

Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh on Friday expressed confidence that the niche carbon fibre -- which is used in aerospace civil engineering and defence as an alternative to metal -- will be produced by India in 2025-

PNS HYDERABAD The Union Minister of

floods occurred," Sanjay said.During a chit-chat te at Hot

Haritha Plaza on Friday,

Sanjay said the floods are

not connected to politics

and that governments

have the responsibility to

help when people are in

that the government had ordered not to allow buildings 50 meters from the Musi River, the court said that no one could construct anything in the river's

the GHMC had issued an order ask ing him not to change the use of his When the counsel told the court

Currently, India does not produce any carbon fibre and relies completely on imports from countries such as the US, France, Japan and Germany. The European Union's proposed Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, a tax on embedded carbon imports, is expected to kick in ... -PAGE: 8



India's two-time Olympic medalwinning javelin throw star Neeraj Chopra has qualified for this month's season finale of the prestigious Diamond League after finishing fourth in the overall standings at the end of its 14 series meetings across the world. The season finale will be a twoday affair on September 13 and 14 in Brussels. Chopra accumulated 14 points from his two second-place finishes in the one-day meets held in Doha and Lausanne. He skipped the last series meet in Zurich. -SPORTS

State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, said the Centre will announce help only after estimating the loss due to floods. He said that they had discussed it all with Chief

> This is not time for politicking. It is time to work together for the people. The invite me and did not meet



Gandhi Hospital to con-

conducted for his daughter,

Kavitha. It is believed that

KCR undertook the yagam

after her release from Tihar

Jail. There is widespread talk

that KCR's family had vowed

'Went to the Secretariat keeping aside politics'

Minister Revanth Reddy. I went to the Secretariat keeping politics aside. In the past, the BRS government did not people are in trouble and so Central Ministers when



BRS condemns 'rising crimes' against women Harish, Sabita, other leaders

visit assaulted tribal woman

PNS HYDERABAD

sole the tribal woman BRS MLA Harish Rao, accompanied by Sabita from Jainoor, who is currently undergoing treatment after a brutal assault. Indra Reddy, Sunitha Laxma Reddy, Talasani The girl suffered serious Srinivas Yadav, Malla injuries as her face was Reddy, MLA Mutta Gopal smashed with a stone. and former chairman Errolla Srinivas, visited



Friday.

2015.

functioned as the TPCC president from March 2015 to June 2021. Revanth took charge on July 7, 2021, and continued till September 6, 2024.

The AICC went by the word of Telangana.

Mahesh Kumar Goud is TPCC president PNS HYDERABAD As expected, the AICC announced the current TPCC Working

President MLC Bomma Mahesh Kumar Goud as the new TPCC President. AICC President Mallikarjuna Kharge appointed B. Mahesh



B. Mahesh Kumar Goud is the fourth president of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) after the formation of Telangana state in June 2014.

The first leader to lead the party after the State was formed was Ponnala Lakshmaiah. He served as the TPCC president for nearly a year from March 2014 to March

Later, N. Uttam Kumar Reddy

the outgoing TPCC President, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, and appointed Mahesh Kumar Goud even though discussions had been going on regarding the new president for a long time. In the end, the party picked Mahesh Kumar Goud, who belongs to a BC community of South



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KCR conducts Navagraha homam and Chandi Yagam

PNS HYDERABAD

Amidst speculation about his re-entry into active politics, former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR) has been hogging attention due to his spiritual programmes.

KCR conducted a series of special poojas and yagams on Friday at his farmhouse in Gajwel Erravalli in Siddipet district.

The spiritual function, involving a 'Navagraha homan' under the guidance of Vedic scholars, raised eyebrows among political observers as it coincided with the BRS's rising challenges.



It is reported that KCR conducted the yagam due to recent developments like losing power, facing medical

The Chandi yagam was

to conduct the yagam if Kavitha was released. There is also talk that KCR conducted the yagam as part of his attempts to regain political strength and return to active politics. KCR has conducted similar yagams in

the past as well. KCR's political return is said to be triggered by the failures of the Congress govern-

issues and family members ment under Revanth Reddy, undergoing difficulties.

hyderabad 02



wife who loses a hus-(CA band is called a Widow. A husband who loses a wife is called a widower. A child who loses his parents is called an orphan. There is no word for a parent who loses a child. That's how awful the loss is." These words by American novelist Jay Neugeboren aptly capture the grief of a parent who loses a child: that which no parent wishes even on their worst enemies. A study in the prestigious

scientific journal Nature analysed data from 35 States and Union Territories and concluded that the 11.7 crore toilets built over the last 10 vears with an outlay of Rs 1,40,000 crore rupees by the Modi government under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) has saved 60,000 to 70,000 mothers and fathers every year from the devastation and emptiness of losing a child. After a granular study of 600 districts, the study further points out that for every 10% increase in access to toilets at the district

Saving lives: The Swachh Bharat way level, there's a 0.9 points reduction in Infant Mortality

Rate (IMR) and 1.1 points reduction of Under Five Mortality Rate (U5MR) in that district. For every 1000 children born, IMR represents the number of children who die within a year of their birth, and U5MR represents the number of children who die within five years of their birth.

The study also points to the significance of saturation in access to toilets. Once access to toilets reaches 30% and above in any district, IMR steeply declines by 5.3 points and U5MR by 6.8 points. This correlation implies that one's health depends not only on one's access to a toilet but also on everyone's access to it.

Universal access to toilets eliminates open defecation, Only a push for universal access to toilets, clean water, and clean cooking fuel combined with universal access to healthcare can push the infant mortality rates further down. Luckily, the Modi government has focused relentlessly on these aspects over the past decade through its Swachh Bharat (toilets), Jal Jeevan (clean tap water), Ujjwala (cooking gas), and Ayushman Bharat missions and continues to do so even today.

school attendance and thus improving sanitation and reducing disease inciwomen's workforce participation while reducing crime dence for everyone. Access to toilets not only serves the against women, thus improving gender justice. Studies humanitarian purpose of saving parents the grief of losing a child but also have also shown that lowering infant mortality rates impacts our nation's social, lowers population growth rates. When the chances of economic, mental and spiritual well-being. On the social front, toilets infant survival decrease, the 'insurance' effect kicks in, leading to couples having more children. As one study provide privacy and dignity, especially to women and the

puts it, "The more babies a

KISHORE POREDDY woman loses, the more chil-

dren she is likely to have". "Health is wealth" captures the essence of the economic impact of access to toilets. Improving sanitation in general and access to toilets in particular curtails the loss of productivity due to missed school and work

Free electricity

to all Ganesh

mandapams

Minister for Endowments Konda Surekha wished the Telangana residents on the

occasion of Vinayaka

PNS HYDERABAD

Chavithi.

days. The World Health Organisation says inadequate sanitation amounted to a loss of about 6.4% of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), citing a study of 2006 data. The study also estimated that every rupee spent on sanitation saves nine rupees on treatment, healthcare costs, and lost productivity costs.

India currently enjoys a substantial demographic dividend with a young popula-tion. This dividend will diminish by the 2050s. If India has to reach the next level of economic orbit and grow into a developed nation, the next three decades are the most crucial. India cannot ignore the humble toilet's necessity for

this historic transition. While numbers clearly show the demographic,

social, and economic impacts of improved or universal access to toilets, they also have a tremendous mental, psychological and spiritual impact. "A healthy mind in a healthy body" captures the importance of hygiene for one's mental health. Sanitation improves not only health but also the sense of self-worth and confidence levels. Mahatma Gandhi lived by the dictum that cleanliness is next to godliness and stressed the impor-tance of sanitation to spiritual well-being. He said, and I quote: "We can no more gain God's blessings with an unclean body than with an unclean mind. A clean body cannot reside in an unclean India into Viksit Bharat.

While universal vaccination, Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) sachets, gov-

prenatal care and improved access to healthcare have brought down infant deaths considerably over the past decades, they are still high in India. Only a push for universal access to toilets, clean water, and clean cooking fuel combined with universal access to healthcare can bring these numbers further to reach those attained by the developed world. Luckily, the Modi government has focused relentlessly on these aspects over the past decade through its Swachh Bharat (toilets), Jal Jeevan (clean tap water), Ujjwala (cooking gas) and Ayushman Bharat missions, and continues to do so even today. There is no doubt that future studies assessing these schemes and the Modi government's missionary focus on implementing them at a saturation level will highlight their transformational role in turning

ernment interventions in

(The author is BJP TS spokesperson.)

He said that in the past it

Ensure just prices for palm oil farmers: Tummala to Shivraj Set up Regional Coconut Development Board in

Bhadradri Kothagudem District: Tummala

PNS HYDERABAD

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageshwara Rao appealed to Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to ensure that all palm oil farmers got the right price.

He appealed to the Union Minister to set up a Regional Coconut Development Board in the Bhadradri Kothagudem district of Telangana.

He also appealed to the Centre to set up the Centre of Excellence for Tribal Welfare Organic Farming in Ashwaraopet.

Tummala requested the Union Minister to provide Rs 15,000 as the minimum support price for a tonne of palm oil bunches in 2024-25.

In the presence of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Tummala explained the above not getting even the minithree matters to Union mum support price.



tonne in 2024-25. Similarly, the Centre was also requested to Agriculture Minister Shivaraj set up a regional centre for Singh Chouhan who came as coconut plantations in the Central representative to Telangana examine the damage caused by He also requested the Union

heavy rains last week. Government to set up the Tummala said the Centre Centre of Excellence for Tribal Welfare Organic Farming (tribal and non-tribal training) should ensure that farmers who cultivated palm oil got the right price and that farmers in Ashwaraopet. who are cultivating palm oil are facing problems as they are

Responding positively, the Union Minister promised to take action regarding the above three requests.

Telangana govt constitutes AGTPC PNS HYDERABAD

HARISH TO FARMERS **'Don't end lives, fight for** farm loan waiver unitedly'

girl child. It raises girls'

PNS HYDERABAD

BRS MLA Harish Rao urged the farmers of Telangana not to commit suicide due to the delay in farm loan waivers and called for unity in their fight for justice.

Harish's remarks came after he paid his respects to Surender Reddy, a farmer from Medchal, who allegedly committed suicide due to nonimplementation of the

farm loan waiver scheme. Expressing deep sorrow over the incident, Harish said, "It was heartbreaking to see a farmer, the one who cultivates our crops, lying lifeless in the mortuary of Gandhi Hospital. Farmers, please do not lose

Job fraud racket

busted; three

fraudsters arrested

hope because of loan waiver delays. Stay strong, as the BRS stands firmly with you."

He assured the farming community that the BRS, under the leadership of KCR, would continue its fight for

loan waiver. "We will not rest until every farmer's loan is waived," he declared.Criticising the state government, Harish directly addressed Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, saying, "Your

false promises and excuses are making farmers lose hope and end their lives. Please act responsibly. Waive farm loans as promised in your party manifesto. The deadline you set has passed nearly a month ago. Open your eyes and fulfil your commitment."

Centre will help flood victims, assures Shivaraj

nion Agriculture Minister Shivaraj Singh Chouhan said that he knew the problems of farmers well as he too is a farmer. He assured that the Centre will stand by all flood victims. Shivaraj conducted an aerial survey along with Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar in the flood-affected areas of Khammam on Friday. Later, he addressed a meeting in Khammam with flood victims.

He said the BRS government diverted Central funds and did not use SDRF funds properly. Due to floods, he said paddy and other crops were damaged a lot and added that he had not seen such a situation at any time in the past. Domestic animals too lost their lives, he said "Helping farmers is nothing but conducting pooja. We came from New Delhi to help farmers. I saw the damage directly from the helicopter. The paddy crop was damaged a lot. Goods kept in houses, cooking utensils, and other things were also damaged. I came here as per the directions of Prime Minister Modi. Farmers should not cry. We are thinking about how to help farmers.

government is providing free electricity to all Vinayaka mandapams this year. Organisers of the festival committees and halls should utilise this opportunity fol-

> guidelines. She also called upon the people to give significance to the Vinayaka Chavithi festi-

val With the blessings of Vigneshwar, the programmes undertaken by the Congress people's government would be successfully completed without any hindrances and that the people would flourish with happiness, she added.

BRS files PIL alleging corruption in Civil Supplies Corpn

PNS HYDERABAD BRS leader Peddi Sudarshan

nds, resulting in charging H

Supplies Corporation allowed paying only Rs 2007 per quin-private agencies to extract tal to the government while tion of the law in which tender 30 through priterms

As per Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's orders, the Minister announced that the lowing the government

PNS HYDERABAD

The sleuths of Special Operation Team, LB Nagar Zone, along with Pocharam IT Corridor police, busted a fake job racket and arrested three fraudsters here on Friday.

The accused has been arrested earlier in similar cases for duping job seekers by promising to offer positions in various government and public sectors, including the FCI, SBI Bank, court outsourcing, AG's Office, Post Office, Railways, Income Tax Inspector, GST Office, Revenue Department, Electricity Department and software jobs.

TODAY ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:	Sukla Paksha
Tithi: Chaturthi:	Sep 06 03:01 PN
	to Sep 07 05:37 PN
Panchami:	Sep 07 05:37 PN
	to Sep 08 07:58 PN
Nakshatram:	
Chitra:	Sep 06 09:25 AN
	to Sep 07 12:34 PN
Swati:	Sep 07 12:34 PN
	to Sep 08 03:30 PN
Rahukalam:	9:10 AM to 10:42 AM
Yamagandam:	1:45 PM to 3:17 PM
Varjyam:	06:51 PM to 08:39 PM
Gulika:	6:06 AM to 7:38 AM
Amritakalam:	None
Abhijit Muhurtham:	11:49 AM to 12:38 PN

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Scattered Showers **Temp:** 27° Humidity: 85% Sunrise: 6:03 AM Sunset: 6:25 PM

Updated: September 6, 2024 5:00 PM

Reddy filed a Public Interest losses for the treasury. The Litigation (PIL) in the High petition, number 34/24, was Court, accusing the Congress Government of engineering Telangana Civil Supplies Corporation. The PIL said the Civil

taken up by the Chief Justice's ments. Bench, which issued notices to large-scale irregularities in the all the parties involved, directing them to file counter affidavits within four weeks. Peddi said that bidders were

29 TG districts declared

flood-affected, says CS

flood-affected.

Earlier, four dis-

tricts had been

declared as flood-

affected and funds

were released to

the respective Collectors for relief

and rehabilitation

programmes. Now,

Rs 3 crore each has been allo-

cated to the Collectors of the

remaining 25 districts.

vate bank accounts, violating the terms of tender agree-

The scandal reportedly involves over 38 lakh tonnes of grain with an estimated loss of Rs 1,100 crore to the government."This is not just a case of

on Thursday night and asked

them to submit detailed

reports regarding the damage caused by floods by Monday

Special Chief Secretaries

Ramakrishna Rao, Arvind Kumar and Vikas Raj and key

secretaries attended the tele-

CS Shanti Kumari said the

29 districts were declared

flood-affected based on rain-

fall recorded between August

31 and September 3.

consumers.

afternoon

conference.

Government officials extended the bidding period twice facilitating corruption," Peddi said. The BRS leader submitted concrete evidence of the addi-

tional charges levied by private bidders without any grain being taken from mills.

Vinesh Phogat resigns from **Indian Railways**

PNS NEW DELHI

Former India wrestler Vinesh Phogat on Friday resigned from the Indian Railways citing personal reasons amid speculation that she would be joining the Congress party. "Serving Indian Railways

has been a memorable and proud time of my life," she posted on X with a picture of her resignation letter. She was employed as an Officer on Special Duty (OSD) with Northern Railways.

potential: Sridhar Babu sound. Our goal is to democ-

Al a double-edged

sword with great

PNS HYDERABAD

Duddila Sridhar Babu, Minister of Information Technology, Electronics, key strategies to advance Communications, Industries Telangana towards 1 trillion & Legislative Affairs,

emphasized the State's goal of becoming a global AI leader, focusing on responsibility and ethical standards, on the second day of the Global AI Summit 2024,

Expansion of AI innovation He said that AI is a doubleedged sword with great potencentres to tier-2 and tier-3 tial and challenges. "In cities will ensure that AI ben-Telangana, we aim for an AIefits reach all corners of driven future that is trustwor-Telangana and bridge the thy, transparent and ethically urban-rural divide.

Himachal: Tourist killed, 3 hurt as vehicle hit by shooting stones

PNS SHIMLA

A tourist from Madhya Pradesh was killed while three others were injured as the vehicle they were travelling in was hit by shooting stones in Himachal's Bilaspur district, police said on Friday.

The deceased was identified as Kalyan Dhakad (35), son of Banwari Lal Dhakad while the injured included Mahesh Dhakad, Suniel Dhakad and Sudeep Jadaun, all four were residents of Chorpura in Morena district in Madhya Pradesh, police said. The accident occurred on Thursday night near Tunnel no. 2 Kiratpur-Ner Chowk in Thapna village in Bilaspur when the vehicle was on its way to Chandigarh from Manalim, they said.

The Telangana Government constituted an Academic Guidance, Training and Placement Cell (AGTPC) along with job allocation for each wing in the office of the ratise AI so that its benefits are shared across all sectors." Director of Intermediate Sridhar Babu outlined three

dollar economy goal:

Centres of Excellence:

New centres will

focus on cybersecuri-

ty, semiconductors, and finance to drive

innovation in these

sectors. AI for

Grassroots:

Education (DIE) on Friday. In regards to academic guidance, the officials have to prepare academic calendar, annual academic audit, maintaining college-wise database of staff, courses, students, monitoring of introduction of new courses, combinations, curriculum and content preparation student projects, planning, scheduling and organising at college level, district level and State level, to plan or organize the field visits/tours/science exhibition and to identify students with creative talent.

Akunuri Murali appointed Chairperson of Edn panel, Niranjan for BC Commission

PNS HYDERABAD

Retired IAS officer Akunuri Murali has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Education Telangana Commission. His appointment, announced by the government on September 6, 2024, will be for a period of two years.Murali is expected to spearhead significant reforms in higher education, aiming to improve governance, strengthen academic frameworks, and modernise the state's educational system. Alongside this, the Telangana government also appointed M Kodanda Reddy as the Chairman of the Telangana

Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Commission. Reddy, known for his advocacy of farmer welfare, will lead the commission for two years, focusing on improving agricultural policies and enhancing support for farmers.

Additionally, the Telangana Commission for Backward Classes saw the appointment of Niranjan as Chairman, with Kapolu Jayaprakash, Tirumalagiri Surendar, and Balalakshmi as members. This Commission will oversee local body reservations for backward classes and conduct crucial enumeration exercises to ensure adequate representation.

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text of the heavy rains and floods across the state.

Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari said that 29 dis-

The Chief Secretary held a teleconference with Collectors tricts have been declared



4884 or 7680901912.

Additionally, complaints can

be submitted through

WhatsApp. Faruqui

mentioned that

special arrange-



Chairman and Managing Director of the Southern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited (TGSPD-CL), Musharraf Faruqui, has urged

consumers to report any instances of staff or officers demanding bribes. Consumers can file complaints by calling 040-2345

ments have been set up in his office to handle complaints related to corruption within the company. He emphasised the

and billing corrections commitment of TGSPDCL to providing high-quality, corthrough the company's webruption-free services to its site and mobile app.

However, he acknowlligence or any actions causedged that some employees ing inconvenience to conhave been involved in corrupt practices, tarnishing the company's reputation. The CMD assured that complaints will

high standard of service. be addressed promptly and irregularities will be moniupcoming Ganesh Chaturthi tored closely. Consumers can festivities, which will comalso access services such as mence on Saturday and connew service connections, cattinue for 11 days, Faruqui egory changes, title transfers, held a review meeting to discuss the continuous power supply and safety measures for Ganesh pandals.

He further stated that neg-

sumers will not be tolerated, reaffirming the company's dedication to maintaining a Meanwhile, ahead of the



Events

Gaurang's Kitchen Gaurang's maize and beans is unveiling a new pop up at Gaurang's Kitchen - A classy extension with coffee specialties and an interesting food menu

Venue

Plot 1147, Road No 59, Jubilee Hills, Monday 9th September between 3-5 pm

Landmark Circular **Economy Initiative**

Re Sustainability Limited and Sharrp Ventures Capital Private Limited launch partner-ship of circular economy initiative Harsh Mariwala, Founder and Chairman, Marico Ltd., Director, Sharrp Ventures Capital Pvt. Ltd & Masood Mallick, Chief Executive

Venue

Synergy, Taj Deccan Tuesday, 10th September,

Pause and reflect

Featuring fascinating world of art curated by Annapurna Madipadiga. Featured artists: Dhruv Patel, Dushyant Patel, C Raghu and Mukhtar Ahmed Sardar.

Venue

State Art Gallery Hyderabad September 1 to 8.

National Lok Adalat to be held in TG on Sept 28

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana State Legal Service Authority (TSLA)on Friday announced that the third National Lok Adalat would be conducted on September 9.

On Sunday, TSLA member secretary Ch Panchakshari held a media conference at the High Court and said that people should utilise the Lok Adalat and settle their civil and compoundable criminal disputes.

He said that settlement of a case in Lok Adalat will put an end to litigation and there will not be any further litigation against such set-tlement, thereby it saves money and time.

GHMC arranges 73

City Pioneer

Officer, Re Sustainability Limited, to speak

Time: 2pm onwards

PNS HYDERABAD

the language gap between technology and lawyers, especially in communities with

With 44 million cases pending and over 99 per cent of citizens unable to afford a lawyer, it takes 4 to 5 years to resolve a case. Hemachandran said that technology is essential to overcoming these challenges because the current physical human infrastructure cannot

application across businesses. He also stresses the need for regulatory sandboxes and phased implementation of AI to manage risks and ensure effective use.

Vice-Chancellor of NALSAR, Srikrishna Deva Rao warned that while AI can do good, its implementation in the legal system could raise serious human rights issues, especially with the use of algorithms. Many judges and legal professionals are unaware of these risks.

He advised for technical and value assessments, pilot testing and regulatory sandboxes to ensure that AI in the legal system aligns with Indian constitutional values and does

Fall detection band with 96.1% accuracy displayed

PNS HYDERABAD

Addressing the panel discussion Aand keynote address of 'AI is Child's Play' on Friday, 13-year-old entrepreneur Siddhart Nandvala. Founder and CEO of STEM IT, shared his journey. Siddhart said he has been passionate about coding and engineering since he was seven. noticed gaps in technology and proficiency in these fields. He said the gap in the technology inspired him to start his own venture aimed at equipping future students with skills in coding, engineering and AI. Siddhart said his personal experiences, such as witnessing his grandfather fall and seeing a young boy without an arm, motivated him to explore Al's potential. He stressed that AI can solve many real-world



2024 on Friday

devices like the Apple Watch. He also mentioned that he is working on a machine-learning algorithm for diagnosing diabetic blindness and a prosthetic arm controlled by brain problems and create a global impact. signals.

13-Year-Old CEO Siddhart Nandyala

(right), speaking at the Global AI Summit

Al-tech is neutral, amplifying human intent: Sal Khan

Emphasising that all technology throughout human history is Khan Academy, reaching millions of learners worldwide. Though initially neither positive nor negative but skeptical about ChatGPT, Sal Khan neutral, amplifying human intent, Sal Khan, Founder and CEO of Khan recognised that AI could significantly enhance tutoring if its Academy, stated that good actors risks were managed. This led to the creation of Khanmigo, an Al tutor investing in education and productivity will make AI a net and teaching assistant that helps students learn and support teachers positive for society. Sal Khan gave the keynote on "Social Good: with reports. Khan stressed the importance of Humanising AI in Education, using AI for positive purposes, particularly in education, healthcare and productivity. He also highlighted the need for skill development and digital literacy. He announced that Khan Academy is working on AI education courses and plans to pilot Khanmigo in tutored his cousins in math. This India soon, partnering with the small effort eventually grew into Ministry of Education

Scan QR code and enrol as voter: CEO

PNS HYDERABAD

Intensifying efforts to increase voter enrollment to make it citizen-friendly, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Telangana, C Sudharshan Reddy, called upon all residents to use digital services to easily enroll as voters. By scanning a QR code, anyone can quickly and easily sign up as a voter. The CEO said, It is an easy, quick, and hassle-free method to enroll as a voter. He advised residents to use the Voter Helpline App and the website https://voters.eci.gov.in, which allow people to access voter services from their mobile phones

Al-sensored farmers' assistant on wheels showcased

PNS HYDERABAD

Making farming methods simpler and easier to handle, Xmachine, an AI-sensored farmers' assistant on wheels, was displayed at the AI Global Summit 2024 Exhibition Stall on Thursday. When asked about the machine, Trivikram Kumar, Founder and CEO of Xmachines Robotics AI company in Hyderabad, explained that they started as a small company at the ICRISAT facility and were funded by IIT Hyderabad and others.

Trivikram said the company was founded to address the technology gap in Indian agriculture. After inter-acting with local farmers, they identified issues like labour shortages, chemical usage, and soil degradation. This led to the development of the Xmachine, a fully electric micro tractor that can perform various agricultural tasks, from sowing to harvesting, with different attachments, making farming activities easier.

Meanwhile, Vikram from the sales-team added that the Xmachine can handle tasks with different sizes available, from Medium 40 cm to Large 53 cm, along with different attachments of grass and weed-cutter, sprayer till 12 feet, and harvest plucker. He said that the Xmachine comes in joystick-con-

trolled, mobile app-controlled and fully autonomous variants. It can carry a person weighing up to 90 kg upon it, while in autonomous mode and has a lifespan of 7 years, with 8 to 9 hours of battery life per day and a 3-year warranty. Vikarm explained Price range starts from Rs.1.75 lakhs, depending on customization and attachments.





He also mentioned the need xplaining the use of AI in the context of law in a panel discussion on the second day of the Global AI Summit 2024 on Friday, Senior Curator at Agami and Lead at OpenNyAI, Varun Hemachandran said that AI Voice is a crucial tool to bridge as a guide to understanding

literacy challenges.

Trivedi, discussed the development of large language models for the Indian judiciary. He said, his company works closely with several high courts, including the Supreme Court, to test AI systems. Trivedi emphasised the importance of

to bring together innovators to address these issues, especially in areas where courts cannot reach. Many people can speak Hindi but cannot read Meanwhile, it, making AI Voice a valuable tool for accessibility. He added that the legal process is difficult to navigate, and AI serves

GLOBAL AI SUMMIT 2024

AI Voice helps solve

complicated legal issues

Experts speak on AI in the context of law in a panel discussion at the Global AI Summit 2024 on Friday

scaling AI awareness and

Distressed women knock

Prajavani doors to own houses

meet the demand.

laws and the complex system. CEO of ManCorp Innovation Labs, Manthan

not violate fundamental rights.

coming from Andhra Pradesh. Karnataka and other neighbouring states are getting houses

under this scheme. People who are salaried are also getting these

"Women in Old Hafeezpet are

working as daily wagers, tailors and some of them are house-

1011565

connecting virtually from abroad. He also addressed questions from Jayesh Ranjan and students on the second day of the Global Al Summit on Friday. He explained that Khan Academy's mission is to provide free, world-class education, a journey that began when Sal

the pioneer Hyderabad | SATURDAY | SEPTEMBER 7, 2024

ponds for Ganesh immersion

PNS HYDERABAD

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has prepared a total of 73 ponds for Ganesh immersion in the city. Out of the 73 ponds, 27 are baby ponds, 24 are portable ponds and 22 are escalator ponds. Apart from the big idols, small idols of 2 feet to 5 feet can be immersed in them.

The GHMC has distributed 3.10 lakh clay Ganesh idols to the public for the eco-friendly worship. The Corporation made arrangements for Ganesh Shobhayatra by removing tree branches in the routes where the immersion procession is taken out.

G Chinna Reddy, Vice-Chairman, Planning Board, Government of Telangana, receiving grievances from people at Prajavani Programme on Friday

B SRINIVAS REDDY srinivasred84@gmail.com HYDERABAD

Around 10 to 15 women from old Hafeezpet came to Prajavani programme in Praja Bhavan to enquire about 2-BHK houses, for which they applied in Indiramma Indlu scheme.

have been coming to Praja Bhavan in Begaumpet to verify their status in the scheme, but still they have not got any call from the officials and not even a single official came to their house to verify their eligibility till now.

GANESH CHATURTHI CELEBRATIONS

was conducted at the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Praja Bhavan on Friday. Distressed women came

here to verify their status of their applications.

We have applied for the house under Indiramma Indlu, but after seven years not even a single official came to our house to verify our eligibility. Here officials For many years, these women say that we will get a call from the concerned officials, but we are

not getting the calls also", said Old Hafeezpet resident Mahabooba Begaum. Another old Hafeezpet resi-dent Swapna, said "Eligible peo-

ple are not getting homes from The Prajavani programme the government, yet, people

wives, staying in single BHK by paying Rs 10 to 12,000 per month and it's very difficult for them to survive in a rented house. So, they are knocking the doors of Prajavani having a dream of their own house. "Staying in a rented house by paying more money, it's been difficult for us. So, please provide us our own house under the scheme", said another resident Vimala bai. On Friday, Prajavani programme received 570 applications, 268 were pertaining to SC Welfare department, 77 were pertaining to Minority Welfare, 57 were pertaining to revenue department, 47 were of Panchayat Raj and Rural

Development, 28 were pertaining to Electricity board and 93 were filed in connection with other departments.

Ganesha's blessings

Maha people promote eco-friendly practices

RASHMI BHUMIREDDY bhumireddyrashmi@gmail.com HYDERABAD

Ganesh Chauthri is one of the most important festivals for Maharasĥtrian communities in Hyderabad where they celebrate it in grandeur by welcoming Ganapathi Bappa accompanied by traditional dhol tasha. Apart from their enthusiasm and grandeur of celebrating this festival, the community strongly promotes eco-friendly practices , Ganesh Visarjan will be done in artificial ponds or tubs.

There are approximately 80,000 Marathi families in Hyderabad/Secunderabad and a majority is concentrated in Shalibanda, Karwan, Gowliguda, Sultan Bazar, Kachiguda, Barkatpura, Meerpet, HYTEC City, Manikonda, Gachibowli, Miyapur, Kompally, ECIL and Uppal. Preserving their age-old

Nine-year-old boy makes creative seed modak Ganesh

With a mission to increase green cover, nine-year-old Ganesh's blessings. Speaking to Pionee boy Aariv K Rao from eedimetla village has launched a Correspondent, Aariv said unique initiative - seed modak Ganesh. Here, apart from Ganesh idol, the seed modak is made out of Ganga mitti and coco peat that can be offered to Lord Ganesh. Later, these seeds will be sprouted into cheerful plants. However, these modaks are not edible. When the festival curtains come down, these small dumplings(modak) can be sown in the pot. Gently, they will don't get this kind of soil over plossom into orange and yellow here. So, I have brought it from marigold plants, turning your one of the Bengali artisans

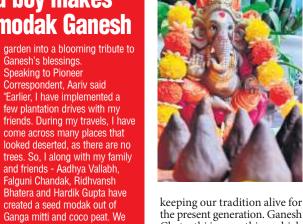
traditions, the community continues to extend a warm welcome to Ganesh idols at the pandals.

from our land, we have built Anand Kulkarni, president our home in Hyderabad itself,

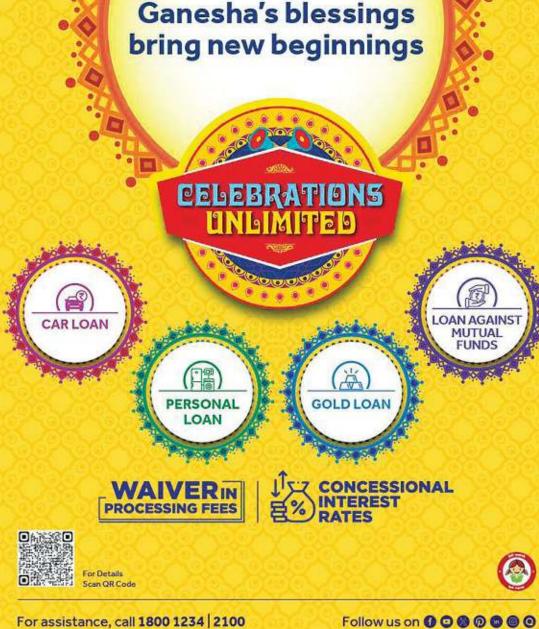
of Maharashtra Mandal, one of

the oldest Marathi associa-

tions in Ramkoti, said, "Away



the present generation. Ganesh Chaturthi is something which we all Marathis adore. So, for the past 74 years we have been celebrating Ganesh puja in the same way as it is celebrated in Maharashtra. Like every year, our idol will be eco-friendly and we will welcome Bappa with dhol tasha and lezim



lelangana the pioneer Hyderabad | SATURDAY | SEPTEMBER 7, 2024

Violence-hit Jainoor still tense

Curfew may continue for some more day in the village

PNS ASIFABAD

When rival groups clashed and resorted to vandalism in Jainoor in the district on Wednesday, the police were accused of remaining a mute spectator. Following the visit of Additional Director General of Police M Mahesh Bhagwat, Asifabad Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) P Sadaiah was shunted out to Kagaznagar.

It may be recalled that Bhagwat reportedly reprimanded District Superintendent of Police DV Srinivas Rao and Sadaiah for failing to rein in the violent mob.

The Multi-zone-1 Inspector General of Police Chandrasekhar Reddy on Friday issued orders transferring Sadaiah and appointing Kagaznagar DSP Karunakar as DSP Asifabad. Over 120 shops were damaged and 18 vehicles were set on fire, according to separate reports sent to the government by the Law-and-Order Additional DGP Mahesh Bhagawat and Collector Venkatesh Dhotre.

The total loss to the property was put at Rs 20 crore. The protestors on Wednesday set fire to a car parked on the road along with a threewheeler of the accused who allegedly attempted sexual assault on a woman. At that time District Superintendent of

Police Srinivasa Rao was present in the town, it was learnt. The police, instead of taking strong action, allegedly remained a mute spectator leading to the escalation of tension and the situation slipping out of hand, the report purported to have said.

Shops of traders belonging to a group were damaged and the goods inside the shop were set ablaze on the streets. Another violent mob even opened the closed shops and set them on fire. The police apparently remained a mute spectator and did nothing to bring the situation under control.

In Jainoor, 120 shops were destroyed causing a total loss of property worth Rs 38.52 crore. But the reports by higher authorities reportedly put the loss at Rs 20 crore.

In all, 18 vehicles were damaged in the incident. While the shops did not have any insurance, the vehicles are covered under the insurance, it is learnt. On Friday, the Rapid Action Force police personnel made a mild lathi-charge on a section of the people at places of worship as they defied curfew and came



Rapid Action Force personnel deployed in Jainoor in Asifabad district on Friday

Tension as students scuffle with security personnel at RGUKT

PNS NIRMAL

A tense situation prevailed on Friday at Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge and Technologies (RGUKT)-Basar as students staged a protest on the campus demanding the removal of in-charge Vice-Chancellor. Tension escalated after scuffles broke out between agitating students and the security personnel on

the campus. 'he students sit-in outside the Vice-Chancellor's chambers. The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad(ABVP) backed the agitation by the students and joined the protest. A few ABVP students suffered injuries in scuffles with the security personnel on the campus. The agitating students expressed unhappiness over the university authorities complicating the situation by setting the security personnel on the agitating students. When the students have been protesting peacefully, why the authorities should adopt intimidatory tactics, the students asked.



Jainoor incident an unfortunate one: CLP

PNS HYDERABAD

Congress Legislature Party (CLP) described the Jainoor incident as an unfortunate one. On Friday, the Government Whips—Adluri Laxman, Aadi Srinivas and MLAs—Gandra Sathyanarayana and Nagaraju have stated that the government responded to the Jainoor incident immediately. The Women Welfare Minister Seethakka consoled the victim and infused confidence in her.

atrocities took place against Dalits, tribal and women during the BRS regime. However, former Minister T Harish Rao has been criticizing the government though atrocities were committed on women when the BRS was in power. The previous BRS government did not take a serious view of a minor girl's rape in a moving car in Hyderabad. The BRS government made police beat a Dalit youth in KTR's constituency. The police were under the thumb of a few BRS leaders then.

Gandra Sathyanarayana alleged that KTR and Harish Rao's attitude is like devils reciting scriptures. He alleged that the previous BRS government gave postings only to the police who gave money. KCR weakened the education system and failed to provide minimum facilities. Aadi Srinivas alleged that Harish Rao

800

Government Whips Adluri Laxman, and Aadi Srinivas, MLAs Gandra Sathyanarayana and Adluri Laxman alleged that several Nagaraju speaking to the media in Hyderabad

> and Sabitha Indra Reddy were maligning the law police and damaging the brand image of Hyderabad. It is not proper to destroy the interests of Telangana for the sake of political gains. Atrocities against women took place in the BRS regime due to the availability of Ganja and drugs indiscriminately.

Nagaraju said that Disha-like incidents took place during the BRS regime and several incidents took place in Adilabad, Nirmal and Bainsa. It is shameful on the part of Harish Rao to speak in this manner forgetting the fact that the previous BRS government destroyed the police system while carrying out of tapping of phones of one sec-tion, he alleged, saying that the government arrested the culprit and the case is being probed through fast track court.

Officials told to provide amenities in SW residential schools

PNS PEDDAPALLI

Collector Koya Sree Harshha on Friday said that the district administration is committed to providing all basic amenities to students of social welfare residential schools and asked the district officials to prepare reports within 20 days on the basic amenities to be provided in these schools.

Addressing the social welfare residential school principals and panchayat raj engineering officials at the District Collectorate here, he asked avat rai officia

Later on the District Collectorate complex premises, Additional Collectors Shyam Prasadlal and Arunasi distributed eco-friendly Ganesh idols - made by the pollution control board office at Ramagundam to devotees.

Additional Collector Shyam Prasadlal has asked the people to worship only those Ganesh idols made of clay without using any chemicals and cooperate with the authorities in preventing environmental pollution.

The Telangana State Pollution ontrol Board Executive Engineer



Nalgonda District Collector C Narayana Reddy flagging Integrated HIV Testing Vehicle in Nalgonda on Friday

HIV prevention steps should be intensified: Collector

PNS NALGONDA

District Collector C Narayana Reddy said that the Medical Health Department should strive to reduce the number of HIV cases. He said the focus should be on areas where the number of

cases is high. On Friday, he flagged off the "Mobile Integrated HIV Testing Vehicle" allotted to the district by the Telangana State AIDS Control Organisation for awareness and treatment of HIV-infected persons.

The Collector said that the vehicle would be useful in identifying HIV cases and providing treatment to infected persons in rural areas and in inaccessible areas. It is also a good opportunity for rural areas to spraed awareness and counselling the people, he said, adding that through this vehicle, along with awareness on AIDS, treatment, as well as counseling, blood tests, etc. will be conducted.

Nalgonda district is one of the 10 districts in the State where the mobile integrated HIV/AIDS testing vehicle has been allocat-ed. Keeping this in mind, he called upon the medical and health officials and staff to work hard to reduce the number of HIV-AIDS positive cases. District Medical and Health

Officer Putla Srinivas, Deputy Medical and Health Officers Venugopal Reddy, Dr. Arundathi, District AIDS Control Officer Dr. Kalyana Chakravarthy, District AIDS Project Manager Sudhakar, Supervisor Sampathiah and others participated in the programme

Manjira wets feet of Goddess Vana Durga in Medak

PNS MEDAK DISTRICT

A large crowd of devotees witnessed the spectacle of Manjira River touching the feet of Goddess Vana Durga temple at Edupayala in Medak district. On account of floods triggered by

heavy rains in Telangana, several lowlying areas have been inundated. The Irrigation Department officials have lifted two gates of Singuru project to discharge the flood water.

The Goddess Vana Durga temple has been flooded for the past one week. The River Manjira is in spate and flowing menacingly near the temple. The flood water has entered the temple. For the past six days, the temple priest is conducting the rituals to the processional deity of the Goddess placed at the Raja Gopuram of the temple.

The temple EO Durga Rao said that rainfall.

the devotees would be allowed inside the temple only after the floods recede. The district officials have been warning fishermen not to venture into Manjira River as the flood level is very high. The officials have also erected barricades to prevent people going near the river.

The inclow into Singuru project is put at 28,181 cusecs, while the outflow was 15,114 cusecs. The FRL of the project is 29.91 tmcs. The water stored in the project is measured as 28.939 tmc. The hydel power station of the project is producing power.

Meanwhile, there is no let up in rain situation in Sangareddy and Medak districts. Sangareddy recorded 4.3 cm of rainfall, while Kandi recorded 4.1 cm, Kondapur recorded 3.4 cm and Kankol recorded 3.1 cm. Chilipiched in Medak district records 2.4 cm

SP warns Maoists

also staged a Students staging a sit-in on the RGUK1 campus in Basar un Friday

> The students accused the Vice-Chancellor of colluding with the mess contractors and providing poor quality food to students. They demanded that the government immediately intervene and set the affairs right in the university.

It may be recalled that the university has been rocked by a series of student suicides. Is it academic pressure or parental pressure responsible for the rise in student suicides in the university?

PNS MEDAK

The RGUKT is located in pristine rural surroundings in the holy temple town of Basar. ibility. It is now up to the gov-

Basara temple is one of the two oldest Saraswati temples in India. A large number of pilgrims go to Basra to perform "Akshara Abhyasam" (a traditional ceremony to introduce children to the world of education by worshipping

Goddess Saraswati). The RGUKT, when it was established, was considered to be a temple of learning. The RGUKT is a IIIT and it is considered a boon for meritorious students who come from poor families. But, the series of student suicides dented its cred-

social welfare residential schools and gather information about the basic amenities needed in each of these schools.

Bikshapathy, assistant engineer Veeresh and officials and employees of various government departments took part in the event



Peddapalli Collector Koya Sree Harsha holding a review meeting in Peddapalli on Friday

Soaring prices of flowers, fruits dampen festive spirit

PNS RANGAREDDY

As Vinayaka Chavithi approaches, the Rangareddy district is witnessing a surge in activity as devotees prepare for the much-anticipated festival. With the festivities centered on the worship of Lord Vinayaka, there is a heightened demand for puja materials, particularly flowers for mandapam decoration. However, the rising prices in the market have left many unsure of what to purchase.

Flower prices, in particular, have seen a sharp increase. The price of white Chrysanthemum has risen dramatically, from Rs 200 to Rs 350 a kilogram, while turmeric has spiked from Rs 150 to Rs 400 per kilogram. Similarly, the price of flower has tripled, now selling for Rs 300 a kilogram compared to its pre-vious rate of Rs 100. Roses are being sold at Rs 200 a kilogram, contributing to the strain on devotees' wallets as they prepare for the festival.

BJP Lok Sabha member from Medak M Raghunandan Rao has called upon the officials at a coordination and monitoring meeting (DISHA) related to development of the district to ensure that all government schemes reach beneficiaries on time. He asked the officials to help make Medak Lok Sabha constituency No.1 in the country.

He chaired the meeting held at Collectorate conference hall here on Friday.

The MP obtained comprehensive information about the development of the district from Collector Rahul Raj, Additional Collector Venkateswarlu, Medak Municipal Chairman

Chandrapaul, DRDO SrinivasaMedak Lok Sabha member M Raghunandan Rao speaking at a meeting in Rao, officials of education, med-Medak on Friday

Water Supply, Panchayat raj, Civil Supplies, housing, district rural development and others.

Addressing the participants, Raghunandan Rao asked the officials to sensitise the people on the State and Central government schemes and also ensure that they reach the beneficiaries.

Under the MGNREGS, the officials should take steps to

Fruits of welfare must reach beneficiaries: MP

ical and health, irrigation, Rural

build offices for village panchayats.

On 2 BHK houses, the MP wanted the officials to review the progress and give pattas to the eligible. The 2 BHK houses ready for occupation should be allotted to the true beneficiaries, he said.

On Rajiv Aarogyasri implementation, the MP wanted the

officials to take steps to ensure that the beneficiaries do not face any problem. He suggested inspection of diagnostic centres and government hospitals by officials.

Stringent measures should be initiated to prevent dengue and other seasonal diseases, he said. A buffer stock of medicines must be maintained by the government hospital, he said.

On the conduct of Sadaram hospitals, the government should spread information to the people without fail. Further, he asked them to set up sadaram camps for physically challenged and issue disability certificates to them and sanction prosthetics to them.

He said that he would strive to get a medical college sanctioned to Medak district by submitting a report to the government through the District Collector. Of the four medical colleges which were put on hold, Meďak Medical College is one of them, he said.

The MP said that he would appeal to the Center to sanction the medical college as there is good infrastructure and buildings. The DMHO Dr Sri Ram

explained to the MP that there are 118 health sub-centres in the district. Work on 39 health subcenters is yet to be grounded. The rest of them are under process.

Collector Rahul Raj said that the issues referred by the MP would be resolved within the stipulated period by holding meetings with concerned government departments.

impeding welfare activities

PNS BHADRADRI KOTHAGUDEM

District Superintendent of Police Rohit Raju has blamed the Maoist central and state committee leaders for the death of six armed Maoists in an exchange of fire between the police and ultras. The encounter took place on Thursday under the limits of Karakagudam police station.

statement In a released on Friday, the SP said that the top leaders of the Maoist organisation took shelter at a safe place in Chhattisgarh and using the cadres to create unrest in Telangana State.

People living in border areas have been deriving benefits under State and Central government schemes and leading a peaceful life, he said, accusing the Maoist Party of resorting to extortion of money from people. The Maoist Party

leadership has been provoking the lower rung cadre against the police and giving them arms to kill the police, he said, calling the ideology of the Maoists as outdated.

way of implementing government society, the SP said.

schemes and reaching them to Adivasi people, he said, calling upon the Maoists as anti-development forces. The Maoists have been depriving Adivasis of education, medical and health and transport amenities.

The police department will take the responsibility of suitably rehabilitating the surrendered Maoists by extending benefits under various schemes, he said

He appealed to the Maoists to give up the ideology rejected by the people and join the mainstream society and lead a peaceful life.

The government announced a reward of Rs 25 lakh on the head of the central committee member, Rs 20 lakh on the head of state committee member and Rs 8 lakh on district committee member and Rs 4 lakh on the head of area committee mem-

ber for rehabilitation.

The moment they surrendered to the police, the amount would be given to them immediately and provide suitable employment opportunities to them The Maoists have been coming in the and help them lead a dignified life in

VVC trust supplies 5,000 food packets in flood-hit areas

Rohit Raj

PNS KHAMMAM

The chairman of the VVC Trust Vankayalapati Venkata Rajendera Prasad on Friday toured the flood-hit areas in rural mandal and sanctioned Rs 20 lakh for implementing relief measures like providing clothes, essential commodities and drinking water among the affected persons. For the past four days, the VVC Trust members have been distributing food and water free of cost among the flood-hit. The trust chairman said that 5,000 food

packets and six drinking water tankers provided food and water to the flood hit in Motinagar, Dhamsalapuram, Bokkalagadda, Saradhi Nagar, Naya Bazar and KalvaVoddu regions. The Trust bulldozer cleared the mud on the road making the road fit for commuting, he said.

The trust would help over 1,000 families by providing them clothes, essential commodities, drinking water and so on, he said appealing to the people to be alert as there is a chance of spread of epidemic diseases.



Nation 05

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ACROSS THE STATES

Former BJD Rajya Sabha MP **Sujeet Kumar joins BJP**

ormer BJD Rajya Sabha MP Sujeet Kumar joined the BJP in the presence of senior party leaders on Friday. The move came after the BJD expelled Kumar for anti-party activities earlier in the day. He subsequently resigned his Rajya Sabha membership. Kumar joined the BJP in the presence of Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan, BJP national general secretary Arun Singh, the party's Odisha in-charge Vijaypal Singh Tomar, MP Bhartruhari Mahtab and other leaders. The BJP's chief spokesperson Anil Baluni, a Raiva Sabha member, was also present. Addressing a joint press conference at the BJP headquarters in Delhi, Kumar said he joined the saffron party as he was impressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's work and his vision for making India a developed country by 2047 and Odisha a developed state by 2036.

"For me, country is first and foremost. Nation first has always been my philosophy. I lived abroad for many years and worked for organisations such as the UN (United Nations) and the World Economic Forum. I returned to India in 2011 to contribute to the development of my country," he said.



INDIA bloc unity can write new history

PNS LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilésh Yadav on Friday said the "unity of INDI Alliance is capable of writing a new history in the Haryana elections", asserting that this is the time to rise above oneself to defeat the "crooked and selfish politics" of the BJP.

Yadav also said his party will support whichever INDIA Alliance member can best defeat the BJP's "negative, communal, and divisive politics" in Haryana. His statement comes amid the seat-sharing talks between the Congress and AAP for the Haryana Assembly polls with hard bargaining from both sides.

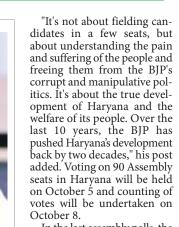
In a post on X, Yadav said this is not the time for SP or any other party of the INDIA bloc to explore political opportunities, but a time for "sacrifice and selflessness". "On the path of public welfare, there is no place

"Crooked and selfish people can never make their name in history. This moment is a historic opportunity to rise above ourselves to defeat such politics. We are ready, with an open heart, to make every sacrifice for the benefit of Haryana," his post in Hindi read.

for selfishness," he added. "Crooked and selfish people can never make their name in history. This moment is a historic opportunity to rise above ourselves to defeat such politics.

We are ready, with an open Haryana assembly polls, the SP heart, to make every sacrifice supremo wrote on X, "We have for the benefit of Haryana," his said this many times before, and post in Hindi read. we will say it again and contin-Exuding confidence in the vicue to do so in the future: 'It's not

tory of the INDIA bloc in the



In the last assembly polls, the BJP had emerged as the singlelargest party and formed a coalition government in a postpoll alliance with the Jannayak anta Party. However, the BJP-JJP alliance broke earlier this year just before the Lok Sabha polls. In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP and the Congress won five seats each of about the seat; it's about victory'." the 10 seats in Haryana.



People of J&K owners of their land: Faroog Abdullah

PNS SRINAGAR People of Jammu and Kashmir are not slaves of the Centre but the real owners of their land, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Thursday said. "Let me tell you one thing .. we are not their slaves. People of this state are the owners of this place, remember it," Abdullah told reporters at Beerwah in Budgam district. The former chief minister made the remark when he was asked if he expected the Centre to restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir after assembly elections. Abdullah, who accompanied the party candidate from Beerwah segment for filing of nomination papers, said the supporters of the BJP in Kashmir should come to senses as soon as possible

UP land linked to former Pak prez **Musharraf auctioned** for Rs 1.38 crore

PNS BAGHPAT A two-hectare land parcel here falling under enemy property and linked to Pakistan's former president Pervez Musharraf has been auctioned for Rs 1.38 crore, officials said on Friday. The property is located in Kotana village, Baraut tehsil of Baghpat and was declared as enemy property in 2010. The classification of enemy property pertains to assets owned by Pakistani nationals in India which are managed by the Custodian Of Enemy Property, a department under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). Musharraf, a former Pakistan military chief who seized power after a coup in the country in 1999, died in 2023. He was born in Delhi in pre-Partition India. Baraut's Sub-Divisional Magistrate Amar Verma confirmed Musharraf's grandfather lived in Kotana.

SC dismisses PIL for regulating exit polls

he Supreme Court on Friday junked a PIL seeking to regulate exit polls for its alleged impact on election results, saying "let us get on with governance in the country" and close this "saga". Terming the public interest litigation (PIL) as a "political interest litigation", a bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra dismissed the plea filed by B L Jain. "The government is already elected now. Let us now close the saga of what happens during elections and let us now get on with governance in the country," the CJI said. The bench said the poll panel is competent to handle the issue and it cannot run the Election Commission. "This is a political interest litigation...Dismissed," it said. Jain, in his PIL, had made several poll-surveying agencies and news channels as parties.

Punjab farmers end protest after CM Mann's assurance

PNS CHANDIGARH

Farmers protesting against the alleged delay in implementation of Punjab's new agricul-ture policy ended their strike on Friday, a day after Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann assured them that a draft of the policy would be shared with them by September 30.

Mann also assured them that their suggestions would be incorporated before the policy's implementation.

Mann on Thursday held an over two-hour meeting with leaders of the Bharti Kisan Union (Ugrahan) and Punjab Khet Mazdoor Union, which led the protesting farmers, to discuss their demands.

Farmers under the banner of the Bharti Kisan Union (Ugrahan) and the Punjab Khet Mazdoor Union began a five-day protest on Sunday to press for their demands,

Vinesh Phogat

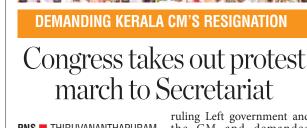


including the agriculture policy's implementation. Speaking to reporters at the protest site, Bharti Kisan Union (Ugrahan) president Joginder Singh Jgrahan said they had urged the state government to make the agriculture policy public. "They (the government) said

it was being finalised ... They said by September 30, they would finalise it and hand over a copy," he said. "We will wait till September

30. After we get a copy of the policy, we will go through it and hold a big meeting and decide the next course of action," he added.

In the interim, "we have decided to end the protest in Chandigarh at 2 pm", Ugrahan said. On Thursday, when asked about the farmers' future course of action following the meeting with Mann, the farmer leader said they would take a call after a meeting.



PNS THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The opposition Congress in Kerala on Friday took out a protest march to the Secretariat here demanding the resignation of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in connection with the allegations by LDF MLA P V Anvar against some top IPS officers in the state.

Hundreds of Congress members, workers and supporters, led by KPCC chief K Sudhakaran, Leader of Opposition in the Assembly V D Satheesan and AICC general secretary, in-charge, Kerala arched to

the secretariat holding up

party flags. As the protestors

reached the secretariat, they

shouted slogans against the

Vijayan's resignation.

Sudhakaran alleged that the state was in dire straits under the Pinarayi Vijayan led-government for the past eight years. He said the law and order situation was poor as 1.3 lakh FIRs were lodged in the last eight years in the state in connection with the sexual assault of women. He also

and brutally beaten leading to

serious injuries to his head,

according to visuals on TV

channels on Thursday.

referred to the lathi-charge of the Youth Congress activists a day ago by the police near the secretariat, saying that they were brutally beaten up for no reason. Youth Congress state president Abin Varkey was surrounded by poli personnel

ruling Left government and the CM and demanded





UP: Legal aid to fellow inmates makes murder convict 'lakhpati'

prison inmate in Uttar Pradesh's Farrukhabad has become a 'lakhpati', courtesy a remuneration of Rs 1.04 Alakh for assisting co-prisoners with legal counsel and letter drafting. Prison officials said Kuldeep Singh has received the remuneration from the Legal Services Authority. Singh, who holds a graduate degree, has been imprisoned in the district jail since November 14, 2017. Convicted in a murder case and serving a life term, he was appointed as a prisoner's assistant by Jail Superintendent Bhimsain Mukund to write petitions. Impressed by his dedication, Singh was later assigned as a para-legal volunteer at the "Legal Aid Clinic" established in the jail on May 19, 2022, by Achal Pratap Singh, the then Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority. Over time, Singh performed his duties with diligence, and recently a payment was transferred to Kuldeep's bank account, amounting to Rs 1.04 lakh, Sanjay Kumar, Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority, said. "Upon receiving the bank statement showing the deposit, Kuldeep was overjoyed. This development has also motivated other inmates to work diligently," Mukund told PTI.

resigns from Indian Railways

PNS NEW DELHI

Former India wrestler Vinesh Phogat on Friday resigned from the Indian Railways citing personal reasons amid speculation that she would be joining the Congress party.

"Serving Indian Railways has been a memorable and proud time of my life," she posted on X with a picture of her resignation letter. She was employed as an Officer on Special Duty (OSD) with

Northern Railways. "At this point in my life, I have decided to separate myself from the railway service and have submitted my resignation to the competent authorities of the Indian Railways," said the wrestler who met Congress leader Rahul Gandhi earlier this week, leading to widespread speculation of her joining the party and contesting the Haryana assembly elections next month. "I will always be grateful to the Indian Railway family for this opportunity given to me by the Railways in the service of the nation," she added.

Telangana had earned a repu-

tation as a safe state, with

recognition from the Union

Home Minister and his secu-

rity advisors. However, under

Congress rule, Hyderabad's

image as a safe city is rapidly

disappearing, he said. He raised concern over the

seizure of 230 illegal weapons

which flooded into Telangana

under the Congress adminis-

tration, a figure that surpass-

es the 200 weapons seized

during KCR's five-year term.

increase in communal inci-

dents, citing the recent riots in Nirmal, Sanath Nagar, Goshamahal and Jainoor as

evidence of the government's

Harish also noted an



Thousands take part in human chain rallies

PNS IMPHAL

Thousands of people across five districts of Imphal Valley on Friday took part in a series of human chain rallies to protest the recent drone and gun attacks in Manipur that resulted in two civilian deaths and 12 injuries.

Participants also expressed dissatisfaction with the gov-ernment's handling of the ongoing conflict in the state. Organised by the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI), the rally saw school and college students in uniform, as well as women

from various localities, lining up along roadsides in Thoubal Bazar, Lilong Chajing in Thoubal district, and Sekmai, Kwakeithel, Singjamei in Imphal West district raising slogans condemning the recent attacks in Koutruk and Senjam

Chirang. Protesters carried placards with messages such as 'Drone bombing is an act of terror-ism,' 'We condemn Manipur government's timidity,' 'Take action against Kuki terrorists,' 'Manipur's territorial and administrative integrity cannot be compromised,' and 'We

BRS condemns 'rising crimes'..

Continued from page 1

Speaking to the media, Harish expressed grave concern over the rising crimes against women under the Congress government led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.

He pointed out that this case was just one of many, reflecting a disturbing trend of increasing violence against women across Telangana after the Congress came to power.

Harish emphasised that the Congress government has failed to maintain law and been registered in the last nine months alone.

pletely failed to protect women and the situation is extremely

concerning," he said. Citing incidents across the state, Harish highlighted a series of attacks, including those in Nagar Kurnool, LB Nagar and Peddapalli.

He also referred to the assault on a police constable in Bhupalpally, emphasising that these are not isolated events but part of the growing problem of insecurity.

Despite Sabita Indra Reddy raising these concerns in the Assembly, the government has order as 1,900 rape cases have not taken any action, Harish said.

He said that during K. "This government has com- Chandrasekhar Rao's tenure,

Chandrababu: Estimates will be ...

Continued from page 1

morning.

funds.

He said that they have not yet sent a preliminary report on flood victims. the rains, floods and crop damage to the Centre.

preliminary report with estimates of damage will be sent on Saturday (September 7) He said that there was a heavy flood in AP involving

11.90 lakh cusecs of water in policies should be extended which 28 people died and that they are asking the Centre to help on priority. help the state. The government is also requesting everybe one to help using their CSR

Chandrababu said that many people are coming forefforts will continue.

ward and helping flood vic-tims. He requested more peo-ple to come forward and help

The CM said that they have been thinking about how

celebrated at the

want peace; save Manipur,' state. among others.

Continued from page 1

Several leaders like Madhu Yashki Goud, SA Sampath Kumar, Balaram Naik and others were in the race, but the party went by the word of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, who extended his support to the candidature of Mahesh Kumar Goud. Mahesh Kumar Goud has remained a close associate of Revanth Reddy after Revanth became the TPCC President.

Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Mahesh Kumar Goud, who Gandhi, KC Venugopal, Deepa belongs to Nizamabad district, Das Munshi, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Irrigation Minister started his political career with the NSUI. He was the NSUI state General Secretary, NSUI's Nizamabad district president, N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, min-isters, MPs, MLAs, MLCs, the State NSUI President, Youth Congress Secretary, TPCC DCC presidents, the party's spokesperson and TPCC other leaders and activists.

"As far as the former Pakistan president is concerned, he was born in Delhi. He never came here.

Provide funds to..

No construction in buffer zones.

Continued from page 1

"No buildings can come up in the buffer zone and this includes roads. They want to use the buffer zone, I mean, the 50 meters from the river for developing a road by the Musi," the court said.

The court said that after leaving either nine meters or then a citizen will be deprived 30 meters for the buffer, they of use of his land.

KCR conducts Navagraha..

Continued from page 1

heavy rains in Telangana, as well as the worsening condition of farmers.

Sources close to the BRS indicated that KCR plans to address these issues publicly after Vinayaka Chavithi, possibly through a bus tour in the

Mahesh Kumar Goud is..

General Secretary.

Mahesh Kumar Goud con-

tested elections from Nizamabad (Urban) but was

defeated. He was Chairman of

the AP State Warehousing

Corporation for a year. The

party gave him an MLC seat

recently. Speaking to the media

after getting the post, Mahesh

thanked the AICC for reposing

confidence in him. He thanked

high command leaders Sonia

Gandhi, Mallikarjuna Kharge,

can plan to acquire land for Continued from page 1 buildings and roads on both sides of the Musi River. Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari, Special Chief Secretary When the counsel told the court that MRDCL had Ramakrishna Rao, CMÓ issued instructions that no Principal Secretary Seshadri permission should be given

and other senior officers also for buildings, the court said If attended the meeting. The Chief Minister described the severinot six months, if they (Government) take six years, ty of the flood damage in the state and said that Khammam, Mahbubnagar, Suryapet and other districts received 40 cm of rain on a single day, he said. During the meeting with the Union Minister, the CM said the state government was on high alert and took prompt action

Political observers said that particularly in handling the ing religious ceremonies ahead of critical political moves. In 2015, he performed a Chandi which resulted in preventing huge loss of lives in rain-hit Yagam for the state's prosper-ity, and in 2018, he conductareas. However, the state suffered huge damage, the CM said ed the Rajashyamala Yagam while making a PowerPoint preahead of elections. These spirsentation on the floods. itual programmes were inter-Centre will announce.. preted as preludes to signifi-

cant political moves. Continued from page 1

> He said the Telugu states suffered heavy losses due to the heavy rains and floods.

Telangana The Government's report has reached the Centre. The Centre will help both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh as per rules after examining the reports.

Sanjay said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy appealed to the Centre to relax rules for using National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) funds. He said the state has Rs 1340 crore of NDRF funds and the Centre will take a decision soon

regarding this. He said that the BRS gov-ernment failed to use Central funds and that the Centre would help the State. The Centre is ready to help people, he added.

Chandrababu revealed that a

much the government can help families who lost their homes. The government is holding talks with the Centre

and bankers regarding assistance for victims. The CM said those who have insurance

Chandrababu said that Vinayaka Chavithi Puja will Vijayawada Collectorate on Saturday and that while con-

ducting Ganesh Puja relief

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

India the peacemaker

With Putin now suggesting that India could mediate in peace talks, India's role on the global stage continues to grow

he Russia-Ukraine war, which erupted in February 2022, has resulted in devastating human and economic losses, with no clear end in sight. What began as a territorial conflict over Ukraine's desire to align itself more closely with Western institutions like NATO and the European Union has turned into a prolonged military engagement with Russia, leading to mass displacement, thousands of casualties, and significant global economic disruptions. In recent months, efforts to find a peaceful resolution have gained renewed attention. One potential pathway for peace emerged when Russian President Vladimir Putin suggested that countries like India, China, and Brazil could act as mediators in peace talks. This proposal points to a potential role for these major Global South nations in shaping the future of negotiations. Russian President Vladimir Putin's recent remarks on peace efforts are significant, especially in light of earlier failed negotiations. In the initial weeks of the war, a preliminary agreement was reached between



Russian and Ukrainian negotiators during talks in Istanbul.

Now, Putin suggests that this could serve as a basis for future discussions, with mediation from nations like India, China, and Brazil, which have historically maintained neutral or balanced positions in the conflict. These nations, particularly India, could bring fresh perspectives to the table. India's long-standing policy of nonalignment and its diplomatic clout as a leader among Global South countries make it a credible mediator in a highly polarised international arena. India has consistently advocated for peace in the ongoing conflict, calling for both Russia and Ukraine to engage in dia-

logue. Prime Minister Modi's diplomatic stance has been underscored by his visit to Ukraine last month. During this historic visit, PM Modi met with Zelenskyy, who proposed that India could host the second Ukraine peace summit. This proposal, Zelenskyy said, was due to India's position as a major democracy and its efforts to remain neutral in the conflict. India's position as a potential mediator offers several advantages. First, India's diplomatic relations with both Russia and Ukraine have been strong over the years. Second, India's neutrality in the conflict positions it as an acceptable mediator to both sides, which have faced varying degrees of global isolation and support. For Russia, India remains a crucial partner, and for Ukraine, India's growing global influence makes it a key player in any future peace talks. Third, India's active participation in global multilateral forums, including the G20 and BRICS, gives it a platform to influence discussions on peace efforts at a broader level. While the potential for peace talks with India, China, and Brazil as mediators is promising, challenges remain. The conflict has seen entrenched positions from both sides, with Ukraine's territorial integrity at the center of any resolution. The success of such mediation will ultimately depend on the willingness of both Russia and Ukraine to make compromises and find common ground for peace.



Sexism in politics: The unfinished battle



The recent disparaging remarks by Donald Trump against Kamala Harris have once again spotlighted the rampant sexism entrenched in politics

he Republican presi-dential nominee Donal Trump's recent disparaging comments against her Democratic rival, Vice President Harris about her 'appearance', re-established the fact that 'sexism is very much alive in American politics'. His party, however, had denied that 'it had anything to do with race or gender'. Harris, on the other hand, urged Trump to commit to debating her, 'if he got something to say'. Such sexist vilification, many believe, is on the expected lines in a country that had no women, and only one person of colour as president, which is now, for the first time, having a woman of colour running for the presidency on a major party ticket. Harris' entry into the presidential battle has unleashed a wave of misogyny, and personal attacks on her marriage and stepchildren. She is also accused of leaning into 'being Black for political expediency. Republican vice-presidential nominee Cyrus Vance's remarks that the Democratic Party is dominated by 'childless cat ladies', with no 'direct stake' in America's future, is also a dig at Harris's life choic-

While, early this year, Nikki Haley, the first woman governor of South Carolina, when encountered the race for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination, she was dismissed as a 'token' candidate, and her achievements hardly got any attention. In 2016, Hillary Clinton had to undergo similar ordeals with apprehensions about her health and integrity, and even for her political ambitions. In 2008, Sarah Palin wasn't spared, she was constantly jeered at for her looks. personal life and intelligence, while her policy positions and records were overlooked. While only a relatively small share of the US adults (18%) consider that it is important that a woman be elected as president in their lifetime, most (64%) say this is not too or not at all important or that the president's gender doesn't matter. Overall, 62% of Americans

believe that the media focuses too

much on the physical appearance

of women contesting for high

elected offices, and there is not

enough attentiveness to their



Research Centre). Along the party lines, 25 per cent of Republicans are of the view that men generally make better leaders than women, only 4 percent said that women are better suited to lead'.

While, Democrats, were found to be 'more likely to say women were better leaders than men' (August, 22, PerryUndem survey). 'Many of the politicians may be progressive in their policy beliefs, but, when it comes to equity, their socialisation around gender stereotypes and expectations is quite stubborn', commented Kelly Dittmar, professor, of political science, at Rutgers University. In the USA, women hold only 27.9 per cent of seats in Congress, while, there is currently no Black woman in the Senate.

A 2016 IPU study on the experiences of fifty-five women members of national parliaments from 39 countries across the continents of Africa, Europe, Asia-Pacific, the Americas and Arab countries, confirmed that 'sexism, harassment and violence against women parliamentarians are

very real and rampant'. While,

psychological violence, the

most widely spread, and, now,

more on social media, affect-

ed 81.8 per cent of the respon-

dents surveyed. A majority (61.5 per cent) believed that

was intended primarily to dissuade them from continuing in politics. While 'young and feminist women parliamentar-ians are particularly targeted, said an Asian parliamentarian. A parliamentarian from sub-Saĥaran Africa underscored that 'men need to be educated about the benefits of women's presence in parliament'. While, many opined that an increase HARRIS' ENTRY in the number of women in INTO THE parliament and solidarity among them, can help change PRESIDENTIAL such a political culture.

While, in India, women parlia-BATTLE HAS mentarians, a minuscule UNLEASHED A WAVE minority, just 13.63% of the elected strength of the Lower OF MISOGYNY, AND House, much less than the 33% that the Women's Reservation PERSONAL ATTACKS Act, 2023, proposes to put ON HER MARRIAGE into effect, face sexist comments from all corners, their AND STEPCHILDREN. colleagues, rivals or voters, and their achievements SHE IS ALSO reduced to their gender only, ACCUSED OF rued a women's rights activist. An erstwhile woman Union LEANING INTO minister lamented that 'when a woman is attacked, she gets BEING BLACK FOR

such behaviour and/or violence cians aren't taken seriously..., and male members have been often preferred for speaking on serious issues, while, women are only expected to raise soft issues'. Outright misogynist remarks are quite the norm in political discourse.

Recently, a senior woman Rajya Sabha MP expressed discomfort with her identity being tied to her husband's name by the Chair. Globally, only 26.9 per cent of parliamentarians in single or lower houses are now women (IPU). Many countries have resorted to women's quotas and reserved shares. But, that's not enough. What is needed is a nuanced approach to addressing the issues of sexism and double standards existing within the political parties and

parliament. Political parties must have an internal assessment mechanism to look into the gaps in all areas of internal practices and operations. A parliament must also ensure inclusivity in its work processes and outputs, with the help of a strong regattacked for her character, but ulatory framework. Gender parity and pluralism are essen tial in electoral politics for the greater good. (The author is former Director General, Doordarshan, All India Radio; views expressed are personal)

iant panda cub Katyusha, the first panda bear born in Russia plays with her mother at a zoo in Moscow

views on key policy matters (Pew AP/PTI The death of window shopping:

How e-commerce stole the joy



Spontaneity has given way to algorithms, and the sensory delights of browsing have been replaced by sterile scrolling

nce upon a time, I was a passionate window-shopper. I could spend hours gallivanting in a mall or a market, viewing and trying out things I didn't need, but often ended up purchasing. Not any longer.

During my latest visit to a mall this week after several months, I realised how my appetite for browsing and buying had nearly died. Our family now happily gets everything delivered to our doorstep: from Apple to Android phones.Shopping had long been a cherished ritual, offering an experience that transcended mere transactions. It tapped into emotions and senses, creating memories, fostering relationships, and offering solace in unexpected ways.

Yet, the rise of e-commerce has drastically altered this landscape, leading to the erosion of the joys of traditional shopping. The sensory over-load of colours, smells, and sounds has been replaced by the sterile, one-dimensional world of online shopping. We now scroll through prod-uct images on a screen, devoid of any real human interaction. Shopping was



once an opportunity to step out of our daily routines, to wander through aisles with no particular destination in mind, and to let our imaginations run wild as we browsed items we didn't know we needed until we saw them. This spontaneity is all but lost in the algorithm-driven world of e-commerce, where every click is tracked and every recommendation is based on past behaviour, leaving little room for surprise or

serendipity. Moreover, shopping in physical stores offered a tactile connection to the products we bought. We could feel the fabric of a garment, test the weight of a book in our hands, or smell the aroma of freshly baked bread before making a decision. These sensory experiences are deeply rooted in our memo- Yet, as we embrace these con-

ries and play a significant role veniences, we must also con-in our attachment to the sider what we are losing in the sider what we are losing in the process. The act of shopping items we purchase. Online shopping, in contrast, offers a purely visual experiis not just a means to an end but a valuable experience in ence, reducing our interaction with products to mere images with our communities, on a screen. The absence of indulge our senses, and find this tangible connection often joy in the unexpected. As we leads to a lack of emotional move towards a digital future, attachment to the items we it is worth considering how we can preserve these intanbuy, turning shopping into a mechanical process rather gible aspects of shopping that

than an enjoyable pastime. In bring richness and depth to the past, shopping was as our lives. much about the experience as In the end, the choice is not it was about the purchase. about rejecting technology The thrill of discovery, the joy or clinging to the past, but of window shopping, and the satisfaction of finding that about finding a balance that allows us to enjoy the best of perfect item after hours of both worlds. We can find ways to reintroduce the joy of searching were all part of the journey. However, it would be discovery, the pleasure of the unfair to dismiss the advantactile, and the warmth of tages of e-commerce entirely. human connection into our

shopping experiences, even as The convenience of shopping from the comfort of we click our way through the our homes and the ability to digital aisles.In my case, I compare prices across multiattribute my loss of interest to ple retailers are undeniable a feeling of satiety, a recognibenefits. For those with busy tion that I have more than I schedules or physical limita-tions, online shopping has need and it's time for me to stop indulging in senseless been a game-changer, provid-ing opportunities that would accumulation of material things. Period. have been unimaginable a few (The author is a columnist decades ago. and writing coach based in

Dubai. Views are personal)

FALL FROM GRACE

been in a crisis since the release of Hema Committee report which has recorded sexual exploitation by senior artistes/technicians over the women artistes/technicians.The women artiste/ technicians in their enthusiasm/eagerness/greed approach the other side for a favor, over looking the others who score over them on merits in the industry and offer /submit to them with what would please them for grabbing the chance. If the person who is the so called perpetrator of the crime which is sexual exploitation in this case is wrong the lady who has approached him for favor of a chance and offering/accepting to entertain him is considered an abettor of the crime.It is a quid pro quo though apart from crime also unethical on the part of the grantor of the chance.Such quid pro quos exist not only in film industry and every other industry and in fact it is a universal phenomenon in today's world.

concerned and to a limited extent the industry or the corporate concerned, the devise the content of education in a political leaders /parties accepting pro even as per SC ruling and more harmful as it harms the nation as a

Madam- The interruption of the time immemorial, though respected Covid had been epochal and served to direct our focus on education, across the globe. It would be a great pity should we fail to subsequently comprehend the vital role of teachers, pe se. A greater tragedy if we still look to stitch up patchwork approach in education that is rendered more complex as the stakeholder base is vast. So are its key elements more. Our gurus must be zealously of content, quality and efficiency of cherished. transmission. In each of these there

POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY'

Women politicians, cutting across party lines, seem to agree on the issue of character assassination, and consider that it 'reflects the larger psyche of the society'. Many also complain that 'women politi-

never for her policymaking?

Ξ LETT

ith environmental concerns gaining too

much ground, many of the well wish-

ers of Lord Ganesha in the city have

inal rethink or even reinvent with

While planners and social scientists

Madam — Malayalam film Industry has

emerges a rare opportunity for a sem-

While this affects the only individuals greater imagination and resolve.

gurus, train us to meet failures to then rise even higher. This profession, from

stays hardly recognised and adequately compensated. They need to be now firmly placed on higher pedestals, sustained by training and incentives and given greater autonomy. It is they who shape the future in real sense of the word.Our education system and polity need to do much

Eco-friendly Ganesha

started to conduct environmentally friendly Ganesh Utsav celebrations this year. So it is our earnest desire to avoid pollution. Paint from Ganesh Idols could form a deadly cocktail with oil spill on the sea may cause environmental problems after Ganpati immersion on Anant Chaturdashi day.

The oil paint contains carcinogenic heavy metals such as lead, mercury and chromium which have an adverse effect on marine life as well. Despite caution, people prefer POP idols instead of clay. It is time to have a broader outlook on this subject. This responsibility rests with each and every one of us. The civic body should have proper planning and the pick and choose method to make sure the festivity achieves a religious objective rather than making it a politicised one with maximum pollution level

Jayanthy Ramaswamy | Mumbai

FOR THE LOVE OF FOOTBALL

Madam - Rarely do our politicians talk sense. It was heartwarming therefore, to hear the CM of UP, Yogi Adityanath, announce that a number of football stadia as well as a large number of football grounds will be prepared to give a boost to the "beautiful game". This is far better than sponsoring temples that cater only to a particular reli-gious constituency. To quote Nelson Mandela, "Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire, it has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they understand. Sport can create hope, where once there was only despair.

It is more powerful than governments in breaking down racial barriers. It laughs in the face of all types of discrim-ination." Yogi's done well, in bending it like Beckham.

Avinash Godboley | Dewas

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whole.

time horizon, its quality is entirely determined by the calibre, training and bribes in any form say organized /un organized methods including through upgrade of the teachers and their leadthe electoral bonds route is also a quid ership, creativity and innovation.

We seldom realise how teachers have helped and guided our value systems and attitudes. They would seed visions Gopalaswamy J | Chennai of the limitless achievements ahead as

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Embrace divine shelter to overcome life's struggles



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

t may sound very insulting, but this is what most of us, if not almost all of us routinely do. Because it is so natural to do. We have a deep desire for something considered most dear. Or, we may not want to lose something considered crucial for our existence. So what do we do? We keep on thinking about it. Yes, we also do whatever we can to ensure it or should.What happens in most cases? We fall short because we are small, and helpless in the ultimate sense.

God keeps control of Himself regarding the fruits of our actions. (The Bhagavad-Geeta 2.47) We have only been given the right to desire and do. (2.47) But we either don't give up trying by ourselves or with the help of others, if we choose to do that. Now worry sets in because we have set our hearts on it. And we hurt ourselves both in terms of mental health and physical health because they are so intertwined. Are we doomed? No, we are not, if we choose to do what we are expected to do, which is to approach God. That is why our scriptures, especially the Bhagavad-Geeta, persuade us to do that. I will cite some verses in this connection. The verse #18.62 goes like this, "In all respects take shelter of God only. By His mercy, you will achieve supreme peace." What does this mean? We will not suffer from mental problems, by which a quarter and more in the world are suffering. (9.22) Isn't what we want? You get started on this path and start becoming deserving. God will respond suitably. But our natures won't allow us to do what God wants us to do to qualify for His 'kripa' (grace).

Even if we somehow curb our natures, our egos come in the way. For



us human beings, our egos are everything; we cannot imagine taking unconditional shelter from anyone including God of course. So we remain in the shelter of worry. Exalted personalities have surrendered to God and reaped all kinds of benefits from Him. Sanjaya of the Mahabharata fame illuminates, "Where there is the yogeshwar Shri Krishna and where there is a devotee of God (as Arjuna was), there will be opulence (saubhadva), victory (success), wealth and definite principles (dharma)," (18,78) God is unlimited and He can give what we cannot even imagine. Swami Vivekananda went to America in 1843. Not only did Swamiji give an iconic speech on Hinduism at the World's Religious in Chicago on September 11, 1843, but introduced Hinduism and Indian spirituality to the Western world. We just have to get started and achieve what these exalted personalities achieved after several lives. It is not so difficult, but requires determination. What is so difficult to pray? All we have to ensure that whatever we pray for is according to dharma. God will respond in a way He decides about what we deserve. Then, doing 'naman' (namaskar) to a Deity of God in a temple shouldn't be so difficult. God, being what He is, cannot be a debtor ever. He will give something, again what He feels is good for us. What is wrong with chanting God's names? This activity appears so innocuous but people of all religions for ages have been chanting Ohm and God's names. It must be useful, otherwise it would have been discontinued a long time back. What is so difficult to thank God if something good happens? We know how thanking helps us to make friends even with strangers. Then, how it must benefit if we thank God. 'Dhyan' (meditation) is catching attention worldwide. Why? Because it is extremely useful. Remembering God is another spiritual activity, for which God rewards handsomely. I can go on. Believe that these spiritual acts are highly beneficial, and can be done by one and all. Spiritual acts help in this regard and change us for the better. Then, why take shelter from worry, anxiety, depression, sadness, etc.? Take shelter from the omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, controller and owner of the Creation and say goodbye to negative emotions.

Bangladesh: Terrorism redivivus?



analys \$ 07

Some developments since the installation of the interim Government provides cause for concern



everal developments in Bangladesh since the ouster of Sheikh Hasina raise the question: Is that country set to become a fundamentalist Islamist state and a cradle and exporter of Islamist terrorism? As of now, none of what the students who led the Anti-Discrimination Students' Movement (ADSM) have said indicates that they support fundamentalist Islam or terrorism. It is, however, not clear what they stand for. A report in the Dhaka Tribune (datelined August 16, 2024) quoted Nahid Islam, one of the coordinators of the ADSM and an advisor in the interim government, as saying, "The spirit of the movement was to create a new Bangladesh, one where no fascist or autocrat can return." The same reported quoted him as saying that structural reforms were needed to achieve this aim, and that would require time.

One does not know what structural reforms they have in mind and the policies they intend to pursue. The Tribune report in question quotes Tahmid Chowdhury, another student leader, as saying that they were still working out their programme, which would be rooted in secularism and free speech. Reuters reported on August 16, 2024, that FUNDAMENTALIST the students were contemplating forming their own party to carry their movement forward and bring a closure on the history of the last three decades when Bangladesh was governed either by the Awami League or the Bangladesh Nationalist Party. Not much has been heard about the matter since then. The question is whether the overwhelming majority of them share their leader's views. One needs to ask this as fundamentalist Islamist and terrorist organisations have THEIR TENTACLES been increasingly spreading their tentacles inside Bangladesh's colleges and universities. Consider the case of North South University (NSU), one of that country's bestknown private universities. Professor Gias Uddin Åhsan, Dean of the School of Health and Life Sciences, and acting Pro-Vice Chancellor, was arrested on July 16, 2016, along with two of his associates, for renting out his flat, and not informing the police about the fact of its being rented out and details of the tenants-which he was required to do. The flat was subsequently used by the

perpetrators of the terror attack at Holey Artisan Bakery restaurant in Dhaka on July 1, 2016. The University has suspended Professor Ahsan after his arrest. Earlier, it had dismissed four teachers for their links with the terrorist outfit, Hizbut Tahrir.

Nibras Islam, one of the six identified as those attacking the Holey Artisan Bakery and killed by the police in the encounter that folowed, was one of its students. Abir THE QUESTION IS Rahman, one of those who attacked WHETHER THE a police post guarding Bangladesh's largest eid prayer congregation at **OVERWHELMING** Sholakia in Kishoreganj on July 7, 2016, and was killed, was a student **MAJORITY OF** of NSU. The attack, which was repelled, led to three deaths. Quazi THEM SHARE Mohammad Rezwanul Ahsan THEIR LEADER'S Nafis, who, in 2012, was convicted on the charge of attempting to blow

VIEWS. ONE up the New York Federal Reserve Bank, and of coming to the United NEEDS TO ASK States for waging jihad, had also been a student of NSU. Besides, all THIS AS the young men-Sadman Yasir Mamun, Faisal Bin Nayeem Dwip, Ehsan Reza Rumman, Maksudul **ISLAMIST AND** Hasan Anik, Nayeem Irad and TERRORIST Nafiz Imtiaz- arrested for killing the blogger and Ganajagaran Mancha ORGANISATIONS activist, Ahmed Rajib Haidar, in 2013. were its students. HAVE BEEN There has been large-scale irregu-INCREASINGLY lar inundation of educational institutions by fundamentalist elements. SPREADING A report by Ekramul Huq Bulbul and Masud Milad in the Bengali daily Prathom Alo of August 12, 2004. States, "The allegation has INSIDE been levelled of the jama'atification BANGLADESH'S of the Chittagong University by vio-lating all rules. Most applicants were COLLEGES AND not appointed as teachers despite UNIVERSITIES getting four first classes in their educational life. Yet there has been the unprecedented occurrence of appointment of the supporters of Jamaat-e-Islami, a partner in the present four-party coalition govern-ment headed by Begum Khaleda

Zia of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) despite their being without a single first class." The report further stated that investigations by Prathom Also revealed that of the 122 teachers appointed dur-ing this period, 57 had been appointed by ignoring the recom-mendations of the Departmental Planning Committee and the num-ber of posts advertised. Whether all this has caused a sig-

nificant section of students to be influenced by militant fundamentalist Islam need to be seen, given the continued operations of terrorist organisations. A number of Bangladeshis had fought the Soviet forces occupying Afghanistan. The Soviet Union's defeat at the hands of the Mujaheedin and withdrawal from the country in February, 1989, had boosted their morale as also that of militant Islamists the had kept Islamist terrorism more world over Osama bin-Laden who

Ansar Fil Hindal Sharqiya formed in 2018. Another seven Islamic extremist groups were blacklisted during her regime. These were Ulama Anjuman E Al Bayyinat, Neo-JMB, Dawlatul Islam Bangladesh, Hezbut Tawheed, At-Tamkin, Tamiruddin-Bangladesh and Towhidi Trust.

Particularly active among these was the Ansar al-Islam, which played a major role in the murder of the bloggers, which began with the killing of Ahmed Rajib Haider in Dhaka on February 15, 2013 and continued until 2015. The Neo-JMB, however, is believed to have been behind the attack on the Holey Artisan Bakery which killed 23 persons, including three Bangladeshis, seven Japanese, nine Italians and one Indian.

The tough measures that followed, and less under control. Following Sheikh Hasina's ouster, the Hizb-ut Tahrir (Hijb-ut) has been staging processions in different parts of Bangladesh and putting up posters articulating its ideology. On August 9, 2024, it held a rally in Dhaka demanding the establishment of an Islamic Caliphate in Bangladesh. Also, the statues of two police officers who died fighting the terrorists at the Holey Artisan Bakery, have been destroyed and a Hijb-ut Tahrir poster has been found at the site. On its part, the interim government has released Jashimuddin Rahmani, the chief of the Ansarullah Bangla Team, now Ansar al-Islam. Neither all this nor the very cordial meeting Muhammad Yunus has had with leaders of the Jama'at and Hefazat-e-Islam, of course, indicates that the interim government supports Islamist militancy. Nevertheless, skating on thin ice is better avoided.

(The writer is a spiritual teacher, views expressed are personal)

had been involved in the jihad and who harboured the vision of establishing sharia rule worldwide, helped the establishment of the Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami Bangladesh (HUJIB) in 1992. The formation of Jama'at-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB), followed.

Pressure from the United States and other Western countries following the large-scale violence unleashed by these organisations, compelled the Khaleda Zia government to act against them. More resolute action followed the ascent to power of the second Awami League-led government, with Sheikh Hasina as prime minister, in 2009. Nine Islamist terrorist groups were banned during her prime ministership. These included the JMB, Shahadat-e al-Hikma, Hizb ut-Tahrir, HuJI-B, Ansarullah Bangla Team and the last-named's subsequent reincarnation, Ansar al-Islam. The list also included Jamaat

(The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer. The views are personal)

The United Nations' struggle for relevance in a changing global order

The United Nations faces unprecedented challenges that threaten its relevance in the modern world writes NAND KISHOR and AMAL CHANDRA

he United Nations (UN), a symbol of global cooperation since its founding in 1945, now finds itself at a pivotal moment. Established to promote international peace, security, and development, the organization faces growing pressure to reform in response to the ever-changing global landscape. However, despite widespread recognition of the need for restructuring, numerous obstacles hinder the reform process. Political, institutional, financial, legal, and socio-cultural barriers make consensus among member states difficult to achieve, thus stalling efforts to enhance the UN's relevance and effectiveness. Three critical areas

addressing these, meaningful reform remains elusive.

One of the most significant barriers to UN reform is the veto power held by the five permanent members (P5) of the Security Council: China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United UN more representative of States. This power enables any today's geopolitical realities. of these nations to block res-Another complicating factor is olutions, including those the principle of state sovereignaimed at restructuring the ty enshrined in the UN UN. The P5's vested interest in Charter. Many member states, maintaining their influential particularly smaller or less status has led to repeated failpowerful nations, are wary of reforms that they perceive as ures to expand the Security Council to include new perinfringing on their sovereignmanent members, such as ty. These states fear that in a restructured UN, their voices India, which is the world's might be drowned out by largest democracy. India's exclusion from perlarger, more powerful coun-

demand attention-represen- manent membership, despite tries. This divergence in priortation, effectiveness, and oper-ational efficiency. Without highlights a major flaw in the build the broad consensus

UN's current structure. necessary for substantial reform. While some states Similarly, other responsible powers, such as Japan and advocate for a more democra-Germany, have long called for tic and inclusive Security permanent seats on the Council, others focus on Council. The reluctance of regional issues or specific conthe P5 to share their privileged flicts, making agreement difstatus stifles efforts to make the ficult.

The UN's effectiveness in addressing global challenges has been called into question, further complicating the reform debate. Public opinion and trust in the organization are crucial to its ability to implement meaningful changes. However, repeated failures to effectively address major crises, such as those in Afghanistan and Palestine, have eroded public confidence in the UN's capacity to respond to contemporary challenges. UN peacekeeping missions, a cornerstone of the organiza-



tion's efforts to maintain global peace, have also come under fire. Critics argue that these missions have often failed to prevent conflicts or protect civilians adequately. To enhance the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations, reforms must focus on improving the mandates, training, and resources available to peacekeepers. Additionally, addressing allegations of misconduct, including sexual

abuse and exploitation by peacekeepers, is essential to restoring the organization's credibility and ensuring accountability.

These limitations highlight the urgent need for innovation and reform within the UN. Building and maintaining public trust is essential to securing the political and financial support necessary for any restructuring efforts.

Efforts to improve the UN's operational efficiency, such as those initiated by former Secretary-General Kofi Annan, have demonstrated the institutional challenges of reform. While some administrative changes have been implemented, resistance from within the organization and differing priorities among member states have limited the

scope of these reforms. The UN's extensive bureaucracy presents a major obstacle to meaningful change.

Established procedures and norms are deeply ingrained, making it difficult to implement significant reforms. Bureaucratic inertia often leads to resistance from within the organization, as staff and officials may be reluctant to change familiar processes and structures. Moreover, the UN's broad mandate, which covers peace and security, development, and human rights, adds complexity to any reform effort. This wide scope can lead to overlapping functions and responsibilities among different UN bodies, resulting in inefficiencies.

Reforming the UN also

involves navigating a com-

Any proposed changes must comply with existing legal frameworks and secure broad international support. This legal complexity adds another layer of difficulty, as reforms must be not only politically acceptable but also legally sound.While the need for reform is widely acknowledged, the path to achieving it remains fraught with challenges. Political dynamics, institutional inertia, financial limitations, and legal hurdles all contribute to the slow pace of change.

plex web of international law.

(Dr Kishor is the HoD of Politics and International Studies, at Pondicherry University and Chandra is an author, political analyst and columnist. Views expressed *are personal)*





IN BRIEF



Maha govt gives nod to 4 mega semiconductor, EV projects

he Maharashtra government has given approval to four high technology mega projects, which entail a cumulative I investment of Rs 1.17 lakh crore and with a potential of creating 29,000 jobs, in Marathwada, Vidarbha, Pune and Panvel near Mumbai. The decision was taken at a meeting of the cabinet sub committee of the industries department on Thursday evening, officials said. The projects would result in investment in sectors like semiconductors and electric vehicle manufacturing, a statement from the chief minister's office (CMO) said on Friday, adding it would help Maharashtra get the identity of a leader state in the EV sector. These projects would help develop a strong local supply chain and give major boost to technical innovation, research and development, CM Shinde said. "It would help micro-small and medium industry stakeholders and also enable the local labour force to get training and skill development opportunities, which would raise employability.



Vaishnaw in Japan; talks held on pact in railways, IT

nion minister Ashwini Vaishnaw discussed further enhancing cooperation with Japan in the field of railways, innovation in the digital landscape and focusing on futuristic technological advancements during his visit to Tokyo. Vaishnaw, who holds the portfolios of railways, information and broadcasting, and information technology and electronics, held productive discussions with Tetsuo Saito, Japan's minister of land, infrastructure, transport and tourism on enhancing India-Japan cooperation. Vaishnaw said he discussed enhancing railway cooperation, promoting economic growth and deepening cultural ties with Saito. The meeting with Saito took place on Thursday. "Met with Mr. Tadashi Maeda, MD & Chairman of Japan Bank for International Cooperation, to discuss progress under the India-Japan strategic partnership

HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | SEPTEMBER 7, 2024 **Carbon fibre will be produced by** India in 2025-26: Minister Giriraj

PNS NEW DELHI

Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh on Friday expressed confidence that the niche carbon fibre -- which is used in aerospace, civil engi-neering and defence as an alternative to metal -- will be produced by India in 2025-26. Currently, India does not produce any carbon fibre and relies completely on imports from countries such as the US, France, Japan and

Germany. The European Union's pro-posed Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, a

tax on embedded carbon imports, is expected to kick in from 2026.

"The coming days belong to Technical textiles in every sector... I am fully confident that in 2025-26 the niche carbon fibre product will also be with India," Singh told reporters here. The minister asserted that

after the Narendra Modi-led government came to power, it has "balanced imports" in the hygiene sector.

Earlier we used to import diapers. Thanks to PM Modi for bringing production-



linked incentive (PLI) scheme which has created excitement in the industry," Singh said. Earlier while addressing a

technical textiles event organised by Ficci, the minister stated that the government is fully-dedicated in the development of the technical textiles industry of India and has taken various steps such as the launch of National Technical Textiles Mission, PLI Scheme for MMF Fabric, MMF Apparel and Technical Textiles, etc.

Highlighting the key initia-tives taken under the National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM) Singh stated that 156 research projects have

been sanctioned including development of Carbon fibres and support to startups under different areas of technical

textiles, etc. He specifically highlighted the innovation carried out by North India Textile Research Association (NITRA) on the development of fibres from

Talking on the export targets for technical textiles, Singh mentioned that he is confident of crossing the USD 10 billion target set for 2030. He emphasized on the

potential of Meditech, especially hygiene products as a major contributor in achieving this target.

The minister added that Agrotech will be another important sector in terms of generating employment and opening avenues for usage in daily life of the general pub-

He displayed confidence in the ability of the local industry, government and stakeholders in the development of High Performance Fibres that have huge applications in different fields including aerospace, automobile, construction, etc.

Centre sanctions projects worth Rs 400 crore for Sikkim: CM Tamang

Money 08

PNS GANGTOK

the state.

Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang on Friday said the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) has sanctioned various projects worth Rs 400 crore for the Himalayan state.

state, Rs 150 crore for procure-

ment of medical equipment

for Namchi district hospital

and Rs 6 crore for upgrading

The central Addressing a press confer-ence here, Tamang thanked the government was committed to boost visiting Union DoNER minis-

healthcare infrastructure in Sikkim so that the people could get the best medical facilities in their own state ter Jyotiraditya Scindia for sanctioning various projects for Sikkim which, he said will fast track development activities in "I am immensely grateful to Scindia for his visit to Sikkim

Mangan district hospital. and sanctioning several projects

for the development of the He said that the central govstate," the CM said. ernment was committed to Tamang said the new projects boost healthcare infrastructure will boost infrastructure and in Sikkim so that the people speed up the development of could get the best medical facilthe Himalayan state. ities in their own state.

"The sanction of various pro-Addressing the press conference, Scindia said that the jects will cater to the needs of Union DoNER Ministry conthe people in all parts of the sidered various projects forstate," the Union minister said. warded to the ministry by the The Union DoNER minister

Sikkim government and sancarrived in Gangtok on Thursday evening. Earlier in the day, Scindia had tioned Rs 170 crore for setting up a new medical college in the

a detailed discussion with the Sikkim chief minister on the issues related to the development of the state.

Looking into vacancies in Income Tax appellate tribunals: SC PNS NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on

Friday told a Bengaluru-

based bar body that it is

looking into issues related to

vacancies in income tax

appellate tribunals (ITATs).

As soon as a bench com-

prising Chief Justice D Y

Chandrachud and Justices

JB Pardiwala and Manoj

Misra assembled to hear the

listed cases, a counsel repre-

senting the Bangalore Bar

Association (BBA) made a

mention about vacancies in

the ITAT in the city.

in Srinagar PNS NEW DELHI

IHCL opens

Ginger hotel

Indian Hotels Company on Friday said it has opened its second Ginger hotel in Jammu and Kashmir.

Located at Barzulla, the 64key Ginger Srinagar provides easy access to the airport and iconic attractions such as Dal Lake, Shalimar Bagh, Shankaracharya Temple, and Jama Masjid, the company said in a statement.

"The city's growing infrastructure, combined with its status as one of the country's top travel destinations, makes it a focal point for business and leisure travellers alike.

SEA WATER DESALINATION PLANT VA Tech WABAG bags Rs 2,700 cr order from Saudi

PNS CHENNAI

Water treatment player VA Tech WABAG has secured an order from Saudi Water Authority worth USD 317 million (Rs 2,700 crore) for setting up a Mega Sea Water Desalination plant in Saudi Arabia, the com-pany said on Friday.

The Engineering, Procurement, Construction and Commissioning (EPCC) contract including design and supply of the 300 million litres per day mega desalination plant which would be developed on a greenfield site in the west coast of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

The Saudi Water Authority, formally known as the Saline Water Conversion Corporation, is responsible for regulating and monitoring water sector business and



services to enhance water sustainability and achieve the objectives of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030.

The project is expected to be completed in 30 months and the plant would operate Dual Media Filters followed by a two-pass Reverse Osmosis process and re-mineralisation to produce clean potable water. The plant would be built with the state-

designed for superior energy efficiency and would produce stellar quality of water complying with the environmental regulations of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. "We are extremely honoured and proud to secure this mega order from prestigious customer Saudi Water Authority, which will contribute to the ambitious Saudi Vision 2030. This mega order is a testament to our

expertise and commitment to delivering high-quality, sustainable water solutions worldwide." company Head-Strategy and Business Growth - GCC, Rohan Mittal said in a company statement here.

of-the-art desalination technologies,

WABAG said, globally, it has established 60 desalination plants in 17 countries, for various municipalities and industries.

induction and other general

purposes, SpiceJet said in the

presentation. "Spicejet plans to raise Rs 2,500 crore

through QIP and Rs 736 crore

through Previous Warrants

and promoter infusion," it said. The proposed fundrai

approval, it added.

ing is subject to shareholders'

"We are seized of the matter... we will look into the issue of pending vacancies," the CJI said and assured an

early hearing. The ITAT is a quasi judi-cial body to deal with appeals under laws related to direct taxes in the country and appeal against its orders lie in high courts. Initially, ITAT had three

branches in Delhi, Kolkata

closed at 83.97 on Tuesday.

"Indian rupee recovered

today on weak US dollar.

However, weak domestic mar-

kets capped sharp gains," Anuj

Choudhary, Research Analyst at

Sharekhan by BNP Paribas,

and Mumbai



Milkweed which can be used in the cold-weather applications.



Valeo says new power electronics product

obility technology firm Valeo on Friday announced Maugmenting capacity with the launch of a new power electronics product manufacturing facility in Pune. With the new facility in place, the company's installed capacity of producing rooftop panels will go to 1,600 Kw from 900 kW in the existing plant, the company said without disclosing investment amount. "This new facility in Pune is a key element of our strategic plan for deeper localisation and long-term competitiveness in electrification products. It will meet the growing demand from our customers for the onboard power supply 3-in-1 combination unit, comprising an on board charger, DC-DC converter, and power distribution unit," said Yann Keraudren, Valeo Power Asia Regional Operations Vice President. As the EV market in India expands, the company is prepared to deliver technology solutions that are both adaptable to the Indian market and cost-competitive, he stated. "Valeo Pune is committed to enhancing workforce diversity and sustainability.





various debt and equity instruments and capital infu-sion by the promoter, the airline said in a corporate presentation. The funds will be

Cash-strapped domestic car-rier Spicejet plans to raise over Rs 3,200 crore through

PNS MUMBAI

utilised in fleet ungrounding, liability settlement, new fleet

NLC India aims to start mining of Machhakata coal block in Odisha

be one among the top five

biggest mines in the country,

NLCIL said in a statement.

Spicejet plans

to raise over

Rs 3,200 cr via

PNS NEW DELHI

State-owned NLC India Ltd is aiming to start the mining of Machhakata coal block in Odisha ahead of schedule.

Machhakata coal block is the second commercial coal block and the biggest among the NLCIL's mining projects. NLC India Ltd (NLCIL)

had emerged as the successful bidder for Machhakata (Revised) coal block in Angul district of Odisha under the commercial coal block e-auction held in July. The Machhakata coal block,

having reserves of 1.4 billion tonnes (BT), with average Grade of G10-G11, and capacity of 30 MTPA, is expected to towards realising NLCIL's Corporate Plan 2030," the statement added.

Machhakata Coal Block's vesting order was issued on Thursday.

The company had earlier said that it is committed to its capacity addition in line with its vision of achieving more than 100 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) by 2030 from the present 50 MTPA.

NLC India's core business is mining and power generation. Meanwhile, the coal min-

istry on Monday executed the Coal Mining Development "NLCIL aims to commence and Production Agreements the mining ahead of schedule. for three coal mines that were This marks another milestone auctioned.

Sensex, Nifty tumble over 1 pc on weak global cues

PNS MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty slumped over 1 per cent on Friday, tracking a weak trend in global markets and fresh foreign fund outflows.

Falling for the third day running, the 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 1,017.23 points or 1.24 per cent to settle at 81,183.93. During the day, it plunged 1,219.23 points or 1.48 per cent to 80,981.93

The NSE Nifty dropped 292.95 points or 1.17 per cent to 24,852.15, its third day of decline.

Among the 30 Sensex firms, State Bank of India tanked over 4 per cent. NTPC, ICICI Bank, HCL Technologies, Reliance Industries, Axis Bank and ITC were the other major laggards.

Bajaj Finance, Asian Paints, JSW Steel and Maruti were among the gainers.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower.

European markets were trading in the red. The US markets ended mostly in the negative territory on Thursday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 688.69 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data.

Meanwhile, global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.14 per cent to USD 72.79 a barrel.

Rupee rises 2 paise to settle at 83.95 against US dollar

PNS MUMBAI

The rupee gained 2 paise to close at 83.95 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday amid a weak greenback in overseas markets. However, negative domestic

said. "We expect rupee to trade markets, rise in crude oil prices, with a slight negative bias on and outflow of foreign capital weak global equities and con-cerns over global economic capped sharp gains, forex traders said. At the interbank growth," he said, adding that the USD-INR spot price is expectcurrency market, the local unit opened at 83.97 and witnessed ed to trade in a range of Rs 83.70 to Rs 84.20. an intra-day high of 83.91 against the American currency. The unit, which traded in the

Traders may take cues from non-farm payrolls report and range of 83.91-83.97, finally setspeeches by the US Federal members, he added.

tled at 83.95 (provisional), reg-istering a gain of 2 paise. It had Reserve's rate-setting panel SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED E-Procurement/Open Tender Paper Notification RRZ-03/2024-25 Tenders are invited from eligible contractors for tenders with Specification No. 08/24-25 to enhancing of capacity of 33KV Kismathpur feeder emanating from 220/132/33KV Shivrampally SS of Rajendranagar Circle & Open tender Sp.Nos. 0T-01/24-25 & 0T 02/24-25 for Supply of Vaccum Interrupters & Providing of House Keeping and maintenence of RR Zone respectively of CE/OP/RR Zone. For further details regarding detailer

notification, specification and digital certificate please visit www.tender.telan Sd/- Chief Engineer, Operation, Ranga Reddy Zone KPHB Colony, Hyderabed R.O. No.: 3834-PP/CL/MDVT/12824-25, Dt. 06-89-2824

TELANGANA MEDICAL SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE



Fenders are invited through e-procurement platform for the following work (1) Construction of Ladies Hostel, Mens Hostel and Dental Hostel at Osmania Medica College, Hyderabad, (2) Construction of Ladies Hostel, Mens Hostel and Si Residential Hostel at Gandhi Medical College, Secunderabad. (3) Renovation restoration of Heritage Building at Govt. Nizamia Tibbi College & Nizamia Genera Hospital, Charminar (3rd call), (4) Establishment of 100 bedded Area Hospital at Devarakadra. (5) Upgradation of CHC at Utnoor. (6) Establishment of 100 bedded Area Hospital at Wyra. (7) Upgradation of CHC Aswaraopet. Establishment of Central Medicine Stores at (8) Bhongir. (9) Suryapet. (10) Upgradation of GGH Nalgonda. The other details can be seen at our website http://www.tsmsidc.telangana.gov.in and https://tender.telangana.gov.in. MANAGING DIRECTOR R.D.No: 3871-PPICL/ADVT11/2824-25, Dt. 06-09-293

PM urged to advise GST Council to abolish 18 % GST on health insurance premiums

PNS BENGALURU

The Karnataka government on Friday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to advise the GST Council, which is set to meet on September nine, to abolish the 18 per cent tax on health insurance premiums.

"Ensuring a healthy India is a duty of every elected representative, beyond party lines. Imposing 18 per cent GST on health insurance is a regressive move, making healthcare less accessible to the common man," the state Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said

"I have appealed to Prime Minister @narendramodi to take immediate action, advising the GST council to exempt health insurance premiums



from GST. It's high time we prioritise the well-being of our citizens," he said in a post on 'X'

Rao said the GST on health insurance is in one of the highest brackets of taxation at 18 per cent and has been so since 2017 despite several protests from all stakeholders including politicians and policy makers across the board.

"A GST so high on what is an essential service/necessity, especially in a post pandemic world, is draconian to say the least and definitely not what a welfare state should be doing," the Minister said in his letter to the Prime Minister.

A high rate of GST has a direct impact on the cost of premiums which means that health insurance is now more expensive, he said. The rising cost, while not discernible to the upper economic crisis, has a cataclysmic effect on economic weaker sections to whom even a marginal increase in the premium makes it inaccessible to purchase.

"So, in that circumstance, they choose to either forgo another necessity to afford the premiums or, more often than not, avoid getting health insurance at all, which leaves them and their family exposed to a medical emergency which may leave them in severe financial distress, " the letter stated.

'While the rationale for such a high GST has never been explained, as the Health Minister in one of the states which is a pioneer in medical education and infrastructure, I see the positive impact of our cashless state health insurance scheme along with the added protection of purchased health insurance which acts as a buffer in case of larger emergencies. This two-step coverage system is essential to the wellbeing of our citizenry," Rao said.



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Saturday September 7, 2024

COLLECTING CHANDAS FOR GANESH CHATURTHI WAS ONE OF MY BEST CHILDHOOD MEMORIES'

TEJAL SINHA

Tt's finally the season when many of us await welcoming Ganapati Bappa to our house, blessing us with prosperity and happiness for the rest of the year.

What better could it be for us to bring you a memory of how Hyderabad celebrates Ganesh Chaturthi over the years for our special segment of Hyderabond, where our guest Dr. Srikanth Goggi, who dons multiple hats, including that of being a celebrity psychologist, hyp-notherapist, professor and corporate coach, has also been known as Srikanth Acharya in the world of Telugu cinema.

Hyderabad holds a special place in his heart ever since he's been here in the city. Born in Delhi and of course, his father being an Army officer, travelling around due to his postings was an obvious but important part of his life. However, being in Hyderabad, ever since he recalls him to be of a 5-year-old, the city has been his favourite. Why? "No matter where I go, I only find peace when I'm back in Hyderabad," he shares while in a chat with us. The last posting his dad, he recalls, had was at Golconda. So, his childhood memories were all around Secunderabad!

The people of Hyderabad have been very friendly," he shares as he goes on to recall how Hyderabad was a less crowded place with not much traffic. "There was also a lot of place to play out-side; there were playgrounds." But one memory that has always stayed special is none other than the celebration of Ganesh Chaturthi. "I remember, we used to go to houses to collect chanda (dona-

the idols everywhere. We used to organise these grand poojas and every street had their own Ganapati pandal. We'd then visit the Khairatabad Ganesha, whose height just keeps increasing every year."

Another significance that the city holds for him is, "No matter the religion one belongs to, every one

tion) for Ganapati. That was like the best day. We used to go to Dhoolpet, the biggest hub where they prepare the idols. Now, if you see, you find is one of the same, staying together. I remember, back then during my child-hood, not everyone had a TV set in their house. So we all used to go to the

neighbours house and watch the shows and films. Unlike these LCD's, there was this big television box. And again, my dad coming in his bullet with that 'dub dub dub' sound gets nostal-gic. We had these hero cycles back then."

The legacy of food like the Irani samosa, chai and hotels has been something that was a must-visit every time his relatives came here. Then weekends were all about

Zoo Park, Salarjung Museum, Charminar, Qutub Shahi Tombs and Golconda forts. Getting on the running buses to reach the colleges was again

something he can never forget! On the professional front, he had always wanted to get into acting. But of course things would take time. So, he worked with renowned magician "Shaado," also known as the Indian Houdini. His growing fascination with human psychology led him to pursue studies in clinical psychology, hyp-notherapy, NLP and peak performance coaching. He transformed into an expe-rienced therapist and successful coachreflect therapist and successful coach-ing consultant, providing services for celebrities, athletes, companies, NGOs, PSUs and individuals, enriching their lives. He has motivated, inspired and assisted countless individuals through his television talks, coaching, training and therapy. The first Firewalk specialist in Telangana and AP, he has appeared over 2500 times on TV, both live and recorded. His acting career began with the *Telugu movie Boy* (2019), under the

> Hailing from Delhi and making Hyderabad his home, both personally and professionally, Dr. Srikanth Goggi, aka Srikanth Acharya, dons multiple hats, including actor and psychologist. For our special segment of Hyderabond, he takes us through his memorable Ganesh Chaturthi days and his love for the city

mentorship of Vinay Varma, a renowned theatre artist, actor and casting director. He has also acted in various Telugu and pan-India movies such as *DJ Tillu*, Atharva, Tyson Naidu, Ismart Illalu, Wedding Dairies, Mr. Venkat Rao, Manmayi, Janaka Aiythe Yenaka and Pushpa 2 (The Rule).

"Vinay Varma played a major role in my acting career. I always wanted to play a psychologist and thanks to him, my debut role was that of a psychologist. At the very age of 14 years, I learned hyp-nosis. I used to perform these small mmimicries, little bits of magic. Eventually, from my 9th standard, I started doing stage shows, both on magic as well as hypnotism. Then, I developed interest in the field of psychology because I started reading books on personal development, self-improvement, memory training, meditation and these things. My father was instrumental in getting me books on hypnosis. He was my first guru who encouraged me. So that's how, once I become a clinical psychologist, I have started the institute on his name, GV Gopi

Vasdevacharya Institute of Psychology. I have done almost 10,000 plus shows all over India." He has also had the privilege to work with one of the associates of the renowned magician P.C. Sorcar.

"I did my postgraduate degree at Osmania University in clinical psychol-ogy. And I started practicing here in Hyderabad in the different centers and corporate hospitals." Going ahead, what's something that he likes and dislikes about the city? While the friendly people that the city has are something he oves about the city, on the other hand, the traffic is something that irks him much.

"Traffic is something that I've always witnessed here in the city since the beginning. That's something that has never changed. There are times people do not give place to ambulances as well."

But again, talking of well-being, "Hyderabad has got very good technol-ogy, infrastructure and highly qualified, dedicated professionals. People here are professional and not commercial. You do have black sheep in this profession as well. But infrastructure-wise, Hyderabad is very good. Here what I feel is this is a world-changing field, mental health. Those davs, there were very few referrals to the psychiatrist and the clinical psychologist. There was not much awareness and a lot of stigma around it, 2 which has now changed. Thanks to the media, you people are doing a fabulous job in bringing aware-ness, writing article and helping **Q** people to understand what actually the worth of mental health and well-being is."

Penning spotlight with twisting path to stardom

AARTI SREENATH

nised

with College Youth Festiva something fresh. For 3-2. I studie

real lif

college years, where he was recog- inal successful while also adding writer you'll become. Cinema reflects so it's important to observ people, their behaviour and emo-

tions. That's where the best stories

come from. Immerse yourself in a

variety of literature—novels, comics,

Pulpy novels, graphic novels and cul-tural texts. This exposure will enrich

your creativity and storytelling abil-

ities." He believes one needs to read

Looking ahead, he hints at exciting projects in the pipeline. "We're working on expanding the cinemat-

ic universe we've been building.

One of the upcoming projects is a

vampire-themed film, tentatively

titled Thama. It will mostly feature

Ayushmann Khurrana and will be a

significant addition to our universe.

There are many films and a couple of OTT shows also," he confirms.

Niren Bhatt's journey is one of cre-

ativity, resilience and a deep commit-

ment to the art of storytelling. From

the stage to the screen, his ability to

adapt and innovate continues to cap-

tivate audiences and there's no doubt

that his future projects will be just as

compelling as his

past work.

to write better!

Navigating new Canadian student visa landscape

anada has emerged as a top choice for international students seeking higher education abroad. The country Offers a unique blend of academic excellence, cultural diversity, and personal growth opportunities. Students from around the world, including India, are drawn to Canada's renowned universities, welcoming cities, and exceptional quality of life. This combination of factors makes Canada an attractive destination for those looking to expand their horizons while pursuing academic goals. Moreover, compared to other popular study destinations, Canada provides a more

certificate confirming their good health.

Essential documents for Canada study visa application

Once accepted by a Canadian college, students should begin the visa application process. For a September intake, it's advisable to start the process around June. The required documents for a Canada Student Visa application include a valid passport, an acceptance letter from a designated learning institution, proof of sufficient funds, passport-sized photos, and medical examination results Language proficiency is also a key component of the application. Students must provide English language proficiency exam scores, such as IELTS or TOEFL. A statement of purpose outlining study plans is another crucial document. For undergraduate or non-degree programs, a provincial attestation letter is necessary.

iren Bhatt's remarkable jour-ney from a celebrated Gujarati playwright to a leading screenwriter in mainstream cinema is defined by versatility and innovation. Known for his work on hit films like Munjya, Bala, Made in *China, Wrong Side Raju, Stree 2* and *Bhediya,* he has seamlessly transitioned from the world of theatre to the silver screen. His writing portfolio also includes the popular TV show Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah *Chashmah*, which played a pivotal role in establishing him as a prominent name in the industry. His abil-ity to blend humour, social commentary and engaging narratives has made him a sought-after talent across multiple mediums, including television, OTT, and films. His love for storytelling began in childhood. "I started writing my first play

when I was in standard three," he recalls. His passion for the craft continued throughout his school and



Awards, State Awards and even National Awards for his work in theater. However, his initial career path was far removed from writing. "I worked in the corporate world briefly, but I knew my heart wasn't

in it. Writing was my true calling." In 2007, he took a crucial step by relocating to Mumbai to seek out writing possibilities. It wasn't long before he found success with the immensely popular television show Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah, which gave him the financial stability to focus on more creative projects. 'That show was a turning point," he admits. "It gave me the freedom to experiment with other formats like

films and music albums? Balanced creativity with structure across different mediums has been one of his strengths. He believes that vou need to understand the mediums very carefully. "Television and OTT platforms are more about character development, while cinema focuses on plot and visuals. Writing for each requires a different approach. With OTT, you get more freedom. A series allows you to explore characters in much greater depth-over 400 to 500 minutes compared to the 120 minutes you get

in films." His versatility is evident in his projects like Bala and Made in China, where he deftly blends humor with social messages. "Cinema is a medium to engage and entertain people. If you want to convey a social message, it should be subtle and woven into the story rather than preached directly," he notes.

Discussing the art of writing sequels, he further goes on to reflect on the challenges involved: "Writing a sequel is tricky because you need to understand what made the orig-

successful sequels and incorporated elements that stayed true to the essence of the original but enhanced the film."

Going ahead, working on films like Stree brought its own unique set of challenges, particularly in terms of the shooting conditions. "The first schedule was shot during the monsoons and we faced heavy rains and illnesses among the crew. The second schedule in winter was better, but the cold was brutal, especially during the

shoot of the Aaj Ki Raat song? When asked about his unique blend of comedy and horror in *Stree*, he explains, "Fear and humour complement each other well. When someone is scared, their reactions can be quite funny. It's all about cre-

ating situations where the two can intersect naturally." Collaboration with actors like Rajkummar Rao, Shraddha Kapoor and Varun Dhawan has been one of the highlights of his career. The dedication these actors show, he says, is incredible. For example: "During the shoot of Bala, we were filming in

Delhi under sweltering heat and high pollution levels. Our actors had to endure the discomfort of wearing wigs and heavy costumes for long hours, yet they never complained. Varun shot in the freezing jungles of Arunachal Pradesh, dealing with leeches and

other challenges, but his commitment never wavered." For aspiring writers, he

offers sound advice: "Draw inspiration from life, not just from films. The more experiences you have, the better affordable option for pursuing higher education

Recent changes in Canadian study permit regulations

To ensure a smooth transition for international students. it's crucial to stay informed about recent updates to study permit and post-graduate work permit requirements. The Canadian government has recently introduced a two-year cap on study permit approvals, targeting 360,000 new permits for 2024. This represents a 35% decrease from the previous year. Additionally, provincial and territorial caps will be implemented, such as a 50% reduction in Ontario.

Understanding Canada student visa

For international students planning to pursue higher education in Canada, obtaining a Canada Student Visa is mandatory. This legal document, issued by the Canadian government, is essential for all foreign students who meet the eligibility requirements and provide the necessary documentation

Study permit: A gateway to Canadian education

A study permit, also referred to as a student visa, is a crucial document issued by Canadian immigration authorities. It grants international students permission to study in Canada and is required for enrollment in designated learning institutions (DLIs). These DLIs are educational institutions approved by provincial or territorial governments to accept international students.

Eligibility criteria for Canada study permit

To be eligible for a Canada Student Visa, applicants must meet several requirements. First and foremost, students must be fully vaccinated with an approved vaccine, such as AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD or Bharat Biotech Covaxin. They must also have received acceptance from a designated learning institution. Financial capacity is another crucial factor. Applicants need to demonstrate sufficient funds to cover tuition fees, living expenses for themselves and any accompanying family members, and return transportation costs. Additionally, a police verification certificate showing a clean background and no criminal record is required. Health is also a consideration in the application process Students must undergo a medical examination and provide a

Navigating Canadian visa application process

The application process for a Canada student visa involves several steps. First, applicants should check the current processing time on the Canadian consulate website. As of now, the processing time for Indian students is approximately six weeks. Applicants can choose from three application methods. The online method involves scanning documents, paying fees, and providing biometrics at a Visa Application Centre (VAC). The paper method requires downloading the application kit, following instructions, and submitting the required documents. This option is primarily for those with disabilities or non-national residents. The port of entry method allows in-person applications for Ukrainian nationals, US citizens/residents. or residents of Greenland. Saint-Pierre. or Miguelon. To assist with the application, students can complete the VFS Consent Form. There is a non-refundable processing fee, along with additional fees for family members if applicable. After submitting the application and supporting documents at the nearest VFS office, applicants receive a tracking number. If the application is approved, students must provide their passport to receive a Temporary Resident Visa and a Letter of Introduction.

Embracing Canadian educational journey

Pursuing higher education in Canada offers a unique opportunity for personal and academic growth, cultural immersion, and independence. By understanding the eligibility criteria, required documents, and application process for a Canada Student Visa, international students can navigate the process with confidence. Canada's esteemed universities, welcoming cities, and high quality of life continue to make it a top destination for those seeking a world-class education in a diverse and inclusive environment.

(The author, Gaurav Batra, is the CEO and Founder of . Infinite Group.)



In an exclusive chat with The Pioneer, the popular screenwriter and lyricist Niren Bhatt discusses his formative journey, working on projects like Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah *Chashmah* and movies like *Stree* and Bhediya. He also discusses his prowess in the field!



what's brewing?



CELEBRATE WITH GRANDEUR &

DEVOTION

Enhance your home with the Antique Lord Ganesha Idol by IGP.com, which embodies wisdom and knowledge. Crafted from resin, this ivory-toned idol features intricate details that bring Lord Ganesha's visage to life. With dimensions of 18 cm x 8 cm x 20 cm, this idol is perfect for any religious setting or as a cherished gift of good wishes.

GANESH **CHATURTHI X ORRA FINE JEWELLERY**

This auspicious Ganesh Chaturthi season, elevates your festive spirit with **ORRA** Fine Jewellery's exclusive diamond pendants, inspired by the divine charm of Lord Ganesha. Each pendant is meticulously crafted to blend traditional symbolism with contemporary design, offering a unique piece that radiates both spiritual significance and modern elegance. Echoing spirituality and serenity is this diamond Ganesha pendant embellished with 0.124 carat diamonds in 18Kt rose gold, a great adornment for traditional attire Price - 47,352

elebrate Ganesh Chaturthi in style with our curated list of must-have products to make your festivities extra special. We've handpicked everything you need to welcome Lord Ganesha into your home with love and joy. Discover the best products to elevate your celebrations and bring the divine blessings of Bappa into your life!

SWEET GIFT OF ELEGANCE

Celebrate the birth of Lord Ganesha this Ganesh Chaturthi by gifting your friends and family a present that stands out with its blend of sweetness and health benefits.

HoneyAllDay presents a fantastic alternative to traditional gifts that are both delicious and healthy. Its products are filled with many antioxidants and antibacterial properties that enhance and strengthen the immune system

THOUGHTFUL GIFTS FROM IGP

Gift your loved ones a blend of well wishes and prosperity with this exquisite Ganesha Idol and Badam Modak combo. The A harris Ganesha idol, intricately crafted from highquality resin, features a shining gold-finish crown and delicate ornaments that enhance its aesthetic appeal. Accompanying the idol are delicious badam modaks, each a perfect fusion of finely ground almonds.

BLENDING TRADITION WITH CLASS

As Ganesh Chaturthi approaches, it's time to embrace the festive spirit with style and elegance. Fabindia's latest ethnic wear collection offers a perfect blend of tradition and class, ensuring you shine during the celebrations. From intricately crafted kurtas for men to stunning saris and lehengas for women, each piece in this collection is designed to honour the cultural richness of the festival while adding a touch of contemporary flair.

FESTIVE LOOK

Complete your festive look with Ganesh Chaturthi Fabindia's home. exquisite jewellery collection. Choose from a variety of traditional and contemporary designs, including gold-plated earrings, bangles and necklaces that perfectly complement your festive attire, adding a touch of elegance and grace to your celebrations.

SENSE OF CALM DURING FESTIVE SEASON

Indulge in Fabindia's range of personal care products, crafted to bring a sense of calm and rejuvenation during the festive season. Discover toxinfree skincare and bath



essentials, including aromatic oils, soaps and body lotions, that pamper your senses and prepare you for the festivities.

ADORN YOUR HOMES WITH TRADITIONAL YET CONTEMPORARY DECOR



Transform your living space with Fabindia's festive home décor offerings. From vibrant cushion covers and intricately designed table runners to traditional brass lamps, their collection adds warmth and elegance to your home.

PARTY

GANESHA IDOLS THAT ARE MUST-HAVES

For those who appreciate rustic charm of traditional art. Ashnam Terracotta Abstract Ganesha is an excellent choice. This piece beautifully merges contemporary design with the timeless allure of terracotta, presenting Lord Ganesha in a distinct abstract form. Perfect for those who enjoy blending modern aesthetics with traditional elements, this sculpture can serve as a striking centerpiece in any

METAL CARVED LORD GANESHA FACE WALL HANGING

Adorn your home with the traditional elegance of the Metal Carved Lord Ganesha Face Wall Hanging. This white metallic wall decor features a beautifully defined Ganesha face with a trishul on the forehead, reflecting divine heritage and craftsmanship This wall hanging by IGP.com not only enhances the aesthetic appeal of your space but also serves as a meaningful gift for the festival.



Minister Seethakaa, along with film star and popular comedian Ali launched the T-shirt and Finishers' Medal for the World's Largest Cancer Awareness Run. "Quambiant Global Grace Cancer Run-2024." The run is to be held on October 6, across the globe in physical and virtual formats

On the occasion of 78th birthday of Sardar Vallabhai Patel, an organisation named Satya Sangeeth International by Omkar Raju has awarded around 50 people from various industries with Chief Guests- Vakulabharanam Krishna Mohan Rao-Telangana BC Commission ChairPerson, Dr. Geetanjali Annapureddy- Doctor, socialite & entreprenuer Sreeja Reddy- socialite & entreprenuer in Ravindra Bharathi





Pathcare Labs Private Limited, Hyderabad, announced the launch of its division PATHCARE LIFESCIENCES, a speciality diagnostics segment.



Katrina Kaif has partnered with Xiaomi India. The actressentrepreneur will serve as the brand ambassador for the brand's various products. including a diverse range of smartphones, TVs, tablets and more.



Apollo Hospitals Group has contributed Rs1 crore (Rupees One Crore) to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund in response to the recent devastating floods caused by torrential rains across multiple districts. Dr. Sangita Reddy, joint managing director of Apollo Hospitals had met Chief Minister, A. Revanth Reddy at the Secretariat in Hyderabad.

ARCHIE

WHAT WITH HIM HE'S GOT WRITER'S





CALVIN AND HOBBES

FUN



GARFIELD





WHY DID YOU JOIN ROBOTICS CLUB?





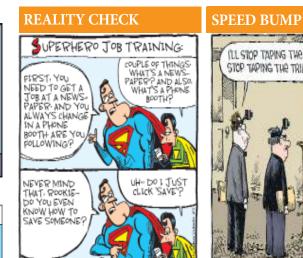




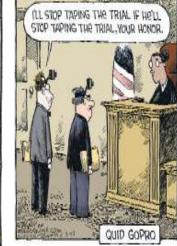








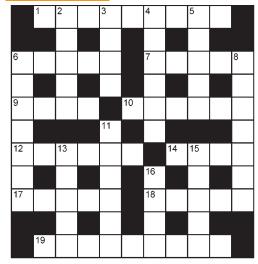
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tollywood

35-CHINNA KATHA KADU: **A GOOD FAMILY WATCH**

SURESH KAVIRAYANI

Popular actor Rana Daggubati has always been on the forefront of supporting small films and once again, with the latest film 35-Chinna Kadha Kadu, he has once again done it. Lately, numerous small movies have been performing well at the box office and this particular film also had a successful release. In the upcoming days, there will be several major film releases, creating an opportunity for smaller films to shine. 35 *– Chinna Katha Kadu* is directed by Nanda Kishore Eemani, starring Rachakonda Vishwadev and Nivetha Thomas in the lead roles. Vivek Sagar composed the music.

STORY

Prasad (played by Vishwadev Rachakonda), who works as a bus conductor, resides in Tirupathi with his wife Saraswathi (played by Nivetha Thomas), a housewife and their two sons Arun and Varun. The family is

content except for their eldest son, Arun. He struggles in Math and constantly questions teachers about the concept of

one before zero should not result in ten but instead remain as zero. This is how Arun sees things. Chanakya (played by Priyadarshi), Arun's mathematics teacher, becomes furious and refers to Arun as a Zero before demoting him from sixth grade to fifth grade. Arun must sit in fifth grade with his brother, Varun. Arun's suspension from school resulted from a single event. In order to remain in school, he must achieve a minimum of 35 marks in mathematics. Arun's mother, Saraswathi, who did not pass the 10th grade, chose to see it as a challenge. What followed and did Arun receive 35 marks? Did he successfully complete the math course? What Chanakya did in the end is the crux of the story.

zero having no value, stating that adding

ANALYSIS

deserves

the

all

There are rare opportunities to watch quality films that are intellectually stimulating without relying on intense action, violence, or other excessive elements. This is a great movie and director Nanda Kishore Eemani

credit. Learning is inherent in the process of education and ceasing to question indicates a lack of learning. It is the duty of the teacher to address the doubts of children when they have many. Only when you are able to achieve effective learning can you place all the blame on the children. The film began by focusing on a Brahmin family, depicting their day-to-day activities. The interactions between Prasad and Saraswathi depict their deep understanding and mutual love and respect for each other. The scenic setting in Tirupathi and the lovely atmosphere indicate that we are viewing a K Viswanath movie. The focus gradually shifts from the family to the school and children with the arrival of the math teacher, Chanakya Varma.

Arun inquired about his queries, which made Chanakya furious, leading him to instruct Arun to move to the back of the classroom. From this point on, the directors depict the children's friendship, their actions against the Chanakya teacher and their petty arguments. The pace of the storytelling slows down due to the numerous scenes, and it picks up some serious-ness and emotional depth after Arun is suspended from school. Saraswathi saw it as a challenge when her tenth attempt at calling failed, so she made the decision to become her son's teacher. The interac-

st: Vishwadev Rachakonda, Nivetha Thomas, Priyadarshi, Gautami, Bhagyaraj, Krishna Teja, Abhay and riter and Director: Nanda Kishore Femani Sravan Yerabolu, Siddharth Rallapalli

usic: Vivek Sagar

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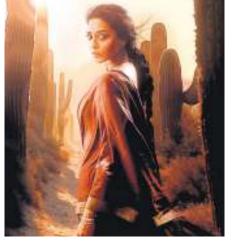
tions between Saraswathi and Chanakva are very well portrayed and the director presented them in a meaningful manner with thought-provoking dialogues. Towards the conclusion, a specific scene becomes emotional as Prasad checks the marks while Arun pours water on the mirror. Though there are a few hiccups and the narration is also a bit slow, one should watch this film along with their kids. The dialogues are meaningful and well written. The cinematography and the ambience looks complete natural. The music is also good.

PERFORMANCES

Nivetha Thomas is the one who shines the most in artistes performances. She is a skilled and established actress who once again portrayed the role of a mother. She handled her emotions and expression well, particularly the Tirupathi accent. For sure, this part will be unforgettable for her. Vishadev Rachakonda also receives a substantial role and he performs exceptionally in it. His acting comes across as extremely natural. This one is new for Priyadarshi; he defends his Chanakya Varma role more than his previous ones. Bhagya Raj, Gautami and Krishna Tei delivered strong performances. All chil-dren are outstanding, with Arun standing out the most.

VERDICT

In conclusion, 35-Chinna Katha Kadu is a recommended movie to watch. Director Nanda Kishore Eemano deserves praise for both creating a strong storyline and eliciting strong performances from all the actors. This film is devoid of action, comedy, cop out dialogues and massy songs; it's a pure and contemplative piece. You ought to watch with your children.



Aishwarya Lekshmi's first glimpse from Sai Durgha Tej's film

ai Durgha (Dharam) Tej is Staking his time with film as a sneak peek. Following the hits of *Virupaksha* and *Bro*, Sai Durgha Tej is now Deprojects because he is pro-ceeding at a steady pace and being selective about the films he taking his time to work on his upcoming project. Currently, he is presenting Rohith KP as the director of this movie. As per chooses. His upcoming project is with director Rohith KP and they are currently shooting. reports, the actor has slimmed However, the creators decided to down and unveiled a total transreveal the first look of actress formation. Sai Durgha Teja

now he has gotten in shape and toned up for this film, according to the source.

Aishwarya Lekshmi has appeared in numerous Malayalam and Tamil films in the past and she has also ventured into producing a Tamil film. She is a skilled actress and is currently starring as the main character alongside Sai

Because it is focused on performance, they have brought in Aishwarya Lekshmi. For her birthday, the creators unveil her initial appearance. The filming of the movie is currently taking place on a huge set built in RFC, Hyderabad. Sai Durgha Tej plays a strong role in this

intense, historical action movie.



well, I'll consider producing a film'

PNS| HYDERABAD

ctor Tejus Kancherla, who brought Ain a remarkable performance with Hushaaru, is all set to enrapture the hearts of the audience with the upcoming film Uruku Patela. Basically, after Hushaaru, which was released in 2018, Tejus did get opportunities and had heard many scripts; he was looking for a script that brings a fresh new story. However, when director Vivek presented the story of Uruku Patela, he was quite excited. "We developed the script together and now the movie is complete. The script was prepared, and we presented it to numerous producers. Even though everyone enjoyed the story, nobody was ready to allocate the required funds. In the end, my father caught wind of the story, enjoyed it and chose to bring the film to life." The film, with the tagline 'Get Urikified', is set in a Telangana backdrop with an accent that is easily understandable to everyone. "Since I was born and raised in Hyderabad, the accent wasn't an issue for me. The teaser and trailer provide a glimpse into the film's plot and tone. We aimed to give audiences a hint about what to expect, which is why we released these promotional materials." shares the Un Samaval Aravil actor. While the trailer may imply the focus is on the heroine, the film itself provides a

Uruku Patela, is intended to be justified by the content and will keep you laughing from start to finish, affirms the lead actor.

The female lead, Khushboo Choudary, hails from Uttarakhand. "Upon watching her reel, I reached out to her and she attended workshops and performed as instructed. Filming went smoothly without any problems," shares the actor, adding, "If this film does well and proves profitable, I might consider producing future projects. However, I won't be handling both production and acting simultaneously, as it's quite challenging."

The film is directed by Vivek Reddy under the Lead Edge Pictures banner and produced by Kancherla Bala Bhanu. The music is composed by Praveen Lakkaraju, and cinematography is handled by Sunny Kurrapati. Meanwhile, he shares, "Uruku Patela is a film that the whole family can enjoy together. It's filled with humour. Inspired by various superstitions I read about during the lockdown, we crafted this story as a blend of thriller and comedy for complete entertainment." He further reveals, "I have a desire to direct in the future. I'm open to contributing to stories that come my way and love writing. If I find a role that excites me and seems fun, I'm open to doing special roles." The teaser and trailer have heightened expectations for the film, which will be released today as

Aishwarya Lekshmi as the char-acter Vasantha from the movie weight after the accident, but Dhurgha Tej in this film.

Nithiin, Shalini welcome their baby boy

ctor Nithiin had mar-ried his lady love, Shalini Kandukuri in 2020. The couple, who had announced their pregnancy ear-



lier, on Friday announced deliv-

ering a baby boy. "We are delighted to share that actor Nithiin and his wife Shalini have been blessed with a baby boy. Both mother and baby are healthy and doing well," read the statement issued by the team. On the workfront, he is is presently filming for *Thammudu*, directed by Sriram Venu, in the forests of Maredumilli in East Godavari district. It is anticipated that Thammudu, a film produced by Dil Raju, will be released in December of this year. He is aiming to release Venky Kudumula's *Robinhood* next year. The producers of the movie are Mythri Movie Makers and the leading lady is Sree Leela.



Director Harish Shankar had previously announced his collaboration with Ram Pothineni during the promotional events for his film *Mr. Bachchan*. Shankar's project and Puri Jagannath's Double iSmart, starring Ram Pothineni, were both released simultaneously. Although there was a conflict, Shankar remained optimistic about the success of both films and teased his next collaboration with Pothineni Yet, new updates indicate that the movie involving Harish Shankar is presently delayed. Reports suggest that Shankar's film Mr. Bachchan

was not successful commercially and

likewise, Double iSmart did not do

well in terms of box office

performance. Therefore, Ram

Pothineni has chosen to postpone his partnership with Shankar According to reports, Ram Pothineni has decided to collaborate with a fresh director who has just experienced major accomplishments. This director, who had success and won awards with their last film, presented a story to Ram, who was impressed and gave the project the green light.

Ram Pothineni seems to have chosen to change directors because of Shankar's recent underwhelming movies and the continuing negative media coverage around the director. Therefore, Ram has chosen to proceed with the new director. A formal declaration about this upcoming partnership is anticipated to be announced shortly

It's official, Mokshagnya's entry confirmed

■he wait is over! From the past few months, there have been reports about Nandamuri Balakrishna's son Mokshagnya's entry into the films. Nevertheless, it has now been confirmed and officially announced with the unveiling of Mokshagnya on his birthday. The director of the film is Prashanth Varma, with Sudhakar Cherukuri as the producer. Balakrishna's

younger daughter Tejeswini is also part of her brother's debut film by presenting it.

Continuing the legacy of the Nandamuri family, Nandamuri Mokshagnya, the grandson of Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao and son of Nandamuri Balakrishna, will make his much-awaited debut under the direction of Prasanth Varma, who is riding high on the success of HanuMan. The story of the film is based on an ancient legend from our mythology with an entertaining narrative, say the makers.

In the first look, Mokshagnya is looking handsome and stylish. With this, one can understand that he worked hard to get into the right shape.

There are many reports that, along with Singeetham Srinivasa Rao, a few other directors names come out for Mokshagnya's debut film, but now it all ends with the official announcement of director Prashanth Varma.

To celebrate Mokshagnya's birthday and build anticipation for his debut, the team has unveiled this, still showcasing him in a styl-ish and sophisticated avatar. The image high-

lights Mokshagnya's sleek and polished look. 'This is a huge honour and also a colossal

responsibility to launch Mokshagnya to cin-ema. I will always be grateful for the trust Balakrishna Garu has put in me and my story. This script is inspired by our Itihasas, which is a gold mine of wonderful tales that need to be told. This is also a part of PVCU and will take the universe to the next level," said director Prashanth Varma about the film.

Producer Sudhakar Cherukuri said he is very happy to launch Balakrishna' son.

Initially, there were reports about the differences between Nandamuri Balakrishna and Ir. NTR from the last few years. Now, the interesting thing is that Jr. NTR is the first to congratulate Mokshagnya on his entry into films and he also wished him on his birthday. "Congratulations on your debut into the world of cinema! May all the divine forces, along with Thatha garu, shower blessings upon you as you begin a new chapter in your life! Happy birthday Mokshu" (sic), said Jr. NTR on his social media. He also posted the first look picture of Mokshagnya.

Rashmika's appearance at NGE office fuels Sikandar excitement

arlier on Friday, Rashmika Mandanna was seen at the Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment (NGE) office, where she appeared poised and stylish in a white top tucked into jeans, complemented by sunglasses and white sneakers. Her visit comes in anticipation of her upcoming film Sikandar, as she had gone there for a look test for the film. Rashmika's appearance at the NGE office has heightened the excitement surrounding Sikandar. The film, which pairs her with Salman Khan, is already generating considerable buzz. Fans are eager to see how Rashmika's charm and acting prowess will blend with Salman's magnetic screen presence. Rashmika's growing popularity and her ability to connect with audiences across different regions make her a highly valuable addition to this highprofile project. *Sikandar* is one of the most awaited films of 2025, featuring Salman Khan in the lead role alongside Rashmika Mandanna. Directed by A.R. Murugadoss, the film is currently in production. Fans are eagerly looking forward to seeing this duo on screen as they bring this exciting project to life.



sports 12





Neeraj Chopra qualifies for Diamond League season finale in Brussels

PTI NEW DELHI

ndia's two-time Olympic medal-winning javelin throw star Neeraj Chopra has qualified for this month's season finale of the prestigious Diamond League after finishing fourth in the overall standings at the end of its 14 series meetings across the world.

The season finale will be a twoday affair on September 13 and 14 in Brussels. Chopra accumulated 14 points from his two second-place finishes in the one-day meets held in Doha and Lausanne. He skipped the last series meet

in Zurich on Thursday. The 26-year-old is two points adrift of Czechia's Jakub

Vadlech, Grenada's Anderson Peters and German star Julian

Weber occupy the top two spots with 29 and 21 points respectively. Peters had pipped Weber in the Zurich meet. Chopra, who won gold in the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 and added a silver to his kitty in the Paris edition last month, has

been struggling with his fitness this season. The Haryana-lad has talked about a groin injury troubling him since before the Olympic Games that has come in the way of his quest to hit the 90m mark.

The Indian finished second in the Lausanne Diamond Leg, bested by Peters, who threw 90.61m. In Paris Olympics, Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem had

taken the gold with a monster throw of 92.97m.

"First goal, go to the doctor and make my groin 100 per cent fit and also I will be technically better and try to throw far again," he had said last month about his plans for this year and the coming one. Chopra had won the Lausanne leg in 2022 and 2023 and finished second behind Vadlejch in the winner-takes-

all finale in Eugene, USA, last vear. Each Diamond League season finale champion is awarded a

prestigious "Diamond Trophy", USD 30,000 prize money and a wild card for the World Athletics Championships.

The DL finale will mark the end of Chopra's season.

India's fast bowling makes them difficult to beat in Australia: Marnus Labuschagne

PTI MUMBAI

Marnus batter **n**tar SLabuschagne reckons fast bowlers make India a "difficult" side to beat in Australian conditions as the hosts look to end their barren run in Border-Gavaskar Trophy which has lasted nearly a decade.

India have won every bilateral The analysis and the second se Down Under to remain on top. "India's fast bowling is very good, which is really what brings them in Australian conditions and make them such a tough team to beat in Australian conditions," Labuschagne told Star Sports.

The middle-order mainstay

termed the rivalry as 'tough' irrespective of where they are

playing. "There is always high anticipation. To these two teams, it doesn't matter where we're playing, if it's in England, Australia, or India, it's always a tough contest," he said. Australia spinner Nathan Lyon termed Indian players as "superstars" while hoping to

revive his on-field rivalry with India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin. "I've always said throughout my whole career (that) I want to compete against the best and

you look through the whole Indian line-up, the whole squad, there's absolute superstars everywhere," he said.

"I know Ashwin, we debuted around similar times and we've competed against each other in



a number of series. I have got nothing but respect for him. He is an absolute master in the craft of off-spin bowling and it's been an absolute privilege to play against him and learn off him," said Lyon.

All-rounder Cameron Green reckoned the five-Test series at Lord's from June 11-15 next year and could feature both the current top two teams once again.

with 62.50 percentage points and 90 points. The WTC final will be played

India have featured in the summit clashes of the WTC on both occasions but have lost to New Zealand (2019-21) and Australia (2021-23).

"Every single point is pretty crucial for the World Test Championship. Any way you can kind of (or) get an idea of (to) how to get one up on your opponent, we'll try and take," Green said.

starting on November 22 at Perth could be a "preview" for the final of the World Test Championship next year. India lead the WTC table for "If it is a bit of a preview for a World Test Championship final again, yeah, we've been trying to get as much 2023-25 cycle with 68.52 information out of India and percentage points and 74 points, followed by Australia see how we can win it again," he added.

between India and Australia

Vikram Rathour, Rangana Herath added to New Zealand coaching staff

PTI AUCKLAND

 $F_{\rm Rathour}^{
m ormer}$ India batting coach Vikram Sri Lanka spin great Rangana Herath were on Friday added to New Zealand's coaching staff ahead of Tests against Afghanistan and Sri Lanka.

New Zealand will play a one-off Test against Afghanistan before heading to Sri Lanka for a two-Test series. The one-off Test against the Afghans will be held at the Greater Noida Sports Complex Ground from September 9 to 13.

The Kiwis are also due to play a three-Test series against India in October-November.

Tests against Afghanistan and Sri Lanka as New Zealand's spin bowling coach, Rathour will be with the Kiwi



Rathour had a successful run as India's batting coach under head coach Rahul Dravid. His tenure ended after India's T20 World Cup win in June this year. The addition of Rathour and Herath was announced by New Zealand Cricket on their website. Sri Lankan spin maestro Rangana

Herath has been appointed as spinbowling coach for the three upcoming

Tests in Asia, replacing former Pakistan spinner and coach Saqlain Mushtaq who was originally announced to fill the temporary role before pulling out to take up a position with the Pakistan Cricket Board," New Zealand Cricket said in a statement. Head coach Gary Stead said, "We're really excited to introduce Rangana and Vikram into our Test group."

"Both men are held in high regard in the world of cricket and I know our players are really looking forward to the opportunity to learn from them." Stead hoped Herath's expertise as a leftarm spinner will help New Zealand's Ajaz Patel, Mitchell Santner and Rachin Ravindra.

"For our three left-arm orthodox spinners in particular, Ajaz, Mitch and Rachin, having the chance to work with Rangana across three Tests on the sub-continent will beneficial," he said. be hugely

Kerala seeks football collaboration with Argentina

PTI THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Football-crazy Kerala is seeking collaboration with Argentine Football the Association (AFA), with a high-level delegation headed by State Sports Minister V Abdurahiman holding a meeting with its office-bearers in Madrid, Spain. In a Facebook post, Abdurahiman, who is

currently in Madrid, said on Friday that the collaboration Kerala

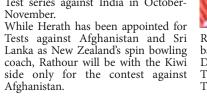


was discussed. As part of this, welcomed. Commenting on their meeting, the AFA said: the association representatives expressed interest in visiting "Together with the delegation from the Government soon AFA also

the most important and popular sports brands in this strategic market through its global expansion strategy, it said in a statement.

"In this context, our institution In this context, our institution is working on developing sports and commercial projects in different parts of the country, with the aim of continuing to expand our brand and being closer to the fans of the Argentine National Team in India," it added. The AFA also thanked





Gagan Narang lauds performance of Indian athletes at Paris Paralympics

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

T ondon Games bronze Lindallist shooter and India's Chef de Mission at the Paris Olympics, Gagan Narang on Friday heaped praise on the country's para athletes for their performance in the ongoing Paralympics.

The Indian Paralympic contingent has already bagged a record 25 medals in this edition of the quadrennial showpiece with 5 gold, 9 silver and 11 bronze and is currently placed at the 16th position in the medal tally.

When asked about his analysis of the Paris Olympic Games, the former shooter said he hasn't done it yet.

"I haven't done my analysis of the Paris Olympics yet, everybody has spoken about it. But the most important thing right now is that in the

Paralympics we are performing well, we are on the 16th

position today. "A fantastic effort by our Paralympians. They surpassed the Tokyo Paralympics medal tally, looking forward for more medals," Narang told PTI Videos on the sidelines of the Media Photojournalist Trust's photo exhibition event at the

Press Club of India. Narang also shared his thoughts on his love for photography and expressed his admiration for the photos he saw at the exhibition.

'Fantastic exhibition indeed, photographers are lifeline of journalism. They give us a perspective and no AI (Artificial Intelligence) can replace them. I wish, pray and help the association to do this

function every year. Fantastic effort and great pictures," he concluded.

with AFA will be a huge investment for Kerala and expressed interest in setting up football academies in Kerala in collaboration with the state government," he said. expressed his desire to make this a reality as soon as

"The possibility of considering According to the minister, the AFA said that the Argentine Kerala as a venue for fan con international friendly matches always fan community in Kerala has been warmlv

Kerala. headed bv Abdurahiman, Minister of Sports, we had the opportunity to share initiatives and projects that will surely materialize in the short term.

In recent years, the association has established itself as one of

of Government of Kerala for "this V important visit."

> Meanwhile, the Abdurahimanled delegation also visited various sports development centres in Madrid and met with officials from the Spanish Higher Sports Council.



Australia stunned by Bahrain in World Cup qualifying as Palestinians draw with South Korea

team. Salem Al-Dawsari

The 18 teams remaining in

Asian qualification have been

divided into three groups of six. The top two from each qualify automatically for the

2026 World Cup while the six teams that finish in third and

Palestinians

snatched what would have

been a stunning victory in

added time. Through on goal,

Wessam Abou Alis shot was saved by Jo Hyun-woo.

"It was a difficult match, but we

happy to bring joy to our fans

The

almost

missed a late penalty.

Indian Hockey can aim for gold in next Olympics: Sreejesh

Riding high on the success of winning a bronze medal in Paris - ending a fourdecade-long dry spell - the Indian hockey team now aims to build on this momentum with hopes of clinching gold at the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028, ace goalkeeper P R Sreejesh said on Friday.

The former national team captain, who announced his retirement after the Paris Olympics, told journalists in the Bihar capital that he saw the state as the future

"sports hub". "I see many positive developments in Bihar, particularly at the sports complex in Rajgir, which now features an astro turf and will host the women's Asian Cup Trophy tournament later this year," Sreejesh remarked.

He added, "I see no reason why Bihar cannot emerge as the country's next sports hub. I have met sports department officials



here and found many initiatives, like establishment of a sports university, quite impressive".

Sreejesh, who has taken up a new assignment as the coach for the junior men's hockey team, said he had set his eyes on the next Asia Cup and revealed that he was drawing inspiration from former cricket team captain Rahul Dravid.

After a successful playing career, Dravid, known as "The Wall" for his steadfast batting, has made significant contributions as head coach of the Indian cricket team, helping it to new heights.

Sreejesh broke into a wide grin that like his idol, his own skills earned him the sobriquet "The Great Wall of Indian Hockey

At 36, Sreejesh reminisced about his experiences at the Paris Olympics and expressed hope that the national team would "revive the old glory of Indian hockey" by aiming for gold in Los Angeles and performing well in tournaments leading up to the 2028 Games.

"We have a very talented team. Krishan Pathak, who has succeeded me, is an excellent goalkeeper," Sreejesh said, highlighting the importance of managing pressure and taking time to unwind between games.

A fan of Harry Potter, Sreejesh confessed that his love for fiction has provided him with a means of escape from the intense pressures of competitive sports, helping him navigate the challenges of his demanding career.

AP SEOUL

ustralia fell to a shock 1-0 Aloss to Bahrain at home in the opening game of the third round of Asian World Cup qualifying. Meanwhile, South Korea was held to 0-0 by the Palestinians in Seoul.

fourth will advance to the fourth round where there are Despite losing all six previous games against Australia, Bahrain won thanks to an own two more places on offer. goal from Harry Souttar with a South Korea last missed out on minute remaining on the Gold Coast. Abdulla Al-Khalasi's the World Cup in 1982 and got off to a poor start in Group B cross from the left side of the due to the Palestinians. area hit the defender and flew South Korea missed chance past goalkeeper Mat Ryan. Australia dominated the game

after chance - captain Son Heung-min hit the post - but could not find a way through a but was reduced to 10 men when Kusini Yengi was reddetermined defense from a carded after 77 minutes for a visitor that has never reached this stage before. reckless tackle.

"It's not the way that we want to start our campaign, a loss at home, but we have to go away and improve," Australia winger and improve, Australia winger Craig Goodwin said. "We have to look at the positives. This is the first game, there are nine games to go." Bahrain is second in Group C behind Japan, which thrashed Ching 7 0 in Gritage

were able to come away with a good result because we brought all the players that we China 7-0 in Saitama. could get our hands on," Palestinian coach Makram Daboub said. "I am extremely First-half headers from

midfielder Wataru Endo and winger Kaoru Mitoma put Japan in control by the break. Then Takumi Minamino scored twice in quick succession and Junya Ito,

Daizen Maeda and Takefusa Kubo also found the target to make it a painful evening for China.

Also in Group C, Saudi Arabia was held to a 1-1 draw by Indonesia in Jeddah. Ragnar Oratmangoen scored for Indonesia but Musab Al-Juwayr equalized before the break for Roberto Mancini's

Errani and Vavassori win US Open mixed doubles title in Young's final match before retiring

AP NEW YORK

 $S_{\rm Vavassori\ won\ the\ U.S.\ Open\ mixed\ doubles\ title\ with\ a\ 7-6\ (0),}$ 7-5 victory Thursday over Taylor Townsend and Donald Young, who fell just short of a Grand Slam title in his final match before retiring. Errani, who won a career Grand

Slam in women's doubles with fellow Italian Roberta Vinci, added her first career mixed doubles title to the Olympic gold medal in women's doubles she won last month with Jasmine Paolini.

"It's incredible for me this year. It's amazing," Errani said.

Townsend and Young, who have been friends since they were kids, were given a wild card into the event for what was the 35-year-old Young's final tournament. The former top-ranked junior hadn't played much in recent years, having made the switch to pickleball.

"Obviously wasn't the result we wanted," Young said, "but I can't think of a better spot, place to go out in, having watched that as a kid, and playing with someone I've known our whole life. It's pretty

cool for me."

He and Townsend made their way through the draw, knocking off defending champions Anna Danilina and Harri Heliovarra in the quarterfinals. But Errani and Vavassori, the No. 3

seeds, dominated the tiebreaker and then won the match by breaking Townsend's serve. Errani hadn't played a mixed

doubles event for eight years before partnering with Vavassori at Wimbledon. They were knocked out in the first round, then reached the quarterfinals at the Olympics before coming to New York.



in Palestine." Iraq is above Korea in Group B after a 1-0 win over Oman in Basra while Jordan drew 1-1 with Kuwait. Iran got off to a winning start in Group A,

defeating Kyrgyzstan 1-0 thanks to a first half goal from Inter Milan striker Mehdi Taremi. Uzbekistan is level on three points after a 1-0 victory over North Korea.

United Arab Emirates is top of the group with a 3-1 win at Asian champion Qatar.