

# the pioneer


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**PM Modi pitches India to chip makers**

**EYEING 10% SHARE OF PATENTS IN 6G SERVICES FOR INDIA: SCINDIA**



**I'm not doing films for money; it's my love: ABHIRAMI**



**QUOTE OF THE DAY**  
The pioneer

*During BRS rule, medical colleges existed only on paper. There was no college building, no hostel and no hospital. So the NMC decided that the colleges could not be permitted. Staff was not hired or equipment purchased. It was the Congress admin which made arrangements according to NMC guidelines and appealed to get permission*



- Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha

**DON'T MISS...**

**HYDRAA recovers 111 acres by removing...**

The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA) removed 262 encroachments and recovered 111.72 acres of land from the encroachments in the city. Demolitions were conducted at 23 locations from June 27 to September 8. On Wednesday, the HYDRAA released a list of demolitions in the city. According to the list, the first demolition took place on June 27 at Film Nagar Co-operative Society (Lotus Pond) and recovered 0.16 acres from encroachers. The last demolition took place at...

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**Wealthy Indians send kids...**

Over three-fourth of wealthy Indians have sent or are planning to send their kids overseas for education, according to a survey. The survey of 1,456 Indians, having investable surplus between Rs 84 lakh (USD 100,000) and nearly Rs 17 crore (USD 2 million), conducted in March found the strong urge for overseas education with 78 per cent of the respondents saying they are keen on a foreign education for their children. Investable survey is the amount set aside for investment from overall net worth...

-PAGE: 5

**India committed to climate-friendly...**

NITI Aayog CEO B V R Subrahmanyam on Wednesday said India is committed to climate-friendly growth, but fossil fuels are still going to drive the country's economic growth. Addressing an event here, Subrahmanyam said markets alone cannot solve the problem of climate change. "India is committed to climate-friendly growth... (but) fossil fuels are still going to drive the country's economic growth," he said. Subrahmanyam further said that NITI Aayog is working with states in developing a...

-PAGE: 8

**Rohit, Kohli, Pant are probably...**

Veteran Australian spinner Nathan Lyon has identified Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, and Rishabh Pant as the three "big ones" to watch out for in the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy Test series. The five-Test series between India and Australia gets underway Down Under from November 22, part of the World Test Championship. Besides the big ones, Lyon has also warned that the visitors have an "amazing line-up", making things massively challenging for the hosts. "Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, and Rishabh..."

-SPORTS

**CM WARNS OCCUPANTS OF ILLEGAL HOUSES ALONG LAKES**

## 'Vacate respectfully or we'll raze'

- 'We will send encroachers to jail, if necessary,'
- ZBHKs to house 11,000 poor residents in Musi zone

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has issued a stern warning to occupants of houses that have come up illegally in buffer zones of lakes across the state, saying: "Vacate respectfully or we'll demolish ruthlessly." The Chief Minister was addressing the passing-out parade at the Telangana Police Academy in Hyderabad on Wednesday. Revanth Reddy emphasized that encroachments, particularly those affecting water bodies like ponds, lakes, and canals, were a major cause of floods with devastating impacts on the poor. While appealing to illegal occupants to vacate their homes voluntarily, he warned that should they refuse, the government would have no hesitation in demolishing all illegal structures. "We will send encroachers to jail, if necessary," he added, reflecting the government's determination to preserve water bodies. While highlighting the Musi Riverfront Development project,



the Chief Minister declared that encroachments along the river would be removed and rehabilitation provided to the 11,000 permanent residents in the area. Additionally, the government planned to build double-bedroom houses for these residents, ensuring their welfare, he added. In his address, the Chief Minister reiterated the government's commitment to tackling drug addiction and cybercrime among the youth, while urging a collective effort to eradicate drug menace from Telangana. He praised the state's police force and expressed confi-

dence that Telangana would soon become drug-free due to their dedication. Revanth Reddy also announced the establishment of two Residential Police Schools, one in Hyderabad and another in Warangal, as part of the government's efforts to support families of police personnel. He mentioned that the state government had waived Rs 18,000 crore in farm loans, benefiting over 22 lakh farmers, and reiterated the state's focus on attracting investments while supporting farmers, weavers, and toddy tappers.

**Permission necessary even for constructing a wall: HC**  
Securing nod by paying fines after construction not allowed  
CHITHALURI REVANTH  
revanth.chithaluri@gmail.com  
■ HYDERABAD

Justice T. Vinod Kumar of the Telangana High Court on Wednesday reiterated that for constructing even a wall, permission is necessary from the authorities.

**CENTRAL TEAM IN TELANGANA TO ASSESS FLOOD DAMAGE**

## CS calls it 'ecological crisis'

Special Chief Secretary Arvind Kumar puts flood damage at Rs 5,438 crore

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A Central team visited Telangana on Wednesday to assess the damage caused by recent floods. Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari briefed the team on the flood damage. The six-member Central team, led by Colonel KP Singh, held discussions with the Chief Secretary and senior TG officials at the Secretariat on Wednesday. The Chief Secretary explained that warnings from the India Meteorological Department had alerted the administration and that it minimised the loss of lives. "Quick action by the state government prevented casualties," said Shanti Kumari. She added that the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister, along with ministers, regularly monitored the situation and supervised flood relief and rehabilitation efforts. The Chief Secretary also said that two ministers and the Deputy Chief Minister went to Khammam to speed up relief operations and released funds to the district administration for immediate flood relief and rehabilitation measures.

**Shivraj submits report on flood damage to Shah**



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi and handed over a preliminary report on the damage caused by floods in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. He said the report details the extent of damage in flood-affected areas.

## 'Telangana Praja Palana Dinotsavam' to mark Sept 17

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Government of Telangana has announced that September 17 will be celebrated as 'Telangana Praja Palana Dinotsavam,' a day to commemorate the state's governance and achievements. The Centre is observing September 17 as Hyderabad Liberation Day. The KCR government celebrated it as 'Hyderabad Integration Day'. The government issued GO Rt. No: 1213, dated 11.09.2024, nominating dignitaries to unfurl the



National Flag and preside over ceremonies in various districts. In the state capital, the Chief Minister will hoist the National Flag and take the salute while des-

ignated dignitaries will conduct similar ceremonies in other districts. In Adilabad, Government Advisor Mohd. Ali Shabbir has been nominated to hoist the flag. In Bhadrachalam Kothagudem, the responsibility falls on Tummala Nageswara Rao, the Minister for Agriculture, Marketing, Co-operation, Handlooms and Textiles. In Hanumakonda, Konda Surekha, the Minister for Environment, Handlooms and Forests, Endowments will head proceedings.

## Hopes soar for Cabinet expansion CM Revanth for Delhi

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy left for New Delhi on Wednesday and is expected to meet Union Ministers to seek funds for flood relief operations. He will also meet AICC leaders. The CM is expected to meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah to seek Central assistance, official sources said. A Central team began its visit to the state on Wednesday to assess the damage caused by the heavy rains and floods. It is nearly 10 months after the Congress government took power in the state, but Cabinet expansion is not complete even now.

Sources indicate that an auspicious time has been fixed for the expansion. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is expected to discuss Cabinet expansion with the Congress High Command. This has sparked widespread interest within Congress circles, with speculation growing about who might be included in the cabinet. There is a possibility that the high command will give the green signal for the expansion. With nomination and MLC appointments, as well as the TPCC chief's appointment over, all eyes are now on Cabinet expansion.

## AYUSHMAN BHARAT PM JAN AROGYA YOJANA Health cover for all aged 70+ gets Union cabinet nod

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved health coverage for all persons aged 70 years and above under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana irrespective of their income, benefiting around six crore senior citizens, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said. The Rs 5 lakh free health insurance cover would benefit senior cit-

izens of around 4.5 crore families. Eligible beneficiaries would be issued a new distinct card under the scheme, the government said. "Senior citizens of the age 70 years and above belonging to families already covered under AB PM-JAY will get an additional top-up cover up to Rs 5 lakh per year for themselves (which they do not have to share with the other members of the family who are below the age of 70 years).

## HC to ECI: Decide on TRS' registration request within 10 days

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana High Court ordered the Election Commission of India (ECI) to take a decision regarding the registration of a political party named 'Telangana Rythula Samithi' (TRS), within 10 days. The name of the party has been given as the 'Telangana Rythula Samithi (TRS), in the application moved in court. A two-judge panel, comprising Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice J. Sreenivas Rao heard a writ petition regarding the matter on Wednesday.

## Rs 12,461-cr Central support for 31,350 MW hydro power projects

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved an outlay of Rs 12,461 crore to support the development of 31,350 MW hydropower projects to be implemented over the next eight years. The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Power for modification of the scheme of budgetary support for the cost of enabling infrastructure for Hydro Electric Projects



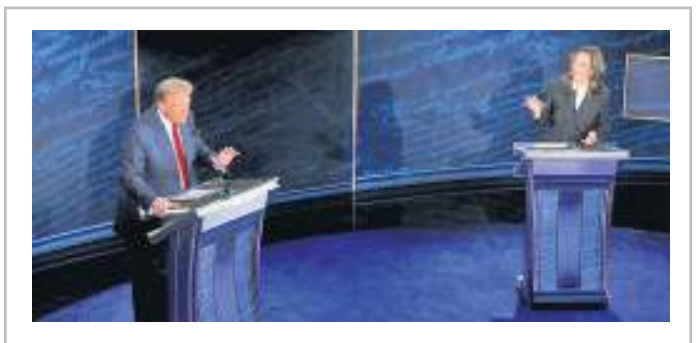
(HEP) with a total outlay of Rs 12,461 crore, an official statement

said. According to the statement, the scheme will be implemented from FY2024-25 to FY2031-32. The limit of the budgetary support for the cost of enabling infrastructure has been rationalised to Rs 1 crore per MW for projects up to 200 MW capacity and Rs 200 crore plus Rs 0.75 crore per MW for projects above 200 MW capacity. For exceptional cases the limit of budgetary support may go up to Rs 1.5 crore/MW provided sufficient justification exists.

# Harris trumps Donald in Presidential debate

PNS ■ WASHINGTON

Kamala Harris repeatedly got under the skin of Donald Trump in their first presidential debate, challenging him on foreign policy, economy and abortion as she sought to erase the memory of President Joe Biden's disastrous face-off earlier with the Republican candidate. "You're not running against Joe Biden. You're running against me," Vice President Harris, who is the Democratic candidate, told the former president, when he criticised the current administration. The matchup on TV Tuesday night began with a handshake - Harris took the initiative walking up to Trump's lectern - but later descended into acrimony. To most viewers of the television debate, Harris came off better. A



CNN flash poll said 63 per cent of debate watchers felt the Democratic nominee had outperformed her rival. Fox News, often considered partial towards Trump, agreed. "In the Trump-Harris face-off there was a clear winner but don't believe this

election is over," its headline to an opinion piece said. In her remarks at the end of the 90-minute debate in Pennsylvania, the vice president said, "I think you've heard tonight two very different visions for our country, one that is focused on the future and the

other that is focused on the past and an attempt to take us backwards." "But we're not going back," Harris, 59, said. She claimed that world leaders are "laughing at Donald Trump," and pulled no punches. "I have talked with military leaders, some of whom worked with you, and they say you're a disgrace," she said. Trump, 78, asked why Harris had not done during the Biden-Harris administration what she is promising now. "She just started by saying she's going to do this, she's going to do that. She's going to do all these wonderful things. Why hasn't she done it? She's been there for three and a half years," he said. "They've had three and a half years to fix the border. They've had three and a half years to create jobs and all the things we talked about.

Why hasn't she done it?" he asked in his concluding remarks. This was the second presidential debate, but the first between Trump and Harris. Biden put up a terrible performance against Trump in the first debate, and withdrew from the race, paving the way for Harris to be the Democratic Party's nominee for the November election. The moderators from ABC News had to inject fact-checks multiple times during the debate. "As I said, you're going to hear a bunch of lies, and that's not actually a surprising fact," Harris said. She said if Trump is re-elected, he would sign a national abortion ban bill. "There would be a national abortion monitor that would be monitoring your pregnancies, your miscarriages," she claimed.

## 10 hurt as mob attacks cops in Shimla mosque dispute

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Protesters demanding the demolition of an illegal portion of a mosque in Shimla's Sanjauli area clashed with security personnel on Wednesday, breaking barricades and pelting stones as police used water cannons and baton charged to disperse them. About 10 people including police and women were injured. Public Works Vikramaditya Singh said the government was

seriously concerned over escalation of the situation and keeping a close watch on all the developments. "We are in touch with the central leadership and Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu and myself have talked to party president Mallikarjun Kharge and party in-charge Rajiv Shukla and they are also concerned that there was no deterioration in law and order situation," he said.



5

# AP shines once again in EoDB Rankings

There are two peculiarities concerning the Telugu states worth discussing in relation to the latest Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) rankings. First, despite former AP chief minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's apparent disregard for the efforts made under Chandrababu Naidu's leadership, Andhra Pradesh continues to secure top positions. Second, Telangana's former minister K.T. Rama Rao attempted to shift blame for Telangana's poor performance in the EoDB rankings onto the current Congress government, sidestepping his own administration's role in the decline.

The EoDB rankings were introduced by the Union government in 2014, with the main objective of fostering competition among the states in India by encouraging reforms to make business operations smoother. The Centre

developed a framework to assess which states were making it easier to do business. Based on this framework, the rankings were released four times: in 2015, 2017, 2019, and most recently.

The key point is that, ever since the rankings started, the Telugu states have been highly competitive. In 2015, Andhra Pradesh (AP) secured the second spot, while Telangana ranked 13th. Determined to improve, then minister KTR placed significant focus on the rankings, and by 2017, Telangana had made substantial progress, with AP securing first position and Telangana coming second.

The new Telugu states' competitive rise in the business rankings even gained national recognition. By 2019, AP once again secured the top spot, with Telangana ranking third. In the latest EoDB rankings announced by the Central government, AP once again claimed second place. This means that, since the EoDB rankings began, Andhra Pradesh has consistently been in the top ranks, achieving first or second place every time.

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The first rankings were released under then chief minister Chandrababu Naidu, with then-IT Minister Nara Lokesh making considerable efforts to improve AP's business environment. It was widely

acknowledged, even by renowned business journalists like Swaminathan Anklesaria Aiyar, that Naidu's leadership enabled AP to compete with more industrially advanced states like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra. Telangana also advanced in the rankings, with KTR's efforts playing a crucial role in moving from 13th to second place.

But in the latest rankings, two key observations emerge.



**RAMESH KANDULA**  
Chief Editor Swatantra TV and author

Let's first examine AP's ranking. As mentioned earlier, AP has consistently remained in the top two positions. The third set of rankings was released for the year 2020, when YS Jagan Mohan Reddy served as the chief minister. Despite that, AP still managed to top the rankings, and the YSRCP government proudly

claimed credit. However, it is interesting to note that when Jagan was in the Opposition, he had ridiculed the EoDB rankings, dismissing them as a media fabrication.

Despite becoming chief minister in 2019, Jagan continued to make dismissive remarks about the rankings. His attempts to defame the rankings failed to acknowledge their value, even as AP was recognised again in the 2020 rankings (for the year 2019)—clearly not due to his administration, but due to the groundwork laid by the previous TDP government.

In the latest EoDB rankings for 2022 (announced on September 5 by the Centre); AP once again secured second place. So, should Jagan's government receive credit? Given Jagan's earlier disdain for these rankings, it seems unlikely that his administration active-

ly pursued this recognition. Thus, it is more plausible that the foundations laid during the 2014-2019 period contributed to AP's continued success in these rankings.

Now, let's look at Telangana. As noted earlier, Telangana had previously secured 13th, second, and third positions in past rankings. However, in the most recent EoDB rankings, Telangana's name is conspicuously absent. KTR responded to this by tweeting, blaming the Congress government under Revanth Reddy for the decline. "The latest Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) reformers' rankings reflect the misrule of the Revanth government in Telangana," he observed.

However, there's a catch. The rankings KTR referred to were for 2022 -- a period when the BRS government, led by KCR, was in power. Therefore, the responsibility for this fail-

ure lies with KTR's own administration.

KTR's hasty criticism of the Congress government overlooks this critical point. While he had worked hard during BRS' tenure to compete with the TDP government, Telangana's decline in the rankings highlights a lack of consistency and follow-up. Interestingly, KTR blamed the Naidu government in 2016 for 'stealing' its ease of doing business data. His government even lodged a complaint alleging theft of website information and template copyrights with its cybercrime police. But it seems AP continued to blaze a trail in securing top rankings, while Telangana lagged due to its political leaders.

Ultimately, both Jagan and KTR have shown that their political priorities often overshadow their commitment to improving their states.

## Govt criticised over dog attack cases in TG

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former minister Harish Rao has expressed outrage over the increasing number of dog attacks in Telangana, accusing the Congress government of neglecting the issue.

The latest fatal attack on an infant has triggered widespread concern, with Rao condemning the State's failure to address the crisis. In a strongly worded statement, Rao stated, "The government's indifference towards the rising cases of dog bites is not just negligence, it's a blatant disregard for human life. Despite repeated warnings, no action has been taken, and innocent lives are being lost."

The former minister pointed out that over 60,000 dog

bite cases have been reported this year, with several fatalities. He blamed the situation on the government's inability to control the stray dog population and its failure to ensure the availability of life-saving anti-rabies injections in public hospitals. "Sanitation has collapsed across the State, with garbage piling up on the streets. This is contributing to the growing stray dog menace, yet the Urban Development Department and municipal authorities remain inactive," Rao remarked.

He highlighted the gravity of the situation, noting that there are over 2 million stray dogs in Telangana, with over 1 million in the GHMC area alone.

## 'Med colleges only on paper under BRS'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha, in response to the comments of BRS MLA Harish Rao, said that during the BRS government, medical colleges were merely on papers with issuance of GOs.

"The colleges were merely on paper limiting to GOs. Due to the upcoming Assembly elections the former government has hurried the process of GOs for medical colleges. There is no college building, no hostel, no hospital. The staff was not hired and the equipment was not bought. But, the colleges were set up."

"However, when Congress government was formed, the NMC has concluded that colleges cannot be permitted. We have made the arrangements according to the NMC guidelines and appealed to get permissions," he added.



In the first appeal, the NMC was convinced for Mulugu, Gadwal, Narayanpet and Narsampet colleges. Later, upgradations were made for another four districts, he said. BRS MLA Harish Rao said, "I am proud to see that Telangana has achieved a historic milestone, becoming the only State in India to have a medical college in every district. With the recent approval of four

new medical colleges, the State now has 34 government medical colleges, a remarkable transformation from just five before Telangana's formation.

Under the leadership of former Chief Minister KCR, we have added 29 new medical colleges in just nine years, increasing the number of MBBS seats from 850 in 2014 to 4,090 today. This dramatic expansion allows Telangana to produce over 10,000 doctors every year, helping meet both local and global healthcare needs."

KCR's vision of establishing a medical college in every district has been realised. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the people of Yadadri, Medak, Maheshwaram, and Quthbullapur, where new colleges have been approved, and to the people of Mulugu, Narsampet, Gadwal, and Narayanpet, where colleges

were approved last month, Harish Rao said.

The previous KCR government had secured funds and land for eight new medical colleges, but due to administrative delays under the Congress government, only four were approved last month by the NMC. The Congress government has since appealed to the Centre, promising to meet all necessary conditions, and we are pleased that four additional colleges have now been approved, he added. With these new approvals, Telangana's government medical colleges now offer 4,090 MBBS seats, a fivefold increase in just nine years. Our State is also leading the country in MBBS seats as per population, with 22 seats per lakh people—an achievement we can all be proud of, Harish Rao added.

## TG will enforce Central coaching centres: Sridhar

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

IT & Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu said that the state government would implement the guidelines framed by the Centre to regulate coaching centres training students for NEET and EAMCET.

He acknowledged that due to the absence of regulations, no action has been taken so far regarding the safety of candidates and the burden of high fees.

Speaking at a Cabinet Subcommittee meeting on educational reforms held at the Secretariat on Wednesday, he gave guidance to senior officials on various issues.

The meeting was also attended by Panchayat Raj,

Women, and Child Welfare Minister Dhanasari Anasuya Seethakka, a member of the sub-committee.

Sridhar said that some coaching institutes conducting coaching for engineering and medical entrance exams were running junior colleges violating rules. He directed officials to implement Central guidelines and bring these coaching centres under control.

He also said that the government is considering the establishment of a fee regulation committee for private schools and intermediate colleges.

The minister emphasised that if government schools are transformed into centres of excellence, poor students wouldn't need to go to private schools.

## DISQUALIFICATION PETITIONS BRS asks Assembly Secy to act on HC order



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLAs formally submitted a petition to the Telangana Legislative Assembly Secretary, urging swift action to implement the High Court order about disqualification petitions.

KP Vivekanand and Padi Kaushik Reddy submitted a letter dated September 10, 2024, to the Assembly Secretary. Vivekanand called

for immediate steps to bring the petitions before the Speaker for adjudication. The petitions, filed earlier this year by Vivekanand on April 2 and April 8, were aimed at disqualifying legislators Venkat Rao Tellam and Kadiyam Srihari. However, the Speaker had not taken action on these disqualification petitions, forcing Vivekanand to approach the High Court through WP No. 11098 of 2024.

## BRS MLA sends sarees, bangles to defectors



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy triggered a controversy by sending sarees and bangles to 10 Congress MLAs who defected from the BRS, along with a message, "Wear them and go around." His actions invited strong criticism from women leaders across the state.

Women's Finance Corporation Chairperson Bandru Shobharani condemned Padi Kaushik Reddy's act, stating, "Telangana women are known for their fighting spirit. Padi Kaushik Reddy won his seat by using women (his wife and daughter) as shields. If he wants to send sarees and bangles, let him first send them to KCR. It's because of defections that 'TRS was born.'"

Shobharani demanded action against Padi and warned that a police complaint would be filed. She urged the Women's Commission to take suo moto notice of Padi Kaushik Reddy's comments and call him for an inquiry. "We are requesting the Speaker to suspend him from the Assembly," she added. Arya Vaishya Corporation Chairperson Sujata also lashed out at Padi Kaushik Reddy saying, "The time has come for him to face the consequences."

## KTR calls out Cong hypocrisy on breakfast scheme

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS leader K Taraka Rama Rao criticized the Congress government for stopping the breakfast scheme which provides nutritious food and provides quality education to the children.

Taking to Twitter on Wednesday, he stated that it is ironic that the Centre is clamoring to start this scheme after half-baking the "CM Breakfast Scheme" implemented during the BRS regime. This scheme, which was successfully run in Telangana for 28,000 schools, was suffocated. Already Rythu Bandhu, Rythu Bhima, KCR Kit and nutrition kit were cancelled and in the end, the breakfast scheme to satisfy children's hunger has also been stopped.

## Female doctor assaulted by a patient at Gandhi Hospital

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A female intern was assaulted by a patient at the Gandhi Government Hospital on Wednesday afternoon.

A case has been registered at the Chilkalguda police station by junior doctors under sections of violence against health care.

The viral video shows that the doctor, who was passing by when another patient who was intoxicated assaulted her. Immediately, a group of people and another male doctors come and push the patient to the ground. Speaking to The Pioneer, Dr M Vamshi Krishna, vice-president of the Telangana Junior Doctors Association (T-JUDA), said that the patient seems to have done unknowingly and in a delirious state. He must have withdrawal symptoms to escape and attacked a person passing by him.

## Madhusudna Chary appointed Leader of Opposition in Council

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Srikonda Madhusudna Chary, a Member of the Legislative Council (MLC), has been recognised as the Leader of the Opposition in the Telangana Legislative Council.

The appointment, which came into effect on September 11, 2024, was notified by the Telangana Legislature Secretariat.

The official notification, signed by Dr V. Narasimha Charyulu, the Secretary of the State Legislature, said that the Chairman of the Telangana Legislative Council has acknowledged Srikonda's role as the Leader of the Opposition from the specified date. This recognition has been published in an extraor-



inary issue of the Telangana Gazette, highlighting its significance for the legislative procedures of the state.

The notification directed the Commissioner of the Government Printing Press, Hyderabad, to ensure the publication of this announcement in the Telangana Gazette and to supply its copies to all departments.

**TODAY**  
**ALMANAC**  
Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha  
Tithi: Navami: Sep 11 11:46 PM to Sep 12 11:33 PM  
Dashami: Sep 12 11:33 PM to Sep 13 10:30 PM  
Nakshatram: Moola: Sep 11 09:22 PM to Sep 12 09:52 PM  
Purva Ashadha: Sep 12 09:52 PM to Sep 13 09:35 PM  
Rahukalam: 1:43 PM to 3:14 PM  
Yamagandam: 6:07 AM to 7:38 AM  
Varjyam: 07:22 AM to 08:56 AM  
Gulika: 9:09 AM to 10:41 AM  
Amritakalam: 03:25 PM to 05:03 PM  
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:48 AM to 12:36 PM  
**HYDERABAD WEATHER**  
Forecast: Partly Cloudy  
Temp: 30°  
Humidity: 71%  
Sunrise: 6:04 AM  
Sunset: 6:21 PM  
Updated: September 11, 2024 5:00 PM

## Yadadri Plant to generate 4,000 MW by next March

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka congratulated the officials, staff and workers of Yadadri Thermal Power Plant for speeding up work and starting the oil synchronisation of Unit 2. Addressing a press conference, Bhatti said the foundation for the power plant was laid on February 8, 2015, and work commenced on October 17, 2015. Initially, two units were planned to be completed by October 2020 and the remaining three units by 2021. However, delays in completing the project resulted in increasing the financial burden on the state government.

## Modi failed to handle China:Rahul

PNS ■ WASHINGTON

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has slammed the Narendra Modi government over its handling of the conflict with China, telling reporters here that it is a "disaster" that 4,000 square kilometres of Indian territory is "occupied" by troops from the neighbouring country.

But the Leader of the Opposition indicated that the Congress is in broad agreement with the BJP-led government on other major foreign policy issues, including relations with the US, no talks with Pakistan unless terrorism ends and concerns over extremist elements in Bangladesh.

At a press conference at the prestigious National Press Club on Tuesday,

Gandhi also asserted that he did not want any US role in India's internal affairs.

Answering a question about China, he said: "Well, if you call having Chinese troops in 4,000 square kilometres of our territory handling something well, then maybe. We've got Chinese troops occupying land the size of Delhi in Ladakh. I think that's a disaster. Media doesn't like to write about it."

"How would America react if a neighbour occupied 4,000 square kilometres of your territory? Would any president be able to get away with saying that he's handled that well? So, I don't think Modi has handled China well. I think there's no reason Chinese troops should be sitting in our territory," Gandhi said.

## Those who defend Hindus are true Hindus, says Sanjay

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, said that those who protect Hindus from attacks are the true Hindus, emphasising that merely applying a tilak and practising rituals doesn't make one a Hindu.

He made these remarks after offering special prayers at the Khairatabad Bada Ganesh on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, Sanjay said, "It brings me great joy to visit Khairatabad Ganesh. It is delightful that, on the occasion of completing 70 years after the installation of Ganesh here, a 71-foot idol has been set up. True Hindus are those who stand up against attacks on Hindus."

## MEDIGADDA, SUNDILLA AND ANNARAM BARRAGES Uttam asks officials to get NDSA's final report

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy asked Irrigation Department officials to contact the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) and get its final report on the Medigadda, Sundilla and Annaram Barrages. The Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS) team recently visited the Medigadda Barrage. The team checked out the flood intensity at the Barrage by conducting an inspection using a boat.

CWPRS officials also conducted ADCP tests on the Godavari River, collecting data on water flow speed and directions. Irrigation officials too

took part in these tests along with the CWPRS team.

Uttam stressed the urgency of submitting the final report to the NDSA expert committee after conducting monsoon tests.

Speaking at a special review meeting held at the Jalasoudha on Wednesday, he emphasized the need to speed up approvals for the Sannamakka-Sarakka Project from the Chhattisgarh government. He also discussed compensation matters connected to the Sannamakka Sagar Project, urging negotiations with Chhattisgarh authorities.

The meeting was attended by the state's Irrigation Advisor Adityadas, Chief Secretary Rahul Bojja among others.

## Laxman criticises Rahul's talks with anti-India people

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BJP OBC Morcha President Rajya Sabha member Dr K. Laxman strongly criticised Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's interactions with individuals who oppose India during his visit to the US. Speaking at a press conference at the BJP state office, Dr Laxman denounced Rahul's meeting with Ilhan Omar, a US Congresswoman of Somali origin, known for her anti-India stance and her support for Pakistan.

He strongly condemned Rahul's comments regarding job reservations and criticised him for allegedly advocating the scrapping of reservations when circumstances permit.

## CITY EVENTS

### Free Homeo Camp

In the backdrop of the city being gripped with dengue, chikungunya, malaria and viral fevers. FTCCI is organising the camp. Top experts from Allopathy & AYUSH will address the prevention, treatment and post fever care. Free Homeopathic Consultation & Medicine distribution by the Experts from the Govt Medical College from 2 pm to 5 pm the same day.

#### Venue

Federation House, Red Hills  
September 12th at 4 pm.

### LV Prasad Eye Institute

Shantilal Shanghvi Cornea Institute at LVPEI crosses the milestone of over 50,000 corneal transplants, ensuring zero waiting list in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.

#### Venue

LV Prasad Eye Institute, Patodia Auditorium, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad.  
September 12, Time: 11.15 am

### Mia by Tanishq

Join Mia Tanishq as they celebrate their customers walking the ramp adorned with stunning jewellery.

#### Venue

Xora Bar and Kitchen, 5th Floor, Plot no. 498, Alcazar Mall, Road No. 36, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad.  
September 12, Time: 4.45 pm.

### Air Asia

Rapid expansion of its network with two new routes, with direct flights to Thailand.

#### Venue

Taj Vivanta Hotel, Hyderabad.  
September 12, Time: 3 pm.

### From limitations to liberation

Unlock your inner strength. A Transformative talk by actress, media personality Pooja Bedi.

#### Venue

Dunbar Hall, 4th floor, D-150, Sattva Knowledge City, Gachibowli, Hyderabad.  
September 12, Time: 3.30 to 5.30 pm.

### Novotel

16 years of heartfelt hospitality at Hyderabad Airport.

#### Venue

Novotel, Hyderabad Airport,  
September 14, Time: 6.30 pm.

### Celebrate Onam

An exquisite feast! 2024. immerse yourself in the true essence of Kerala with special Onam Sadhya Thali. Delight in a vibrant selection of traditional dishes, thoughtfully crafted to honour this joyous festival. This limited-time feast is a celebration not to be missed.

#### Venue

Aidu Restaurant Plot no 1057/G, Road No. 45, beside SBI Bank, Nandagiri Hills, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad, till September 15th

# City Pioneer



HYDERABAD | THURSDAY | SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

03

## 51.78 ACRES AT AMEENPUR LAKE RECOVERED

# HYDRAA recovers 111 acres by removing 262 encroachments

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA) removed 262 encroachments and recovered 111.72 acres of land from the encroachments in the city. Demolitions were conducted at 23 locations from June 27 to September 8.

On Wednesday, the HYDRAA released a list of demolitions in the city. According to the list, the first demolition took place on June 27 at Film Nagar Co-operative Society (Lotus Pond) and recovered 0.16 acres from encroachers. The last demolition took place at Ameenpur Lake, Katwa lake and Sunnam Cheruvu on September 8 and recovered 64.28 acres from encroachers.

Meanwhile, Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender supported the encroachers. The HYDRAA demolished the illegal structures at Jubilee Hills and saved 0.18 acres of a park land.

HYDRAA said that BRS leader Ratnakaram Sai Raju encroached 3.5 acres of Chinthal Cheruvu which was retrieved on September 6.

Bahadurpura MLA Mohamad Mubeen and MLC Mirza Rahmat Beig of AIMIM party have encroached 12 acres of land of Bhumruq Dowla Lake which was recovered on August 10. Congress leader Pallam Raju's brother Pallam Anand, Kavari Seeds owner & Ex TTD Member GV Bhasker Rao, Anupama, wife of Srinivas (Pro kabaddi owner) and Sunil Reddy's illegal structures at Gandipet Lake were demolished on August 18, where the HYDRAA recovered 15.25 acres of land from encroachment.

Film hero Nagarjuna's illegal structures were demolished at Thummidikunta Lake and recovered 4.9 acres of land on August 24.



## Sunnam Cheruvu victims complain to NHRC

Those who have lost their residences at Sunnam Cheruvu after the demolitions by the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA), have complained to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Tuesday. In the complaint they said that they had

migrated from several districts and stayed there for the last 10 years. On Sunday morning, the HYDRAA, along with the other officials, had conducted the demolitions at people's sheds without even informing them. The officials have not even given time to take their belongings out from their houses.

They have filed cases against those who have opposed the demolitions. The complaint said that it is clearly violating the Article 21 (Right to life) of the Constitution of India, according to the Supreme court judgment of the Olga Tellis & Ors vs Bombay Municipal Corporation & Ors case.

## 527 applications received in Prajavani

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Prajavani programme was conducted at the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Praja Bhavan at Begumpet on Wednesday. Tuesday's Prajavani programme has been postponed to Wednesday due to important meetings held in the Praja Bhavan. In all, 527 applications have been received in the Prajavani programme. Among the 527 applications, 80 were pertaining to the Revenue department, 79 to the Electricity Board, 68 pertaining to the Minority Welfare department, 63 to Panchayat Raj and Rural Development and 237 applications were filed in connection with other departments.



## FSC INSPECTIONS REVEAL MULTIPLE VIOLATIONS

# Houseflies, cockroach infestations at MG Bus Stand food courts

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Food Safety Commission (FSC) inspected MG Bus Stand Food Courts and found houseflies and cockroach infestations on Tuesday.

The Task Force officials inspected Yagnesh Virat Food Court where houseflies were found in the kitchen. Medical fitness certificates and pest control records were missing. The premises were open to the external environment, with no insect-proof screens. Raw and semi-prepared food in the refrigerator was covered but unlabeled. Overflowing, lidless dustbins were also noted and the stock was seized.

Meanwhile, at Raghavendra Bakery and Fast Food, live cockroaches were found in the kitchen. The FSSAI licence was missing, medical fitness and pest control records were not available. Uncovered, unlabeled food items, broken

tiles, greasy walls and the use of synthetic food colours led to further discards.

The officials also inspected Nandini Cafeteria at MG Bus Stand and found several violations. Medical fitness and pest control records were not maintained and the FSSAI licence was not displayed prominently. Windows lacked insect-proof screens and the flooring was patchy with water stagnation. The iron stand above the rice preparation area was corroded and rusted. Food in the refrigerator was uncovered and unlabeled.

Raw materials like flour and pulses were stored directly on the floor, without proper spacing.

Washroom doors were left open and food handlers were not wearing hair caps or aprons. Contaminated lime pickle (20 kg) was discarded and improperly labeled toor dal (50 kg) and coriander (50 kg) were seized.

## BENEVOLENT GESTURE



Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan meets Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy at his residence in Jubilee Hills on Wednesday. During the meeting, Pawan Kalyan handed over a cheque of Rs 1 crore as a contribution to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

# Steps to beautify Ramappa temple being taken: Minister

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Panchayat, Rural Development and Women and Child Welfare Minister Dansari Anasuya Seethakka has directed the officials to speed up the development works of Ramappa temple, which is recognised as a world heritage site.

The works should be completed in accordance with UNESCO standards. A meeting of the State Level Managing Committee of

World Heritage Ramappa temple was held at the Secretariat under the chairmanship of Minister Seethakka on Wednesday.

Minister Seethakka said that Ramappa temple has a wonderful art wealth with a great history. That is why UNESCO has recognised it as a world heritage. As Ramappa temple is the only structure recognised as a world heritage site in Telangana, efforts would be made to spread the glory of the temple to the world, she said.

All the departments should complete the work within the deadline. As there are many historical and tourism centres around Ramappa, the government wants to develop Ramappa as a tourist hub. Many historical places like Bogatha, Sammakka Saralamma temple, forest wealth and abundance of natural beauty attracts tourists to Mulugu. It has been suggested that the Tourism Corporation should build hotels with all amenities for the tourists.

## RS 100 CRORE FUND TO SUPPORT TECH UPGRADES

# New policy for MSMEs on the cards in TG

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana, with six decades of legacy in defence and aerospace, is set to launch a new policy for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) on September 18. This policy also focuses on the defence and aerospace sectors, which make up 60 to 70 per cent of its users. It also includes a Rs 100 crore fund to support technology upgrades, making Telangana the first State to take this initiative, said Special Chief Secretary to the IT department, Jayesh Ranjan at the CII-TG Defence and Space Conclave.

Jayesh Ranjan addressed a fireside chat on the State government's initiatives and plans to further strengthen the A&D sector. He emphasized that defence and aerospace are very



Special Chief Secretary to the IT department, Jayesh Ranjan, addressing a fireside chat in the CII-TG Defence and Space Conclave in Hyderabad on Wednesday

important industries for Telangana. He mentioned five key responsibilities of the government, with the first being the creation of infrastructure. He cited the setting up of exclusive defence and aerospace industrial parks and the encouragement of private companies, such as JEH Aerospace,

which has established a plug-and-play facility in Kothur, now used by 3 to 4 aerospace companies for manufacturing.

Jayesh Ranjan noted that many MSMEs have emerged with the growing technology in the State, but they struggle to invest in expensive real estate and facilities. This policy aims

to address those needs. He highlighted the rapid advancements in technology, such as 3D printing, which has significant applications in the defence industry.

Regarding skills and talent, Jayesh mentioned that some MSMEs hesitate to use 3D printing due to uncertainty about investments. To address this, the government launched the Young India Skill University, offering industry-specific skilling programmes for the defence and aerospace sectors.

He also discussed incentives, stressing that most defence projects come to the State through competitive means, which is why Telangana strongly pitches incentives along with large investments for MSMEs.

## GHMC chief inspects plans for H-CITI in LB Nagar

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner Amrapali Kata examined the proposals of works at LB Nagar on Wednesday. These works have been undertaken under Hyderabad City Innovative and Transformative Infrastructure (H-CITI).

The Commissioner ordered the GHMC officials to coordinate with the Hyderabad Metro Rail (HMR) officials regarding flyover alignment. The engineers were instructed to inspect the LB Nagar junction and take necessary steps in coordination with the Town Planning and Traffic authorities to organise the necessary land acquisition for the free left at the junction.

She inspected the Bairamalguda flyover and ordered the officials to speed up land acquisition to separate grade work road to Bairamalguda Right Hand Side (RHS) loop.

## FTCCI organises interactive session for industrialists

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The FTCCI organised an interactive session for industrialists from various industrial parks with Dr E Vishnu Vardhan Reddy, CMD of Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Ltd (TGIIC), on Wednesday evening. The session aimed to discuss infrastructure facilities in industrial parks and IALAs, along with the challenges and issues faced by industries and explore potential solutions.

The session was led by Srinivas Garimella, Chairman of the Industrial Development Committee, who facilitated the dialogue. Over 150 industrialists from parks like Kucharam, Pasha Mylaram, Jeedimetla, Bollaram, Patancheru, Nacharam and representatives from the

Nizamabad Chamber of Commerce, along with TGIIC officials, attended the event.

FTCCI president Suresh Kumar Singhal, emphasised that industrial growth relies more on government-provided infrastructure than on incentives, with industrial parks playing a crucial role in sectoral development. Dr Reddy, along with TGIIC officials, listened to the concerns raised by the industrialists and assured full support, promising a follow-up meeting in three months to review progress.

Dr Reddy also discussed TGIIC's new logo, representing inclusiveness, industry readiness, sustainability and highlighted the focus on MSMEs, decentralised industrial growth and women's entrepreneurship. He shared



## HMDA website down for hours, people say it's routine affair

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority's (HMDA) website was not working from Tuesday evening to Wednesday's evening, which caused citizens to worry.

Indian National Congress member Lubna Sarvath said that the HMDA website hmda.gov.in was missing since Tuesday. Citizens are worried.

A citizen, who does not want to be named, said that every few months the HMDA website has not been working for several hours. This has turned into a routine affair for citizens.

HMDA website is crucial for citizens to know the information on planning permission, building permission and other permissions. People can use the HMDA website to know about the ongoing and upcoming projects and other details of urban development.

# Back voter enrollment, parties told

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Sudharshan Reddy on Wednesday sought the support of political parties' representatives in accelerating the voter enrollment drive in the State.

CEO Reddy has conducted a meeting on Wednesday at his office with representatives from registered political parties to discuss the progress of the ongoing voter enrollment drive. A total of 11 representatives from various political parties attended the meeting.



Telangana Chief Electoral Officer Sudharshan Reddy holds a meeting on Wednesday at his office with representatives from registered political parties

The CEO emphasised the vital role of booth level officers (BLOs) in the campaign by going door-to-door to facilitate the registration of first-time

voters, particularly those who will turn 18 by January 1, 2025.

The BLOs are also assisting in updating and correcting

existing voter details, rationalising voter distribution across polling booths and ensuring an overall improvement in voter enrollment throughout the State.

He said the ECI has made voter enrollment easy by allowing eligible voters to scan QR code which is quick, easy and hassle free.

During the meeting, the political party representatives offered constructive suggestions and highlighted the importance of involving party representatives more actively in the enrollment process.

## Cong govt orders probe into KU land grabbing

PNS ■ HANAMKONDA

The state government has paid special attention to the survey of the lands belonging to the Kakatiya University, Warangal as the Association of the Kakatiya University Teachers lodged a complaint regarding the encroachment of the university lands. The government gave orders to the Vigilance and Enforcement Department officials to conduct a comprehensive probe.

Recently it was decided that the university lands were grabbed by vested interests. A joint inspection was undertaken by Revenue, and Town Planning Department officials. Officials of these departments on Tuesday undertook field visit to the university. The officials have been going through the 1956 Sethwar land records to identify the encroachments of the university lands.

At the time of establishing Kakatiya University, a total of 673.12 acres have been acquired on the outskirts of Kumarpalli, GundlaSingaram and Palivemula villages.

For want of adequate security measures, lands in Kumarapalle and Palevemula were grabbed. It was that a university official built a house in survey number 229 on the outskirts of Kumarpalle, creating a con-



**It was that a university official built a house in survey number 229 on the outskirts of Kumarpalle, creating a controversy. There were allegations against him of encroaching the university lands instead of protecting them**

trover. There were allegations against him of encroaching the university lands instead of protecting them.

The Municipal officials served notices on 18 persons, including the university assistant registrar.

Ashok Babu who was KU Lands Committee member was stripped of the post. As Ashok Babu claimed that the land on which he built a house was that of a patta

land. The vigilance officials on Tuesday conducted joint inspection of lands under survey no.229 in Kumarpalli. They inspected the land documents of the adjacent houses to that of Ashok Babu. The officials identified that the university land was encroached upon there and compound walls were built occupying the road.

The DGPS survey conducted by the then Collector in

2021 and the digital map records were inspected to confirm the encroachments.

Current in-charge Vice-Chancellor of Kakatiya University Vakati Karuna, when she was Warangal Collector, got the KU lands surveyed. Then sheds erected in university lands were removed. In 2021, Hanamkonda Collector Rajiv Gandhi Hanumanth got the DGPS survey done on the university lands. Then physical boundaries could not be fixed. Now because of the re-survey of the lands highlighted the encroachments. The students unions have been demanding the government officials not to spare the encroachers.

## Political parties urged to appoint booth-level agents

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

District Collector Valluru Kranti on Wednesday asked the representatives of various political parties to appoint booth-level polling agents.

Addressing an all-party meeting at the Collectorate here, the Collector sought the cooperation of all political parties in the conduct of the door-to-door survey to prepare the voters' list without any errors. Wherever necessary, existing polling booths are being divided and new polling booths would be set up. If the political outfits happened to identify such polling booths, he asked them to bring it to his notice. The draft voters' list would be published on October 29, she said asking the representatives of political parties to carefully inspect the names of the voters. To undertake the process, she wanted the political parties to appoint their agents in all polling booths.

Special campaigns at the polling booth level would be conducted twice between October 29 and November 28, she said. During the special campaign, objections if any to the draft voters' list would be rectified.



Sangareddy District Collector V. Kranti speaking at an all-party meeting in Sangareddy on Wednesday

## Monkey menace keeps people on their toes



PNS ■ PEDDAPALLI

Monkeys have been venturing into human habitation, leaving their habitats due to habitat destruction, destruction of hills and hillocks due to stone quarrying, disappearance of the fruit-bearing trees in forests. They are making beeline for human habitations in search of food and water.

A huge group of simians have been attacking the children, the old and women and threatening to attack whoever resists them. Monkeys in groups of tens have been barging into houses and turning the furniture upside down. They are also attacking the standing crops in fields and destroying the crops.

In the past, the groups of monkeys could be noticed in rural areas, railway stations, bus stands and in and around temples. Nowadays, the monkeys are also venturing into towns sending shivers down the spine of the people.

In a span of just one month, monkeys have injured hundreds of people in Peddapalli district. Such incidents have been creating

a sense of fear among the people.

The monkey menace in Ramagundam, Godavarikhani, NTPC, FCI, Basant Nagar, Ramagiri, Mandhani, Muttaram, Kamanpur, Sultanabad, Kalva Srirampur, Dharmaram, Julapalli, Yelgedu and Odela has assumed alarming proportions, according to reports.

As hundreds of monkeys barged into the NTPC Ramagundam township, the NTPC, in an attempt to protect the families living in the township, deployed a workforce to drive the monkeys back into forests.

The SCCL workers also appealed to the management to focus on driving away the monkeys, which are barging into the SCCL workers' colonies. Because of the monkey menace, the workers are not able to go for morning walks in the Singareni sports grounds. There were instances of the monkeys in groups attacking the walkers.

It may be recalled that the Himachal Pradesh government got the monkeys sterilised to check the growth of monkey population in the state.

## Officials told to make arrangements for immersion of Ganesh idols

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

In anticipation of the upcoming Ganesh immersion programme, MLC Naveen Kumar Reddy directed the authorities to ensure that devotees face no difficulties during the event. He emphasised the importance of streamlining the process.

Municipal Chairman Konduti Narendar, along with MLC Naveen Kumar Reddy, reviewed the preparations at Bobbili Pond. They were joined by Municipal Commissioner Venkanna, Councilor Bachali Narsimha, and other officials during the inspection.

The municipality has made comprehensive arrangements at both Bobbili and Perumalla Ponds. Cranes will be deployed at the locations, and devotees are encouraged to utilise these facilities. Officials will be on-



MLC Naveen Kumar Reddy, along with Municipal Chairman Konduti Narendar and officials, inspecting arrangements for immersion of Ganesh idols.

site throughout the event to ensure safety and provide assistance as needed.

MLC Naveen Kumar Reddy also urged the public to take precautions and report any

issues to local authorities during the immersion process for prompt resolution.

## Severe action against hospitals flouting norms, warns Collector

PNS ■ KUMRAM BHEEM ASIFABAD

District Collector Venkatesh Dhotre on Wednesday made it very clear that private hospitals must abide by rules and regulations.

The Collector, accompanied by District Medical and Health Officer Tukaram Bhatt, made a surprise visit to a private hospital in Asifabad and interacted with patients. He inspected the wards.

Speaking on the occasion, Venkatesh Dhotre warned the private hospital management of action if they failed to abide by rules and regulations. He also inspected the laboratory in the hospitals. He enquired about the medical care being provided to patients.

He said that patients from



Asifabad Collector Venkatesh Dhotre interacting with a patient at a private hospital in Asifabad on Wednesday

tribal areas have been approaching private hospitals in the backdrop of people suffering from seasonal diseases. The doctors in private hospitals, like in government hospitals, should provide

quality healthcare at affordable cost.

The Collector directed the managements of private hospitals to displace their service charges for patients in the local language and English.

## Two suspected thieves die from electrocution

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

Two suspected thieves lost their lives in a tragic accident in Midjil mandal under Jadcherla constituency. The accident happened when the suspected thieves attempted to steal cables from a solar plant on the outskirts of Boinpalle village.

According to police, there were complaints of cable thefts at Pragathi Solar Plant time and again. On Tuesday night, a duo attempted to break into the plant by cutting the electric fence erected around the plant. They succeeded in removing the first layer and when they attempted to cut the second fence, the thieves died from electrocution.

The Solar Plant managers erected two-layer fences around the plant to prevent thieves from stealing the cables. The two-layer fences did not deter the burglars from stealing expensive cables. Later, the management connected the fence to a power source.

The security personnel noticed two bodies lying near the fence and reported the matter to the police. The identity of the deceased is yet to be ascertained.

## Collector inspects health camp in Jagtial rural mandal

PNS ■ JAGTIAL

District Collector B Satya Prasad on Wednesday inspected the health camp at Tippannapeta village under Jagtial rural mandal.

He said that the medical camps are being run in villages in view of viral fevers.

He verified the records and queried the doctors whether necessary medicines are available with them to treat viral

fevers.

If there is water stagnation in and around the homes, the mosquitoes breed in water bottles, tyres and so on.

The official teams have been sensitising the people on personal hygiene, he said seeking the people's cooperation to maintain personal hygiene and keep the surroundings of their houses clean to keep the viral fevers at bay.

## National Forest Martyrs Day observed

PNS ■ KUMRAM BHEEM ASIFABAD

District Forest Officer Neeraj Kumar Tibrewal on Wednesday paid rich tributes to martyred Forest Department officials at a programme held at the District Forest Office here on Wednesday.

Later, he flagged off a bike rally on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, he said that annually the National Forest Martyrs' Day is celebrated on September 11 in memory of IFS officer Srinivasan, who was murdered by the sandalwood smuggler of Karnataka Veerappan.

The Forest officials Shaik Hyder, Ghouse Mohiuddin, Kondal Rao and Srihari lost their lives in undivided Adilabad district in line of duty while fighting against timber smugglers and Maoists, he said, paying glowing tributes to them. He recalled their services to the Forest Department. The Forest Department lost



Bike rally take out on National Forest Martyrs Day in Asifabad on Wednesday

32 officials during the past three decades. While some died in the hands of timber smugglers, some others were killed by wild animals. Some others were killed in Maoist attacks.

The lives of martyrs, who sacrificed their lives to safeguard the forests risking their lives should be remembered. He exhorted the Forest per-

sonnel to play their bit of role in safeguarding the forests.

Asifabad Forest Range Officer Govind Singh Sardar, Deputy Range officers Yogesh and Saroja Rani, personnel working in the district forest office, district, divisional forest personnel, Asifabad range forest personnel took part in the celebrations.

## Glitch disrupts registrations in Shadnagar, Farooqnagar

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

For the past two days, registration services at the Shadnagar and Farooqnagar sub-registrar offices have come to a grinding halt due to a server problem, causing significant delays and frustration among those who booked slots for property registrations. Residents, including senior citizens and women with young children, have been waiting at the sub-registrar offices since morning, hoping for the issue to be resolved.

Officials at the Dhanika Sub-Registrar's office have confirmed that the disruption is due to a technical glitch in the server system. The affected areas, known for their bustling real estate activity, usually see hundreds of registrations daily, generating

lakhs of rupees in income for the government. The ongoing issue has not only delayed the registration process but also led to a significant loss of revenue.

The technical problem has persisted since Tuesday, with authorities working to fix the issue. On an average, around 5,000 to 7,000 registrations take place across the state, contributing an estimated 60 to 70 crore rupees to the State exchequer. The continued downtime has disrupted these transactions, causing inconvenience to many.

Officials have assured the people that efforts are being made to restore the system at the earliest. This is the first time such a widespread technical issue has happened in recent times, and authorities are working diligently to resolve the matter.

## MLA sore at officials over 'dereliction to duty'

PNS ■ WARANGAL

Parakala MLA Revuri Prakash Reddy has criticised the panchayat secretaries, special officers, Mandal Parishad officers for showing negligence while discharging official duty.

He reviewed the progress of the developmental works imple-

mented village-wise with the officials in a meeting held here on Wednesday.

He told Gram Panchayat Secretaries and special officers to discharge their duties.

He asked them to shun negligence in resolving the people's problems and implementing developmental works.



ACROSS THE STATES



ED attaches fresh assets of Nirav Modi

The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday said it has attached fresh assets worth Rs 29.75 crore of fugitive diamond trader Nirav Modi under the anti-money laundering law. A provisional order has been issued under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to attach these assets that are in the form of bank deposits, land, and buildings, it said in a statement. The agency, which has been probing Modi in the alleged USD 2 billion fraud against the Punjab National Bank for over five years now, has attached assets worth Rs 2,596 crore in India and abroad in the past. Modi, 53, is presently lodged in a UK jail and has lost his extradition plea to India in connection with this alleged bank loan fraud case, which is also being investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation.



MiG-29s, Jaguars to take part in Exercise Eastern Bridge

An IAF contingent comprising MiG-29s, Jaguars and C-17s will take part in a bilateral military exercise in Oman scheduled to take place on September 11-22 that seeks to enhance interoperability between the air forces of the two countries. This is the seventh edition of Exercise Eastern Bridge which will take place at Air Force Base Masirah. The bilateral exercise endeavours to enhance interoperability between the Royal Oman Air Force and the Indian Air Force and shall provide a platform for both teams to engage in a series of joint training missions designed to strengthen strategic cooperation and operational readiness, the defence ministry said in a statement. The IAF contingent comprises MiG-29 and Jaguar fighter jets and C-17 transport aircraft, it said. Exercise Eastern Bridge VII aims to improve tactical and operational skills, foster mutual understanding and bolster the ability of both air forces to collaborate effectively in diverse scenarios.



Naga govt denies permission to 'Gau Mahasabha'

The Nagaland government has decided not to grant permission to 'Gau Mahasabha' (mega meeting for cows) in Kohima on September 28, a senior minister said on Wednesday. Shankaracharya of Jyotirmath, Swami Avimuktshvaranand Saraswati, is scheduled to preside over the meeting. In Christian-majority Nagaland, beef is consumed by a majority of the population. The decision not to allow the programme was taken during a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, government spokesperson and minister C L John told reporters here. The Cabinet highlighted the protection given under Article 371A of the Constitution on the religious and social practices of the Nagas as well as the Naga customary law and procedure, John said. During the meeting, the Cabinet was apprised of the opposition voiced by various civil society organisations and political parties in the state.

PM Modi pitches India to chip makers

Stresses supply chain resilience

PNS ■ GREATER NOIDA (UP)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said resilience of supply chains is critical for the economy as he made a pitch to boost investments in domestic manufacturing of semiconductors -- the foundation of everything from smartphones to EV and AI.

Speaking at the SEMICON 2024 conference on the outskirts of the national capital, the Prime Minister said the Covid pandemic showed the importance of the supply chain and underscored the need to act to ward off any disruption. "Whether it was Covid or war, there hasn't been a single industry to remain unaffected by supply chain disruptions," he said.

Stressing the importance of a resilient supply chain, the Prime Minister expressed pride in India's central role in building resilience across sectors, positioning the country as a key player in the global mission to safeguard supply chains.

"Resilience of the supply chain is very important," he said. "India is working to create the same in different sectors of the economy."



A halt in flights, factory shutdowns in China, and surges in demand for specific products broke supply chains during Covid-19. One of the sectors impacted was chips

that form a critical part of every electronic device.

Prime Minister showcased India's reformist regime, stable policies and a market that has tasted technology to make a strong pitch for investments in semiconductor manufacturing.

Minorities safest in India: Rijju

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union minister Kiren Rijju on Wednesday hit out at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his remarks on minorities and said they are the safest in India.

Responding to a question on Gandhi's remarks in the US that RSS considers some religions, languages and communities inferior to others, Rijju said, "No matter the amount of effort made, India cannot be defamed because India's Constitution and culture do not differentiate between people."

He said people who want to defame India with the help of anti-India forces will not succeed.

The Minister for Minority Affairs who also holds the Parliamentary Affairs portfolio pointed out that minorities in India's neighbourhood come here if something wrong happens to them there. "Minorities are the safest in

**The Minister for Minority Affairs who also holds the Parliamentary Affairs portfolio pointed out that minorities in India's neighbourhood come here if something wrong happens to them there. "Minorities are the safest in India," he asserted**

India," he asserted.

Addressing on Monday a gathering of several hundred Indian Americans in Herndon, a Virginia suburb of Washington DC, the leader of opposition accused the RSS of considering some religions, languages and communities of being inferior to others and said the fight in India is about this and not about politics.

BRICS NSAs meet

Doval interacts with Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval on Wednesday called on the BRICS nations to work together to effectively deal with terrorism and challenges emanating from the digital domain. In his address at a conclave of the national security advisors of the BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) in St Petersburg, Doval also called for reform of multilateralism saying existing structures are no longer capable of handling modern threats and sensitive issues of common concerns.

At the venue of the conclave, Doval also had a brief interaction with Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi.

Doval and Wang are set to hold a bilateral meeting on Thursday on the sidelines of the BRICS conclave.

"The wide participation in the meeting today testifies to the fact that there is an urgent need to reform multilateralism if we are to restore credibility," he said.

Gram Nyayalayas will improve access to justice: SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said establishment of Gram Nyayalayas across the country would help improve access to justice.

An Act passed by Parliament in 2008 provided for the establishment of Gram Nyayalayas at the grassroots level for providing access to justice to the citizens at their doorsteps and to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to anyone because of social, economic or other disabilities.

A bench headed by Justice B R Gavai was hearing a plea seeking a direction to the Centre and all states for taking steps to set up 'Gram Nyayalayas' under the supervision of the apex court.

During the hearing, advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for petitioner NGO National Federation of Societies for Fast Justice and others, said only about five to six per cent of Gram Nyayalayas have been set up till now.

"Some of the states are say-

ing we don't need Gram Nyayalayas because we have Nyaya Panchayats," Bhushan

judicial officers.

The bench appointed a senior advocate to assist it as an



**A bench headed by Justice B R Gavai was hearing a plea seeking a direction to the Centre and all states for taking steps to set up 'Gram Nyayalayas' under the supervision of the apex court**

told the bench, which also comprised Justices P K Mishra and K V Viswanathan.

He said Nyaya Panchayats were not really the same as Gram Nyayalayas, which have

amicus curiae in the matter. "Sooner these Nyayalayas are established... it's better for access to justice," the bench observed. An advocate appearing for

the Himachal Pradesh High Court told the bench that the high court has been writing to the state government since 2009 requesting for establishing Gram Nyayalayas.

The bench noted that the counsel appearing for the Himachal Pradesh High Court has stated that in spite of repeated reminders to the state for establishment of Gram Nyayalayas, no steps have been taken in the matter.

The apex court directed the Himachal Pradesh government to respond before the next date of hearing.

It posted the matter for hearing after four weeks.

The bench asked states or high courts that have not yet filed their affidavits in the matter to file those within three weeks.

While hearing the matter on July 12, the apex court had observed, "In our view, the establishment of more Gram Nyayalayas would, apart from providing access to justice at affordable price and providing justice at door steps, also de-log the huge pendency of matters before the trial courts."

Permission necessary ...

Continued from page 1

Four persons had filed a writ saying that Ameenpur Municipality and HYDRAA officials are threatening to remove the iron shed on survey No: 955 and survey No: 955/Part Total admeasuring 1331 square yards situated at Sri Ram Nagar at Ameenpur village in Patancheru Mandal. The petitioners requested the court to bar the authorities from demolishing their buildings.

During arguments, the counsel for the petitioner said that Ameenpur municipality authorities came to the petitioner's property and ordered him to remove the iron shed.

The court said that it is not interested in the land pur-

chased but only in whether the petitioner had taken permission to construct the iron pipe structure for laying sheets. If you show the permission granted for constructing the shed, we will stop them, the HC said.

When the counsel said that it was not a building, the court defined what a building is. The court said that according to Section 2 (5) of the Telangana Municipalities Act "building" means any permanent structure or otherwise constructed using any material for any purpose and includes multi-storied complexes, gated communities, malls, high-rise buildings, houses, outhouses, shops, stables, latrines, sheds, huts, wall and compound wall or any part of a building either

residential or non-residential.

The court said that the Section says that for using any material for construction for any purpose permission is a must from the authorities.

When the counsel for the petitioner said that they would pay the penalty and take permission, the court said that there is no question of penalty. There is no provision for that under the Telangana Municipal Act. "Schemes for accepting penalties and regularising are not applicable anymore," the court said.

"Even if your land is not in the FTL area or buffer zone of a water body, you should have taken permission before commencement of construction," the court said.

CS calls it ...

Continued from page 1

The CS requested the Central team to liberally frame guidelines to assist flood-affected areas. She also informed the team that the Chief Minister had directed the formation of special disaster response teams like the NDRE, and requested support from the NDMA for training and logistics.

She raised concern about the challenges faced by air rescue operations during heavy rains and sought Central assistance in overcoming them.

The Chief Secretary also referred to the incident of trees getting felled on 332 hectares in the Eturnagaram forest region, calling it an environmental disaster. The Central team suggested a comprehensive study to understand the root cause of the ecological crisis. Arvind Kumar, the Special Chief Secretary of Disaster Management, outlined the damage caused by the floods and the state's attempts to provide immediate assistance. He noted that the preliminary estimates put flood damage at Rs 5,438 crore, with a full assessment underway.

Senior officials from the agriculture, roads, buildings, municipal administration, panchayat raj, energy, animal husbandry and forest departments presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Central team regarding the damage.

Before the meeting, the Central team visited a photo exhibition organised by the state government depicting the devastation caused by the floods.

The Central team will visit Khammam and Mahbubabad districts, interact with flood victims, and hold discussions with district administrations.

'Telangana Praja ...

Continued from page 1

Similarly, A. Lakshman Kumar, Government Whip, will take charge in Jagtial. In Jayashankar Bhupalapally, Peddapalli MLA Vodee Veeraiah, a member of the Telangana Forest Development Corporation, will oversee the flag hoisting.

Jangaon will see Government Whip Beerla Illaiah unfurling the National Flag. Jogulamba Gadwal will have AP Jitender Reddy, a Special Representative and Advisor to Government (Sports Affairs), preside over the ceremonies.

Patel Ramesh Reddy, the Chairman of the Telangana Tourism Development Corporation, will preside in Kamareddy.

The celebrations in Karimnagar will be led by D. Sridhar Babu, the Minister for IT, Industries and Commerce, while in Khammam, Batti Vikramarka Mallu, the Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Finance and Planning, will take the honours.

Dignitaries will hoist the National Flag in Mahbubabad and Mahbubnagar, where J. Ramchander Naik and Jupally Krishna Rao, respectively, will preside.

HC to ECI: Decide ...

Continued from page 1

The petitioner, Tarigoppula Mahender, told the court that the Chief Election Commissioner of India and the Secretary of the Election Commission of India are not taking any action on the representation for registration of the Telangana Rythula Samithi (TRS) as a political party under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act 1951 and requested the

court to declare this as an illegal, arbitrary act which violates Article 21 of the Constitution.

The counsel for the petitioner said that the ECI had told them that its scrutiny would be completed and communicated within 10 days. The scrutiny of request Number 117 is going on and the petitioner's request is Serial Number 121, the counsel said. After hearing the writ the court ordered the respondents to decide the matter within 10 days.

Shivraj submits ...

Continued from page 1

He emphasized the urgency of the situation and noted that a Central team will soon visit the affected regions to conduct an on-ground assessment.

The Centre has been closely monitoring the situation in both states, and the visit by the Central team will pave the way for more aid.

Health cover for ...

Continued from page 1

"All other senior citizens of the age 70 years and above will get a cover up to Rs 5 lakh per year on a family basis," an official statement said.

It clarified that senior citizens of 70 years and above who are under private health insurance policies or Employees' State Insurance scheme will be eligible to avail benefits under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).

However, those already availing benefits of other public health insurance schemes such as the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS), Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) and Ayushman Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) may either choose their existing scheme or opt for AB PM-JAY, the state-ment said.

In a post on X, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "We are committed to ensuring accessible, affordable and top-quality healthcare for every Indian. In this context, the Cabinet today has decided to further expand the ambit of Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY to provide health coverage for all citizens above 70 years. This scheme will ensure dignity, care and security to six crore citizens!"

According to the government, AB PM-JAY is the world's largest publicly funded health assurance scheme which provides health cover of Rs 5 lakh per family annually for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization to 55 crore individuals corresponding to 12.34 crore families.

All members of the eligible families irrespective of age are covered under the scheme. The scheme has covered 7.37 crore hospital admissions, including 49 per cent women beneficiaries.

Hopes soar ...

Continued from page 1

On December 7, Revanth was sworn in as the Chief Minister along with 11 ministers. This left six cabinet posts vacant. Key portfolios like Home Affairs, Municipal Administration, Education, and Mining are held by the Chief Minister himself.

Many senior leaders are actively in the race for cabinet posts. Among the names are Gaddam Vivek and Vinod from Adilabad, Prem Sagar Rao from Mancherial, Sudarshan Reddy from Bodhan, Mal Reddy Rangareddy from Rangareddy district, and Rammohan Reddy from Tandur.

Other notable contenders are Komatireddy Raj Gopal Reddy from Nalgonda, Makthal MLA Srihari Mudiraj from erstwhile Mahbubnagar, and Shabbir Ali and Azharuddin.

Sanjay blasts ...

Continued from page 1

"Mr Rahul Gandhi... Quit India," Sanjay shouted. He called on people to stand firmly behind the BJP and said that although Revanth came to power he has not been able to imprison KCR's corrupt family.

"KCR went to New Delhi, held discussions with senior Congress leaders and secured protection for his family. But if the BJP comes to power, KCR's family will face the same fate as Ram Reddy in the film 'Ankusham,' who was dragged to jail," he said.

On GHMC elections, Sanjay confidently said that even if the Congress, the BRS and the AIMIM joined hands, the BJP would bag the Mayor's seat. He added that the AIMIM will be wiped out and that the BJP will gain full control of the GHMC.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Presidential debate showdown

In a heated TV debate, Harris and Trump present sharply contrasting visions on issues like healthcare and economy

The 2024 presidential race is shaping up to be one of the most intense and polarised in US history. At the forefront of this political battle is a head-to-head TV debate between two defining figures—Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump. Their exchange, filled with sharp contrasts in policy, tone, and vision for America, laid bare the deep ideological divide within the nation. Vice President Kamala Harris took the stage emphasising unity, justice, and inclusivity. Known for her dynamic speaking style and sharp prosecutorial background, she framed her narrative as one that focuses on healing America's divisions while pushing for progressive reforms. Harris reiterated her commitment to building a more equitable society, focusing on issues such as healthcare reform, boost to small businesses, climate action, and women's rights to make choices about themselves. One of her most resonant points during the debate was her advocacy for women's reproductive rights, which she positioned as not just a women's issue but a fundamental human right. However, Harris's challenges lie in overcoming the perception of being too liberal for moderate voters.



On the other hand, Donald Trump, came out swinging with a populist message centred on nationalism, economic protectionism, and anti-establishment rhetoric. Trump focused on border security, economic growth, and energy independence, tapping into the concerns of many rural and working-class Americans who have felt left behind in the evolving global economy. At one point in time, he called Harris a Marxist implying her left-of-centre agenda. Trump's ability to connect with his base through a straightforward approach remains his powerful asset. His rhetoric around deregulation and America-first policies resonated with voters who see him as a champion of their economic interests. However, in most of the debate, he looked less confident and defensive, unlike his debate with Joe Biden where he was more aggressive. Besides, he was floored by Kamala's facts that he was criticised by his staff and even Republicans including Dick Cheney were rooting for her. His handling of key issues like the COVID-19 pandemic and the January 6 Capitol riot also came up in the debate which further receded his confidence and put him on the backfoot. The big question is who resonates more with the people and who would eventually win. Right now, it looks like a fair competition but with Kamala having a slight edge, though it would be folly to disregard Trump's fanbase and constituency which is proactive and loud. Many of the cherished goals of Kamala like climate action, Israel policy, and Gun policy do not go down well with many Americans who would be looking up to Trump as their representative. Trump, continues to resonate with a significant portion of the American population—particularly white, rural, and working-class—who feel disconnected from the progressive direction the country has taken in recent years. His simplistic ideas may not work but they do sway people.

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## PICTALK



Low clouds cover the mountains after rainfall, in Shimla, PTI

## Alzheimer's: Early detection is the key

Thanks to the new technology, early detection with accuracy of Alzheimer's is now possible which can lead to better outcomes through timely interventions

Alzheimer's disease is one of the most challenging neurological disorders, affecting millions globally. It is characterised by progressive memory loss, cognitive decline, and behavioural changes. While the disease is often associated with older adults, the importance of detecting it in its early stages cannot be overstated. Early detection allows for timely intervention, which can slow down the progression of the disease, offering patients more years of quality life. Moreover, early diagnosis empowers individuals and their families to plan for the future, make informed decisions, and access the latest treatments.



stages of Alzheimer's.

Researchers are now focused on identifying the disease's biomarkers before significant memory problems arise, providing a window of opportunity for early intervention. Beyond medical benefits, early detection has psychological and social advantages. It allows patients to maintain independence for a longer period, reduces anxiety associated with uncertainty, and provides clarity to families about caregiving responsibilities. Detecting Alzheimer's in its early stages has become a critical aspect of managing the disease effectively. With the advent of advanced diagnostic tools like CLEIA, early detection is now more achievable than ever. Agappe Diagnostics in collaboration with Fujirebio Holdings of Japan, has made a groundbreaking advancement in India's healthcare sec-

tor by introducing Chemiluminescent Enzyme Immunoassay (CLEIA) technology. This development is a monumental step forward in the indigenous manufacturing of cutting-edge diagnostic tools, specifically designed for early detection of critical diseases like Alzheimer's, Cancer, and Gastrointestinal disorders. "We have long standing productive relations with India that are all set to further strengthen and flourish," said Takashi Ariyoshi, deputy chief of Japanese embassy in India. CLEIA, an evolved version of the widely recognized Chemiluminescent Immunoassay (CLIA), merges the sensitivity of chemiluminescence detection with the precision of enzyme immunoassays. This powerful combination allows for the accurate detection of low concentrations of biomarkers, making it a game-changer in early diagnosis. In the case of Alzheimer's, early identification of disease-specific biomarkers can significantly slow down cognitive decline by enabling timely interventions, including medications and lifestyle changes.

In modern In-Vitro Diagnostics (IVD), CLEIA plays a crucial role not just in early detection but also in disease progression monitoring and guiding personalized treatment. These aspects are particularly relevant in Alzheimer's care, where early diagnosis opens the door to medical treatments and cognitive therapies that can prolong independence and improve quality of life. This technology is a significant leap in advancing immunoassay technology in India. Through this partnership, cartridge-based CLEIA systems have been developed and launched, supporting the healthcare system with advanced, locally manufactured diagnostic tools. Besides, beyond Alzheimer's, CLEIA is instrumental in detecting cancer markers at an early stage, significantly improving survival rates for patients. The Inod-Japanese partnership underlines the benefits of the "Make in India" initiative, reducing dependency on imports in critical healthcare technologies.

(The writer is a senior journalist; views are personal)



KUSHAL JEENA

## Haryana elections: BJP faces Congress' resurgence

As Haryana gears up for its high-stakes assembly elections, the political landscape is marked by shifting alliances and big promises



KALYANI SHANKAR

Who will emerge victorious in Haryana's upcoming assembly polls?

Will the ruling BJP retain the state, or will the resurgent Congress seize the opportunity to win? The nation is watching as the results of the impending polls in Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Jammu, and Kashmir will shape these states' future and significantly impact the national political landscape. Haryana is gearing up for a diverse, multi-cornered contest with 90 seats. The main competition is between the BJP and the Congress. Still, other parties like AAP, Samajwadi Party, CPI(M), and Haryana Lokhit Party are also in the field, adding diversity to the electoral dynamics. The BJP, JJP, and Azad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram) have allied with Dushyant Chautala as their chief ministerial candidate. At the same time, the INLD and BSP have chosen Abhay Singh Chautala as theirs.

The BJP and Congress have not declared their chief ministerial faces, but former chief minister Bhupendra Singh Hooda is leading the battle for Congress. The new BJP chief minister, Saini, is leading the BJP. Both parties are facing internal problems. In the case of the BJP, Minister Ranjit Singh Chautala and MLA Lakshman Dass Napa left the party after being denied tickets. Other prominent figures and district leaders resigned after not being considered for tickets. During seat-sharing discussions with its coalition partner AAP, Congress leaders in Haryana, including Hooda, are willing to concede only a few seats.

The Congress, led by former chief minister Bhupendra Singh Hooda, is optimistic about returning to power after a ten-year gap. The party is strategically wooing the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Samajwadi Party for an alliance. Meanwhile, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is facing allegations of involvement in a liquor scam. The Haryana polls are crucial. The BJP wants a third term, while the Congress aims to regain power. Other regional parties are also vying for a share of power. In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the BJP won all ten seats. In 2024, it only secured five seats, with the Congress taking the other five. In the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, the BJP, lacking the majority, formed the government with the help of JD(U) and Telugu Desam. Before 2014, the BJP was a minor player in Haryana. Only after the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, the party gained momentum. In 2019, the BJP formed a government with 40 seats, just six short of the majority. Dushyant Chautala's Jannayak Janta Party (JJP), which won ten seats, supported the BJP. However, JJP recently ended its alliance with the BJP.

In Haryana, the BJP's vote share decreased from 58.2% in 2019 to 46.11% in 2024. This was mainly due to the farmers demanding a legal minimum support price (MSP) guarantee. In 2024, the INDIA bloc, a coalition of regional parties and Congress surpassed the BJP's vote share. In March, BJP replaced Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar with Nayab Singh Saini. The new Chief Minister has introduced welfare schemes, promised to fill government job vacancies,



and aims to leverage the Jat issue. However, the BJP does not have Jat's support. Also, Saini's short six-month tenure has limited his impact. The Congress is upbeat after doubling its Lok Sabha seats in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Congress focuses on joblessness, inflation, farmer's issues, and the controversial Agniveer scheme. The party is preparing its manifesto based on public suggestions, which includes welfare schemes like a Rs 6,000 pension for old-age people and 300 units of free electricity. The party also counts on 452,000 first-time voters and 4.09 million young voters. Congress aims to unite the opposition votes, while the BJP seeks to divide them strategically. AAP has some influence in border areas of Haryana. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is trying to keep the Indian coalition intact. The AAP has agreed to fight in five seats. There are rumblings in the Congress, too. The Congress is facing factional fights. It is divided into two groups led by Hooda and Kumari Saini. The party tries to satisfy both factions, but Hooda holds more influence because of his previous role as chief minister. Turncoats and relatives of former chief min-

THE CONGRESS, LED BY FORMER CHIEF MINISTER BHUPENDRA SINGH HOODA, IS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT RETURNING TO POWER AFTER A TEN-YEAR GAP. THE PARTY IS STRATEGICALLY WOONING THE AAM AADMI PARTY (AAP) AND THE SAMAJWADI PARTY FOR AN ALLIANCE

isters are in the Congress list of candidates. The BJP is facing a tough battle in Haryana. Current polls indicate that the party may win fewer seats. BJP's weaknesses are the absence of strong leadership at the state level and a compelling counter-narrative against the Opposition charges. Prime Minister Modi, who leads the party's campaigns, has not addressed any election rallies yet. The Congress must work on complacency, internal conflicts, and a need for more organisation. The BJP faced rebellion after the candidate list was announced, and some influential people like Ranjit left the party. Too many ticket aspirants could diminish the party's prospects. Ultimately, the arithmetic will determine Congress's victory. Also, the unity of the INDIA coalition is essential. If lucky, the BJP may minimise damage by securing a respectable number of seats, leading to a potentially significant outcome. Congress should avoid mistakes and take everybody along. Otherwise, it will miss a golden opportunity.

(The writer is a popular columnist; views expressed are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### MAMATA IN THE DOCK

Madam — West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose has urged Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to comply with Article 167(c) of the Indian Constitution by informing Raj Bhavan of all decisions made by the state cabinet. This request comes in the wake of the public outcry following the gruesome rape and murder of a woman doctor at Kolkata's R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital.

A statement from the Governor's office, issued, emphasized that under Article 167, it is the Chief Minister's duty to provide the Governor with details of all cabinet decisions relating to the state's administration and any proposed legislation. The statement also reminded the Chief Minister that updates should be provided on matters discussed by the cabinet, especially when a minister's decision was not taken into consideration by the cabinet. The Governor's office criticised the state administration and law enforcement, stating that public perception had condemned their actions in this case.

The statement outlined several concerns, including misinformation given to the victims' parents, alleged tampering of the crime scene, delays in filing the FIR, and the hasty disposal of the body despite the parents' request for more time. Furthermore, it noted that the transfer and reappointment of the Principal of the hospital raised suspicions about the state's intentions, as did the Kolkata Police's alleged attempts to cover up the crime scene tampering. The statement added that civil society and the courts had strongly reprimanded the law enforcement agencies for their handling of the case, particularly regarding the events following the discovery of the victim's body. Kolkata calling shots.

Dorai Ramani Suresh | Ghaziabad

### COURTS MUST BRING DOWN PENDING

Madam— The time has come for the judicial think tank to put the house in order. The job of the Judges are becoming a thankless one while going by their contin-

### GST relief for the middle class



The 54 GST council meeting held under the finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman has brought some important relief to the middle class with deduction of tax cuts on sev-

eral items and services apart from cancer drugs. The middle class are burdened with penumbra of taxes on GST, results in upsetting the household budgets. Over the past few years, the taxes are being added up consistently, but the economic stature of the common man in the country are still the same. The banking sector in the country are grappling with cash crunch as the saving capacity of the people have gone down of inflationary spike. The Centre's gross GST collection for FY24 stood at Rs.20.18 lakh crore but the condition of economically crumbling the non BJP states should also be improved and their GST share must be settled. The recommendation to constitute GOM to reduce GST from eighteen percent on health and insurance services seems reasonable and boost up these two sectors if implemented by October.

Janga Bahadur Sunuwar | Jalpaiguri

### LACK OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY IN INDIA

Madam — The GDP of any country, alongside other factors, depends on the physical health of its citizens. However, a modern sedentary lifestyle is common, and government intervention is needed to encourage physical activity. A national survey revealed that over 200 million Indians are physically inactive, with 155 million adults and 45 million adolescents failing to meet WHO guidelines. The joint study by Dalberg Advisors and Sports and Society Accelerator found that 48% of older adults believe they are too old for physical activity, and 45% think sports are unsafe for girls. Misconceptions, such as physical exertion being harmful to menstruating women or affecting marriage prospects, contribute to the gender gap in physical activity. Women, especially in urban areas, spend 75% of their active time on household chores, leaving little time for exercise.

Yash Pal Ralhan | Jalandhar

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

A P Thiruvadi | Chennai



## FIRST COLUMN

### GOD HAS THE SOLUTION

All we have to do is to take His shelter and remain in it



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

A famous oncologist was being interviewed on television. He was asked by a reporter about the causes of cancer. The doctor replied, "It is over stress mainly." Every time this matter came up, the oncologist emphasized the over stress reason. And we know what over stress is. It is mostly caused by cyclic thinking. We get into some problem and keep on thinking about it. Surely, worry results. The solution has to come from other sources. Aren't we extremely limited in what we know? But we refuse to accept this fact. I will recite three examples of when I found answers provided by God when I was in trouble, and only God could help. Beginning with my nature to fear excessively, I was suffering. One day I prayed sincerely for relief. Suddenly, a thought came that the Bhagavad-Geeta may have a solution.

Didn't Gandhiji turn to this book of eternal wisdom whenever he was faced with some problem? I looked for a knowledgeable person, and located one who was well-versed in the Geeta. I explained my problem. He referred me to verse #2.40, which is, "Neither there is a waste of effort here nor there is opposite effect. Even a little of this Karma-yoga protects one from great fear." This is what I was looking for. The next question was about karma yoga. What does this imply? He explained that all activities about God come under it. He cited examples of praying, having darshan, doing namaskar to God, chanting God's names or some mantra like Ohm and thanking God for favours done. They seemed simple enough and I got started. A connection was made with God. Sure enough, God got interested in me. I began to get intuitions. For example, I had been suffering from headaches mainly in the forehead part



for quite some time. I prayed for help. I got a feeling that I should go to Hanuman Mandir in Connaught Place, New Delhi. I did and prayed there sincerely for guidance and help. While returning, I felt that God was asking me to bring Him to my forehead. I was very excited and checked with my spiritual guide.

He confirmed that this is a bona fide process, as the 'ajna (agya) chakra' is located there. I began doing it and astonishingly I was beginning to get some relief. After practice for a few days, the persistent headache was gone. Since then I have been fortunate to not be so troubled by it. I recounted my experience to my spiritual guide. He told me that God is very pleased with me and giving guidance. Another headache appeared, which was only on the right side. I tried everything but there was no relief. Somehow, I had an inkling to look up various choices in Crocin. There was one with caffeine. My sixth sense, which is the same as God's guidance was to take it. Sure enough, there was relief. What happened? I had to know. I had stopped drinking green tea just before getting this strange headache. This tea had caffeine. Now I knew what the connection was. Only God could have known it, and He did. I was suffering headaches due to caffeine withdrawal. Another trouble arose due to the use of a nasal spray.

One spray and I began to feel uneasiness. When I got ready to use it another time, as prescribed, I was feeling quite troubled. Surely, I looked up its composition; it had steroids. God had prevented more damage from happening to me. All we have to do is to take His shelter and remain in it. The question is: why don't we? It is a very slow process. One must have good Sanskars to get started on this journey. Otherwise, one will not get started. Fortunately, I was blessed to have them. Lord Krishna has promised it. "Having My consciousness, you will cross all impediments by My grace." (18.58) This culminates in liberation from the painful cycle of birth and death when God releases us from all sins. (18.66) However, this will take several births after we get started. (6.45) I am counting upon it.

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

# The making of Kerala's catastrophe



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

Despite warnings from experts about the perils of unchecked quarrying and deforestation in the Western Ghats, successive governments failed to act, leading to Wayanad disaster



SK Pottekkat, who could be rated as India's best travelogue writer has elaborated on his 1955 visit to Finland. "The country's area is 1,30,119 sq miles out of which 71 per cent is forests. Finland's main source of income is the pine trees grown in its forests. But to get permission from the government to cut down a single pine tree, one has to furnish proof that he has planted six pine saplings," writes Pottekkat in his memoirs.

He was a delegate to the World Peace Council meeting held in Helsinki, the capital city. In 2024, despite a massive industrialisation drive, the country has the tenth highest percentage of forest cover in the world. Pottekkat hailed from Kozhikode, the neighbouring district of Wayanad.

Once the region was full of evergreen forests filled with exotic trees, plants and flowers. Folklore is that the tribal youth who led a team of Englishmen to Wayanad was shot dead by the visitors to ensure that no more outsiders entered the fertile landscape.

But Wayanad has become a teardrop since 30 July 2024 as landslides and flash floods struck the district in quick succession swallowing hundreds of people and their houses. Pinarayi Vijayan, the chief minister, has asked the Centre to release Rs 2,000 crore as the first instalment towards the rescue, rehabilitation and reconstruction mission to be undertaken by the Government of Kerala.

He also blamed the Centre for its failure to provide the exact date, time and place of the natural disaster and has vowed to establish the State's early warning system for floods, landslides and heavy rain-falls. Vijayan will outclass the best of the entrepreneurs in the skill of mobilization of resources for the Chief Minister's Disaster Relief Fund.

All media briefings by Vijayan end with him announcing the details of persons who have contributed to the CMDRF in the aftermath of landslides and deluge that devastated Wayanad. But what stands out is the generous offer made by High Range Rural Development Society,



PINARAYI VIJAYAN, THE CHIEF MINISTER, HAS ASKED THE CENTRE TO RELEASE RS 2,000 CRORE AS THE FIRST INSTALMENT TOWARDS THE RESCUE, REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION MISSION TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE GOVT OF KERALA

a non-governmental organisation, which came forward to build houses for all those who lost their dwelling places in the flash floods. According to the Kerala Government's estimate, 500 homes were washed away by the gushing waters. The HRDS told the Government that it would rebuild/construct 500 safe and secured houses each of 700 sq ft and costing Rs 10 lakh free of cost.

The NGO also told the government that it would help the landslide victims to set up group farming so that they could earn a reasonably fair monthly income. All the 500 houses to be constructed by the HRDS will feature self-contained guest rooms which could be rented out as part of the homestay programme. But Vijayan and his comrades are cold to the offer. The Centre has asked Vijayan to submit details of the losses suffered in nature's fury and how the State would go ahead with the rehabilitation and reconstruction. Though the disaster struck nearly a month ago, the Government has yet to come out with the details of the losses. In the aftermath of the 2018 floods, Vijayan had demanded Rs 40,000 crore as flood relief which included Rs 20,000 crore to rebuild the roads washed away in the deluge.

But senior officials who took stock of the situation once the flood water receded had told that roads could be rebuilt with Rs 5,800 crore. As part of mitigating future floods, Vijayan accompanied by an entourage of relatives (including his five-year-old grandson) and senior bureaucrats undertook a junket to the Netherlands.

But there is no end in sight for the floods in Kerala. There is no need to search for the

reason behind the landslides and floods in Wayanad and other places in the State. Prof Madhav Gadgil, a noted environmentalist who headed the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) had told the State Governments not to disturb the ecology and environment beyond the current level.

The team of experts had found to their horror that quarrying and sand mining of unprecedented level were taking place with official connivance across the length and breadth of Western Ghats and this included Wayanad. In 1986, this writer shot a television documentary on the Wayanad district for Doordarshan.

There were no resorts or star hotels those days anywhere in the district. The District Collector Raveendran Thampi had been sanctioned one room as his camp office in the low power transmitter station of the Doordarshan at Kalpetta. Immediately after nature's fury in July 2024, Prof Gadgil said that the disaster was a man-made one and was waiting to happen at any time. "Wayanad has no more space for resorts, quarries and sand mining," said Prof Gadgil immediately after the landslide and flash floods.

But what the chief minister said in his briefing was shocking. "The Gadgil committee report is a big joke and one need not take it seriously," said Vijayan. The committee of experts led by Prof Gadgil toured the entire Western Ghats region and they were shocked by the kind of quarrying, mining and deforestation that was happening in the region. Prof Gadgil had described the Western Ghats region as the Water Tower of peninsular India.

Vested interests including religious groups are exploiting Wayanad to the hilt and this

made the committee ask the authorities to stop herewith the constitution of special economic zones and reschedule reservoir operations to downstream flows. More than what the Gadgil Committee had said in its report, what Prof T P Kunhikannan, a CPI(M) activist, had said about the report is significant.

A thorough study by Kunhikannan has proved that Prof Gadgil's suggestions should be accepted in toto by the authorities concerned. "The Church is campaigning against Gadgil Committee findings to save its commercial interests. There is nothing anti-people or anti-minorities in the report," said Prof Kunhikannan in his studies "Gadgil Report and Kerala's Development".

The top echelons of the Church read pastoral letters asking the laity to stage demonstrations across the country against the report as it was anti-minority," said Kunhikannan. No purpose will be served by subjecting the Wayanad disaster to another academic analysis. The Church sabotaged the Gadgil committee report by terming it as anti-development, anti-farmers and anti-people.

Through a series of pastoral letters (which were read out during Sunday Mass), the clergy unleashed a blitzkrieg against the WGEEP report. The then union government appointed another committee headed by G Kasturirangan, former ISRO chairman, to "examine" the feasibility of Gadgil's findings. Kasturirangan did his masters proud by diluting the WGEEP report and that was the death warrant of Wayanad.

(The writer is special correspondent with The Pioneer; views are personal)

## India's green hydrogen revolution: Paving the way for a sustainable energy future

Green hydrogen is emerging as a powerful alternative fuel, offering a clean and versatile energy source produced through renewable means

The entire world grapples with the dire consequences of climate change and desperately searches for sustainable and clean energy sources. Green hydrogen, a powerful alternative fuel produced using renewable energy, has emerged as a viable alternative.



ARIF AGA

Now, in India, the green hydrogen revolution is gaining momentum, with the government, private sector, and start-ups playing pivotal roles in positioning the country as a global leader in this transformative technology. In recent years green hydrogen, produced through electrolysis powered by renewable energy sources like solar and wind, has gained significant attention.

The National Hydrogen Energy Roadmap, introduced in 2006, marked the first formal effort by the government to explore hydrogen's potential in India. Since then, technological advancements and a growing commitment to renewable energy have laid a solid foundation for the green hydrogen revolution. India faces immense pressure to decarbonize its energy systems

due to its heavy dependence on fossil fuels and huge carbon emissions. Green hydrogen can serve as a versatile energy carrier, with applications ranging from industrial processes and transportation to power generation and storage.

Unlike grey or blue hydrogen, which is produced from fossil fuels and involves carbon emissions, green hydrogen is entirely clean, thus aligning with global sustainability goals. India's vast renewable energy resources, particularly solar and wind, make it an ideal location for large-scale green hydrogen production.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) has noted that India's renewable energy capacity could provide the

low-cost electricity needed for green hydrogen production, potentially making it one of the most cost-effective producers in the world.

Recognizing the strategic importance of green hydrogen, the Union Government has implemented a series of policy measures to promote its development and adoption.

To make the country a global hub for green hydrogen production and export, the Indian government launched its ambitious National Hydrogen Mission in 2021. The mission focuses on creating demand in various sectors, ensuring supply chain resilience, and supporting research and development in hydrogen technologies.

Key policy incentives include



subsidies and financial support for pilot projects, the development of hydrogen hubs, and mandates for industries to use green hydrogen in their operations.

This proactive approach has started giving positive results now. However, there is a need to create a robust regulatory framework to facili-

tate the use of hydrogen as a fuel in multiple sectors, including refining, fertilisers, and transportation.

India's commitment to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2070, as announced at the COP26 summit. Green hydrogen is expected to play a crucial role in this journey by decarbonizing hard-to-abate sectors like steel, cement, and petrochemicals. The transition to green hydrogen could also reduce India's dependence on imported fossil fuels, enhancing energy security and providing a significant economic boost.

Indian conglomerates and big private businesses have been quick to recognize the potential of green hydrogen

and are making substantial investments in this area.

Investments are being made for setting up hydrogen production units and integrating hydrogen fuel cells into transportation. Start-ups in the energy sector are also focusing on developing and deploying electrolyzers, creating robust hydrogen storage solutions, and innovating in the transportation sector with hydrogen fuel cell technology.

International collaborations will be instrumental in bringing global best practices to India and accelerating the green hydrogen revolution. India has actively sought to collaborate with Germany, Japan, Australia, and the European Union, forging partnerships to develop joint

ventures, share technology, and build capacity.

The green hydrogen revolution in India represents a unique opportunity to transform the country's energy landscape and lead the global transition towards a sustainable future.

With strong government support, proactive efforts by the private sector, and dynamic innovation from start-ups, India embarks on a journey to become a green hydrogen powerhouse. To achieve the target of net-zero emissions, green hydrogen would play a pivotal role in shaping India's energy future and driving global sustainability efforts.

(The writer is director, SgurrEnergy India; views are personal)

IN BRIEF



Microsoft acquires 16.4 acre land in Pune for Rs 520 cr

Global tech giant Microsoft has bought 16.4 acres of land in Pune for Rs 520 crore, according to real estate consultant Square Yards. As per the registration document reviewed by Square Yards, Microsoft's Indian arm, Microsoft Corporation (India) Pvt Ltd, acquired 66,414.5 square meters (around 16.4 acres) of prime land in Pune's Hinjewadi. The transaction, registered in August 2024, involved the purchase of land from Indo Global Infotech City LLP, the consultant said in a statement. The deal incurred a stamp duty of Rs 31.18 crore and a registration fee of Rs 30,000, it added. Microsoft did not share any comment on this deal. In 2022, the company also acquired a 25-acre plot in Pimpri-Chinchwad for Rs 328 crore. Earlier this year, Microsoft secured 48 acres of land in Hyderabad for Rs 267 crore. Both deals are part of Microsoft's broader strategy to expand its presence in India, particularly within its data centre operations.



Private credit deals to touch \$ 10 bln: Report

Private credit deployments are likely to surpass the \$ 10 billion mark in 2024, a report by a consultancy firm said on Wednesday. The January-June period saw private credit transactions of over \$ 6 billion in 96 deals, and the last two-and-a-half years have seen over \$ 20 billion being deployed in the emerging alternative serving the credit needs of Indian companies. Major deals were witnessed across real estate, infrastructure, and healthcare sectors in the first half of the year, the report by EY said. Domestic funds are gaining traction and market share in the private credit space leveraging local expertise and the influence of lower-cost domestic money, it said. The first half of the year saw Reliance Logistics and Warehousing, Vedanta Semiconductors, and Matrix Pharma collectively raising approximately \$ 1.3 billion.



Labour unrest at Sriperumbudur industrial belt

Labour unrest in the industrial belt of neighbouring Sriperumbudur emerged as a section of employees belonging to Korean electronics giant Samsung have resorted to a strike, pressing for various demands including wage revision, sources said on Wednesday. The facility located about 40 km from here in Sriperumbudur produces various consumer durable products across categories. It employs about 1,750 people who work in various shifts, round-the-clock. Since Monday, a section of workers went on strike demanding wage revision, recognising their union among others, sources said. "We have been informing the management but they did not heed to our demands. We need a better pay package, and demand recognition for the union," they said. According to the agitating employees, Samsung has formed a union in July comprising about 100 of them which was not agreed upon by the workers who are on strike. "Already there is a union backed by the CITU (Centre for Indian Trade Unions).

Eyeing 10 per cent share of patents in 6G services for India: Scindia

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After the fastest 5G rollout, India is targeting a tenth of all worldwide patents in sixth generation mobile services, Union Telecom Minister Jyotiraditya M Scindia said on Wednesday.

He was delivering a keynote address at the 51st edition of the AIMA National Management Convention here.

"Whilst we have the fastest growing 5G network in the world, in 22 months building out 4.5 lakh 4G towers, building out our own 4G technology for BSNL, we are also embarking on our path towards 6G by setting up the Bharat 6G Alliance.

"Our target is to ensure 10 per cent of international worldwide patents for India in 6G through this Bharat 6G alliance in the days to come," he said.

India has emerged as a beacon of hope and stability amid tremendous amount of global economic and social turbulence, the minister said.

"She (India) today is rising on the world stage, no longer an embodiment of a struggling



economy, but an economy that is on the rise, an economy that is rising like a phoenix in the comity of the nations," he said.

The fact that India today is the second-largest producer of mobile phones in the world is a testimony of the same, Scindia said.

India's communication industry has gone through its own metamorphosis over the last decade.

"India, for the first time in her existence, has developed

The first target is to ensure saturation...Every corner of our country must be able to avail of every single opportunity through the digital revolution," he noted.

India, so far, has raised almost 4.5 lakh towers of 4G across the country, he said, adding that there are close to 6000 villages in the north-east that remain to be connected through the USOF Fund (now rechristened as Bharat Nidhi).

"We have committed almost Rs 6,000 crore towards that and achieved 50 per cent of the goal across the length and breadth of India's villages.

"We have committed to putting up close to 20,000 towers, and committed Rs 44,000 crore towards that initiative, and by mid FY 25 we will have committed and completed 100 per cent saturation in our country," he said.

The second target is the thrust on Make in India, and the government's Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme has been instrumental in India's progress, Scindia said.

The PLI scheme was launched three years ago.

"There are three targets that we have set for ourselves.



her own 4G stack technology that will be rolled out by the middle of next year," Scindia said.

It is important not only to implement technology, but also to design and develop indigenous technology. Likewise, it is not only important to copy what the world has set as standards, but "India also should set the standards for the world in the days to come" the minister asserted.

"There are three targets that we have set for ourselves.

SILVER JUMPS RS 500

Gold climbs Rs 500 to Rs 74,600 per 10 grams

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices climbed Rs 500 to Rs 74,600 per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday on account of increased buying by local jewellers as well as strong cues in the global markets.

The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 74,100 per 10 grams in the previous close on Tuesday.

With this, gold prices have surged over Rs 1,000 over the past two days.

Silver prices, too jumped Rs 500 to Rs 85,000 per kilogram on Wednesday. It had finished at Rs 84,500 per kg in the previous session, according to All India Sarafa Association.

Meanwhile, gold of 99.5 per cent purity also rallied Rs 500 to Rs 74,250 per 10 grams from Rs 73,750 per 10 grams.

Traders said sentiment turned upbeat on the back of a pick-up in buying from local jewellers and retailers, there-

by leading to a rise in gold prices.

In the international markets, Comex gold is trading 0.31 per cent higher at USD 2,550.90 per ounce.

"Gold prices rose on Wednesday due to a pullback in the US dollar and fall in Treasury yields," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

In addition to this, equity market sell-off and risk-averse sentiment drove flows towards haven assets like gold, which also lent support for gold prices, Gandhi added.

Silver was also quoted higher at USD 29.11 per ounce in the overseas markets.

"Gold continued to trade in a positive territory since yesterday (Tuesday) with sentiment seen improving on the back of decline seen in US Treasury yields.

Major deals were witnessed across real estate, infrastructure, and healthcare sectors in the first half of the year, the report by EY said.

Domestic funds are gaining traction and market share in the private credit space leveraging local expertise and the influence of lower-cost domestic money, it said.

The first half of the year saw Reliance Logistics and Warehousing, Vedanta Semiconductors, and Matrix Pharma collectively raising



Aurobindo Pharma unit gets first product approval

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Aurobindo Pharma on Wednesday said its unit has received the first product approval from the US Food and Drug Administration for a generic anaesthesia medication.

The new injectable facility of Eugia Steriles, a subsidiary of Eugia Pharma Specialities and a stepdown unit of the company, situated at Anakapalli District of Andhra Pradesh was inspected by the US FDA from March 28 to April 5 this year.

The plant has now received its first product approval from the USFDA for Lidocaine Hydrochloride Injection, Aurobindo Pharma said in a regulatory filing.

Shares of Aurobindo Pharma on Wednesday ended 0.74 per cent down at Rs 1,507.20 apiece on the BSE



Sensex declines by 398 pts, Nifty ends below 25K

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark Sensex reversed its early gains to close lower by 398 points while broader Nifty slipped below the 25,000 mark due to selling in Tata Motors, Reliance Industries and L&T amid weak global trends.

In a volatile trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 398.13 points or 0.49 per cent to settle at 81,523.16.

The index opened higher and touched the day's high of 82,134.95 points in the mid-session.

However, selling pressure emerged in the pre-close session and the index tanked 498.15 points or 0.60 per cent to hit a low of 81,423.14.

The NSE Nifty declined 122.65 points or 0.49 per cent to 24,918.45.

Among the 30 Sensex firms, Tata Motors was the biggest loser, tumbling nearly 6 per cent, followed by NTPC, Adani Ports, Larsen & Toubro, State Bank of India, JSW Steel, Mahindra & Mahindra, IndusInd Bank and Titan.

In contrast, Asian Paints, Bajaj Finance, Hindustan Unilever and Bajaj Finserv were among the gainers.

"The domestic market experienced a minor consolidation in line with Asian peers due to correction of commodity



prices like crude which has collapsed to USD 70 per barrel.

"Market sentiment remained cautious due to the slowdown in the Chinese economy. Investors await the release of the US CPI and domestic inflation data," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge declined 0.57 per cent and midcap index went lower by 0.52 per cent.

Among the indices, oil & gas slumped 2.25 per cent, while metal (1.35 per cent), utilities (1.29 per cent), auto (1.17 per cent), commodities (1.14 per cent) and telecommunication (0.84 per cent) also closed lower.

Consumer Durables and FMCG were the gainers.

Markets traded with volatility, losing nearly half a percent as the consolidation phase continued, Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd said.

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

European markets were trading mostly in the green. The US markets ended mostly with gains on Tuesday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 2,208.23 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 1.49 per cent to USD 70.22 a barrel.

Private credit deals to touch \$10 bln in 2024

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Private credit deployments are likely to surpass the USD 10 billion mark in 2024, a report by a consultancy firm said on Wednesday.

The January-June period saw private credit transactions of over USD 6 billion in 96 deals, and the last two-and-a-half years have seen over USD 20 billion being deployed in the emerging alternative serving the credit needs of Indian companies.

Major deals were witnessed across real estate, infrastructure, and healthcare sectors in the first half of the year, the report by EY said.

Domestic funds are gaining traction and market share in the private credit space leveraging local expertise and the influence of lower-cost domestic money, it said.

The first half of the year saw Reliance Logistics and Warehousing, Vedanta Semiconductors, and Matrix Pharma collectively raising

approximately USD 1.3 billion, while real estate sector continued to be a focal point with borrowers such as Prestige Group, Puravankara Group, Kalpataru Group, and Shapoorji Group being active.

The firm's partner Bharat Gupta said private credit investments are at an all-time high, driven largely by growth-oriented strategies.

"The outlook remains promising, though thorough due diligence and effective deal oversight are crucial to

maximizing returns and managing potential risks," Gupta added. With the maturing of the system, there is a subtle shift towards performing credit deals in India with funds increasingly engaging in sub-18 per cent Internal Rate of Return transactions, the report said. In the high-yield segment, mergers and acquisitions/buyout deals, and bridge-to-initial public offering transactions have gained traction within private credit funding, it said.

India committed to climate-friendly growth: NITI Aayog

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

NITI Aayog CEO B V R Subrahmanyam on Wednesday said India is committed to climate-friendly growth, but fossil fuels are still going to drive the country's economic growth.

Addressing an event here, Subrahmanyam said markets alone cannot solve the problem of climate change.

"India is committed to climate-friendly growth...but fossil fuels are still going to drive the country's economic growth," he said.

Subrahmanyam further said that NITI Aayog is working with states in developing a roadmap for green energy transition and a pathway to achieve a net zero carbon emissions target.

"NITI Aayog is working with states in developing a roadmap for

energy transition...we will come out with a document in November," he said.

Subrahmanyam opined that markets alone cannot solve the problem of climate change.

"India is one of the countries on the track to meet its climate targets under the 2015 Paris Agreement...We are committed to achieving net zero emissions target by 2070, even though less than 4 per cent carbon emission is from India," he said.

As part of its national climate plan, or Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, India has committed to achieving 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based electricity installed capacity by 2030.

Subrahmanyam informed that the government is intently committed to providing more money for climate finance even though India's per



"India is one of the countries on the track to meet its climate targets under the 2015 Paris Agreement...We are committed to achieving net zero emissions target by 2070, even though less than 4 per cent carbon emission is from India," he said

capita energy consumption is half of the global average.

"The growth and rise of India is

undeniable but it is happening in times which are very different.

"This is the first time in the his-

tory of mankind that a large country is seeking its future to be a developed nation, Viksit Bharat@2047, in an environment where climate change is an ever-present threat and technological changes like AI are not just minor disruptions," he said. Further, he noted that climate change is also an opportunity for India to become a leader in green technology and all the new green growth-related models.

"This is one of the most challenging times for India. We have the challenge of growth, jobs and energy consumption which we have to balance with environmental considerations," Subrahmanyam said.

According to him, it is no longer about growth or sustainability but growth and sustainability.

The NITI Aayog CEO pointed out that states do not know how to generate green projects.

Demerger of Vedanta likely by end of FY25: Top official

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The demerger of mining conglomerate Vedanta Ltd's key businesses, including aluminium, into separate listed companies is expected by the end of FY25, a top official of the company said on Wednesday.

Vedanta Ltd has filed an application for its demerger scheme before the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) after receiving a nod from lenders.

Asked when is the demerger happening, John Slaven, CEO of aluminium business of Vedanta, said, "it's not within our control. It's the NCLT process. They typically take, I don't know, four to six months, to run that process. So by end

of this fiscal year, by the end of this fiscal year (I see it happening)."

Slaven was speaking during the launch of Vedanta Aluminum's two new products for power sector.

The first product offers superior electrical conductivity, making it ideal for remelting. The second product is the electrical conductor grade wire rod, designed for winding strip applications with a balance of strength, conductivity, workability, and formability.

Talking further about the demerger, he said, "Well, it's at almost the final phase... So the process that took long time... So we have now filed with NCLT. NCLT are running their process now.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE and MISSION DIRECTOR (NHM), TG, HYDERABAD DM & HS Campus, Sultan Bazar, Kofl, Hyderabad

ESTENDER NOTIFICATION

Re.No.SAMM/TD/FW/2024 & 35/MEM/MNHM/2024 Dated: 11/09/2024

Tenders are invited for Printing of Telangana Diagnostics print material & supply to all the 31 TD Hubs in the State and Printing of Mother Child Protection Card Books & Supply to all DMHOCs in the State as per the distribution statement on e-Procurement Platform, bids can be downloaded date/time 12.00.2024, 05.00 PM onwards and bids closing date/time 23.09.2024, 11.00 AM and the CH & FW may cancel the tender at any time without assigning any reason. The tender documents and other details can be downloaded from "tender.telangana.gov.in". For further information contact Deputy Director (M&A) O/o CH&FW, TG, Hyderabad (Mobile No: 9048161541). Sd/- Commissioner of Health & Family Welfare, TG, Hyderabad





## Uniting Kerala diaspora in Hyderabad

AARTI SREENATH  
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The season of festivals has already begun and now lately, we've been celebrating the annual harvest and cultural festival celebrated mostly by the people of Kerala, Onam. Wednesday marked the main festive day of Onam, which was *Thiruvonam*.

Making the celebrations more eventful, *The Pioneer* brings to you a community in Hyderabad, specially dedicated for the Malayalis.

It was in 2005, far from the lush landscapes of Kerala, that a group of passionate individuals gathered to form a hope of tradition and community in the bustling city of Hyderabad. The Nair Service Society (NSS) had existed in the hearts and history of Kerala since 1914, founded by the visionary Mannathu Padmanabhan, but its roots were about to spread into the Deccan plateau, creating a bridge between two regions that shared a bond of culture and heritage.

Suresh Kumar, the society's general secretary and one of its founding members in Hyderabad, recalls those early days vividly. "We were a small but determined group, wanting to recreate the sense of unity and support that we had left behind in Kerala. Starting the Hyderabad chapter of NSS was a way to stay connected to our roots while helping each other navigate life in a new city," he reflects.

In its 18-year journey, the Nair Service Society Hyderabad has transformed into a formidable force for community welfare, social engagement and cultural preservation. Today, the organisation operates across 10 cities with a dedicated 31-member committee, all working towards



The Nair Service Society has united Keralans and created a sense of community by forging a family from outside. In order to bring you a special interview for our very special Community Wise feature, *The Pioneer* gets in touch with the community's general secretary



the singular goal of serving the Nair community while contributing to the wider social fabric.

The very essence of the Nair Service Society's existence lies in its foundational goal, community support. Whether it's arranging marriages, assisting with medical emergencies, or helping families through the hardships of loss, society stands as a rock for its members. "In Kerala, families have their relatives close by. But here, in Hyderabad, many of us are on our own. That's why we banded together—to ensure no one feels alone."

The community extends its reach

beyond its own members, too. Nair Service Society, Hyderabad has been known to offer medical aid and educational scholarships to those in need, regardless of their background. During the pandemic, their efforts reached heroic proportions, distributing food kits to families across Hyderabad, including street vendors, migrant workers, and sweepers. "We didn't stop at just helping our community. It was about supporting humanity as a whole," he says with pride.

For a community so deeply rooted in tradition, Nair Service Society Hyderabad has ensured that the vibrant colours of

Kerala culture continue to shine in a city known for its own rich heritage. From the graceful *Mohiniyattam* dance to the rhythmic *Thiruvathira* performances, the society organises cultural programs to keep the younger generation connected to their origins. "It's not just about reminiscing the past, but about passing it on to our children, so they too can feel that connection to Kerala," he notes.

One of society's most anticipated events is the annual Onam celebration, a festival that transcends religious and caste boundaries. "Onam brings everyone together, not just the Nairs, but all Malayalee organisa-

tions in the city," he adds. The celebration of Onam in Hyderabad is a sight to behold, vibrant, inclusive and full of life, with traditional feasts (*Sadya*) and cultural performances adding to the festive spirit.

As the community grows and evolves, so does their commitment to modern issues. Gender equality, for instance, plays a significant role in society's activities. The formation of the Vanitha Samajam Wing, a women's forum, has empowered the women of the Nair community to actively participate and lead various initiatives. Whether it's organising cultural festivals or providing support to families in need, the

women of the Vanitha Wing are vital to the organisation's success.

In the future, the society plans to focus on education and employment, with plans underway to establish an educational institution and an old-age home. "We've acquired land and are working towards building a school," he shares. "Our goal is to provide quality education and a safe space for the elderly, reflecting both our traditional values and modern aspirations."

Though the Nair Service Society is deeply committed to preserving the customs and values of its community, it also recognises the importance of modernity. "We're a forward caste and that presents unique challenges, particularly in terms of government support and employment opportunities," he points out. Yet, the Nair Service Society is undeterred. With initiatives like the Nair Udyog, a WhatsApp group that connects community members to job opportunities, the society is embracing technology and modern communication methods to uplift its members.

As the Nair Service Society Hyderabad looks toward the future, its vision remains clear, blending the richness of tradition with the demands of modern life, fostering unity, and continuing its mission of service. With new generations stepping up and taking an active role in society's activities, the Nair community is set to thrive in this ever-evolving urban landscape.

For Suresh Kumar and the other members of the society, the journey has been one of perseverance and pride. "We are here for each other, no matter what the challenge," he says with exhilaration. And in that simple statement lies the heart of the Nair Service Society—an unbreakable bond of heritage, community, and compassion.

## 'I had auditioned for all three lead actors in *Loop 11:47*'

TEJAL SINHA  
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Whether you're seeking adrenaline-pumping crime dramas or a rom-com, OTT, beyond a doubt, has got so many different genres and shows to provide the audience to binge-watch. In this world of OTT, there's Keshav Sadhna, who is slowly but surely turning into an OTT star. His latest release, *Loop 11:47*, streaming on Zee5, is a not-so-regular concept that proves his versatility and prowess to the fullest.

*Loop 11:47* centers on three roommates who embark on a spontaneous trip to break free from their boring routine and setbacks. As one person risks it all for a girl, another person leads a double life for their social media audience. The third person is struggling in his professional role with an overly authoritative boss. Their holiday turns for the worst when they find themselves stuck in a never-ending loop of the same day resetting every night, lasting for more than a year! The sci-fi show also stars Akashdeep Arora and Qabeer Singh.

Well, we have Keshav onboard for an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*. Looking back at his journey, it's been no less than a roller coaster ride, just like many. Coming from a non-film background, "There's always a roller coaster of emotions. You never know what might happen next. However, having been in this field, you are emotionally and mentally prepared to take up the challenges."

*College Romance* or *Couple Goals*, *Code M* or *4 Thieves*, Keshav has always been on the forefront to try out something new, every time a project comes his way. "Hailing from Ghaziabad and coming to Mumbai was a whole lot of a decision in itself. Choosing a field that not many parents would allow! Back then, in Ghaziabad, not many people knew that you could make a full-fledged career in this field. However, my dad had supported me a lot. Eventually, when you try out something new or learn, it takes time. For the first 4-5 years, I used to only and only give auditions, but eventually, as I did theater, things started to work."

Not that Keshav began his work with just theaters. He, like many others, got into corporate but continued doing theaters side-by-side. Then, as soon as his good acting worked, it was then that he shifted to Mumbai and rest his history!

"Being a part of so many shows and now including *Loop 11:47* feels great. Talking about this show, it is something different. Though there was a similar show, *Loop* is not your regular sci-fi shows. The story in itself was so intriguing. It's about three friends and I feel, *Jaise hi doston ki kahaani aajati hai*, it becomes interesting. It's always fun because most of the OTT audience can relate," shares the *College Romance*

Actor Keshav Sadhna, who is known for bringing his best on-screen, has once again enraptured hearts with his latest project, *Loop 11:47*. In an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*, he discusses his formative years, getting onboard for the project and a lot more around it.



*fame* as he speaks of what really intrigued him about this project.

All three characters, Varun, Bhavik and Nirwan, have had their own stories. As we go ahead in this exclusive interaction, Keshav reveals to us how he had auditioned for all three characters. Yes, you read it right!

"First, I had auditioned for Nirwan and then for Bhavik. Then they were like, 'Varun ka audition bhi de hi do' (we laugh out loud). I had a feeling that I would get the role of Nirwan; the rest I had auditioned just for fun. But eventually, they felt that I'd fit for the role of Bhavik. My character Bhavik had this scope that he could bring fun and comedy anywhere and everywhere. We had done a lot of improvisations in the dialogues too. In the final credits, you get to even see my name. Anudeep had given me so much freedom to explore and use some catchy slang."

As compared to the other characters, reviews and the audience have a special mention of his character Bhavik, feeling much more relatable. However, the *4 Thieves* actor believes, "I feel all three characters are relatable because they are of the current times. Be it Nirwan working in corporate, Varun as a musician, or people wanting to become a social media influencer that's shown through Bhavik. This, I feel, is one of the reasons why his character is relatable. Everyone has their social media and phones on every time, be it even while traveling. The way my character had been given freedom by the makers, it has come the way it has."

The show shows his character shifting from MP to Mumbai, bringing an Indori and/or Bhopali touch to it. His character was pretty much relatable because that was how he began his journey. Though his character Bhavik had come to Mumbai for his college, Keshav, on the other hand, was in Mumbai to fulfill his dreams of becoming an actor. So undeniably, there's pretty much all of the reality between him and the character.

"Every actor has their own way to prepare their character," enthuses the *It's My Pleasure* actor as he goes on. "Every actor needs to get the liberty to improvise their character, which was something that I got in this show. As the actor begins to work, one gets to experience it. At times, we improvise it on the sets too. I'm someone who always feels if I've done a good job. I don't know if it's a good thing or a bad thing, but I always have a doubt about it. I always try to say the dialogues in a way that it turns out to be catchy, just like how I've done in *Loop 11:47*. I always have a doubt, but if a director shows a thumbs up, then it is a thumbs up."

Going ahead, Keshav, who has a few projects in the pipeline, without revealing much of the details, concludes this chat sharing. "To be honest, beggars are not choosers. I'm not a beggar in that sense (he laughs). But yeah, there's a lot of things one has to consider that they'd get to know as soon as they read the script. You get an intuition that this would work and you should go ahead with it. Either it should be a project with a good budget or a project you are keen to try in your free time. The project needs to have potential."

## SAFEGUARDING LIVES WITH CONSUMER SAFETY!

Reinforcing its commitment toward illicit tobacco trade prevention, Philip Morris International's (PMI) affiliate, IPM India intensifies its efforts to tackle the menace to safeguard India's economic interest and protect consumers. The illicit tobacco trade is a major threat and growing challenge worldwide. As part of its continued efforts towards tackling the illicit trade menace, PMI's strategy focuses on five critical areas research & intelligence, protecting the supply chain, partnerships, co-operation with law enforcement and raising awareness. The organisation supports and helps law-enforcement agencies by inspecting and authenticating seized products and performing forensic evaluations. Additionally, profiles illicit products, shares intelligence on emerging routes and trends shaping the black market and trains officials on the innovative authentication and security features of products.

India has witnessed a significant rise in illicit in recent years and it only seems to rise with time. As per the 2022 FICCI Cascade study, the overall market for illegal cigarettes in India is estimated to be at Rs. 22,930 crore. As per the reports, the total loss to the Govt. of India estimated for 2022, on account of the illicit markets in the tobacco industry is Rs 13,331 crore, up from Rs 6,240 crore in 2012, an increase by 46%. According to the Tobacco Institute of India (TII), the illegal cigarette trade comprising internationally smuggled and locally manufactured tax-evaded cigarettes accounts for as much as one-fourth of the cigarette industry in India. As per the recent reports, throughout 2023-2024, law enforcement agencies have seized illegal cigarettes across many Indian cities. In Guwahati, customs officials and railway authorities confiscated over 11 lakh sticks on multiple

occasions, with the Assam Rifles also making seizures. Visakhapatnam saw the police and customs seize over 21 lakh sticks, while in Vijayawada, the tally reached over 103 lakh sticks, including 75 boxes. Hyderabad's police force seized 267 cartons and 4.5 lakh sticks. Additionally, Lucknow's customs officials seized over 2.12 lakh sticks and a substantial number of packs and boxes. Furthermore, Calicut Airport, Faridabad, Amritsar and Indore experienced various seizures by customs, the police and the DRI. Pune and Silchar, Raipur, Surat and Ahmedabad saw the DRI seize over 85 lakh sticks. According to Euromonitor International's 2023 report, illicit cigarette volumes in India reached 30.2 billion sticks in 2022, trailing only behind China and Brazil.

Expressing concern over the rise of the illicit tobacco trade, Navaneel Kar, Managing Director, IPM India said, "Eliminating illicit trade has been a longstanding priority for us and continues to be an integral part of our efforts to drive operational excellence and build a sustainable future. In India, PMI has contributed significantly over the past decade, partnering with law enforcement and investigative agencies in the fight against the trade of illegal cigarettes. Public-private partnerships based on an inclusive approach by governments, the private sector, and civil society are vital to helping combat the trade. Interconnected systems and advanced technologies such as digitally verified track-and-trace systems, holograms, QR codes and RFID tags are essential for monitoring and detecting counterfeit products. As India progresses on its path to become a global economic powerhouse, it is critical to take stricter measures to eradicate illicit and build a safer tomorrow."



## Enjoy Ganesh Chaturthi more elegantly with new ideas!

Ganesh Chaturthi is here and most of us know how bringing Bappa home is a treasured experience. If you are looking for creative ideas to elevate your space, here are a few ideas that will help you set the perfect ambience for your home.

This festival marks the commencement of a 10-day-long auspicious festival across the country. From cleaning your home to adorning pandals, preparing special dishes and extending invitations to visitors, the list of activities is extensive every year. However, the most significant challenge we encounter is finding simple yet eye-catching decorations to fill our homes with a celebratory atmosphere. Here's a list of useful tips to help you instantly elevate the festivities by Fabindia:

### Vibrant rangoli designs

Adorn your entrance on Ganeshotsav with a colourful rangoli made from flower petals, rice flour, or powdered colours. Whether they are popular symbols like vibrant peacocks, lotus blossoms, or a Kolam rangoli – these rangoli designs are sure to make your home feel more inviting and auspicious.

### Create majestic mandap

The mandap is the focal point of your Ganesh Chaturthi décor; choose traditional elements like bamboo, wood, or fabric drapes in auspicious colours such as red, yellow and gold. You can also embellish the mandap with fresh flowers, torans and traditional motifs. For a personal touch, consider opting for eco-friendly Ganesha idols made from clay, natural colours, or biodegradable materials. This can add a meaningful touch to one's celebrations.



### Fragrances all over

From marigolds, to roses, to jasmine and lotus blooms - Ganesh Chaturthi is a festive period celebrated with beautiful floral decorations. Flowers can be fashioned into bouquets, embellish the main gathering area, or even just kept in classic copper or silver bowls throughout your home. To further enhance your festive celebrations try adding floating candles to the bowls with some water!

### Incorporate aesthetic décor pieces

Versatile decorative pieces such as urils are a great way to add sophistication to your decorative space. From golden elephant décor pieces to colourful elephant-shaped candle holders, elephant-shaped motifs also add an aesthetic touch. Utilizing leaf-shaped platters and trays to serve the traditional offering of modak not only pays homage to the significance of Ganesh Chaturthi, but adds an extra layer of elegance.

### Light it up

Light up your home with traditional clay diyas filled with ghee or oil. Place them along pathways, and in corners to create a warm, divine ambience. Lanterns or fairy lights in vibrant colours hung to enhance the festive mood are also a good idea to add depth and warmth to your décor. As you gather with loved ones to celebrate the festival, your beautifully adorned home will not only reflect the joy of the occasion but also create lasting memories. By embracing these traditional home décor tips, you can experience Ganesh Chaturthi with immense warmth.

Each element, from the majestic mandap to fragrant flowers, contributes to creating an atmosphere that reflects the festival.

PARTY

St. Francis College for Women, Begumpet hosted a seminar on "Women & Documentary Film" jointly organised by the Department of Mass Communication & Journalism and the Department of English, in collaboration with the U.S. Consulate General, Hyderabad. The resource person, Caroline Libresco, a filmmaker and advocate for women's representation in film, led a thought-provoking session on the challenges and opportunities for women in film.



With 1,70,000 girls already uplifted, Bangaru Talli is expanding its reach, educating 4,000 students on key values and responsibilities. Led by Mallikarjun and supported by passionate speakers, it aims for a brighter, more equitable future. They aim to empower 2 million girls by 2040.

Photos by- SV Chary

The Jubilant Bhartia Foundation and the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship, the sister organisation of the World Economic Forum, honoured Akshay Saxena of Avanti Fellows with Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award - India 2024. The award was presented by Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas in the presence of distinguished personalities from industry, government and civil society.



Dr Pavan Kumar B, Consultant Medical Oncologist and BMT Physician, Basavatarakam Indo-American Cancer Hospital, along with Dr Ganesh S Jaishetwar, Lead Consultant and Head, Dept of Hematology and BMT, Yashoda Hospital, organised a meet around World Lymphoma Day.



AbhiBus has onboarded FlixBus to bring a new standard of bus travel to the country. With FlixBus tickets now available on AbhiBus, users can seamlessly book premium bus journeys across India starting at just Rs.99. This collaboration is set to elevate the travel experience for Indian passengers, offering high-quality services, modern amenities like spacious seating and punctual schedules - all at an affordable price.



LEAD Group announced the launch of TECHBOOK, an intelligent book designed to transform traditional textbook-driven learning. The TECHBOOK brings three cutting-edge technologies and NCF aligned curriculum to address key learning challenges among school students today.

One of India's greatest goalkeepers and Arjuna Awardee footballer, Subrata Paul, has joined Woxxsen University as an Executive Fellow. The former Indian captain will inspire students and share his experiences from his 15-year international playing career, touching on topics such as team building, goalkeeping, captaincy, playing across the world, winning the Golden Glove, coaching and life off the field.

## FUN

### ARCHIE



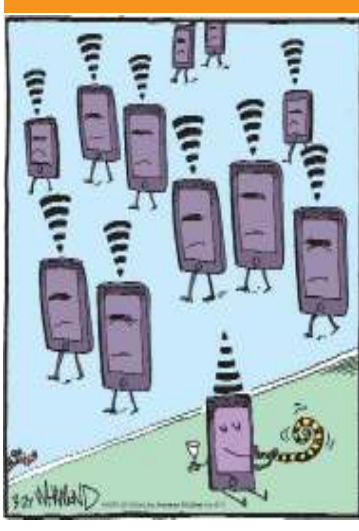
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### GARFIELD



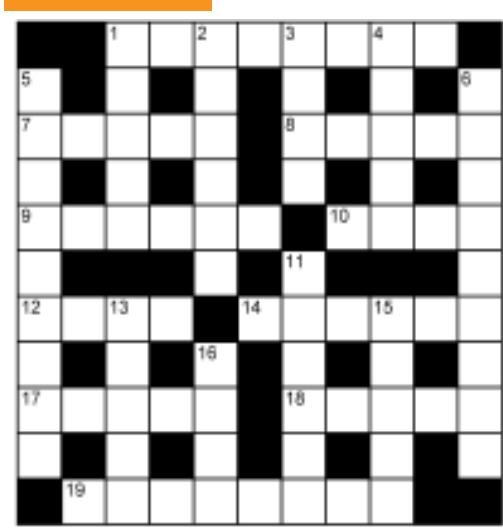
### REALITY CHECK



### SPEED BUMP



### CROSSWORD



### NANCY



### SUDOKU



**Yesterday's solution**

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

**Rules**

- Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9) exactly once.
- The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

### ACROSS

- Graveyard
- In the lead
- Shelf
- Pay attention
- Threesome
- Yours and mine
- An old fortified building
- Racket
- Mirror reflection
- A jewellery item
- A type of pen
- Got well again
- Liquid always in your mouth
- Lift
- To bother or annoy someone for fun
- Feeble

### DOWN

- A game played on a squared board
- Influriate
- Story
- Jockey



### GINGER MEGGS



# I'M NOT DOING FILMS FOR MONEY; IT'S MY LOVE: ABHIRAMI

**Actress Abhirami starred in the 2004 Telugu film *Cheppave Chirugali* as the female lead. She is now back to Telugu films in her second innings with *Bhale Unnade* in which she plays Raj Tarun's mother. She discusses her journey, decision and priorities when she signed a film**

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Actress Abhirami is returning to Telugu cinema with the film *Bhale Unnade*. She plays Raj Tarun's mother in the film, which is directed by Sivasai Vardhan.

"Actually, I signed this film first, but my other film, *Saripodhaa Sanivaaram* and *Maharaja*, was released first," she said about her entry into Telugu. The actress further shares her excitement about receiving good roles in her second innings now.

"As director Sivasai narrated this story to me, I was very keen to do it. I am playing Gauri, an independent and strong, principled single woman. Incidentally, I am working in a bank in this film," she said. Her parents worked at a bank, so she grew up watching them and is familiar with the appearance of bank employees.

When asked about her parents and cinema, she states that she has no film background but has been involved in the industry. After

working on several films, she relocated to the United States to study and later married there. She performed the female lead in the 2004 film *Cheppave Chirugali* opposite Venu Thottampudi, which was a huge success.

Basically, she shares, "I completed the film in July and later in August, I flew to the US for my studies. Several people had approached my parents. However, they informed me that I wasn't interested in doing any films back then. So that's how I took a break," she said.

Talking about her film career, she says, "It's been like a joyous twist of fate for me. I am lucky and grateful that this is my profession and I like it," said Abhirami.

Her criteria for choosing a project is pretty simple; the story and her role. "The story is my driving force. I am not bothered about whether the production house is big or small, the director is new or old; I am not doing this for money; I am doing it for love," she said.

Talking about her comeback, she said it was Kamal Haasan who asked her to dub for a character in the *Vishwaroopam* film. "When

Kamal sir offered, I just landed in India. At that time, the 100 years of cinema celebrations were going on and I too participated in it. I met all my old friends and people enquired about me and offered me roles. I started in a small way initially, but now I am getting different roles," she said.

In the last 10 to 15 years, the industry has exploded technically. "A woman like me at this age is getting very strong female characters. There is a big change in directors and writers' minds; they are thinking in a broader way," she said. Even in Telugu too, she is approached for a couple of projects, but her hands are full. "I am playing lead actress in two Tamil films; I am doing a comedy film and I also signed a film where four stories are to be told and my story is one of them. I play a sweeper and mother to a transgender kid whose daughter and mother relationship is told in one story," she said about her upcoming projects.

The OTT and digital technology impact has been huge and because of it, many women are getting stronger roles. "I am also doing

a web series. I play a corporate company manager and the story revolves around the company."

Unlike in *Saripodhaa Sanivaaram* or *Maharaja*, in *Bhale Unnade*, her character will be seen throughout the film. "It's a mother-son relationship and my character is not a small one like in my earlier films, throughout the film," she said. In this upcoming film, Raj Tarun plays the character of a saree draper. "I gave only one piece of advice to Raj Tarun: how to tie a saree, because he doesn't know," she said.

After her re-entry, she shared, "In the last two years, I finished nearly ten films." Now, she is busy with many projects. "But I am not in a rush to do quantity of films, as I want to take it in a slow manner. I want a long career, so I am looking for interesting roles," she said. She added that she is playing a negative role in an upcoming film.

"Now I am in a very exciting part of cinema, as I am getting different roles. The new generation is coming up with incredible stories, so I am looking for different kinds of roles in the future," she said.

## Samyuktha's two films announced on her birthday



On the occasion of actress Samyuktha's birthday, the filmmakers of her upcoming film unveiled the looks of two of her upcoming films.

One is *Sameera*, in which she plays opposite Bellamkonda Sai Sreenivas. The film is directed by Ludheer Byreddy and produced by Mahesh Chandu. The plot revolves around a 400-year-old dashavatara temple and stars Samyuktha in the main role. To commemorate her birthday, the filmmakers released the first look poster for her character, *Sameera*. Her involvement is crucial in the picture.

In another film, Samyuktha plays the female lead opposite Sharwanand in a film directed by Ram Abbaraju. The director previously delivered a hit, *Samajavaragamana*. This film is produced by Ramabrahmam Sunkara under Anil Sunkara's AK Entertainments. This film features two female leads opposite Sharwanand. Sakshi Vaidya and Samyuktha are the leading ladies! The makers released a poster of Samyuktha on her birthday and introduced her character as DIA through this.



## Sai Durgha Tej's great gesture

Actor Sai Durgha Tej once again demonstrates compassion, this time for the flood victims in Andhra Pradesh. He frequently stated that he was influenced by his uncle, Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. In reaction to the floods that have affected both the Telugu states, Sai Durgha Tej has made a big contribution to relief operations.

He has pledged Rs 10 lakh each to the Chief Minister's Relief Funds of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, for a total of Rs 20 lakhs. He also contributed another Rs 5 lakh to the Amma Foundation and other charities. His generosity continued as he personally visited Vijayawada to donate the pledged money.

Actually, on his birthday in 2019, Sai Durgha Tej vowed to create a new building for the Amma Orphanage, which he completed in 2021. He also set aside monies from his compensation to run this orphanage in Vijayawada, which he continues to oversee. Following the recent floods in Vijayawada, Sai Durgha Tej visited the Amma Orphanage to check on the senior residents' well-being after completing his *Durga Amma darshanam*. He generously donated two lakh to the Amma Foundation and another three lakh to other charities.

After passing over the checks, he met and engaged with the foundation's elderly inhabitants. Sai Durgha Tej constantly leads charity efforts.



## MY CHILDREN AND I ARE COMPLETELY BLINDSIDED: AARTI RAVI

Tamil actor Jayam Ravi a few days back announced his separation from his wife Aarti. He posted a message on his social media profile, stating that he has decided to end his marriage to Aarti. He gave personal reasons for his separation from his wife. He asked everyone to respect his private life during this period.

On Wednesday, his wife, Aarti, posted another note on her Instagram and said that she was shocked to see his husband's statement! "I was deeply shocked and saddened by the recent public announcement regarding our marriage, which was made without my knowledge or consent," said Aarti in her note.

She added in her note that she sought several opportunities to

speak with her husband and to have an open talk. "Sadly, that opportunity was not afforded to me, leaving both my children and me completely blindsided by this announcement. The decision to walk out of our marriage is purely one-sided and does not benefit our family," said Aarti.

Jayam Ravi and Aarti married in June 2009. Aarti is the daughter of noted television producer Sujatha Vijayakumar. They have two sons, one of whom, Aarav, played a role in his film *Tik Tik Tik* (2018). The news about their marriage comes after Aarti removed Ravi photos from her social media page a few months back. Now, Ravi officially announced the separation from his wife a few days back and now their separation turns new, with Aarti saying it is completely one-sided.

## Bagheera roars for Oct 31 release



The makers of *Bagheera*, starring Srii Murali in the lead role, on Wednesday announced that the film is heading for its theatrical release on October 31.

The teaser of the film was released in 2023 and audiences since then have been awaiting the release.

*Bagheera* is directed by Dr. Suri. The film's story is written by Prashanth Neel, the director of the KGF films and Salaar. Rukmini Vasanth of Saptasagaradaache Ellofame is the female lead while seasoned actor Prakash Raj is said to play a prominent role in the film.

## 'Abundance of women energy surrounding me in *Bench Life* caught my attention'

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*Bench Life*, a Telugu web series, will soon be available digitally. Launching on Sony LIV on September 12, the project stars Vaibhav Reddy, Ritika Singh, Aakanksha Singh and Charan Peri in important roles.

Additionally, actress Aakanksha Singh, who is one of the leading stars in this soon-to-be-released series, exclusively reveals to *The Pioneer*, "Given that my spouse comes from the business sector, I was somewhat aware of the plot of the series. However, I was ignorant of the "benching" notion that the debutant director had shared with me. In the business culture, this idea is not well known. I'm confident that my series will ultimately raise awareness of it. People are genuinely "on the bench" in the business world, meaning they have no roles to do. They are reliant on openings! Hold on, though—they do receive monthly payments. Isn't it fascinating to learn this? Just picture the effect on screens."

Going ahead, the *Malli Raava* fame continues. "I have some knowledge of the telecom industry thanks to my husband. But my director had already drawn a character sketch for me, so I didn't feel the need to ask him for any advice. The abundance of women's energy surrounding me on the *Bench Life* sets was what really caught my attention and gave me a boost in confidence. However, the show isn't just about the novel idea; it also doesn't go into a completely humorous area. This figure would resonate with everyone, not just those in corporate settings." She did, in fact, remember a specific instance with us: "I usually perform in between action and cut, but I recall working on a sequence that was so emotionally charged that I was unable to stop

Actress Aakanksha Singh, who is next going to be seen in Sony LIV's *Bench Life*, speaks to *The Pioneer* about getting onboard for the project, a day on the sets and more

myself on the sets. I was unable to hear "CUT"! That truly stayed with me after that. It took me a full day to recover from that scene; in fact, my director became rather emotional as well. I believe I made a personal connection to it, uff!"

After *Brinda*, this is the second Telugu web series available for streaming. All of the languages spoken in south India, including Tamil, Malayalam and Kannada, are anticipated to be supported by *Bench Life*. *Bench Life* is eagerly anticipated because of its new-age ideas and thoughtful, playful performances. According to *Devasdas* fame, who gained notoriety for this, "I used to look forward to working every day on *Bench Life* sets because of the amazing energy there. However, I made a great friend in Manasa, my director. On the sets, she hardly ever called me by my true name; I was her Isha. In general, things are harder in real life than they appear to be on screens. Our lives are becoming more and more like living in a suitcase. Furthermore, you could not always

find a hit in the industry!"

After seeing the trailer, we realised that *Bench Life* offers a lighthearted viewpoint on the often stressful world of the professional job. The topic of this amusing comedy-drama, directed by Manasa Sharma, is not just the carefree attitude of today's youth; rather, it is about young people discovering new interests and a sense of purpose in the most unexpected locations. "Niharika was there to work; she didn't "pretend" to be a producer or Chiranjeevi Garu's daughter. Being a well-known actress herself, she is fully aware of the other side. I'm looking forward to collaborate with her once more," says the actress, expressing gratitude for Niharika Konidela, her producer.

In conclusion, the *Clap* fame utters, "The show will start discussions across many industries, not only in the corporate realm. In the modern world, who wouldn't want a work-life balance? I occasionally shoot nonstop! This show will make viewers wonder who exactly is on the "bench" and what benefits they are receiving? I can assure my fans that they won't see me as a stereotypically geeky figure."



# 2023 ODI World Cup in India generated economic impact of USD 1.39 billion: ICC

PTI ■ DUBAI

The 2023 ODI World Cup in India created an "economic impact" of USD 1.39 billion with tourism among the biggest beneficiaries, according to a report released by the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Wednesday. The Economic Impact Assessment conducted by Nielsen for the ICC, claimed that the mega-event held in October-November last year was the biggest ever ODI World Cup. "The ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 has demonstrated the significant economic power of cricket, generating economic benefit of USD 1.39 billion (Rs 11,637 crore) for India," ICC Chief Executive, Geoff Allardice said in a statement. Australia ended India's unbeaten run in the tournament to win the trophy for a record-extending sixth time. "The impact of tourism across the host cities amounted to USD 861.4 million of revenue generation, through accommodation, travel, transportation and food and beverage because of a massive influx of domestic and foreign tourists attending the matches," read an ICC statement. "The secondary and incremental spends within the economy was a key driver, generating USD 515.7 million, which was approximately 37 per cent of the total impact." However, the ICC did not specify



whether the massive figure cited in the report is actual revenue. A record-breaking 1.25 million spectators attended the mega event, of which nearly 75 per cent were attending an ICC 50-over match for the first time ever, the report claimed. "Nearly 55 per cent of the international respondents had previously visited India regularly, whilst an injection of new visitors thanks to the World Cup saw 19% of international attendees making their first ever visit to the country. "International travellers visited multiple tourist destinations during their stay which amounted to an economic impact of USD281.2 million and nearly 68 per cent of international attendees said that they would recommend India as a tourist destination to friends and family in the future further enhancing India's global image," read the statement from the governing body. Over 48,000 full and part time jobs were created by the event through direct involvement in delivering the tournament, as well as other organisations across the hospitality sector, added the report. "The event created thousands of jobs and showcased India as a premier tourist destination, proving that ICC events not only engage fans passionately but also contribute significantly to the economies of our host nations," Allardice said.



## It will be harder to face SG balls: Bangladesh batter Litton on India Tests

PTI ■ DHAKA

He was Bangladesh's batting star during their historic 2-0 away Test series win in Pakistan but Litton Das believes that facing the red 'SG Test' in India would present an entirely different and more difficult test for the team. Litton, who scored 56 and 138 in the two Tests, along with skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto, Mominul Haque, Mushfiqur Rahim, Shakib Al Hasan and young Shadman Islam will once again form the core of the Bangladesh batting line-up during the Test series starting September 19 in Chennai. In Pakistan, Test matches are played with Kookaburra balls, which is also used at home by Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, New Zealand, South Africa. Stitches of the Kookaburra balls aren't as thick and pronounced as the Indian manufactured 'SG Test', which can aid reverse swing. "The ball will be a different one in India," Litton was



quoted as saying by ESPN Cricinfo. "It is a little harder to play against the SG ball. The Kookaburra ball is easier to play when it gets old. It is the opposite with the SG ball. It is harder to get away against the old ball when it's the SG." The right-handed keeper-batter's 138 after Bangladesh were reduced to 26 for 6 in the second Test is considered as one of the finest knocks under pressure but Litton doesn't want to rest on past laurels. "We played good cricket against Pakistan but it is already in the past," Litton said. "It is important for us to look forward. We will need your (media's) help. It would be helpful if you don't talk about the Pakistan series. As a player, it is already in the past for me," he said. For Litton, Bangladesh's improvement in traditional format has been gradual and inspiring. "It is inspiring that people will know you if you do well," he said. "There's nothing better than that. I don't think it is pressure. We are improving in Tests, so we have to become more consistent in the format. That's the main challenge." Having played 223 international games across three formats for the 'Tigers' in past nine years has given him enough experience to tackle various situations. "I have to take responsibility now," he said. "It is the right time. I have been playing for ten years, so there has been some experience. I try to score off deliveries that I believe are there to hit. Scoring runs is more important these days. I think I bat in the same way that most batters approach the game." Batting with lower-order is another expertise that he has acquired in recent years. "I usually get to bat with (Mehidy Hasan) Miraz. Sometimes I bat with Shakib bhai (Shakib Al Hasan) or Mushfiq bhai (Mushfiqur Rahim). If I don't play my shots, the team score won't go anywhere. I want to play like this. I try to play the way I bat in training," he said.

## Hope GCL makes big impact on chess like IPL did on cricket: Arjun Erigaisi

PTI ■ LONDON

Indian Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi hopes the Global Chess League will have a transformative effect on the sport similar to the revolutionary impact IPL had on cricket. The GCL is the world's first and largest official franchise league of its kind, with chess players from all over the world competing in a unique joint team format. "It's definitely a great thing that we now have Global Chess League in the chess circuit. I really hope it makes a big impact in the chess world like IPL did to cricket," The 21-year-old chess prodigy from Warangal has been creating waves this year. He ascended to World No.4 in the FIDE world ratings in June this year after beating France's Loic Travadon in the French Team Chess Championship 2024. Having watched the 2013 World Championship match between the legendary Viswanathan Anand and Magnus Carlsen, Erigaisi is delighted to get a chance to be on the same as the two veterans. "Last year, I was on the same team as Magnus Carlsen, and now I am on the same team as Vishy Anand, sir. I remember following the 2013 World Championship Match as a fan, and after 10-11 years, I got the chance to be in the same team as them. It's a big delight," said Erigaisi. The second season of GCL begins in London on October 3. "There are a limited number of team chess tournaments, but I love it whenever I get a chance to participate in a team event."

## Rohit, Kohli, Pant are probably going to be really big ones: Lyon ahead of Border-Gavaskar Trophy

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Veteran Australian spinner Nathan Lyon has identified Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, and Rishabh Pant as the three "big ones" to watch out for in the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy Test series. The five-Test series between India and Australia gets underway Down Under from November 22, part of the World Test Championship. Besides the big ones, Lyon has also warned that the visitors have an 'amazing line-up', making things massively challenging for the hosts. "Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, and Rishabh Pant are probably going to be the three really big ones. But then, you've still got (Yashasvi) Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, (Ravindra) Jadeja, and who else will come out another five, I'm not sure," he told Star Sports. However, Lyon was confident that if the Australians

delivered as a bowling unit over an extended period, it would be beneficial for them. "But, it's a pretty amazing line-up they've got, so it's going to be a massive challenge. As I said, if we, as a bowling group, are good enough for long periods, hopefully, we can challenge their defence," he added. The Aussies have failed to win the title since their last series victory in 2014-15 at home. The Indians have won the title on four consecutive instances since then, winning twice each at home and away, a record for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Besides, they also became the only Asian team to win a Test series in Australia, and also winning it on multiple occasions. Overall, India is the most successful side when it comes to the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, winning it on 10 instances, along with a retention.

## Punjab FC announce squad for 2024-25 Indian Super League season

PTI ■ MOHALI

Punjab FC, the only representative from north India in the top-tier Indian Super League, on Wednesday announced their 26-member squad for the upcoming season. The team's home, away and third kits were also unveiled at an event here. The Shers will start their ISL campaign against Kerala Blasters on September 15 in Kochi and will play their first home game on September 20 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi. Head coach Panagiotis Dilimperis has picked a squad that has a balance of youth and experience. Luka Majcen, Mushaga Bakenga, Ezequiel Vidal, Ivan Novoselec, Asmir



Suljic and Filip Mrzljak are the foreign signings of the squad. The new Indian signings include Vinit Rai, Ninthoingamba Meetei, Muheet Shabir, Nihal Sudeesh (on loan) and Likmabam Rakesh Singh (on loan). Mohammed Suhail F. And Shami Singamayam from the academy have been promoted to the senior side, joining Tekcham Abhishek Singh, Manglenthang Kipgen and Ayush Deshwal.

Dilimperis said, "We have named a squad that can challenge for the top spots in the league this season. The foreign signings have plenty of experience and we have an exciting pool of Indian players. "We have also maintained the core of our Indian players from last season. Our pre-season has been good, and we hope we start our season well and perform to our best capacity." Dilimperis will have Konstantinos Katsaras and Sankaral Chakraborty as his deputies along with Papaioannou Ioannis as the strength and conditioning coach and Manish Timsina as the goalkeeping coach.

# Duleep Trophy: Focus on Rinku, Iyer, Washington in round two

PTI ■ ANANTAPUR

Fringe players like Rinku Singh along with some seasoned names who have been ignored by the national selectors will be aiming to attract their attention when round two of Duleep Trophy begins here on Thursday. The star power in the season-opening red-ball event will be reduced significantly for round two with India squad players released for a national camp ahead of the first Test against Bangladesh in Chennai from September 19. Sarfaraz Khan is the lone India squad member who will be featuring in the domestic competition. In the absence of national regulars, the focus will shift on the likes of Rinku, who was surprisingly not picked for the first round despite having an impressive first-class record. The spirited southpaw has also done well for India in T20 cricket. Shubman Gill joining the national team has led to Mayank Agarwal captaining the India A unit. Having played his last Test in March 2022,

Agarwal needs a bagful of runs to get back into national reckoning. Pacer Prasad Krishna, who missed the Duleep Trophy opener having not fully completed his rehab for a left quadriceps tendon, has been named in the India A squad. With the Australia tour on the horizon, the performance of the lanky pacer will be keenly observed. In the India B squad, captain Abhimanyu Easwaran will need to lead from the front following a forgettable outing in Bengaluru last week. Sarfaraz, who made a successful Test debut against England earlier this year, was upstaged by his brother Musheer in the opening game, the latter's 181 taking India B to a fine win over India A. The elder brother will be eyeing a big knock before joining the national team in Chennai. Washington Sundar also features in the India B squad and his all-round abilities keep him in the mix for all formats. Pacer Mukesh Kumar, who was pipped by Akash Deep for the first Test, will have a point to prove.



India C opens Sai Sudharsan and Rituraj Gaikwad will be looking to pile on the runs to make a case for the reserve opener's role in the India setup. Left-arm spinner Manav Suthar will be aiming to build on his match-winning performance against India D. Rajat Patidar, dropped from the Indian team following a disastrous debut series against England, will need to show the hunger for red-ball runs. Shreyas Iyer, captain of India D, is another player who has been sidelined from the Test squad and only a mountain of runs can bring him back into the national reckoning. The same goes for Devdutt Padikkal and Sanju Samson, who was a notable name missing from India D's playing eleven against India C. Left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh too needs to do a lot more to enhance his red-ball credentials. SQUADS: India A squad: Mayank Agarwal (C), Riyan Parag, Tilak Varma, Shivam Dube, Tanush Kotian,

Prasidh Krishna, Khaleel Ahmed, Avesh Khan, Kumar Kushagra, Shaswat Rawat, Pratham Singh, Akshay Wadkar, SK Rasheed, Shams Mulani, Aaqib Khan. India B squad: Abhimanyu Easwaran (C), Sarfaraz Khan, Musheer Khan, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Washington Sundar, Navdeep Saini, Mukesh Kumar, Rahul Chahar, R Sai Kishore, Mohit Awasthi, N Jagadeesan (WK), Suyash Prabhudessai, Rinku Singh, Himanshu Mantri (WK). India C: Rituraj Gaikwad (C), Sai Sudharsan, Rajat Patidar, Abhishek Porel (WK), B Indrajith, Hrithik Shokeen, Manav Suthar, Gaurav Yadav, Vyshak Vijaykumar, Anshul Khamboj, Himanshu Chauhan, Mayank Markande, Aryan Juyal (WK), Sandeep Warrier. India D squad: Shreyas Iyer (C), Atharva Taide, Yash Dube, Devdutt Padikkal, Ricky Bhui, Saransh Jain, Arshdeep Singh, Aditya Thakare, Harshit Rana, Akash Sengupta, KS Bharat (WK), Saurabh Kumar, Sanju Samson (C), Nishant Sindhu, Vidwath Kaverappa.