they couldn't even allocate Rs 3 lakh to repair the Tandava gate. We've completed the repairs with Rs 5 lakh, and we'll



install new gates once the crop season starts." He also accused former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy of misconduct. "Jagan Mohan Reddy looted the State's sand, but in this constituency, it was the former MLA and his followers.'

The Speaker extended an invitation to Jagan. "I invite Jagan Mohan Reddy to the next Assembly session. Let's meet

face-to-face. He avoids the Assembly because he fears having to salute me."

Ayyanna Patrudu also addressed illegal sand mining, revealing, "Illegal sand mining

Ayyanna Patrudu reaffirmed his dédication to infrastructure development. "I am working to provide essential infrastructure to villages in every possible way." RDO VV Ramana and other leaders from Natavaram mandal were also

Liberal arts: A cornerstone of 21st-Century education: Expert

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

As India's higher education landscape undergoes rapid transformation, the importance of liberal arts education is experiencing a remarkable resurgence, particularly in the 21st century. This was the key message delivered by Dr. Ratheesh Kumar, Associate Professor at the Centre for the Study of Social Systems, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), during a thought-provoking lecture at GITAM Deemed to be University.

Dr. Kumar's talk, titled "Critical Pedagogy and Interdisciplinarity: Reflections on Practice," was organized by the GITAM School of Humanities and Social Sciences and highlighted the critical role of liberal arts in promoting a holistic approach to education.

"Liberal arts education, which encompasses a broad range of subjects, including the humanities, social sciences,



and natural sciences, plays a vital role in promoting critical thinking and creativity," said Dr Kumar. "It provides a wellrounded intellectual foundation, moving away from a narrow focus on specialization." He emphasized that modern education systems increasingly recognize the value of interdisciplinary learning. "Education should not be limited to a single field of specialization. Instead, it should encourage an interdisciplinary approach that allows for more comprehensive learning," he added.

Moolapeta greenfield port construction resumes

Project poised to become a catalyst for economic development in the area

PNS SRIKAKULAM

In a move that promises to transform the fortunes of a long-neglected region, Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu has announced the resumption of construction work on the long-awaited Moolapeta Greenfield Port. This ambitious project, a dream long cherished by the local population, is poised to become a catalyst for economic development in the area. The Minister, accompanied by District Collector Swapnil Dinakar Pundkar and District SP K.V. Maheswara Reddy, oversaw the commencement of construction and inspected the ongoing works. "We are on track to open the port with at least one operational berth by June 12, 2025," Atchannaidu declared, highlighting the project's rapid



Addressing the deep-rooted concerns of local migration, the Minister emphasised the

region's historical struggle with

asserted. "With industrial and unemployment. "This port will tourism development on the change the narrative," he horizon, there will be ample

opportunities for local residents." The Minister also revealed ongoing discussions with the central government to optimize the use of salt lands in the region. He urged Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Union Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu to consider establishing an oil refinery, a move that would further

accelerate the region's growth. The strategic connection between the Moolapeta Greenfield Port and the Bhogapuram International Airport was another key highlight. Atchannaidu explained that the completion of both projects, along with the connecting infrastructure, would position the area as a hub for industrial, tourism, and town-ship development. To bolster job creation and support the local community, the Minister announced plans for MSME parks, hotels, fishing harbors,

and fish landing centers. He also assured residents of Moolpeta and Vishnu Chakra villages that an R&R colony with modern amenities would be built to replace their existing villages.

This project is more than just infrastructure; it's a beacon of hope for a region that has been underserved for far too long," Atchannaidu stated. "We are committed to ensuring that the benefits of this development reach every corner of the community." Vishwa Samudra Engineering Pvt Ltd, the project's managing director, Dr. Anil Yendluri, reported substantial progress in the construction work. He highlighted the completion of the North Breakwater and a significant portion of the South Breakwater, as well as the production of concrete blocks and the ongoing general cargo berth filings.



Rich tributes paid to police martyrs

Minister for Social Welfare, Dola Bala Veeranjaneya Swamy, and SP AR Damodhar paid tributes to martyrs on Police Commemoration Day, remembering the supreme sacrifices made by security personnel to safeguard the nation's sovereignty and maintain law and order.

Commemoration Day ceremony took place at the police parade ground, where the Minister and the SP honoured the martyrs by placing wreaths at the police memorial.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Bala Veeranjaneya Swamy assured that the government would extend all necessary support to the police personnel, who risk their lives daily to uphold law and order. He expressed his appreciation for the families of police personnel, acknowledging their support and encourage-

SP Damodhar recounted the bravery of 10 security personnel who, on October 21, 1959, engaged with Chinese soldiers at the Hot Springs area in Ladakh. He noted that this heroic battle led the Central Government to declare October 21 as 'National Police

The SP emphasised the continuous efforts of the police in tackling anti-social elements, divisive forces, and factionists to maintain peace. He also



highlighted the increasing risks faced by police person-nel as they deal with various threats in the line of duty.

SP Damodhar lamented the loss of 216 police personnel across the country this year, who sacrificed their lives to

District Collector A Thameem Ansariya, Mayor G Sujata, 20-Point Programme Chairman Lanka Dinakar, Principal District & Sessions Judge A Bharati, 3rd Additional Judge D Ramulu, and several other officials were present at the event.

Police duties become challenging, says IGP

PNS ELURU

Eluru Range IGP GVG Ashok Kumar has said that the police duties are becoming challenging and the police personnel ceaselessly strive to protect the law and order.

Commemoration Day was held in the police parade ground here on Monday in which Collector K Vetri Selve, SP K Pratap Shiva Kishore, Joint Collector P Dathri Reddy and Additional SP (Admin) N Suryachandra Rao took part.

The IGP, SP and the Collector paid homage to the martyrs at the memorial by placing wreaths. Speaking on the occasion, IGP Ashok Kumar lauded the police personnel for protecting the law and order from terrorists, communal forces and antisocial elements.

Stating that the police responsibilities have become challenging, the IGP high-lighted the police are working ceaselessly to resolve complicated cases. He recalled how bravely the 10 Indian soldiers prevented the Chinese soldiers at Ladakh at the Chinese bor-

der on October 21, 1959. The IGP deplored that 216 police personnel have martyred while on duty in the country so far. On the occasion of Police Commemoration Day, blood donation camps would be conducted till October 30, he asserted.

Collector Vetri Selvi lauded the security forces stating that they play a vital role in protecting the border areas, adding that the people are living in a peaceful and free environment because of the police. The police personnel are facing many challenges in dealing with the increased crimes, she stated.

SP Pratap Shiva Kishore assured of extending all help to the families of the police personnel, stating that the death of Constable Gandham Narendra in the hands of antisocials at Agiripalli moved the police officials. All the the police officials. All the police personnel in the district were provided Rs 1 crore insurance coverage, SP said. District Judge C Purushott Kumar, ZP chairperson G Padmasri and DSP D Srevan Kumar were among a host of police officials who attended

PNS ■ CHITTOOR

In a tragic incident, poachers killed a leopard in the forest area of Talamadugu village in Yadamari mandal and made off with its nails.

The decomposed carcass of the leopard was discovered by villagers, who immediately informed the police and forest officials. Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Bharani confirmed to the media that the leopard's body was found in a decomposed state, with its nails removed by the poachers.

The forest officials suspect that the leopard was killed a few days ago, and the poachers specifically targeted its nails. DFO Bharani reminded that killing leopards is a seri-ous offence under Schedule 1 of the Forest Act and warned that strict action will be taken against those responsible.

A government veterinarian has conducted a postmortem on the animal, and further

Leopard poached for nails in Chittoor



investigation will proceed once the exact cause of death is con-

firmed. She also expressed concern over farmers using electric

fences around their fields to protect crops from wild animals, which could be dangerous not only to wildlife but also

Ex-min Viswarup accuses TDP of framing his son in murder case

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Former minister Pinipé Viswarup has claimed that his son has been falsely implicated in a murder case. He emphasised that the deceased was one of his own associates and that his son's name was not mentioned in the FIR or anywhere during the investigation.

Viswarup accused the TDP coalition government of engaging in diversion politics by using this case as a political weapon. He claimed that his son's name was wrongfully brought up under pressure from the



accused. He also condemned the political vendetta brewing in Konaseema. His son was arrested while returning from a visit to the Madurai temple, adding further strain to the situation.

Meanwhile, former minister Chelluboyina Gopalakrishna criticised the arrest of former minister Pinipe Viswarup's son, Sri Kanth, calling it a politically motivated move aimed at diverting public attention from the government's failures. He claimed the ruling coalition has been using diversion tactics whenever their shortcomings come under scrutiny. He pointed out that this is not the first time the government has employed such strategies, citing past incidents like the Tirupati Laddu issue and the Vijayawada floods.

MP Avinash Reddy consoles family of murdered girl



PNS KADAPA

Local MP YS Avinash Reddy consoled the parents of the 16year-old girl Dastagiramma, who was set on fire by her boyfriend and succumbed to injuries on Sunday.

The MP went to the house in Badvel on Monday, accompanied by MLA Dr Dasari Sudha and MLC DC Govinda Reddy. They consoled the parents of the deceased girl and assured them of extending all support.

Later, talking to the media, Avinash Reddy described the killing of the teenage girl by setting ablaze as an inhuman act and the parents were grieving inconsolably. It is sad to note that the girl who was topper in the school in 10th class was brutally murdered, he lamented.

He recalled that when such a heinous crime incident took

The Red Sanders Anti

Smuggling Task Force team

personnel seized 11 red sanders

logs and arrested three smug-

glers at CK Dinne village in the

forest area in Kadapa district.

media that a Task Force team

led by RSI Suresh Babu con-

ducted combing in the forest

area. The team spotted some

smugglers loading red sander

DSP G Balireddy told the

PNS TIRUPATI

11 red sanders logs seized;

three smugglers arrested

place in 2021 in Guntur when the YSRCP was in power, the investigation was completed and the accused was convicted within a short time.

"As many as 74 such heinous crime incidents have taken place during the last four months but no stringent action was taken by the government to curb the crimes. I doubt whether a law and order situation exists in AP," MP Avinash Reddy slammed.

Referring to the comments of Home Minister Anitha that security could not be provided to all, he took strong exception to her comments.

"If the Disha Act was implemented, the police could reach the victim within minutes and save," the MP felt, adding that the government has done away with the Disha Act. The government is indifferent to protecting the girls and women in the State, he criticised.

logs into a car. On noticing the

task force team personnel, the

smugglers started running

However, the task force per-

sonnel apprehended three of

them. The police seized 11 red

sander logs, and the car and

shifted them to the task force

office in Tirupati. A search was

launched to nab the escaped

red sander smugglers. SI Rafi

registered a case and investi-

Couple killed as RTC bus knocks down bike

PNS RAJAHMUNDRY

In a tragic road accident, a middle-aged couple was killed as the motorcycle, on which they were travelling, APSRTC bus, at Gopavaram village in Nidadavole mandal on Monday.

Police 'said that the deceased Bellamkonda Venkateswara Rao (60) and his wife B Durga (50) were going to Maddur village to attend a family function. A speeding APSRTC bus knocked down their bike killing the couple instanta-

The couple belonged to Paidiparru village in Nidadavole mandal. A pall of gloom descended on the village with the death of the couple. The police registered a case and shifted the bodies to the GGH for postmortem.



Declaring that the KCR government executed only projects in which they got 'commissions', Station Ghanpur MLA Kadiam Srihari said that the KCR family had looted the state indiscrim-

inately during the last 10 years.

He said that KCR and BRS Ministers KT Rama Rao, T. Harish Rao, MLC Kavitha and former Rajya Sabha Member I. Santhosh Kumar functioned only with the objective of looting public funds. He demanded that the KCR family should release a white paper on their assets before an

Srihari said that KTR and the KCR family had no right to speak about ethics and added that KCR did not release a single DSC notification during his

"KCR did not spend even an



hour reviewing the education department. He never cared about the education department," he said.

Addressing the media after participating in the Jangaon Agriculture Market Chairman's oath-taking ceremony on Monday, Srihari said that nobody knows when KCR would come out from his farmh

"Cousins KTR and Harish Rao are competing with each other to occupy KCR's seat. KTR and Harish Rao are not doing anything good for the people except addressing press conferences to get their photos published in newspapers. The BRS is not a political party. It just means KCR, KTR, Kavitha, Harish and Santhosh," he said. Criticising Union Minister of

State for Home Affairs Bandi

Sanjay Kumar for staging dharnas on roads, Srihari said Sanjay staged dharnas shamelessly forgetting the fact that he is a Union Minister. "Is it correct on the part of Sanjay to stage dharnas on roads instead of trying to speak to the Chief Minister to solve the problem," he said. Srihari said that the BRS and the BIP have no love lost for the development of Telangana. They are just compet-

He said that Revanth Reddy is providing good governance even though the state is facing financial problems. The people would be the losers if they believe the words of the BRS and the BJP, Srihari added.

Phase III counting: Durga Temple earns Rs 9.27 crore



PNS VIJAYAWADA

Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Devasthanam in Vijayawada has earned a hundi income of Rs.9,26,97,047 during the Dasara festivities. After the completion of the festival, the temple authorities opened hundis and conducted the counting process in three phases on October 16, 17 and 21 (Monday). The third phase of counting was held at the Mallikharjuna Mandapam on the premises of the temple on Monday.

and 9.272 kg of silver. Around 733 grams of gold ornaments and 25.705 kg of silver jewellery were also offered by the

On the first day of counting, on October 16, the temple received Rs.3,50,28,700 and on October 17, Rs.2,76,68,347 was earned. Temple Executive Officer (EO) KS Rama Rao, Deputy EO Ratna Raju and other officials supervised the hundi counting.

Also, devotees offered the following currencies: 523 US Dollars, 5 Europe, 50 Canadian Dollars, 25 UAE Dirhams, 1.5 Omani Riyals, 900 Bysa, 20 Fiji Dollars, 12 Malaysian Ringgits, 35 British Pounds (England), 46.5 Kuwaiti Dinar, 116 Saudi Riyals, 215 Australian Dollars, 27 Kathar Riyals, and 6 Singapore Dollars.

Earlier, a higher discharge Srisailam Reservoir due to In the third phase, the tem-Krishna is showing signs of improvement as inflows to key ple earned Rs.3,50,28,700, floods has been decreasing, rate of 2.06 lakh cusecs was besides 272 grams of gold recorded. The reservoir curindicating a declining flood sitprojects gradually decline.

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The water flowing to the uation in that area. In contrast, the inflow of water into the Prakasam Barrage, which spans

River Krishna in Vijayawada, has remained consistent. The flood situation across River

Krishna shows signs of decrease in flood inflows

At the Srisailam Reservoir, 1,25,641 cusecs, prompting the 884.80 feet.

authorities to discharge 1,67,898 cusecs by lifting six crest gates to a height of 10 feet.

rently holds 211.42 TMCs of inflows have decreased to water, with the dam level at

Have more than 2 kids, Naidu appeals to women

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Flagging Andhra Pradesh's falling birthrate, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has called upon women in the state to bear at least two children to stabilise its population, remarks welcomed by the AP Congress unit while ruling TDP's rival, YSRCP questioned the CM's 'vision' on the matter. South India was witnessing

an ageing problem, Naidu said, adding each woman should give birth to more than two children in their life-Incidentally, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin also

touched upon the population issue on Monday in Chennai, linking it with the delimitation Andhra's birthrate is under

the replacement level of 2.1 live births per woman.

"There is a need to manage our population. Till 2047, we will have the demographic dividend, there will be more youngsters. After 2047, there will be more old people...if less than two children are given birth (per woman), then such a situation.

population will reduce. If you (each woman) give birth to more than two children, then the population will increase," the CM said during a recent public meeting in Amaravati.

Noting that the southern state's birth rate has plummeted to 1.6, he feared the continuation of the current situation could lead to further decline of the birth rate to 1 or lower, where only "old people will be visible in the society". "To avoid such a situation in

the future, everybody should consider having more children as a responsibility. This work I am doing (calling for more children) not only for you but also for the nation, for the greater good. We can earn money by doing any work but we will work only when we have children or when there is population," said Naidu, adding, that he will take up

this issue as a mission. Citing Europe, Japan and other regions as countries facing an ageing problem where the number of old people increased and youngsters decreased, Naidu argued that south India is also staring at

Recalling his past call for population control, stressing the finite availability of land, water and air resources, he claimed people heeded his word and reduced AP's birthrate within 10 years, which now risks the "danger of its population falling com-

Further, he recollected he had barred people with more than two children from contesting local body polls but vowed to remove those conditions and introduce legislation on enabling only those with more than two children to contest such polls.

Unlike earlier times when he restricted government benefits to families with more members, the CM promised to reverse those norms and extend more benefits to families with more members.

"You should remember that I am thinking about the future. We are very clear, we want to go for population management, instead of population control. Now the time has come, every family has to think how to manage the population, then only there will be



If proper population planning could be achieved, then Indians can do wonders at the global level for centuries, especially by becoming service providers in the knowledge economy, Naidu said.

Responding, senior YSRCP leader Jupudi Prabhakar Rao questioned the efficacy of Naidu's 'vision' of asking peo-ple to have fewer number of children about 10 years ago and more now. "What about himself (Naidu). He has only one son and his son (Nara Lokesh) also has only one son. He is a visionary right," Rao told PTI.

Further, the YSRCP leader asserted that the people of the state did not follow birth control heeding Naidu's advice, advising the CM to refrain think about raising "16 chil-

from comparing himself to some erstwhile Chinese leader who had given such successful calls in the past.

The state Congress unit welcomed Naidu's call for raising the population. Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) vice president Kolanukonda Sivaji observed the CM gave such a call keeping the best interests

of South India in mind. "Because, under delimitation, Parliament seats in our region (south India) will reduce and they will get added to the northern states. That's why, to overcome this there is no time. So, when the population here increases, our seats

will be with us," said Sivaji. Saving South India's Parliament seats as the correct interpretation of Naidu's call, Sivaji noted the NDA ally did not directly drive home this message but subtly chose the plummeting birthrate ploy to avoid friction with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and

the Sangh Parivar. Meanwhile, TN CM Stalin said the Lok Sabha delimitation exercise may make people to

dren," alluding to a Tamil saying. He was alluding to a Tamil

saying "pathinarum petru peru vazhvu vazhga," meaning acquire 16 different kinds of wealth and lead a prosperous life, while referring to the census and delimitation process which will redraw the electoral map of India.

The Parliament delimitation process may encourage the couples to have many children and give up thoughts of a small family. But whatever be the outcome, provide Tamil names to your children," he

In the past, the elders used to bless newly married couples to acquire 16 kinds of wealth (pathinarum petru peru vazhvu vazhga) including fame, education, lineage, wealth, and not 16 children. Gradually, people have come to believe in raising a small family for prosperity, he said.

"That blessing doesn't mean begetting 16 children. Now a situation has arisen where people think they should now literally raise 16 children and not a small and prosperous



BAY OF BENGAL CYCLONE

25 teams of NDRF on

standby in Odisha, WB



ACROSS THE STATES



Cong dependent on SP in Utter Pradesh: Brij

ormer BJP MP from Kaiserganj Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh on Monday said the Congress is dependent on its alliance with the Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh. "Congress has no status in UP. It is dependent on Samajwadi Party's crutches. The day Congress party gets separated from SP, it will know its status," Singh said. On Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Singh said he does not want to become the prime minister. "That is why he does things and gives statements that show he does not know where he wants to go and what his path is," Singh added. When asked about his son Prateek Bhushan Singh's letter to BJP general secretary (organisation) on candidate selection for committees of sugarcane cooperatives, Brij Bhushan Singh said this was not his subject. Prateek Singh, MLA from Gonda, had alleged that Brahmins were being ignored while selecting candidates for sugarcane committees. "Whatever the party did was right. I am satisfied with the party's decision," Singh said.



Can't allow sale of firecrackers: Delhi HC

he Delhi High Court on Monday said it cannot allow the sale of firecrackers when there is already "enough" pollution in the national capital. The court's oral observation came while dealing with a petition by the 'Delhi Fireworks Shopkeepers Association', a group of traders with a "permanent" licence to possess and sell crackers. The petitioner's counsel said the grievance of the traders was with respect to the ban on the storage of firecrackers as it was allegedly resulting in harassment. During the hearing the court said it would ask authorities to seal the traders' premises being used for storage of firecrackers to ensure that there is no pilferage. "The state must be involved in the sealing process so that there is no pilferage," said Justice Sanjeev Narula. "We are not going to allow you to sell. There is enough pollution in this city," added the judge orally.



Navy chief on UAE visit to boost defence cooperation

avy Chief Adm Dinesh K Tripathi will visit the UAE from October 21-24 to strengthen defence cooperation between the two countries and explore new avenues of cooperation between their navies, an official statement said on Monday. Adm Tripathi will also witness the conduct of the third edition of the India-UAE bilateral naval exercise, the defence ministry said in the statement. The Chief of the Naval Staff is scheduled to hold discussions with Rear Admiral Pilot Saeed Bin Hamdan Al Nahyan, Commander of the UAE Naval Forces and other senior government officials of the UAE, it said. Adm Tripathi is visiting the UAE from October 21-24, the ministry said. "This visit aims to strengthen the defence cooperation between the two countries, in line with the deepening Comprehensive Strategic Partnership across all sectors, and consolidate bilateral maritime relations between India and UAE, and to explore new avenues of cooperation between the two navies," the statement said.

'India does not believe in 'taken-for-granted' relations'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Monday that India does not believe in "taken-for-granted" relations, and the world is realising that trust and reliability make the foundation of the country's

His comments at the NDTV World Summit came amid deepening chill in India's ties with Canada as New Delhi recalled six of its diplomats including the high commissioner, and expelled as many Canadian envoys.

In his address, Modi made no direct reference to the incidents involving Canada. The bilateral ties have soured over Canada's allegations of India's hand in the killing of a radical Khalistani activist, a Canadian citizen. India has denied the

BJP invites

manifesto

suggestions for

drafting Maha

charge and asserted that Canada had been unable to provide any evidence to back

The prime minister said, "India does not form taken-forgranted relations. Our relations are grounded in trust and reliability. The world is also realising this. India is a country whose progress causes happiness in the world."

its claim.

The world celebrated India's

over Canada's allegations of India's hand in the killing of a radical Khalistani activist, a Canadian citizen. India has denied the charge and asserted that Canada had been unable to provide any evidence to back its claim.

Modi made no direct reference to the incidents

involving Canada. The bilateral ties have soured

successful Chadrayaan mission like a festival, he said. India's growth, he added, does not incite envy because its progress benefits the entire world. "The world draws hap-

piness from India's rise." Citing the country's growth in various fields, from infrastructure to digital know-how and the quality of research, he said the all-round changes taking place have become a source of the global trust in India. It is taking lead in driving

the direction of "global future" in many sectors, he said.

The world realises that India is a friend in crises, he said, noting its supply of medicines and vaccines during the Covid period out of humanitarian concerns. India could have earned crores of dollars but it would have at the cost of

During the meeting, the The National Disaster Director General of the India Response Force (NDRF) has Meteorological Department kept 14 teams in West Bengal (IMD) briefed the committee about the current status of the and 11 teams in Odisha on standby for deployment in the deep pressure area on the Bay wake of an impending cyclonic of Bengal which is likely to turn storm in the Bay of Bengal into "a cyclonic storm by 23rd which is likely to make a land-October 2024 over east-central fall between Puri and Sagar Bay of Bengal." Island on Thursday, a government statement said Monday.

"...it is very likely to move northwestwards and reach northwest Bay of Bengal off Odisha-West Bengal coasts by 24th October morning.

"Continuing to move northwestwards, it is very likely to cross north Odisha and West Bengal coasts between Puri and Sagar Island during the night of 24th and early morning 25th October 2024, as a severe Cyclonic Storm with a wind speed of 100-110 kmph gusting to 120 kmph," the statement from the government said.

Fight against terror will continue: Shah

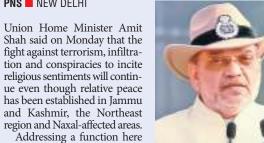
PNS NAGPUR PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP has invited developmental suggestions from various sections of society for incorporating them in the manifesto for the November 20 Maharashtra assembly elections

The draft plan for the "inclusive and dynamic" development of Maharashtra will be included in the man-

The saffron party has appealed to social workers, farmers, journalists, doctors, professors, teachers, engineers, businessmen, technicians, women activists and others to submit their suggestions, BJP's poll manifesto committee president Sudhir Mungantiwar stated on Monday. "You are an expert and practitioner in an important area of society. We intend to utilise your experience, knowledge, and expertise to develop Maharashtra," it said.

The draft plan for all-inclusive and dynamic development is inspired by PM Modi's "spectacular achievements" in various sectors that our on the global stage, the



on the occasion of the Police Commemoration Day, Shah said the sacrifice of police mar-The home minister said since tyrs will not go in vain and the independence, 36,438 police country will definitely become personnel have laid down their a fully developed nation by lives for the safety and security of the country, with 216 of them "In the last 10 years, relative

He said the country will remain forever grateful for their sacrifice in the nation's develop-

"I want to assure the family members of the martyrs that their sacrifice will not go in vain. The country will remain safe and achieve its goal despite any challenge which may come in the way and India will definitely become a developed nation by 2047," he said.

Referring to the three new and terrorism which are the force on July 1, Shah said work vals or disasters, in extreme heat, challenges we face now," he said. to establish the infrastructure for rain, or cold waves.

laws had started five years ago and the remaining work will be completed in the next three "I want to tell the country that India's criminal justice system will be the most modern in the world and full justice up to the

the implementation of the new

Supreme Court could be delivered within three years of the registration of an FIR," he said. Giving details about the steps taken for the welfare of the police personnel, the home minister said the police personnel and their family members

Ayushman hospital after the implementation of the 'Ayushman CAPF' scheme. To enhance the housing satisfaction of the CAPF personnel, he said approval has been given for the construction of 13,000 houses of which 11,276

can now avail treatment in any

will be ready by March next year. Shah said jawans of the police forces safeguard India's borders from Kashmir to Kanvakumari and from Kutch to Kibithu.

He said the personnel of the forces are always guarding the nation and the borders, whether

'Work on 10 more nuclear reactors underway in country'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

PNS NFW DFI HI

In a meeting of the National

Crisis Management Committee

(NCMC) to review prepared-

ness for the impending cyclone on Monday, Cabinet Secretary

T V Somanathan was also

informed that additional rescue

and relief teams of the Army,

Navy and Coast Guard along

with ships and aircraft have been kept in readiness.

Besides central agencies, the

chief secretaries of Odisha and

West Bengal also attended the

At least 10 nuclear reactors are being installed in the country while two reactors in Gujarat's Kakrapar have started generating power commercially, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology was informed on Monday.

According to sources, the new nuclear reactors coming up in states like Gujarat, Rajasthan and Haryana are of 700 MW capacity and will start operating in the next few years.
The details of the new

nuclear reactors were provided to the members of the Standing Committee of Parliament on Science and Technology, Environment, Forests and Climate Change

Congress leader Jairam

the committee as well as its former chairman, said members of the panel were informed during the meeting that the Kakrapar-3 and Kakrapar-4 nuclear reactors in Gujarat have been fully synchronised with the grid and are generating power commercially. "This is a major accomplishment since these are indigenously designed 700-megawatt reactors that were approved in 2007. Construction had begun in 2010. More such reactors are being installed at different locations," he said in a post on

"Another example of how much continuity there is in our development - which is never acknowledged by 'El Supremo'," Ramesh said, stressing that it was during the two nuclear reactors in Ramesh, who is a member of Kakrapar were approved.

'Won't let 'vested interests' prevent benefits of development'

peace has been established in

Jammu and Kashmir, the

Northeastern region and LWE-

affected areas due to the dedi-

cation and efficiency of our

security forces. However, our

against emerging threats like

drones, narcotics trade, cyber-

crime, attempts to spread unrest

through Artificial Intelligence

(AI), conspiracies to incite reli-

gious sentiments, infiltration, nuggling of illegal weapons

"We will continue to fight

fight is not over.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said he will not allow "vested interests" to prevent the benefits of peace and development from reaching the people of Jammu and Kashmir, who "enthusiastically" participated in the recent elections. The statement comes a day

after a deadly terror attack at a tunnel construction site in Jammu and Kashmir's Ganderbal left seven people, including a doctor and six migrant labourers, dead.

Talking to reporters here, Abdullah said he will ensure that no obstacles impede the flow of developmental benefits to the people of Jammu and

"The people have taken part in elections with enthusiasm



with the hope that there will be improvement in their lives. We will not step back from that mission," Abdullah said.

The chief minister had gone to the SKIMS Hospital at Soura to enquire about the condition of those injured in the terror attack in the Gagangir area of Ganderbal district on Sunday

interests were trying to target the development projects in Jammu and Kashmir, Ábdullah said he would not allow that to

happen.
"When did the vested interests want the situation here to normalise? This is nothing new. But we have defeated these very vested interests in the past and we will defeat them again," Abdullah assert-

. "We will not allow the development here to be stopped. If there are shortcomings in the security grid, we will remove them. I spoke to the DGP and we would advise all big projects not to take security issues

lightly.
"Whatever they can do on their own, let them do it and let the security forces fill the gaps that remain," he added.

'No fissures in BJP over ticket distribution'

PNS RANCHI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday dismissed reports of fissures in the Jharkhand BJP over distribution of tickets for the assembly elections, saying some resentment after release of the candidates' list is natur-

Sarma, who is also the BJP co in-charge of Jharkhand assembly elections, denied allegations that familial ties were kept into consideration while distributing tickets by the

Polling to the 81-member assembly in the state will be held on November 13 and November 20, and the votes will be counted on November

"I don't have any information (about fissures in the party). Some resentment after candidate announcement is quite natural," Sarma told reporters here when asked about discontent among the party's rank and file leading to some resignations including that of three-term BJP MLA Kedar Hazra.

He said the BJP is a big political party and some "displeasure" and "resignation" was bound to happen and he would meet those disgruntled leaders.

Sarma also rejected allegations that the BJP, which accuses several other parties of being 'dynastic', gave election tickets to certain people because of their families.

He said the accusation was misplaced as the ticket was given to Meera Munda, the wife of former Union minister and ex-CM Arjun Munda, since her husband is not conSome resentment natural: Himanta



testing the assembly elections. Likewise, allotment of party ticket to another former Jharkhand chief minister Raghubar Das's daughter-inlaw Purnima Das Sahu was done as he is not contesting elections, Sarma said.

On giving tickets to former CM Champai Soren and his son Babulal Soren, Sarma said it was a commitment made to them when he had joined the BJP after quitting the ruling

"At the time of his (Champai Soren) joining, we had assured him (of tickets)," he said.

Apparently hitting out at JMM, he said, "Ours is not a party where husband, wife, brother and all contest elec-

Apart from JMM executive president Hemant Soren, his wife Kalpana Soren and brother Basant Soren are contesting

elections. On why the BJP did not come out with the candidates for Barhait and Tundi seats, Sarma said elections to the same were scheduled in the

second phase and the party

will take some time to decide candidates for these constituencies.

Hemant Soren is the sitting MLA from Barhait (ST) constituency in Sahibganj district which he won by a margin of 25,740 votes over his nearest rival Simon Malto of the BJP in the 2019 assembly elec-

The BJP on Saturday released its first list of 66 candidates for the Jharkhand assembly elections, fielding party president Babulal Marandi from Dhanwar and former chief minister Champai Soren from Saraikela.

The BJP is contesting 68 of the 81 assembly seats in the state, leaving the rest for its allies.

In the first phase, voting will be held in 43 assembly constituencies. The nomination process for this phase began on October 18 and will continue till October 25, according to

officials. Scrutiny of nominations is set for October 28, and the last date for withdrawal of candidatures is October 30

WANGCHUK BREAKS FAST

HM to resume talks on December 3

PNS NEW DELHI

Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk on Monday ended his fast along with others, after the home ministry assured them that the talks on Ladakh's demands will be resumed in December.

Join Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, fast, I am happy to say that Prashant Lokhande met the activists, who were sitting on an indefinite fast at Delhi's Ladakh Bhawan since October 6, and handed them a letter from the home min-

istry.
The letter said the high-

powered committee of the ministry, which was holding talks with representatives from Ladakh, will meet them next on December 3. Following this, Wangchuk

and his supporters decided to break their fast and called off the sit-in.

our main appeal has been resolved. Just now, the joint secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, came here at the Ladakh Bhawan and handed me this letter, which says the talks going on between the resumed very soon, by apex body of Leh and the December," Wangchuk said.



KDA in Kargil with the central government will be of the talks between the ministry and the Leh Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance, the two socio-political organisations from the two regions of Ladakh, will be positive. "The talks will be carried

out by these bodies and I hope that very good outcomes will come, not just for Ladakh but for the whole nation. "I just hope that I do not

ever again have to do another anshan (fast) for this reason and it will result in a very happy ending. I want to, on this occasion, thank every-

the president of the Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA), thanked Wangchuk and others who took out a march for resumption of the talks that were stalled.

body who supported us in this effort," Wangchuk said.

Chering Dorjay Lakruk,

'The talks will be resumed now. We have not achieved anything yet. We hope that the talks on our four-point demands will be meaningful," he said.

Ladakh MP Mohmad Haneefa also hoped that the talks will have a meaningful outcome.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Dastardly strike

As terrorists kill seven people in Central Kashmir, concerns grow over the effectiveness of security measures

disturbing pattern of targeted violence has resurfaced in Jammu and Kashmir, with seven killed in a cowardly terrorist attack. The people killed were part of the construction team working on the Z-Morh tunnel, which connects Gagangir to Sonamarg in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. Yet another bomb blast occurred in the capital though no one was injured, which raises concerns about potential coordination between terrorist groups and the spread of violence beyond the Valley. While there is no direct evidence linking the incidents, the possibility of a broader security threat cannot be ignored. This latest attack is part of a troubling trend of escalating violence against migrant workers in the region, marking the fifth such incident this year. The recent killings underscore a persistent threat to life in Kashmir. This latest tragedy follows a series of deadly incidents in the Valley. The recent wave of terrorist attacks exposes critical vulnerability of security apparatus. While authorities, including J and K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah



and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, have condemned these acts and pledged to bring the perpetrators to justice, the recurrent nature of these attacks reveals deeper challenges in counter-terrorism measures and security protocols. The targeted nature of these attacks suggests a deliberate strategy to instill fear among migrant workers and disrupt ongoing development projects. By targeting migrant labourers involved in infrastructure work, terrorists aim to deter economic activities that could stabilise the region. These incidents not only hamper development but also erode the confidence of workers who play a crucial role in key infrastructure projects. Moreover, the attacks signify a broader

attempt to undermine the relative peace that has been maintained in recent years. Despite heightened security measures and the presence of the military in sensitive areas, the perpetrators have managed to carry out attacks on civilians, highlighting significant intelligence gaps and the ability of militants to exploit weaknesses in the security grid to target rather easy groups. A comprehensive review of security measures in Jammu and Kashmir is urgently needed. While military action remains essential, it needs to be complemented by robust intelligence gathering, better coordination between different security agencies and community-based approaches to countering extremist elements. The current situation also points to the need for upgrading the security apparatus around camps housing migrant workers and ensuring that projects with a high number of migrant labourers receive adequate protection. Another pressing issue is the socio-political narrative surrounding such incidents. There is a need for a unified political strategy that addresses not only the immediate security concerns but also the long-term socio-economic challenges that contribute to unrest. Investing in local economic opportunities, countering extremist ideologies through educational initiatives and strengthening intelligence network can make a lot of difference.



A potter arranges freshly-made 'diyas' (earthen lamps) ahead of the Diwali festival, in Hyderabad

Global Hunger Index: Misleading metrics



SANTHOSH MATHEW

The accuracy and intent behind GHI rankings are suspect. Does the GHI truly reflect India's reality, or is it a motivated attempt to malign India's image?

he recent Global Hunger Index (GHI) report, which places India at a dismal 105th position out of 127 countries, has raised eyebrows and sparked considerable debate. While hunger and malnutrition remain pressing global issues, the methodology and conclusions of the GHI, co-authored by two non-governmental organisations-Irish-based Concern Worldwide and German Welthungerhilfe—have drawn criticism, particularly from the Indian government and sections of society.

There is a growing concern that such reports may not just reflect statistics but also carry political and geopolitical undertones aimed at tarnishing India's image on the world stage. The GHI is based on four key indicators: the revalence of undernourishment, child wasting, child stunting, and child mortality. The scores from these factors are compiled to place countries on a scale from ero (no hunger) to 100 (extreme hunger), with countries scoring closer to zero seen as having little or no hunger issues. India's score of 27.3 puts it in the "serious" hunger category, alongside 42 other countries. Critics of the GHI have raised several concerns about the methodology used in calculating India's score.

Firstly, the reliance on child mortality and child stunting indicators as primary components of the hunger index is problematic. India is a country with a large population, and while child malnutrition is a valid concern, this issue is not unique to India but rather shared by other developing countries. By focusing heavily on this aspect, the report seems to disproportionately penalise India. Additionally, the GHI report uses outdated data from global sources such as the World Health Organisation and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). India, like going significant improvements in food security through government initiatives such as the National Food Security Act, the Midday Meal Scheme, and public distribution system reforms. However, these efforts do not



By positioning India in such a negative light, the report seems to overshadow the country's genuine achievements. India's economy is among the fastestgrowing in the world, and its agricultural output has been consistently high. The country's food production is more than sufficient to meet the needs of its population. India has become a net exporter of food grains and has successfully launched programs to improve access to food for its vast population. Given this backdrop, how can India be ranked lower than countries facing severe internal strife, economic collapse and war, such as Afghanistan or even smaller nations like Bangladesh and Nepal?

It's essential to question the intentions behind these rankings. Are they an honest reflection of hunger, or do they serve other interests? Reports like the Global Hunger Index can have far-reaching consequences, not just for the countries they assess but also for

The fact that the organisations behind the GHI-Concern Worldwide (Irish) and Welthungerhilfe (German) hail from Western countries has not gone unnoticed. It raises the question of whether the



THE RELIANCE ON CHILD MORTALITY AND CHILD STUNTING INDICATORS AS **PRIMARY** COMPONENTS OF THE HUNGER INDEX IS PROBLEMATIC. INDIA IS A COUNTRY WITH A LARGE POPULATION, AND WHILE CHILD MALNUTRITION IS A

VALID CONCERN,

UNIQUE TO INDIA

THIS ISSUE IS NOT

index is truly impartial or if it subtly reflects geopolitical biases. India has made significant strides in addressing hunger and malnutrition, but it seems that these efforts are often ignored or underplayed by such indices. For instance, the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, which provided free food grains to over 80 crore people during the COVID-19 pandemic, is one of the world's largest food security initiatives. The fact that India could provide this level of support during a global crisis contradicts the narrative of widespread hunger and undernourishment. To deny that hunger exists in India would be dishonest, but the situation is far more complex than a single ranking can capture. Hunger is not a static issue; it is deeply intertwined with poverty, access to education, healthcare, and infrastructure.

The Indian government has been tackling these root causes of hunger through a multipronged approach that includes social welfare schemes, employment generation programmes like MGN-REGA, and nutrition programs targeted at women and

Programmes such as the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) aim to provide supplementary nutrition to millions of pregnant and lactating women, along with children under six years of age.

Meanwhile, the Midday Meal Scheme, which serves nutritious meals to school children, has had a significant impact on reducing malnutrition.

Despite these efforts, it is undeniable that India still faces challenges. The legacy of poverty, the vast size and population of the country, and regional disparities make it difficult to eliminate hunger overnight. The concerns raised by the Indian government about the Global Hunger Index are not without merit. The index, while claiming to provide an objective measure of hunger, fails to capture the ground realities of individual nations. India, being the second-most populous country in the world, is bound to face issues that smaller nations with more homogeneous populations do not.

By painting India as a country where hunger is rampant, the GHI risks creating a false narrative that undermines the substantial progress made by the country. It also risks discouraging the efforts of those working tirelessly on the ground to ensure that no one goes to bed hungry.

What is needed is not biased rankings or politically motivatoration between nations to tackle the global hunger crisis. As we reflect on the GHI, one thing is clear: statistics alone do not tell the whole story.

(The writer is an associate professor; views are personal)

moisture evaporates, which exacerbates extreme rainfall and flooding causes more

destructive storms. Climate change also

changes water availability, making it

According to the Climate Change Act 2017, local bodies must consider climate

change when preparing their municipal health and wellbeing plan. Local bodies

must raise awareness about climate

change and how to adopt and mitigate its

effects. They must encourage electric

vehicles within city limits. Establishing

minimum energy for housing infra-

ating ordinances and bylaws to help the

community adopt climate change is the

a test after 36 years to claim 1-0 up in this

series at Bengaluru. When Indians were

dismissed for a paltry 46 in the first

inning, the hope of skipper Rohit Shama

was diminished, but the ray of hope was

enlightened by the scintillating 150 by

young Sarfaraz Khan along with the

P Victor Selvaraj | Tirunelveli

urgent work of the urban local bodies.

scarcer in more regions.

The quiet struggles and shifting realities of ageing



Having left the traditional joint family behind, we now face loneliness and the stark realities of ageing in a world that moves rather fast

ecently, I sat sipping Ry cup of tea in quiet contemplation as life moved around me. Unbidden, a strange thought struck me. In my younger days, I often felt that the old were more rigid in their approach. I am in my mid-sixties. I still judge those older than me. In the olden days, at my age, I would have been expected to move out of the household to spend time in quiet meditation.

Not any longer. We continue to enjoy the worldly pleasures of life, with the added baggage of rigidity in attitude. We are more selfcentred. There are many like me in the age group that we call seniors. I did not have to look far to seek reasons for these changes. I was in the hospital a few months back attending to the admission and discharge formalities for my father. I was told it was essential for an attendant to be present to sign various documents at different stages of the hospitalisation. I do not know if these are mandated rules or if hospi-



These have serious implications for many ailing single seniors with children in distant lands.

We do not contemplate a life of dependence on others when we are young. Having led a life on our terms for decades, it is difficult to adjust to a life with rules not set by us. We belong to the generation that has moved out of the age-old joint family milieu to set up unit families. The interaction with even the immediate family is limited to meeting at festivals.

One gets to meet the extended family only during family weddings, busy as they are in the daily grind of their units. It is not surprising that we now find ourselves at a crossroads. The young have their own

ache and pain. A few years back I met a younger acquaintance over coffee. The seniors within his community encouraged young professionals to join the governing body of the community welfare association extending unconditional support. As things settled, the young lot no longer needed to consult the old for each decision. The seniors felt rebuffed, and relationships soured. I recently flew with a medical professional who established a thriving chain of ers feel loved and cherpathology clinics. ished.
Approaching 60, he has American author and motivational speaker, Felice

sold his business. He is now working towards establishing old age homes for the seniors. I was apprehensive because of the stigma attached to these facilities. The old feel a sense of abandonment; others, sharing what we the young feel guilty. To

face these challenges, he is starting daycare centres for seniors, to spend a few hours engaged in activities of their choice, with adequate medical facilities available. As my medical tals do this to comply with lives and cannot be expect-friend expounded, the

ed to be available for each major challenge for the old is loneliness resulting in inadequate communication, which in time may lead to dementia.

I would have attributed obsession with self to insecurities over the advancing age, had I not witnessed the same even in the young. A feeling of inadequacy can strike anyone irrespective of

We are yet to evolve into a society that respects and cares for all. It is the responsibility of each member of the community to help oth-

vational speaker, Felice Buscaglia, known as 'Dr Love', said, "It is not enough to have lived. We should be determined to live for something. May I suggest that it be creating joy for have for the betterment of personkind, bringing hope to the lost and love to the

(The author is an electrical engineer with the Indian Railways and conducts classes in creative writing; views are personal)

OMAR ADVOCATES STATEHOOD

Madam —Apropos of 'We will not give Kashmir' (October 20), the demand of the newly elected government of J and K under Omar Abdullah for full statehood is not at divergence with the vow of the Modi government on the floor of the Parliament for granting the statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. The only difference is the time factor looking at the highly volatile and inflammable borders infested with Pakistan-sponsored terrorists and Pakistan's propaganda against India on all international platforms.

Omar Abdullah government should not vie to show down with the Centre under the political pressure of those who lost elections and whom people rejected in Assembly elections. The National Conference, while keeping Congress at bay, has a better opportunity of coordination with the Modi government for betterment and all-round growth of the State as Congress has turned itself into a sworn enemy of PM Modi and is prone to confrontation with him. People have elected the National Conference for development, education, health, industry and job creation, not for confrontation with the Centre. Terrorism is the biggest threat to the State for destabilising it, and it comes from across the border. Since the Indian army and paramilitary forces are well equipped to combat terrorism and neutralise the terrorists, the State government should restrict itself

to the state administration. Vinod Johri | Delhi

INDIA'S HUNGER CHALLENGE Madam — The 2024 Global Hunger Index report, in which India ranks 105 among 127 countries, must not be ignored. The nutrition indicators for children under 5 years show that 1 out of 3 children (35.5 per cent) is a victim of stunting. Now, how can a country compete with others when the growth of more than one third of its future workforce has been stunted for not getting

enough food to eat? A study says that

Mitigate climate Change a large extent. As temperature rises, more

limate change refers to a long-term shift in temperature and weather conditions. These shifts may be natural but since the 1800s, human activities have been the main driver of climate change. Burning coal, oil and gas to structure and renewable energy by cregenerate electricity and heat or to make goods like cement, steel and electronics produces carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that pollute the air to

many gig workers in India have to work this victory is so special since they won for 10 to 14 hours daily for their employers to earn less than Rs 10,000 per month. While overwork damages their health, the poor wage makes their children and family members compromise on food

This is nothing but exploitation. The Centre should allocate more funds for introducing breakfast in addition to the midday meal for all government and aided schools from the nursery level. It is highly commendable that some states and union territories provide additional items such as milk, eggs, and fruits to students from their own resources. But why should not the centre itself allocate the funds for the same for giving those nutritious food items to students all over the country? Otherwise, students of all the states in India will not get those additional, nutritious food items.

Madam — It's double the joy of winning

overseas and certainly for New Zealand

KIWIS STUN INDIA

Sujit De | *Kolkata*

swashbuckling knock of 99 from Rishab Pant in the second inning. Though the Indian scored 462, the later order failed to capitalise on their complacent batting. A target of 107 for the

Kiwis to chase became a customary one and Rachin Ravindra's high-powered 134 in the first and an unbeaten 39 in the second innings brought the Kiwis a comfortable win at the end. The gesture from Ravindra's father came by way of his thanksgiving to CSK Academy, where Ravindra took his week-long practice just before this series is worth observing for this young gun's success.

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FIRST COLUMN

THE FEAR OF LOSS AND THE **QUEST FOR INNER PEACE**

Accepting life's impermanence may be the key to transcending fear



RAVI VALLURI

umans are intrinsically fearful of loss. Misplacement can assume several dimensions. Say mislaying of property, wealth, recognition, position, power, pelf, health and most importantly, life. John's (name changed) steely voice suddenly trembled and quivered as he answered the pretentious cell phone. Rachel (name changed), his daughter had met with a grievous car crash and was wheeled into the ICU of an estimable hospital, Death is the action or fact of dying or being killed, the end of life of a person or an organism.

Several years ago, a Japanese warrior was captured by his adversaries and was confined to a dungeon. That fateful night he tossed and turned restlessly and was unable to sleep, fearing the following day when he would be interrogated, tortured and eventually executed. He was staring death in its face. Then suddenly he remembered the priceless words of his Zen Master. "Tomorrow is not real. It is an illusion. The only reality is now." Heeding these esoteric words, the warrior overcame the exacting condition he was encountering and soon his mind became tranquil and he fell asleep. Suffering and fear arise in our minds when humans confront ailment or impending death. No one wishes to pass from being to non-being.

The credo of the human mind is the desire to remain eternally immortal. Millions of cells in the human body perish and are regenerated. But we are not mindful or wakeful of this reality. Do humans compose dirges or elegies like Catullus or Propertius for the dead cells? Or do we carouse and indulge in delirium on the birth of new cells and recite 'Happy Birthday'



songs? "No one wants to die. Even the people who want to go to heaven do not want to die to get there! And yet death is the destination we all share. No one has ever escaped it." Be it Rachel or the Japanese warrior no one has ever attained perpetuity or everlastingness; however bare-knuckled a person may be, he remains a glass jaw to the

Yet youngsters today cannonaded by gizmos and technology become weary and bored of life at the young ages of twenty, thirty and hotfoot to snuff out their lives. Life is indeed holy and hallowed, too valuable and will remain a mystery that should not be recklessly given up. Yet there is no covenant or magic potion which guarantees deathlessness. Identifying and unravelling this mystery has confronted the minds of spiritualists, religious congregations and those of scientists and technocrats alike. A Zen Master was unwell and desired to cast away his body. His pupils implored him that he ought to live longer and disseminate the profound knowledge. It so happened that one disciple remarked. "Whether it is life or death, let it be." The Master was ecstatic with the response and passed away. "Let it be" is much more than a mere aphorism, it is a state of mind.

Our shastras impress that the human mind is influenced by place, time, food, past impressions and associations and the actions of individuals. The footprints bear both efficacious and antipathetic impacts on the human mind. Humans are enslaved by the above-mentioned factors and habits and, as a result, involuntarily superintendents our perceptions, attitudes and behaviour.

And over a period if we are not aware of these negative emotions they compound into anxiety, anger, aggression, covetousness, low self-esteem, and fear. Knowledge about the impermanence of life and variegated dimensions can be gained only through regular practice of pranayama, Sudarshan Kriya, meditation, or mindful observation of breath. This is the secret and the only truth.

(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)

Unlocking the full potential of GatiShakti



The PM GatiShakti initiative is revolutionising India's infrastructure by integrating digital planning tools to expedite project completion and improve multimodal connectivity

ccording to the Secretary of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Amardeep Singh Bhatia, as many as 208 big-ticket infrastructure projects including roads (101), railways (73), urban development (12) and oil and gas (4) worth Rs 1539,000 crore have been recommended for approval under the PM GatiShakti initiative so far. These projects have been recommended by an inter-ministerial group known as the Network Planning Group (NPG) constituted under the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (NMP). Launched in October 2021, the PM Gati Shakti NMP is a transformative Rs 100 lakh crore initiative aimed at revolutionising the infrastructure in India over the next five years.

Its vision is to create a world-class integrated infrastructure that improves the ease of living, boosts economic growth and makes Indian businesses more competitive. It does so by expediting project completion, reducing timelines, enhancing multimodal connectivity, boosting efficiency across sectors, benefiting logistics (a jargon for handling, storage and transportation) creating jobs and fostering innovation. How does it work? The PM GatiShakti NMP has been developed as a Digital Master Planning tool. It works on a dynamic Geographic Information System (GIS) platform wherein data on specific action plans of all the 16 Ministries/Departments dealing with infrastructure sectors as well as of the States have been incorporated within a comprehensive database.

The NMP portal has over 1,600 layers of geospatial data, showing all physical and social infrastructure of an area viz land, ports, forests, and highways and so on. The NMP revolves around seven primary sectors that are fundamental to economic growth and ensuring seamless connectivity. These sectors are roads, railways, ports, airports, mass transport, waterways and logistics infrastructure.

These are further supported and complemented by sectors like energy (all fuels such as petrol, diesel, ATF, natural gas and power etc) transmission, IT communication, bulk water and sewerage, and social infrastructure. The inter-ministerial NPG has representations from the connectivity infrastructure ministries/departments, involving their heads of network planning division to ensure unified planning and integration of the proposals.

The NPG meets every fortnight and appraises infra projects to ensure multi-modality (a term used to connote several different modes of transportation to get cargo from the factory/port/warehouse to a client's front door), synchronisation of efforts, and comprehensive development in and around the project location. All logistics and connectivity infrastructure projects worth over Rs 500 crore are routed through the NPG. The NPG's approval is required even before making a DPR (Detailed Project Report) at the planning stage. Thereafter, the project follows the normal procedure of approval by the Public Investment Board (PIB) or Department of



AS MANY AS 156 GAPS IN INFRASTRUCTURE TO PORTS AND FOR MOVEMENT OF BULK COMMODITIES

CEMENT, FERTILIZERS AND FOOD GRAINS, HAVE BEEN **IDENTIFIED FOR** INTERVENTION UNDER THE PM **GATI SHAKTI** INITIATIVE Expenditure under the Ministry of Finance (MoF) and the Cabinet.

Put simply, NMP provides on a centralised portal, a 360-degree view of all the existing projects/initiatives, those under implementation as well as projects under planning stage across all ministries and departments and offers visibility into all critical data relevant to efficient planning and execution. It helps in the identification of critical gaps in infrastructure, helping to select the most efficient routes for transportation, reducing costs, and minimising delays.
As many as 156 gaps in infra-

structure to ports and for movement of bulk commodities like coal, cement, fertilisers and food grains, have been identified for intervention under the PM GatiShakti initiative. The plan also helps in prioritis-

ing projects more effectively by eraging cross-sector interac tions, ensuring that the min-istries work in harmony to align the projects and allocate resources optimally - based on national priorities - avoiding duplication and redundancies. The upfront approval by the NPG even before the ministry prepares the DPR can help it in making the RIGHT choices, prevent delays and avoid colossal wastage of resources that were germane to the earlier dispensations when the ministries and departments were working in silos - in an uncoordinated manner - unaware of the happenings and work in progress in other departments and bereft of the crucial data on KEY parameters. The PM GatiShakti is a robust system working on real realtime basis in a dynamic framework to guide project planning and execution (monitoring through satellite imagery ensures

that the ministries can track

progress and make necessary

adjustments to keep projects on schedule).

The phenomenal increase in the capacity in all crucial areas such as ports, airports, railways, highways, roads and so on is a testament to the success of efforts made under PM GatiShakti. But, we have a long way to go

The target of Rs 100 lakh crore investment for building the infrastructure over five years was set by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her maiden Budget for 2019-20 (out of this, 39 per cent or Rs 3900,000 crore was to come from the Centre and an equal amount from States and the balance Rs 2200,000 crore from the private sector).

Against this, the investment covered under PM GatiShakti is Rs 1539,000 crore which is just about 15 percent. Even when we take this as a proportion of the investment commitment by the particularly true of rural road Centre (presumably all projects under PM GatiShakti are central ly sponsored), this works out to 40 per cent. As for the States, they are far behind in meeting their overall investment target of Rs 3900,000 crore.

And, very few of them such as Uttar Pradesh, and Gujarat have boarded the PM GatiShakti plat-

The platform by ensuring visibility, identification of bottlenecks and better coordination can help expedite approvals but it can't be a substitute. The approvals have to be given by the concerned authorities at the central and State levels. Here, projects face long delays especially when it comes to getting environmental and land clearances.

Local protests exacerbate the delays. 'Working in silos' syndrome doesn't go away just because Modi has given a platform to the bureaucrats in various Ministries to sit together and thrash out issues.

Sticking to their stance, especial-

ly when it comes to staking their claim to resources (such conflicts are seen more in major projects like roads and railways) often leads to delays. Further, a lack of coordination with the states, as seen in the Sagarmala and Bharatmala projects, has led to

slower progress. Outdated or incomplete data is a major bottleneck. For instance, while land records are digitised in 13 states, the rest lag.

This hampers the implementation of projects in states where land records are not digitised as well as roads/highways projects, power transmission lines, and oil and gas pipelines passing through these states.

Even as the PM GatiShakti platform allows for real-time tracking, the authorities don't always make project updates regular, which delays completion. This is projects in many districts leading

The investment by the private sector is nowhere near the target of Rs 2200,000 crore set by Sitharaman. In the roads/highways sector, even as the government has asked private players to come under public-private partnerships (PPPs) mode, the latter's response isn't encouraging leaving it to the former to take on the load.

The bottlenecks lead to continuing project delays and cost overruns which cause high tariff/service charges across all sectors highways, railways, ports, airports, power transmission, fuel transportation etc.

These come in the way of making Indian businesses more competitive and ease of living for the common man. All Stakeholders particularly the States should work to surmount the bottlenecks to enable PM GatiShakti to deliver its full potential.

(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

How India's workforce can benefit from the world's growing demand

Tapping into this opportunity requires a systematic approach to connect Indian talent with international employers

ndia's labour force is one of its greatest assets, with millions of skilled workers spread across various industries, including healthcare, construction, information technology and engineering. However, despite this abundance of talent, many of these workers struggle to find suitable employment within the country. The global labour market, on the other hand, is increasingly facing shortages in these same sectors. Bridging this gap has been a significant challenge.

Global Skill Shortage and Demand for Indian Talent over the past decade, countries across Europe, the Middle East, and parts of Asia have been facing critical shortages in skilled



labour. Factors like ageing populations, changing work preferences, and evolving technological needs have driven these regions to seek out talent from countries like India. Healthcare, construction, IT, and logistics are some of the industries experiencing the most pressing shortages. We need to recognise this

by connecting skilled Indian candidates who need it.

professionals with global This will help in aligning the

skill sets of Indian workers with international standards and job requirements, offering thousands secure employment overseas.

A Systematic Approach to Global Mobilisation. The workforce mobilization model should ensure that the process is smooth and transparent for both the workers and the employers. The organisation focuses on several key stages: Talent and Skill Gaps: We should conduct thorough assessments of candidates, ensuring they meet international job requirements. By collaborating with top training institutes, they also provide demand early on and respond upskilling opportunities to

Job Matching: With established relationships with employers in countries such as Germany, Canada, and the UAE, organisations can ensure that candidates are placed in roles that match their qualifications and aspirations.

Navigating Complexities: Overseas job placement is fraught with regulatory hurdles, but offering complete support with visas, documentation, and legal compliance, ensures candidates can focus on building their careers without administrative delays. **Supporting Worker Welfare:**

The organisation provides post-placement assistance, offering support with reloca-tion and helping candidates adjust to new cultural environments. This ensures long-term success



for workers abroad. Shaping the Industry's Future Beyond individual placements, the organisation's work is in shaping the broader landscape of international labour migration. There has to be a system for fair recruitment practices and the protection of workers' rights. This is critical in an industry that is often plagued by stories of worker exploitation and unethical recruitment agencies.

A transparent process ensures that workers are fully informed of the terms of their contracts before they travel abroad. This approach not only safeguards the interests of Indian workers but also builds trust with glob-

al employers. The global demand for skilled labour is at an all-time high, and India has the talent to meet this need. Many organisations have pitched in to fill this gap. 'Magic Billion' creates dignified, well-paying employment opportunities for Indian workers overseas. Since starting in 2018, it has facilitated over 4,000 Indian workers being placed in global roles. It is just not helping individuals find jobs; we're building sustainable careers that elevate both the worker and their

particularly noteworthy aspect of such an organisation's work is its focus on women and young professionals. The global job market offers unique opportunities for these groups, particularly in industries like healthcare and hospitality. Targeted programs need to aim at empowering women to enter these fields and secure high-paying jobs abroad. This is especially significant in a country like India, where barriers to women's employment are still prevalent in many sectors. The organisation's efforts to provide training and certification for nursing professionals, for example, have opened up opportunities for hundreds of women to work in countries where there is a growing demand for healthcare work-

Women Empowerment: A

individual but also creates ripple effects for their families and communities.

Economic Benefits: India's skilled labour force is not only contributing to the economies of the countries where they work but also bringing significant benefits to India itself. Remittances sent home by overseas workers are a major source of foreign exchange and play a crucial role in the economic development. By placing workers in global jobs, we can help alleviate some of the domestic unemployment pressures. This is especially important for sectors like construction where there is a surplus of skilled labour in India.

> (The writer is CEO & Co-Founder of Magic Billion; views are personal)

VIJAYAWADA | TUESDAY | OCTOBER 22, 2024

IN BRIEF



Rupee ends flat at 84.07 against US dollar

he rupee on Monday settled flat at 84.07 (provisional) against the US dollar amid strong American currency against major rivals overseas and relentless foreign fund outflows. Investors remained cautious and stayed away from riskier assets due to geopolitical uncertainties, forex dealers said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 84.06 against the greenback and stayed almost flat throughout the session. The unit finally settled at 84.07 (provisional) against the dollar, unchanged from its previous session's closing level. On Friday, the rupee slipped 1 paisa to close at 84.07 against the US dollar, a tad higher from its alltime low of 84.09 recorded on August 5 this year. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.19 per cent to 103.50.

Emaar India to invest

Rs 2,000 cr in Mumbai

Monday. The group, known for projects like Burj Khalifa, has

stayed away from the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR)

Emaar India's Chief Executive Kalyan Chakrabarti said there

is no specific reason to stay away from Mumbai for so long.

despite being present in India for nearly two decades

He added that the group is attracted to the megapolis because it considers it as the deepest and strongest realty

The company is aware about the market realities in the space-crunched city, and is open for looking at both

societies and slum redevelopments along with any fresh

development proposals, he said. The company plans to

invest USD 1.85 billion (around Rs 15,500 crore) in realty

developments across the country in the same time period.

he said, adding that capital is not a constraint for it given the

Therefore, it is not keen to aggressively pursue opportunities

on the capital markets, including an initial public offering or

'Zomato not venturing into

any new space'

_ood delivery platform Zomato is not venturing into any new space and will continue to focus on its four existing businesses, the firm clarified on Monday amid reports of

wellness firm 'Continue'. Separately, Goyal in a social media post said the 'Continue' health and wellness initiative was his

space, and will continue to focus on its four businesses (Food

spokesperson said on 'Continue'. In a social media post on X,

Goyal said: "Been getting a lot of curious messages since the

morning, so here's an update on Continue. It is as of now, my

personal health and wellness team, entirely funded by me.

peak performance". He shared that spending time with the

Continue team is like going to the gym for him.

which tracks and researches how to keep me running at my

"Or you can also say that it helps me avoid visits to doctors.

We are developing new things, we have some new insights,

enough evidence behind what we have found, to share with

and it will be super cool if one day, we are able to gather

Founder Deepinder Goyal registering a new health and

"personal" venture. "Zomato isn't venturing into any new

Delivery, Blinkit, Hyperpure and District)," a Zomato

market which will be vibrant for decades to come.

backing of a parent company willing to invest.

sponsoring a Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT).

i'm a dal stree

zomato

AE-based realty developer Emaar is planning to invest up to Rs 2,000 crore in Mumbai and its surrounding

areas in the next six-seven years, a top official said on

'Robust domestic engines back India's growth outlook'

PNS MUMBAI

India's growth outlook is supported by robust domestic engines and private investment showing some encouraging signs despite geopolitical tensions, the Reserve Bank's October Bulletin said on Monday.

The global economy remained resilient in the first half of 2024, with declining inflation supporting house-

hold spending.
Stable growth momentum amid monetary policy easing is becoming the prevailing theme across most economies, according to an article on 'State of the Economy' published in the Bulletin.

"In spite of geopolitical tensions, India's growth outlook is supported by robust domestic engines," it said.

It also noted that some high-frequency indicators have, however, shown a slackening of momentum in the second quarter of 2024-25, partly attributable to idio-



syncratic factors like unusually heavy rains in August and September.

Looking ahead, private investment is showing some encouraging signs in terms of lead indicators while consumption spending is shaping up for a festival season revival," said the article authored by a team led by RBI deputy governor Michael Debabrata Patra.

After remaining below target for two consecutive months, inflation surged in September, as an adverse statistical base effect was compounded by a resurgence in

food price momentum.

The central bank said the views expressed in the Bulletin article are of the authors and do not represent the views of the Reserve Bank

VFS Global to offer new Indonesia e-Visa to Indians

PNS MUMBAI

VFS Global on Monday said it has been appointed to offer a new Indonesia e-Visa on Arrival service to Indians and 96 other nation-

The services are expected to commence in the first half of December 2024.

The Directorate General of Immigration under the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, Indonesia has appointed VFS Global as the exclusive private service provider for Électronic Visa on Arrival (e-VoA) to make the process seamless, promote inbound tourism and increase investments into Indonesia, the company said in a statement.

"Indonesia is a very popular destination for travellers across the globe, and we are excited to unveil a service that will make their visa application process quicker, simpler and much more convenient.

'Will work towards designing, manufacturing planes in India'

PNS NEW DELHI

The government will work towards designing and manufacturing aircraft in India with the help of the industry players, Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu said on

Monday. The Bhartiya Vayuyan Vidheyak Bill 2024, which was passed by the Lok Sabha in August, includes provisions to

regulate t h e design and manufacturing of aircraft, supporting the Aatm anirbhar Bharat initiative.

'We want to design and manufacture planes in India. We are taking help from HAL (Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd) and NAL (National Aerospace Laboratories) and other industry partners we have.

"In the foreseeable future, we want to also have a situation where we manufacture planes not for domestic demand only but also for the demand of the entire world... we are going to move towards it," the minister said.

State-owned HAL is already into manufacturing small civilian planes but on a

smaller scale.

India is one

of the world's fastest growing civil aviation mar kets and Indian carriers have more than 1,200

planes on order. The country is a key market for aircraft manufacturers - Boeing and

Last month, Naidu said the government will set up a special purpose vehicle to push ahead with plans to start manufacturing commercial aircraft in India.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

FinMin seeks expenditure proposals

The finance ministry has sought expenditure proposals for the first batch of supplementary demands for grants from various ministries and departments ahead of winter session of Parliament.

The first batch of supplementary demands for grants for 2024-25 is proposed to be placed before Parliament in the ensuing session, the ministry said in an office memorandum dated October 21.

The month-long winter session of Parliament usually begins in the last week of November.

The pre-Budget meetings to finalise the Revised Estimate for 2024-25 and Budget Estimate 2025-26 are currently underway and conclude ' would November 11.

The ministries and departments whose pre-Budget meetings with the Finance Ministry will be concluded by October 29 are therefore, required to submit their supplementary proposals by November 6 and the remaining ministries within one week of completion of meeting or by November 15, it



The cases that would be eligible to be incorporated those where advances from the contingency fund of India have been granted.

Besides, payments against court decree would be included as well as cases where the finance ministry has specifically advised moving of the supplementary demand in

the winter session, it said.
"While processing proposals for supplementary grants, the grant controlling authority must invariably identify savings within the grant so that the infructuous or inflated supplementary demands are weeded out and the eventuality of surrender after

obtaining supplementary grant is avoided," it said. The Budget 2025-26 is like-

ly to be presented on February 1. Previously, when the Budget was presented at the

end of February, the threestage Parliament approval process used to get completed sometime in mid-May, weeks ahead of the onset of monsoon. This meant government

departments would start spending on projects only August-end September, after the monsoon

'India's first coal exchange soon'

PNS NEW DELHI

Union minister G Kishan Reddy on Monday said that India's first coal exchange would be set up soon.

A coal exchange is likely to facilitate more sellers and buyers to trade coal as a commodity. Talking to reporters on the sidelines of an event in New Delhi, Minister Kishan Reddy, said that coal exchange is likely to come up soon. The plan for setting up the coal exchange was discussed in a recent meeting. The draft note for the Cabinet for setting up of coal exchange in the country was circulated for inter-

Coking coal import cannot be substituted fully: CIL

PNS NEW DELHI

CIL Chairman and Managing Director P M Prasad on Monday said coking coal import cannot be substituted fully, but some part of it can be

Coking coal, also known as metallurgical coal, is used to produce coke, a key component in steel-making process. As per the data compiled by

mjunction services ltd, India's coal import in 2023-24 was 268.24 MT, which includes 57.22 MT coking coal and 175.96 MT non-coking coal. Speaking during stakehold-

ers' consultation on mining operators-cum-developers (MDO) and Star Rating of

the CMD said coking coal import cannot be substituted fully, but some part of it can be reduced.

The coking coal import can be brought down if its production through domestic sources He further said achieving

coal production of 1.5 billion tonne in the next four to five years is not a small thing and in order to achieve this output, mining projects have to be awarded to MDOs. Import of thermal coal can be reduced to a larger extent, once coal production of 1.5 billion tonne is achieved. "To achieve 500 million tonne in next five years is a huge task. When we work together it will be possible," he

Gold jumps Rs 750, silver skyrockets

Gold prices surged by Rs 750 to hit a record high of Rs 80,650 per 10 grams while silver skyrocketed by Rs 5,000 per kg in the national capital on Monday, according to the All India Sarafa Association. Extending its gains for

the fourth straight day, silver prices spurted by Rs 5,000 to hit a fresh record high of Rs 99,500 per kg from the previous close of Rs 94,500 per kg on Friday.

According to commodities market experts, the ongoing bullish sentiment in the silver market is primarily driven by industrial demand and gold's rally. Silver's upward momendips as buying opportunities, keeping the white metal wellsupported in the coming ses-

are likely to continue to view dips as buying opportunities, keeping the white metal well-keeping the white white well-keeping the white well-keeping the wh grams on Friday. Bullion

traders attributed the

jump in gold prices due to

pick-up in buying by local

ewellers to meet increased

demand in the festive and

wedding season which sup-ported the upside in the yel-

low metal prices. Further, a positive trend in the overseas markets as well as a fall in equity markets boosted the gold's safe-haven appeal, they added. In futures trades on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold contracts

for December delivery jumped Rs 493 or 0.63 per cent to Rs 78,242 per 10 grams.

During the day, the precious metal had surged Rs 591 or 0.76 per cent to Rs 78,340 per 10 grams on Monday.

Silver contracts for December delivery bounced Rs 2,822 or 2.96 per cent to hit a high of Rs 98,224 per kg. "Silver prices have gained strong upward momentum.

grams. The metal of 99.5 per Coal Mines Award Ceremony, tum appears strong. Investors cent purity had ended at Rs explained. Sensex, Nifty close lower on selling, FII outflows

PNS MUMBAI

Erasing initial gains, benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty closed lower on Monday due to a sharp fall in Kotak Mahindra Bank and relentless foreign fund outflows.

The 30-share Sensex declined by 73.48 points or 0.09 per cent to settle at 81,151.27 with 21 of its constituents ending lower and nine closing higher. The barometer shot up 545 points at the opening but succumbed to selling pressure later and hit a low of 80,811.23. The index gyrated 958.79 points between



the day's high and the low level. The NSE Nifty dipped 72.95 points or 0.29 per cent to

From the 30 Sensex firms,

Kotak Mahindra Bank tanked over 4 per cent after the company's quarterly earnings failed to cheer investors.

Bajaj Finserv, IndusInd Bank,

Adani Ports, UltraTech Cement, Bajaj Finance, Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys, Bharti Airtel, Hindustan Unilever and ISW Steel were the other big lag-

Additionally, gold

of 99.5 per cent purity climbed Rs 750 to hit a new record

high of Rs 80,250 per 10

HDFC Bank climbed nearly 3 per cent after the firm on Saturday reported a 6 per cent increase in September quarter net profit to Rs 17,825.91 crore on a consolidated basis. On a standalone basis, the largest private sector lender's post-tax net grew to Rs 16,820.97 crore during the reporting period, as against Rs 15,976.11 crore in the year-ago period.

investment in renewable by 2030: IREDA CMD ramping up renewable energy generation to meet imme-

India needs Rs 32 lakh cr

India will require about Rs 32 lakh crore of investment in the renewable energy sector by 2030 to meet its targets, Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency's (IREDA) Chairman & Managing Director Pradip Kumar Das said on Monday. Speaking at the 23rd India

Power Forum 2024, Das called on lenders to adopt a more customercentric and sectorfocused approach, emphasizing the need for timely financial solutions and innovative offerings tailored to the renewable energy sector.

He stressed the pivotal role of renewable energy in India's journey towards creating a net-zero-compliant power sector.

Das pointed out that India will require an estimated investment of approximately Rs 32 lakh crore in the renewable energy sector by

2030 to meet its targets. This phase will focus on

diate needs. From 2031 to 2047, the focus will shift towards

developing the necessary infrastructure to support a fully decarbonized economy, creating a strong and sustainable pathway to a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India) by 2047.



This roadmap will ensure a resilient and sustainable transition to net-zero emissions by 2070. Das also underlined the

significance of emerging renewable technologies such as Green Hydrogen, Offshore Wind, and E-Mobility, noting that they will also play a central role in reaching these ambitious goals.

When scammers cloned Mittal's voice to con his executive

PNS NEW DELHI

Scammers often use AI voice clones to con commoners to transfer money or disclose financial information but it's rare when they try to impersonate a billionaire. This is exactly what scammers tried to do by cloning telecom czar Sunil Bharti Mittal's voice to scam his executive in Dubai to transfer money

the world," Goyal informed.

Fortunately, the executive was smart enough to realise Mittal won't ask for such a huge money transfer and the scam was stopped in its tracks.

On Monday, speaking at the NDTV World Summit, Mittal cited the incident to caution people about the risks posed by misuse of emerging tech-



nologies like AI. Mittal recounted how the said executive stationed in Dubai received a fraudulent call that seemed to

The official who was vigilant and "sensible" immediately realised it was

mimic his voice and tone and directed that a large fund transfer be done.

as "it was perfectly articulated just as I would speak". "And anyone who would not have been vigilant may have done something about it," Mittal said and warned that in future misuse of technology

a scam, Mittal said admitting that

when he heard the voice recording

himself he was completely "stunned"

would enable fraudsters to go a step ahead and misuse digital signatures, even replicate faces on zoom calls to perpetrate such acts.

"We'll have to protect our societies from the evils of AI, and yet we have to use the goodness of AI, because those companies, and nations that will not adopt AI will be left behind. So this is a conundrum for every time

and fraudsters to dupe unsuspecting There are umpteen instances of fraudsters nudging victims to click on malicious links, or using deepfakes and voice cloning for scams.

you get a new technology into place,

there are pluses and minuses. I remain

very optimistic about the benefit of AI

that the human race will achieve and

be able to do jobs which are otherwise

very difficult to perform," Mittal

It is pertinent to mention here that

advent of tech era, powered by AI and

digital tools, has armed economies

and businesses with transformative

powers. That said, it is also being mis-

used blatantly by online scammers

Vijayawada | Tuesday October 22, 2024

SKY FORCE TAKES FLIGHT THIS REPUBLIC DAY

Producer Dinesh Vijan, fresh off a string of hits winning company DNEG, is exceptionwith Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya, Munjya and Stree 2, is gearing up to release his next big projects, *Chhaava* and *Sky Force*.

While *Chhaava* lands in theatres on December 6,

2024, his highly anticipated aerial entertainer Sky Force, starring Akshay Kumar, Sara Ali Khan, Veer and Nimrat Kaur, will hit screens during the Republic Day 2025 weekend.

According to a source, "Dinesh Vijan, Amar Kaushik and the team believe that Sky Force is a perfect fit for the Republic Day period. It's packed with action, drama, emotions, thrills and a strong patriotic theme. Set against the backdrop of India's first airstrike on Pakistan, the film has shaped up very well."

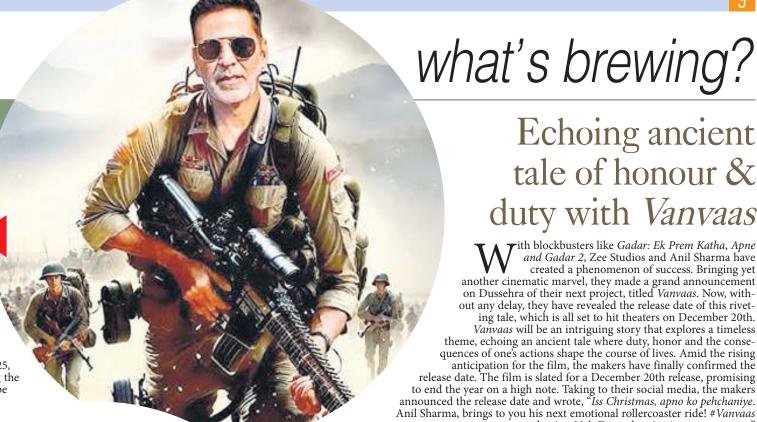
Early reports have been very positive and the team is confident that *Sky Force* will hit the mark.

"The VFX, crafted by the National and Oscar Award-

al. The film boasts breathtaking aerial visuals and captures the emotions surrounding India's first surgical strike with precision. The on-screen chemistry between Akshay Kumar and Veer is expected to be a standout and audiences are in for a treat with how Akshay is portrayed in the film," the source added. Sky Force marks Veer's big Bollywood debut, as he shares screen space with Akshay Kumar,

making for an exciting new pairing.

While the film will release on January 24, 2025, the trailer is slated for a grand launch during the Christmas 2024 holiday season. "It's going to be a month-long campaign, with the trailer setting the tone for *Sky Force*'s powerful arrival," adds the source.



Echoing ancient tale of honour & duty with Vanvaas

Tith blockbusters like *Gadar: Ek Prem Katha, Apne* and *Gadar 2*, Zee Studios and Anil Sharma have created a phenomenon of success. Bringing yet another cinematic marvel, they made a grand announcement on Dussehra of their next project, titled *Vanvaas*. Now, without any delay, they have revealed the release date of this riveting tale, which is all set to hit theaters on December 20th. Vanvaas will be an intriguing story that explores a timeless theme, echoing an ancient tale where duty, honor and the consequences of one's actions shape the course of lives. Amid the rising anticipation for the film, the makers have finally confirmed the release date. The film is slated for a December 20th release, promising to end the year on a high note. Taking to their social media, the makers announced the release date and wrote, "Iss Christmas, apno ko pehchaniye. Anil Sharma, brings to you his next emotional rollercoaster ride! #Vanvaas

releasing 20th December, in cinemas near you."

Bringing yet another masterpiece from *Gadar* director Anil Sharma, *Vanvaas* guarantees a compelling and gripping narrative. The film will star Nana Patekar and Gadar 2 fame Utkarsh Sharma. Written, produced and directed by Anil Sharma, Vanvaas will be a Zee



Ali-Richa champion girls' self-defense with Jiu Jitsu patrons

n a unique way to spread empowerment, Richa and Ali reached out to NGO Mukkamaar, which teaches girls self-defense, and organised a Jiu Jitsu workshop conducted by world champion in Jiu Jitsu, Andressa Citra and Lucas Valente. MukkaMaar Girls, started by

actor Ishita Sharma, is a NGO that has been teaching girls to assert their agency - whether through martial arts training and athletics.

Richa Chadha says, "Selfdefense isn't just about fighting back; it's about building confidence, resilience and awareness. And when we learnt that Andressa would be interested, we put together this unique one day workshop."

To this, Ali Fazal added, "I have been training in Jiu Jitsu and having the Mukkamaar



GO NONI GO **SET FOR ITS**

et ready to experience a heartwarming, laughter-filled journey as *Go Noni Go* makes its Gala premiere at the Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival on October 23rd. Directed by maverick director Sonal Dabral, this vibrant film is set to captivate audiences with its endearing story, showcasing humour, romance and the beauty of second chances in life. Presented by Applause Entertainment, *Go Noni Go* is an Ellipsis Entertainment production in association with *Mrs. Funnybones* movies (Twinkle Khanna). Adapted from the original short story *Salaam Noni Appa* by Twinkle Khanna, *Go Noni Go* follows Noni, an introverted woman as she payigates an unexpected removes with her younger. woman, as she navigates an unexpected romance with her younger, married yoga instructor, sparking laughter, tension and heartfelt moments. Against all odds, and breaking all the rules, will love take over?

With a stellar cast that includes Dimple Kapadia, Manav Kaul, Ayesha Raza, Athiya Shetty, *Go Noni Go* is a lively rom-com that promises to leave you smiling, laughing, and rooting for love at any stage of life. The Gala premiere is all set to be held on Wednesday.



Biggest deals, biggest drama with Million Dollar Listing India



ony LIV unveils the trailer for *Million Dollar Listing India*, bringing the excitement of luxury real estate from October 25. Featuring six charismatic realtors, this series dives into India's most exclusive homes and the fierce competition pursued to sell them.

Produced by Banijay Asia and licensed by NBCUniversal Formats, this Indian edition of the two-time Emmy-nominated global hit offers a glimpse into the high-stakes world of luxury property deals, intense negotiations and jaw-dropping properties. Buckle up for drama, big numbers and relentless rivalries in this must-watch show.

Join realtors Hem Batra, Ankush Sanyal, Navdeep Khanuja, Deepti Mallik, Karuna Gidwani and Prajesh Bhatia as they go head-to-head, tackling impossible client demands and fierce rivals in Delhi's elite real

ARCHIE





I'M GOING TO GET ALL PRUNY



GET IT?

0

0

children

meet with

Andressa, meant that they'd have such a solid role model, in

terms of what they can become. Especially for the young girls to

meet a world champ and learn

from her one-on-one, even if it

Ali Fazal and Richa Chadha

have long been advocates for

gender equality and social jus-

tice. They recently celebrated

the birth of their daughter by

gifting the media sweets and

also by planting trees in their

individual names in drought-

affected areas, via the Nabhangan Foundation.

was for a few hours, is so

inspiring and fantastic for



YEAH, I KNOW. FISH JOKE

CALVIN AND HOBBES



REALITY CHECK

THEN, ONE DAY I YOME HOME.



SPEED BUMP

TAHT 9/4/4 DOY FARFWAY LOOK IN YOUR

eyes again, dear.



CROSSWORD



GARFIELD

NANCY











SUDOKU

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

1 A round underground part of some plants 2 A small type of horse

ACROSS

6 Broken down; not

working properly (3,2,5)

8 A word for a taxi driver

14 Light soft modelling wood

10 A sung musical drama

13 Saying you are sorry

3 A toy that spins around a held string (2-2) 4 The part along the side or end

SOLUTION



POP, WHAT DO YOU SINGERP PROBABLY DINNER: COLE!



• The sum of all numbers in

any row or column must equal 45.

5 Three-sided figures 7 A way of cooking eggs

17 Part of a poem or song 19 Follows seventeenth **DOWN**

17 An opinion 18 Animals like large mice

9 These ring at churches

11 Stick wallpaper on

12 The number of years

16 Small busy insects

someone has lived

15 Use these when running

with this



Vilayawada

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Tuesday October 22, 2024

BREAKING BARRIERS IN CLASSICAL DANCE

Embodying the soul of Mohiniyattam, Gopika Varma's pursuit of this classical dance is marked by an insatiable curiosity, passion and dedication to unravelling the hidden layers of stories, emotions and cultural significance. In an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*, renowned Mohiniyattam exponent delves into the intricacies of her artistic

journey, where dance becomes a profound exploration of the soul



AARTI SREENATH aarti.sreenath9@gmail.com

opika Varma's pursuit of Mohiniyattam is a journey steeped in curiosity and passion, where dance becomes a living, breathing dialogue with history and mythology. Her search isn't confined to perfecting a graceful step or mastering a delicate expression; it's about uncovering the hidden layers of stories, emotions and cultural significance that lie beneath each performance. She constantly seeks more—more knowledge, more understanding and more connection. Whether she's collaborating with scholars, experimenting with new interpretations, or blending ancient tales with contemporary relevance, her artistic path is one of endless discovery, where every performance is not just an expression of dance but a profound exploration of the soul of Mohiniyattam.

In the world of classical Indian dance, she resonates with grace, storytelling and an undying dedication to her art form, Mohiniyattam. Reflecting on her journey, she describes it as a continuous learning process, one that blends tradition with modernity, demanding both passion and discipline. "It's very important for me that we announce and explain what I've choreographed at the beginning of every performance," she shares, emphasising the need for clarity in storytelling. For her, performing, feels like returning to her artistic roots. "Dancing is beautiful—there's a unique energy here. The staging, the audience, the backstage, everything is wonderful. And Shovana ji's festival, in particular, brings out the best audience," she says, praising the festival's impact on the

Her Mohiniyattam performances have always placed a strong emphasis on *abhinaya* (expressive storytelling), which she considers the soul of this classical dance form. "In Mohiniyattam, while footwork is important, the focus is on *abhinaya*—and that too, mature *abhinaya*. Only through refined expressions can we tell stories that resonate," she explains. Her recent performance at the *Spandan* festival showcased the stories of three strong women from the *Mahabharata*, characters that she believes continue to live among us today. "Draupadi is a powerful figure. Her life wasn't designed by her own desires; she lived for others, for *dharma*. In many ways, women today still live lives that aren't designed by them, much like Draupadi."

Reflecting on the evolution of the dance world, Gopika acknowledges how the digital age has transformed not just the way we teach and perform but also how classical dance forms like Mohiniyattam reach a broader audience. "The digital age has been a beautiful moment for us, especially when it comes to sharing classical dance styles. Online performances, teachings, and discussions have bridged the gap between distances. It's important, though, to use these resources wisely, ensuring the art's essence is preserved." Her journey with Mohiniyattam hasn't been easy, especially when she first arrived in Chennai. "When I came to Chennai, Mohiniyattam was practically nonexistent. It was a rare form to see, but now I have over 200 dancers performing in the city." The pride she feels for reviving the art form in Chennai is palpable, especially when she recalls receiving the state award from J Jayalalithaa, the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. "Receiving that honour from someone who understood and had learned both Mohiniyattam and Bharatanatyam was a great moment for me, particularly as a non-Tamil artist."

As she shares her experiences, it's clear that her art is deeply personal. "When you dance, especially when you embody a character, it always reflects your own mindset. I can't perform something that doesn't resonate with me. It won't feel personal, and the performance won't connect with the audience. To be successful, there has to be a reflection of yourself in your art." For her, learning from maestros has been key to her growth. "When you train with maestros, you don't just learn the dance; you learn everything—the backstage, the management, the intricacies of every moment. It's like working with a great lawyer. There's a big difference between learning from a good teacher and a maestro. That experience is invaluable."

Despite her success, she continues to learn and evolve, which in turn inspires her students. "It's important that we keep upgrading ourselves to inspire the next generation. Mohiniyattam is a relatively young art form, revived only about 250 years ago. So it's vital to give it as much exposure as possible by presenting strong characters at major festivals."

Even during the pandemic, she found ways to keep the art alive. "We had online performances, classes and discussions. The distance between us reduced, but we had to make sure we used the resources well." For her, storytelling remains at the heart of Mohiniyattam. "We have to read, understand, and constantly be in touch with scholars to make sure the stories we tell reach the audience. Not every story does, but it's our responsibility to ensure they do." Through her performances, teachings and endless dedication to the dance, Gopika Varma continues to breathe life into the ancient stories of Mohiniyattam, ensuring they resonate with today's audiences.



Sports drinks after short training? More harm than help!

ports drinks are often marketed as a quick way to replenish electrolytes and energy lost during exercise. However, they aren't always the best option after short training or competition sessions.

Here are a few reasons why:

EXCESS SUGAR

Sports drinks typically contain high amounts of sugar. After short sessions, the body does not need the excess sugar, which can lead to unnecessary calorie intake and may contribute to weight gain over time.

ADDED CALORIES

For brief workouts (less than an hour), water is usually sufficient for rehydration. Consuming sports drinks adds unnecessary calories without significant benefit, especially when the exercise wasn't intense enough to burn many calories.

ELECTROLYTE LEVELS

Short training sessions generally do not deplete electrolytes significantly. The sodium, potassium, and other electrolytes in sports drinks are designed for longer, intense sessions where sweat loss is substantial. For most people, typical diet intake is sufficient to replenish these electrolytes after a brief workout.

DENTAL HEALTH

The sugar and acidity in sports drinks can contribute to dental problems, including tooth decay and enamel erosion. Regular consumption, particularly when it's not needed, may increase this risk.

HYDRATION NEEDS

For moderate activities lasting less than 60 minutes, plain water is typically adequate for rehydration. Drinking water is the healthiest way to maintain fluid balance without the added sugars and artificial ingredients found in many sports drinks.

ARTIFICIAL INGREDIENTS

Many sports drinks contain artificial flavors, colors, and preservatives, which provide no nutritional benefit and may not be ideal for those seeking a clean, healthy recovery option. Over time, the consumption of these additives can have unknown or potentially negative long-term effects on health.

LACK OF NUTRIENT REPLENISHMENT

Sports drinks lack important nutrients like vitamins, minerals, and protein, which are crucial for muscle recovery and repair. After a short workout, it's better to focus on a balanced meal with essential nutrients rather than sugary drinks that offer minimal post-exercise recovery support.

INCREASE IN INSULIN LEVELS

Consuming a sports drink that is high in sugar post-workout can cause a rapid spike in blood sugar levels, leading to an insulin surge. For people looking to maintain steady energy levels and metabolic balance, this sudden rise and fall of blood sugar might hinder recovery rather than aid it.

> (The author, Dr Aabid Amin, is the Medical Director and Consultant Internal Medicine of Ujala Cygnus Group of Hospitals.)

Transforming Kartik Aaryan from flab to fab

In an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*, **Tridev Pandey**, the mastermind behind Bollywood's most stunning transformations, reveals the secrets behind his success, his approach to fitness and his unwavering commitment to shaping India's sports and fitness landscape

TEJAL SINHA

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simple journey that began with playing basketball on the national level, Tridev Pandey's life took an unexpected turn when a knee injury forced him to give up basketball, a sport he had excelled in, earning three national-level medals.

Determined to stay in the sports arena, Pandey turned to boxing, a passion he had nurtured since his school days. Under the guidance of renowned coach Chote Lal Yaday, Pande's boxing journey began, yielding gold medals in state and regional tournaments and eventually landing him a spot in the India camp. However, a nationwide ban on boxing due to administrative issues left Pandey uncertain about his future. It was during this challenging period that he discovered his true calling—coaching. With the encouragement of a fellow boxer, Pandey decided to pursue coaching, and his life changed forever.

And now here he is, 10 years later, working with several celebrities to transform



into the unbelievable. Who did he first start working with, you wonder? Well, it was the extremely talented Sanya Malhotra.

A remarkable work that has currently made him the talk-of-the-town is the mind-boggling transformation of Kartik Aaryan for *Chandu Champion*. We hark back to how it all happened and he shares, "I got a call from the production house of *Chandu Champion* that we are making a film like this, where the lead actor is supposed to play a boxer and they asked me to send my resume."

asked me to send my resume."

Right from Slow Cheeta, Vikrant Massey, to his coaching with Sanya, he shared all of it, and post that, he got a call from the team asking how much time is it going to take for the training since they had to make a proper boxing movie. "I later got to know that I had to train Kartik Aaryan and transform him into an athlete. It was not just for the sake of showing the audience but as a proper boxer. When I met Kabir sir, I assured him that whatever sessions I would take for the training, I didn't want anyone else to body dub on his behalf but teach him boxing completely. Thanks to Kartik bhai that he took it seriously. In fact, he used to also send me videos about how we can try the training." Not just the training, but fitness was something that they were keen on with the push-ups, pull-ups, headstands and all of it.

They had no big goals but the small ones. But how? It was post-Freddy that he had to begin transforming into *Chandu Champion*. While back then, he was of 90 kg, he shares, "We wanted to start with 85 kg first. We had to look into what all we are supposed to do and how much intake of calories is required. I did not really want to exhaust him since the beginning; he was also shooting for

Satyaprem Ki Katha. He used to not get proper time because he was shooting for 12 hours straight. The time was a challenge and then the injuries because your body is not recovering completely, not getting a proper 8 hours of sleep, so we really had to be alert about the techniques we wanted to learn. We used the AM/PM routine. Then, of course, I was maintaining the discipline, but slowly things came in track. We are proud that without any steroids or injections, we came up with this body. It was a result of pure hard work."

While in Kartik Aaryan's case, it was much clear that he had to do all of it for the role; on the other hand, he was working with Shweta Tripathi Sharma, with whom the goal was to get fit. "She hadn't done any training or any such sort of thing earlier. She just wanted to workout and that's how we began the training. Simultaneously, *Mirzapur 3*'s shooting was also supposed to start where she had to use a gun and do some actions. That's how we began and you can see the result. As compared to Golu in Season 1 and Season $\frac{1}{3}$, we made a strict diet and heavy lifting. Her weight is about 48 and she was lifting a 50-55 kg deadlift and 40 kg squats. It was not that the story wanted Golu to look in a certain way. It was all her wish to do all of it that could be visible on-screen with her confidence."

While he continues to train Kartik Aaryan, Shweta Tripathi, Shivani Raghuvanshi and Sanya Malhotra on a regular basis, he is also working on a Dharma project. As Pandey looks to the future, his goal remains clear: to continue making a meaningful impact in the lives of his clients and contributing to the growth of Indian sports and fitness.

NEW ZEALAND WHITE FERNS SPLIT \$ 2.3 MILLION AFTER WINNING T20 WORLD CUP

AP WELLINGTON

embers of the New Zealand White Ferns cricket team which beat South Africa by 32 runs in the final of the women's Twenty20 World Cup in Dubai on Sunday will split prize money of around USD 2.3 million.

That works out at around USD 155,000 or NZD 256,000 per team member, a life-changing windfall for players who for years have struggled for years to achieve financial parity with their male counterparts.

New Zealand's first-ever victory in the World Cup of cricket's shortest format was a massive surprise. The White Ferns had lost 10 consecutive T20 matches before beating South Africa in a warm-up match.

That pre-tournament success proved a turning point for New Zealand who beat India, Sri Lanka and

Pakistan, losing only to Australia on the way to the semifinals. South Africa ousted six-time champion Australia in a massive upset in the semi in which New Zealand beat the West Indies.

New Zealand made 158-5, batting first in the final, helped by Suzy Bates who made 32, Amelia Kerr who made 43 and Brooke Halliday who made 38. Kerr then took 3-24 and Rosemary Mair 3-25 as New Zealand restricted South Africa to



"Pretty unbelievable to be honest," Mair said. "Coming into the tournament all the odds were against us so for the group to bounce back like they have is unbelievable. "We just care so much about each

other. We've been through a lot of lows in the last 18 months, and we've just stuck by each other and kept working hard for each other."

Captain Sophie Devine was leading the New Zealand team for the last time. She and Bates have played in said. "When you play team sport,

DRERMI

all nine T20 World Cups since the first in 2009. New Zealand reached the final of the first two tournaments in 2009 and 2010, losing to Australia

on both occasions.
"This means everything to us," Bates

you want to be a world champion. you want to be a world champion. "We've fought our way back to the top. (Devie) has been so outstanding leading this team... So calm and believing in us. We'll probably have a cuddle for even longer later because there's been some dark times that only the people in the (locker room) understand."

New Zealand was coached to victory by Australian Ben Sawver and former Black Caps batters Dean

and former Black Caps batters Dean Brownlie and Craig McMillan.
The White Ferns' success was praised Monday by New Zealand Sports Minister Chris Bishop. It came at the end of a weekend in which New Zealand also retained sailing's America's Cup and in which New Zealand most's griedest town. the New Zealand men's cricket team beat India in a test in India for the first time in 36 years.

"And then to round out a truly amazing sporting weekend, at 3am Monday morning (NZT) the White Ferns, led by Sophie Devine, stepped up to face South Africa in the women's T20 World Cup final in Dubai and absolutely smashed it, his principle weekly is fact. bringing home their first World Cup since the One Day International in 2000," Bishop said.
"Amelia Kerr's 43 runs off 38 balls

and then taking 3 wickets for 24 set our team up for their magnificent

movement, you are in business for both outside

edge, bowled and leg before.

"Siraj is bowling around eight metre length and in India

with that length, you can't hit top of off (stump). He isn't

pitching it up enough," he further explained.

However, the coach is confident that once Siraj goes Down Under, for the five-

match series starting

November 22, he will again

November 22, he will again find his mojo as the length. Which he is hitting here, will work like magic in those conditions. "When you are hitting eight metre length on Indian tracks which are devoid of pace, the batter has more time to gauge the line.

more time to gauge the line and it becomes hittable.

I am pain-free, need to play domestic cricket to make strong case for Australia tour: Mohammed Shami

PTI ■ GURUGRAM

Seasoned India pacer Mohammed Shami on Monday declared himself pain-free but insisted on proving his fitness in domestic cricket by playing at least "one or two" games to make a strong case for selection for the marquee tour of Australia starting next month.

Shami, who has not played since the ODI World Cup final last November, bowled full tilt in the nets after India's opening Test against New Zealand in

Bengaluru on Sunday. This was a few days after skipper Rohit Sharma revealed that he had swelling in his knees which has affected his rehabilitation from an ankle

injury sustained last year.
"I am very happy with how I bowled yesterday. I was bowling from half run-up before that because I didn't want to take too much load. But yesterday, I decided to go full tilt, and I bowled at a 100 per cent," the 34-year-old told reporters on the sidelines of an event organised by Eugenix Hair Sciences.

"The result was good. I am 100 per cent pain-free. Everyone has been wondering for a long time about whether I will make it for the Australia series but it is still some time away."

India are expected to leave for Australia two weeks before the series opener in Perth beginning November 22, leaving Shami just about enough time to feature in two Ranji games for Bengal.

Bengal take on Kerala at home from October 26 before travelling to Bengaluru to face Karnataka from November 6. Is he ready for Bengal's next

game? Shami, Jaspirt Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj still have a next match. But the day I feel I can bowl 20 to 30 overs, Asked about his thoughts on doctors give me the clearance, I will go. I want to spend maximum time on ground before Australia series.

"I don't want that I clear fitness here in India and something happens there (in Australia). I want to be totally sure about my fitness before going there," said Shami, who was only part of the Adelaide Test on the previous Australia tour in

2020-21. India would be glad to have Shami's services on the bouncy pitches Down Under though Rohit has already said that he is not in favour of taking an "undercooked" Shami to

Australia. Shami, who played substantial role on the 2018 tour of Australia, realises that he is important to the team's overall plans.

"If I get fit, we will need to have the same package that we had on the last two tours. I might not be there but, if you see what happened in 2020, everyone was injured and still we won.

"The only thing on my mind is to ensure that I am fit and how strong I can be for the Australia series. I can see what kind of

attack we need in Australia."

INJURIES TEACH YOU

PATIENCE: Shami was forced out of action for more than a year after suffering a knee injury during the 2015 ODI World Cup. The 34-year-old is now in a similar phase and he feels injuries only make you

stronger. "2015 also I was away for that long. Injury teaches you to fight against yourself, you have to keep frustration at bay, focus on fitness and game. It is difficult to get back on track after an injury.
"Injuries teach you patience

and add purity to your game. After your comeback the main thing is if you can maintain your fitness. Yes rhythm is important but your skills won't leave you.

"You need to fight for regaining fitness," said Shami, who has taken 229 wickets in 64 Tests and 195 wickets in 101

While he was recovering from his ankle injury, India were able to end their ICC trophy drought in the Caribbean. Did Shami, who was the standout bowler for India in the ODI World Cup at home last year, miss being part of the triumphant T20 World Cup

"It depends on luck as well. I feel one should not be disappointed as you gave your best for the country. You can't fight your luck. If you get injured there is nothing you can do about it," he said.

India have already started preparing the next line of pacers though the likes of Shami, Jaspirt Bumrah and

the transition, Shami had only one advice for the next generation of fast bowlers.

It is a circle and will keep going on. Whether it is Mayank Yadav, Akash Deep Mukesh Kumar, Harshit Rana, I would only advise them to talk at length with the seniors in the nets, that teaches you a

"Last 8 to 10 years, we have bowled as a unit. Before that, we never had 140 plus pacers playing at the same time.

From those to the ones on the bench also bowl at 145kmph. So opponents don't get to relax and that creates fear. We all have different skills and that is what we have shown at home and overseas conditions."

Can India win their third series in a row in Australia? The conditions suit us. All our

fast bowlers are different type and if we get bounce it only makes us better. Batters need to score a bit, rest we will manage (laughs)," Shami added.

nine-wicket win over Maharashtra to earn full points

PTI MUMBAI

Defending champions Mumbai got their Ranji champions Trophy campaign back on track with an emphatic ninewicket win over Maharashtra in their second group A league game here on Monday, offsetting the heavy loss to Baroda in the opening game. Needing 74 to win, Mumbai went into the final day at 13 for

While Ayush Mhatre's (15) dismissal robbed them off a bonus point, Prithvi Shaw (39 not out off 36 balls) and Hardik Tamore (21 not out off 26 balls) earned six points for the team in just 13.3 overs.

This was after the 42-time champions lost to Baroda by 84 runs in the opening Ranji Trophy fixture but in the second match at the BKC ground, Mumbai excelled in all departments of the game.

The match was won and lost on the first day itself when Mumbai bowled out Maharashtra for 126 in their first innings and then rode on 17-year-old Mhatre's smashing 176 and Shreyas Iyer's belligerent 142 to score 441.

While Maharashtra fared much better in the second innings with centuries from Ruturaj Gaikwad and veteran Ankit Bawne, apart from a 98 from former India U-19 batter Sachin Dhas, the damage was already done.

BRIEF SCORES

In Mumbai: Maharashtra 126 and 388. Mumbai 442 & (Target 74) 75/1 (Prithvi Shaw 39 not out). Points: Mumbai 6; Maharashtra 0.

In Shillong: Tripura 1st Innings 377/8. Meghalaya 222 and 138. Tripura won by an innings and 17 runs.

Mumbai cruise to Pressure on Siraj after only 19 wickets from 13 Tests in India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian skipper Rohit Sharma believes in consistency when it comes to team selection but he will have to take a leap of faith to retain speedster Mohammed Siraj in the playing eleven for the second Test against New Zealand considering his poor run in home conditions.

The match starts in Pune from October 24 and inclusion of spin bowling allrounder Washington Sundar as the fifth slow bowler is an indication that coach Gautam Gambhir and Rohit might go for the jugular on a spin-friendly track.

The 30-year-old Hyderabadi has so far taken 80 wickets in 30 Test matches but 61 of those scalps have come in 17 away Test matches in three of the SENA countries (South Africa, England, Australia). Only 19 wickets after bowling 192.2 overs in 13 home Tests

are figures that imply that

Siraj has struggled in sub-

continental conditions unlike

Jasprit Bumrah Mohammed Shami, who have had the ability to throw pitch and conditions out of

equation. To be fair to Siraj, in those 13 Tests, he went wicket-less in four with a couple of them against Australia last year match. played on rank turners in Also,

Indore and Delhi where he and got to bowl only 10 and six got to bown one overs respectively.

disappointing is that the last seven home Tests have yielded only 12 wickets for him which is less than two per hasn't been

consistent enough to get initial breakthroughs leaving Bumrah with all the heavylifting to do with the new ball. PTI spoke to a coach, who has worked extensively with some of the current national team bowlers, and he thinks that Siraj's length is erroneous for Indian conditions. He explained the technical flaw that has cropped up in his bowling.

"If you see Siraj's record, he has five-wicket hauls in Australia and South Africa where there is more bounce. The six to eight metre length away from the batter is considered to be ideal Test match length. But it varies match length. But it varies from country to country depending on the bounce," the coach, who was a top domestic performer during his time, told PTI on condition of anonymity.

"The ideal length in Australia is sight metro; it is ground six

is eight metres, it is around six metres in England and on low bounce Indian wickets, it is 6.5 metres. If you pitch it conditions can still fetch you around 6.5 metres and get

"I am not sure how effective he will be in Pune or Mumbai although latter was the only venue where he looked menacing against New Zealand in 2021. Problem is when you play white ball, this back of length in Indian wickets," he reasoned

Reports say hockey set to be axed from Glasgow CWG; CGF, FIH mum

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Hockey is set to be axed from the 2026 Commonwealth Games as the host city of Glasgow looks to cut costs, several media reports here stated but both the International Hockey Federation (FIH) and the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) remained tight-lipped on the

Hockey has featured in each CWG since making its debut in 1998, but according to reports here, the Glasgow Games organisers want to drop it from the schedule along with net ball and road racing to ensure a trimmed programme that would be easy on the

Scotland stepped in to save the 2026

Games after the Australian state of Victoria pulled out due to rising costs. The schedule is due to be unveiled on

Tuesday. When reached out by PTI, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) declined comment till the roster was officially out.

"In a couple of days, the situation will be clear - you will get the information accordingly. From our side, until there is any official communication from CGF, we are not in a position to provide you any comment," an official said.

The CGF also gave a similar response. "The sports programme for the 2026 Commonwealth Games will be confirmed tomorrow," read a statement from the body when it was approached for a clarification on the media reports.



Hockey's probable omission could also be down to the fact that the Games, to be held from July 23 to August 2, are being organised close to the World Cup that is scheduled two weeks later from August 15 to 30 in Wavre, Belgium and Amstelveen, Netherlands.

To cut costs, the Glasgow Games organisers have reduced the number of

sporting disciplines from 19 (in 2022 Birmingham) to 10 with only four proposed venues — Commonwealth Arena and Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome, Scotstoun Stadium, Tollcross International Swimming Centre and Scottish Events Campus.

None of these venues have a hockey turf.

Hockey's exclusion from the Games would be a major blow for India as their men's team is a three-time silver-winner and two-time bronze-medallist in the sport. The women have won three medals, including a gold in the 2000 edition.

The biggest hit would be to Australia, which has won the men's gold for a record seven times and the women's top honours in four editions.

Ronaldo and Al-Nassr's ACL game moved amid Iran security fears

AP WASHINGTON

Cristiano Ronaldo and Al-Nassr's AFC Champions League Elite game with Esteghlal of Tehran on Tuesday will be as closely watched in India as it is in Saudi Arabia and Iran.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) said in a statement released last Tuesday that Esteghlal had to move its home fixture with Al-Nassr to the United Arab Emirates city of Dubai due to the security situation in Iran.

The decision was greeted by surprise in India as, on Oct. 7, the AFC ruled that Mohun Bagan Super Giants of Kolkata had been "considered to have withdrawn" from the second tier AFC Champions League Two for refusing to travel to Iran to play its Oct. 2 fixture against Tractor SC in the northwestern city of Tabriz. It is not only Al-Nassr's game that has been relocated. Tractor's home game against Ravshan of Tajikistan, scheduled for

Wednesday, has been switched to become an away tie. Iran's national team also had to move its Oct. 15 World Cup qualifier against Qatar to Dubai.

..(Mohun Bagan) notes that the AFC has indeed recognised the volatility of the situation in Iran and as such, has rescheduled or shifted venues for several games," a spokesperson for Mohun Bagan told Associated Press, adding that the confederation had taken the same geopolitical instability into account that the club had. "Failing to apply the same standard to Mohun Bagan would result in unequal treatment by the AFC." According to the spokesperson, Mohun Bagan had made a request to the AFC that the game's date or venue be changed before it decided not to travel.

"We consistently communicated concerns about the volatile and unsafe conditions in and around Iran, particularly regarding the safety of players and staff," the official added.



The Indian Super League club said first and the four-time winner that it had appealed the decision meets defending champion Al Ain to the relevant AFC committee of the United Arab Emirates and and hoped to be reinstated into

the tournament. The AFC did not reply to an invitation to comment.

Al-Nassr has four points from the first two games and can take a big step towards the second round with a win. The revamped tournament now consists of two groups of 12 - divided into west and east geographic zones - with the top eight from each advancing to the Round of 16.

Nassr is going well in the Saudi Pro League with a 97th minute penalty from Ronaldo giving the team a 2-1 win over Al-Shabab on Friday to stay in third place.

"There are a lot of games at the moment and it is not easy," said Stefano Pioli, Al-Nassr's coach. "We will do our best to maintain our performances in the Asian Champions League."

Saudi Arabia has three of the four top teams in Group A. Al-Hilal is

could welcome Neymar back to action after a year out through injury. Jeddah club Al-Ahli also has maximum points and travels to Qatar to face Al-Rayyan.

FRONT RUNNERS MEET IN **EASTERN ZONE:** In the eastern zone the top two meet. Gwangju FC of South Korea is making its first ever appearance in Asian competition and is the only team with two wins from two. It takes on Johor Darul Ta'zim of Malaysia. Australia's Central Coast Mariners

has lost both games so far and

head to China to take on Shanghai Port, coached by former Australian international Kevin Muscat, also seeking a first win. Last season's defeated finalist Yokohama F. Marinos also travels to China and meets Shandong Tiashan while three-time winner Pohang Steelers of South Korea faces Thailand's Buriram United.



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ANANYA AWAITS HER BIG COMMERCIAL SUCCESS

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nanya Nagalla left her job at an MNC to enter the film industry. She initially thought she would land some cute roles, but her experience turned out quite different. "When I entered the industry, I didn't have maturity. But once my debut film Mallesham happened, people saw me in a different light. Maybe they thought I was suited for mature roles, so they started offering me those kinds of roles. I feel happy that I connected with different sections of the audience, especially when they think of performance-oriented actresses. So, I am happy with what I am doing right now," said Ananya Nagalla.

The actress has been receiving more villagebackdrop characters and even in *Pottel*, she is portraying a similar role. She plays a young mother living in a village. "When the director narrated this role, I had done a web series with a similar character, so I thought it was repetitive. But the two directors' thought processes were not alike, so when the shooting began, I found that this role was completely different. The film has a good story and concept and not only my role, but every character in this film is going to be highlighted," said Ananya.

The actress expressed that she is not concerned about playing a mother role again, as her focus is on being an actor. "I never felt that way because I wanted to be an actor. Some may enter the industry wanting to do glamorous roles, but I stepped in because I wanted to be a good actor." she explained

Perhaps the filmmakers noticed her in *Mallesham*, where she played a village girl with a Telangana backdrop. "In this film too, it relates closely to my first film, so they did a look test and tried a different approach. More than my look, I feel that the colour grading has given more depth to the

Ananya mentioned that she didn't do any

homework or research for this role. "Whatever director Sahith told me, I simply followed him and did what he wanted. I didn't do any homework. My first scene is with Ajay, where he kicks me in the stomach! You can see it in the trailer too. It was a serious moment in the film, but while the director was preparing to shoot, I was playing with the kid," she recalls. She added that director came to her a few times, asking if she could remember her dialogues. "I told him not to worry about it. When the shot was ready, I did it and the director was very happy," said Ananya. After that scene, the director never came to her with concerns about dialogues or anything else, as he became fully confident in her abilities.

The film's story revolves around a father struggling to provide a good education for his daughter. Reflecting on the current education system, Ananya shared her views. "Nowadays, education feels like a business because of the high fees. People from the lower-middle class are losing interest in sending their children to school, opting instead to earn a few thousand rupees when they go to work. After this film, I hope people understand how someone struggles to ensure their child is educated. Some people don't know the value of education; we need to create awareness," she said.

Ananya stated that she has no regrets at the moment. "When I entered the industry, I did a film, and then the pandemic struck. The success vanished with Covid and I had to stay at home because there was no work. At that time. I felt bad," she said. She added that later, work began to come in continuously. "But now, frankly speaking, I haven't had any commercial success," admitted Ananya.

Ananya is currently receiving three to four scripts and is selecting projects that interest her. "I am not sitting idle now as I am working continuously," she said. She added that she is not concerned with **PRABHAS' 'KING** competition, as

she is not in that mindset. She shared that while she doesn't receive great support from her parents, they haven't discouraged her either. "I love acting, so they didn't say 'no,' but they haven't fully supported me either, as they didn't particularly like it. However, whenever I go out, they say, 'take care of yourself, be careful," she said about her parents. The actress expressed her hope that her mother will be pleased after the release of *Pottel*. "After *Pottel* releases, my mother should feel proud after seeing my performance. She will definitely say that her daughter did a good film," she said. Speaking about Telugu girls in the industry, she noted it is only about 30 percent. "If you look at the Tamil, Malayalam and Kannada industries, they choose local girls 70 percent of the time and they give outsiders a chance only 30 percent of the time. But here

in the Telugu industry, they give 80 percent of the opportunities to outsiders and only 20 percent to Telugu girls," said Ananya. Discussing her upcoming projects, she mentioned that she has signed a film titled Kathakeli with director Satish Vegesna. She also has two other projects, Srikakulam Sherlock Holmes and a comedy film Lechindi Mahila Lokam.

OF SWAG' AVATAR

CREATES ONLINE FRENZY

ebel Star fans are eagerly anticipating updates from the highly

in its final stages.

anticipated film The Raja Saab, directed by the talented Maruthi and starring Prabhas. On Monday, the makers announced that they would release an update in celebration of Prabhas's birthday on Wednesday. The Raja Saab is produced by TG



titled *Matka*, alongside Meenakshi Chaudhary and Nora Fatehi. The film is directed by Karuna Kumar of *Palasa* fame and its story is set in the 1980s, primarily in Visakhapatnam. The filmmakers constructed the famous Poorna Market set specifically for this film. Until now, they had kept the character of Salloni under wraps, but on Monday, they revealed her look. Salloni rose to fame after the success of Maryada Ramanna, directed by Rajamouli many years ago. After that film, she appeared in a few more projects before taking a long break due to a lack of good opportunities. Now, she is making a comeback with *Matka* and her look is generating interest. She appears in a saree, embodying the style of a woman from the 80s. Despite there being two other female leads, Salloni's role in the film seems to be significant. Vijayender Reddy Teegala and Rajini Talluri are producing this film, which is set to release on November 14.



'Samudrudu depicts struggles of fishermen'

irector Nagesh Naradasi is helming a film titled Samudrudu; as the title suggests, it centers on the lives of fishermen. "I depicted the struggles and lives of fishermen in this film, but I didn't approach it like a documentary. I added all the commercial elements and blended them with the fishermen's stories," said director Nagesh. Senior actor Suman plays a pivotal role in this film, alongside lead actors Ramakanth, Avantika and

"When the fishermen ventured deep into the sea, their struggles and what happened to them afterward, every detail is portrayed intensely in this film," explained the director. He also praised lead actor Ramakanth for his performance. Produced by B Kishan, the film is scheduled for release on October 25.

The pre-release event was held recently, where Suman commended the director. "After *Annamayya* and *Sriramadasu*, I didn't want to take on mythological roles, but director Nagesh Naradasi came to me with a mythological film Satyanarayana Swami which I liked and took part in. Now, the same director has brought a different concept with Samudrudu about fishermen and I played an important role in it," said Suman. He expressed confidence that this film will be a great success.





Akash Puri launches **Taskarinchuta**

The movie *Taskarinchuta*, featuring Sunny as the lead, was launched on Monday. his introduction as a hero. I wish the entire movie team all the best and hope the film achieves great Produced by Shake Afrin under the Rachel Pictures banner, this crime comedy thriller is directed by Shivaprasad Chaluvaadi. The event was held at Ramanaidu Studios in Hyderabad, with young hero Akash Puri and producer Bellamkonda

Suresh as special guests.
During the ceremony, Akash Puri presented the script and switched on the camera, followed by the movie's poster launch. Producer Bellamkonda Suresh clapped for the muhurtham scene.

Akash Puri said: "The title poster of Taskarinchuta looks great. Congratulations to Sunny for success.

Meanwhile, Sunny expressed his gratitude to Akash Puri for attending the launch event. "We are making a good effort with this project, which will be a crime comedy. We will make a film that everyone will

Director Shivaprasad at the event stated, "We are set to create Taskarinchuta as a fresh crime comedy thriller. Regular shooting will begin on the 15th of next month, and we are working on a unique presentation. Well-known artists will be part of our film, and their details will be revealed soon."

'Pasupu Danchatam' ritual marks beginning of Sobhita-Naga's wedding

the town. On October 21, the actor from *Made in Heaven* posted images from 'Pasupu Danchatam', a traditional Telugu pre-wedding ritual symbolising the start of wedding celebrations. Shortly after Sobhita posted the



The marriage of Naga Chaitanya and Sobhita Dhulipala is the subject of much discussion in dering about their wedding date. The

dering about their wedding date. The pair became engaged in a private ceremony on August 8 of this year.

Sobhita Dhulipala posted photos from the 'Pasupu Danchatam' ceremony held at her residence on Monday. She donned a pink-orange saree adorned with a border of gold and green for the ceremony. The women in her family are all around her.

Sharing the photos, she wrote, "Godhuma Raayi Pasupu danchatam. And so it begins! (sic)."

'Pasupu Danchatam', also called 'Pasupu Kottadam', is a ritual practiced in Telugu traditions. During the ceremony, turmeric is crushed using

ceremony, turmeric is crushed using the traditional method, which involves a stone grinder. It is the same as the haldi ceremony.



THEATRES THIS

fter a long hiatus, director Virinchi A Varma is returning with a film titled Jithender Reddy. He previously directed *Uyyala Jampala* with Raj Tarun and later *Majnu* with Nani. Both films performed well, but Virinchi Varma did not direct any further films for a considerable time. Now, after a lengthy break, he is back with *Jithender* Reddy starring Rakesh Varre in the lead role. The makers have announced that they are planning to release the film on November 8.

The story of Jithender Reddy is inspired by real incidents that took place in Jagityal during the 1980s. The film is produced by Muduganti Ravinder Reddy. produced by Muduganti Ravinder Reddy. The promotional videos of the film have been intriguing, generating curiosity. The movie portrays *Jithender Reddy*'s struggles with Naxalites and his fight for public issues since his college days. The trailer also depicts his entry into politics and interactions with a senior political leader who was the chief minister at the time. Vaishali Raj, Riya Suman, Subbaraju and Ravi Prakash play significant roles in the film.