

India best bet for 21st century, its solar revolution a golden chapter:
Modi

GOVT TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN START-UP ECOSYSTEM: GOYAL

'I am confident about OG; it will give me good **RECOGNITION**

QUOTE OF THE DAY
 The BRS admin issued just 49,000 ration cards to the poor, that too when by-elections were held to ensure the victory of their candidate. The Congress government is ready to give smart ration cards and health cards to all those eligible next month. 90 lakh ration cards are there in the State and the government will separate them to issue smart cards.
 - Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy

DON'T MISS...
 30 health camps for people near ...
 Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha ordered arrangements for health services at Ganesh immersion sites on Monday. In preparation for the upcoming Ganesh immersion, Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha has directed the State Health Department to make necessary arrangements to ensure prompt medical assistance. Health camps and ambulances will be strategically stationed in areas where the immersion takes place, particularly around Tank Bund in Hyderabad. The Minister emphasised the importance of being vigilant, as large...
 -PAGE: 3

Climate change risks grow faster...
 Economic risks for the wealthy due to climate change is growing at the fastest rates because of impacts to global supply chains and goods and services, even as the highest risks remain with the poorest around the world, according to a new study. Across countries, lower-income consumers are known to face higher economic risks in a changing climate because of a low capacity to adapt. However, researchers explained that inequality in consumption between varied income groups within a country is...
 -PAGE: 5

'India well-poised to benefit from...
 India is well-poised to take advantage of new jobs that emerge from advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI), according to Meta India Vice President Sandhya Devanathan. In an interview to PTI, Devanathan weighed in on raging debate around AI and its impact on jobs, saying she is of the firm belief that AI would now lead to new opportunities for India. "I think that India is potentially well-poised to take advantage of new jobs that could come up with AI," she said. Devanathan said that the nature of jobs may change...
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Skipper Harmanpreet twin strike in 4-1...
 Skipper Harmanpreet Singh's sublime form resulted in twin strikes as defending champions India entered the final of the Hero Asian Champions Trophy with a clinical 4-1 win against South Korea in the semi-final here on Monday. India scored through Uttam Singh (13th minute), skipper Harmanpreet Singh (19th, 45th) and Jarnpanpreet Singh (32nd), while Korea's lone goal came from through Yang Jihun (33rd)'s penalty corner conversion. India will take on hosts China in Tuesday's final...
 -SPORTS

BRS looted TG, enjoyed power

RAJIV GANDHI SACRIFICED HIS LIFE FOR INDIA, SAYS REVANTH INAUGURATES RAJIV STATUE IN FRONT OF SECRETARIAT SAYS WILL NOT REST TILL MILKWEEDS ARE GROWN IN KCR FARMHOUSE



PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 Lashing out at BRS leaders, who looted the state's assets, enjoyed power and grabbed thousands of acres in the last 10 years for criticising Congress rule as family rule, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy warned that Congress activists will not rest till milkweeds are grown in the KCR family's farmhouses and Gadis.
 "They distributed posts in the family after KCR became the CM. The son became IT Minister, nephew Irrigation Minister, daughter MP, and a relative a Rajya Sabha Member. They 'looted' the state as they liked and constructed farmhouses on hundreds of acres and are now speaking about the Nehru family shamelessly," the CM said.
 Recalling Chakali Ailamma's statement that 'grass must be grown in Gadis,' the Chief Minister said that with Ailamma's spirit and the statue of Rajiv Gandhi as witness milkweeds must be grown in their (KCR family) farmhouses. Till then Congress activists will not rest, he said.
 Revanth warned that he would take care of any BRS leader who touches Congress activists and that BRS leaders have not given up their arrogance even after losing power.
 Addressing the gathering after unveiling the statue of Rajiv Gandhi on Monday in front of the Secretariat, the Chief Minister said that members of the KCR family constructed farmhouses.

CM reviews Ganesh immersion arrangements

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy held a review meeting at the Command Control Centre to oversee the arrangements and monitoring of the immersion process. Hyderabad CP CV Anand and other senior police officials attended the meeting. The CP briefed the CM that 733 CCTV cameras across Greater Hyderabad were being used to monitor the immersion process.
 The CM instructed that special surveillance should be maintained at major mandaps, lakes and especially at Tank Bund.

BRS has no right to criticise Rajiv, says Venkat DEMANDS KTR'S APOLOGY FOR HIS COMMENTS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 The BRS has no right to criticise the former Prime Minister, the late Rajiv Gandhi, who sacrificed his life for the sake of national unity, Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said.
 Addressing a meeting organised on the occasion of the unveiling of Rajiv Gandhi's statue in front of the Secretariat on Monday, Venkat said that Sonia Gandhi, who was not involved in politics, entered politics when Congress leaders and activists appealed to her to enter the politics when Rajiv Gandhi lost his life.
 He said that Sonia is a great leader who created Telangana state knowing fully well that the party will be wiped out in Andhra Pradesh.
 "The BRS leaders used the Telangana slogan to gain their selfish political ends and are now speaking as they liked against installing Rajiv Gandhi's statue. The BRS leaders, who lost deposits in nine constituencies out of 17 in the Lok Sabha elections in Telangana, are now speaking shamelessly. The Kalvakuntla family which looted Telangana for the last 10 years has no moral right to speak about the 'sacrifices' of Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi," Venkat said.
 He said that Rajiv Gandhi was a 'selfless' leader who provided voting rights to 18-year-olds.
 He said that BRS Working President KT Rama Rao should consult a doctor to check his mental status as he had been saying that he would remove the statue of Rajiv Gandhi who ensured that gram panchayats get funds directly.

HYDERABAD'S LIFE SCIENCES HUB IT Min charts future of Genome Valley

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 Telangana's IT and Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu inaugurated 3GV IFC-EDGE (Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies) advanced certified life sciences facility, located in Genome Valley, Hyderabad.
 Genome Valley, a major hub of life sciences innovation and growth, stands as a testament to the State's commitment to advancing the sector. Owned by Rx Propellant, 3GV is a multi-tenant facility with an investment of Rs 105 crore, hosting over 1,000 people across its 150,000 square feet of sustainable infrastructure. The facility emphasises environmental responsibility, with advanced lab spaces designed for companies of all sizes.
 Minister Sridhar Babu also visited Synopolis to participate in the Vision Forum, part of the Genome Valley Connect 2024 event, where he engaged with 50-60 key industry leaders. Together, they discussed innovation and opportunities to shape the future of Genome Valley. During the event, the Minister launched the blueprint and logo for the Hyderabad International Lifesciences Square (HILS), a 300-acre international life sciences corridor in Genome Valley Phase 2. HILS is poised to foster cutting-edge facilities and global collaborations, further establishing Hyderabad as a key player in the global life sciences sector.
 Speaking on the occasion, Minister Sridhar Babu said,



17th SEPTEMBER Will be celebrated as Telangana Praja Palana Dinotsavam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 The Government of Telangana has announced that September 17 would be observed as 'Telangana Praja Palana Dinotsavam' (Telangana Governance Day) every year.
 This decision was formalized through GO No: 204 issued by the General Administration (Political-B) Department on September 16.

Demolitions no solution: KCR BRS chief calls for course correction

NAVEENA GHANATE naveena.ghanate@gmail.com ■ HYDERABAD
 BRS chief K. Chandrasekhar Rao has reportedly expressed concern over the demolitions carried out by the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Management Authority (HYDRAMA).
 He said that a course correction is needed to address the city's encroachment problem and that demolitions are not the right way for that. In a meeting held on Sunday, KCR spoke about wide-ranging topics including politics.
 Sources reported that KCR said that there may be around 6 to 8 lakh encroachments across the city. Most of them existed even before Telangana was formed. While some are located in Full Tank Level (FTL) areas others are built on drains.
 Removing these structures which have been there for decades is challenging, KCR reportedly said and added that the focus should be on stopping new encroachments.
 KCR also emphasised that strategic measures should be taken to resolve the issue without causing public distress.

Undermined Telangana identity: KTR Calls for Palabhishekam on Telangana Talli statues

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 BRS Working President KT Rama Rao strongly opposed the Congress government's decision to install a statue of Rajiv Gandhi in place of the Telangana Talli (Mother Telangana) statue, which was meant to be placed between the secretariat and the Telangana Martyrs' Memorial.
 KTR condemned this as a shameful act that undermines Telangana's identity. Protesting against Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's action, KTR has called upon BRS activists to conduct 'palabhishekam' on all Telangana Talli statues across the state on Tuesday.
 He urged BRS activists to oppose the Congress Government's move which he believes disrespects Telangana Talli.
 KTR said that Telangana society has been deeply hurt by the installation of Rajiv Gandhi's statue in a place meant for the statue of Telangana Talli.
 upon BRS activists to conduct 'palabhishekam' on all Telangana Talli statues across the state on Tuesday.

'KCR insulted Telangana and its people's self-respect'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 The BJP's Malkajgiri MP, Eatala Rajender, said that BRS chief K. Chandrasekhar Rao, who had said that if Telangana state is formed he would celebrate Liberation Day, further succumbed to political pressure and insulted Telangana and the people's self-respect.
 However, the BJP has been observing Telangana Liberation Day on September 17 before and after the formation of Telangana state, Eatala said.
 He said that after coming to power, even the party claiming to speak in the name of Telangana has degraded Telangana's self-respect.



'One nation, one election' not possible OPPOSITION SLAMS GOVT AND TERMS IT AS BJP'S 'GIMMICK'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
 The opposition on Monday slammed the government over the 'one nation, one election' issue, saying it was not possible under the present Constitution and just a 'gimmick' of the ruling BJP which keeps "releasing hot air balloons" to test waters.
 The Congress, the TMC and the CPI rejected the idea, saying it was not pragmatic.
 The opposition parties' assertion came after reports said the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government would implement 'one nation, one election' during its current tenure.
 Senior Congress leader P



Chidambaram said it is not possible under the present Constitution and requires at least five constitutional amendments.
 Replying to a question on reports that the BJP-led NDA government

would implement 'one nation, one election' within its current tenure, he said Prime Minister Narendra Modi does not have the numbers to place those constitutional amendments either in the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha.
 Addressing reporters in Chandigarh, Chidambaram said, "One nation, one election" is not possible under the present Constitution. It requires at least five constitutional amendments."
 "Mr Modi does not have the majority to put those constitutional amendments in either in the Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha," the former Union minister said.
 He asserted that there were greater constitutional obstacles to 'one

nation, one election'. "It is not possible. The INDIA bloc is totally opposed to 'one nation, one election'.
 The Congress also said the idea of 'one nation, one election' was not pragmatic and wondered how long the government would survive by "releasing hot air balloons" to test the waters.
 Asked about the reports on 'one nation, one election' being implemented during the government's current tenure, Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete said, "You quoted government sources, here I am the official spokesperson of the Congress party laying threadbare the many failures of the Modi government.

Telangana launches 'Pravasi Prajavaani' for Gulf workers' families

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 The Government of Telangana has instituted a dedicated grievance redressal counter named 'Pravasi Prajavaani' to address the concerns of the families of Gulf workers.
 This initiative, which is part of the Prajavaani programme held at the Praja Bhavan in Hyderabad, is one of the several welfare measures announced for those hailing from Telangana working in Gulf countries.
 The GO MS: No: 205 issued on September 16 regarding this also announced an ex-gratia payment of Rs 5 lakh for the families of workers who die in Gulf countries or after December 7, 2023.

Chiranjeevi & prominent personalities donate to CMRF

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 Megastar Chiranjeevi has donated Rs 50 lakh to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. Additionally, he handed over another Rs 50 lakh on behalf of his son, actor Ram Charan, bringing the total contribution to Rs 1 crore. Chiranjeevi personally presented both the cheques to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy.
 Former minister Galla Aruna Kumari, on behalf of the Amara Raja Group, contributed Rs 1 crore to the CM's Relief Fund, further boosting the total donations.
 Cine actor Ali contributed Rs 3 lakh, while actor Vishwak Sen donated Rs 10 lakh to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.
 In a gesture of support, Sai Dharam Tej met with the Chief Minister at his residence in Jubilee Hills and handed over a cheque of Rs 10 lakh. The donations are part of a growing wave of contributions to support various initiatives under the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, with several film and business personalities stepping forward.



Kaushik must focus on public issues: Danam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Declaring that the people of Telangana would teach a lesson to the BRS in the GHMC elections, Khairathabad MLA Danam Nagender said the people would also teach a lesson to Padi Kaushik Reddy for criticising three-time MLA Arekapudi Gandhi.

He said that they would smash the conspiracies being hatched in the name of AP-Telangana and asked Kaushik to concentrate on public issues as an MLA at least now.

Speaking to the media after having darshan of Lord Sri Venkateshwara at Tirumala on Monday, Danam said the Congress government formed HYDRAA to protect Hyderabad's lakes from being encroached. Danam said the High Court had said the government should provide alternative arrangements to people living on encroached lands.

KTR questions PM Modi's silence on 'RR Tax' in TG

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a sharp tweet directed at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BRS MLA KT Rama Rao (KTR) has questioned the inaction on the so-called 'RR Tax' issue in Telangana, which was raised by the Prime Minister over four months ago.

The MLA also criticised BJP leaders in Telangana, including Union Ministers Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay, for not addressing the alleged corrupt practices by the Congress in the State. KTR asked, "It's been more than 4 months since you talked about 'RR Tax' in Telangana. Any specific reason why no action has been initiated by your govt?"

He further pressed PM Modi on why his colleagues from the BJP have remained silent on the issue, despite the Prime Minister's earlier remarks about massive corruption in the State under the Congress leadership. In



the tweet, KTR highlighted the absence of criticism from Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay, questioning whether they agreed with the Prime Minister's earlier allegations or if the remarks were merely an election strategy. "While you say Congress in Telangana has been

indulging in massive corruption, why do neither of your colleagues in Cabinet Kishan Reddy & Bandi Sanjay refuse to utter a word against 'RR Tax' or other corrupt practices of the Congress! Do they not agree with you or was your criticism or is it mere election jumla?"

Kaushik claims Revanth touched his feet for TPCC chief's role

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy expressed outrage over the recent attack on his residence and accused Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of orchestrating the incident.

Addressing a press meet at the Telangana Bhavan, he said that Revanth had come to his house when he was in the Congress and had touched his feet asking for the TPCC President's role. "As you touched my feet, I made you the PCC

President," Koushik said. He claimed that Revanth himself admitted to sending his men to carry out the attack, which Kaushik described as a "shameful" act. "It is disgraceful that the Chief Minister, who is also the TPCC President, is openly acknowledging his role in such a heinous act. This is not just an attack on me but an assault on the state's law and order," Kaushik said.

He further demanded that the DGP and Home

Secretary take immediate action on the matter. Kaushik also expressed concern for his safety revealing that he has been receiving threatening calls.

"Why is the Chief Minister so intent on harming me? Is it because I am speaking up about the issues facing the state?" he questioned, calling for answers from Revanth Reddy.

In the context of these events, Kaushik said that he is contemplating approaching the Governor.

Stringent laws alone do not make just society, says CJI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



There is no dearth of legal provisions to protect the interest of women in private and public spaces but law alone cannot make a just system, Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud said on Monday, stressing that society also has to shed its "patriarchal social attitude".

Speaking at News18 Network's She Shakti event, CJI Chandrachud said, "We must foster institutional and individual ability to look beyond the male default".

"There is no dearth of substantive and procedural legal provisions targeted towards protecting the interests of women in private and public situations. But good laws including the stringent laws alone do not make for a just society.

"Above all we need to change our mindsets. The mindsets must move from making concessions for women to recognising their entitlement to lead lives based on freedom and equality. We must zealously guard against

a part of this conversation." "Equal participation of women in governance, policy and leadership roles is positively linked to better development outcomes. When we either create or fail to address barriers in the path of women, we are jeopardizing our quest for a better society. Indifference is no longer an option," the CJI said.

He said there has been an increasing intake of women Civil Judges through exams - 58 per cent of the total candidates in Rajasthan in 2023; 66 per cent of the appointments in Delhi in 2023, 54 per cent of the appointments in Uttar Pradesh in 2022 and 72 per cent of the total number of judicial officers appointed in Kerala are women.

Justice Chandrachud said the labour force participation of women is 37 per cent while the contribution of women to the GDP is 18 per cent. "We have not exactly met the pre-independence hopes about women's economic participation. A part of the reason is the continued gendered allocation of domestic labour.

MLAS' DEFECTION

Will approach Prez if no action is taken: Vivekanand

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLA KP Vivekanand launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and accused him of leading the state into chaos. He was addressing a press conference at the Telangana Bhavan.

He pointed out that after the recent High Court verdict, the Congress is witnessing turmoil, with the 10 MLAs who had switched parties now feeling insecure.

"Revanth has shown his true

colours. He misled the people and now the state is suffering due to his poor leadership," Vivekanand said.

He alleged that Revanth was behind the attack on MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy's house and later attempted to shift the blame by stating that his own people were not responsible for it. Vivekanand called for immediate action against the MLAs who had defected. "We have asked the Speaker to take action against these MLAs after the High Court verdict.

Revanth is trying to divert attention from his failures by engaging in diversion politics," he remarked.

The MLA warned that if justice is not served, they would seek the intervention of the Governor and the President.

"We will not sit quietly. If necessary, we will approach the President and highlight the deteriorating situation in Telangana under Revanth's rule," he declared, emphasising the BRS's commitment to fight until the situation is rectified.

'Tribals to intensify agitation against Bangla infiltrators'

PNS ■ PAKUR

Former Jharkhand chief minister Champai Soren on Monday demanded a thorough probe into "illegal" land transactions in the Santal Parganas region, and asserted that tribals will intensify agitation against "Bangladeshi infiltrators" in the state. The remarks of Soren, who switched over to the BJP from the JMM last month, came a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi slammed the JMM-led coalition in Jharkhand for alleged patronising infiltration.

BRS Govt issued only 49,000 ration cards, says Ponguleti

Cong Govt to issue smart ration & health cards from Oct

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The BRS government issued just 49,000 ration cards to the poor that too only in places where by-elections were being held to ensure the victory of their candidate, Revenue, Housing, I & PR Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said.

He said the Congress government will issue smart ration cards and smart health cards from October.

Speaking to the media after a meeting of the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Ration Cards on Monday, he said the Committee had four meetings so far.

The Minister said that 16 public representatives had replied to the letters addressed by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy seeking suggestions. He said the Cabinet sub-committee is ready to accept advice from the opposition too.

He said that there are 90 lakh ration cards in the state and the government will bifur-

cate them and issue smart cards. He said the government would issue ration cards to all the poor and that the BRS government gave Asara pensions, ration cards and double-bedroom house documents only during by-elections. However, the BRS government did not give them systematically.

He said there is another meeting on September 21 and the Cabinet Sub-Committee will submit its report by the end of this month.

Rohith trolled for defying HC order

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

MLA Mynampally Rohith has come under fire for flouting a High Court order prohibiting the use of DJ music during Ganesh immersion celebrations. In a video that has gone viral on X, Rohith is seen encouraging the use of DJ music despite the court's ban, sparking widespread criticism online.

The incident occurred during his tour of Medak, where locals approached him, complaining that the police were not allowing DJ music for the festivities.

BRS slams govt for installing Rajiv's statue

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLA Vemula Prashanth Reddy strongly criticised the installation of Rajiv Gandhi's statue in front of the Secretariat on Monday. "How can they place a statue of Rajiv Gandhi who has no connection to Telangana in front of the secretariat?" he said. Prashanth Reddy, along with

BRS leaders Soma Bharat Kumar and CH Rakesh Kumar, was addressing a press conference at the Telangana Bhavan. He said the statue's installation is an affront to Telangana's honour, as it stands between the Dr BR Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat and the Amarajothi memorial, both representing Telangana's spirit and the sacrifices of its martyrs.

First round of talks with agitating doctors held at Mamata's home

PNS ■ KOLKATA

The first round of talks between the West Bengal government and the agitating junior doctors is underway at Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's Kalighat residence to address the RG Kar impasse.

After four unsuccessful bids to initiate a dialogue to resolve the deadlock, a delegation of agitating junior doctors arrived at her residence for the crucial talks on Monday evening.

Escorted by a pilot police vehicle, around 30 medics arrived at Banerjee's residence at 6.20 pm. The meeting, which was originally scheduled at 5 pm, began around 7 pm and is still continuing.

TV channels reporters that the doctors submitted a memorandum to the CM listing their demands.

Ahead of the meeting, Banerjee, while speaking to a

Bengali news channel, appealed to the junior doctors to end the cease work.

"I would appeal to the junior doctors to come and sit for the talks. Every issue can be resolved through discussions. And we must strive to find a solution. There is a hearing on this case at the Supreme Court tomorrow (Tuesday), we are hopeful of finding a solution," she told News 18 Bangla.

Previous attempts to resolve the issue got stuck due to the state government's rejection of the doctors' demand for live-streaming and video recordings of the meeting.

The agitating medics later agreed to a compromise, now only asking to record the minutes of the meeting and receive a signed copy.

The state government accepted this condition, with Chief Secretary Manoj Pant saying both parties will sign

the minutes of the meeting and share copies for clarity.

The state government also allowed the two stenographers, accompanying the agitating doctors, inside the venue to record the minutes of the meeting. The agitating doctors, however, have stuck to their demands.

"We also want the issue to be resolved but not at the cost of any form of compromise on our five demands. We are going to the meeting to discuss all the issues with an open mind," an agitating doctor, who is present at the meeting, said before leaving for the talks. Meanwhile, the doctors continued their sit-in outside Swasthya Bhawan, the headquarters of the Health Department, for eight days and the 'cease work' for the 36th day seeking justice for the doctor who was raped-murdered at RG Kar Hospital.

100 DAYS OF MODI 3.0

Cong slams PM as 'weak', says running 'U-turn' govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With Modi 3.0 completing 100 days, the Congress on Monday claimed that Narendra Modi in his third term had proven to be a "weak" prime minister who was dependent on crutches and setting new records for U-turns.

Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete said the past 100 days had weighed heavily on the nation's farmers, youth, women, infrastructure, Railways, and overall peace.

These hundred days have proven that Modi has neither a solution nor a vision for the country's problems, she said at a press conference at the AICC headquarters. Modi's "habit" of turning a blind eye to issues



and running away from challenges continues to persist, she claimed.

"Each moment of the government in these 100 days has been marked by instability, indecision and immaturity.

There have been multiple attempts to inflate a punctured balloon but the thorn pricked by the public in the Lok Sabha elections has not given Narendra Modi any chance to rise again," she said.

TODAY
ALMANAC
Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha
Tithi: Chaturdashi: Sep 16 03:10 PM to Sep 17 11:44 AM
Purnima: Sep 17 11:44 AM to Sep 18 08:04 AM
Nakshatram: Shatabhisha: Sep 16 04:33 PM to Sep 17 01:53 PM
Purva Bhadrapada: Sep 17 01:53 PM to Sep 18 11:00 AM
Rahukalam: 3:11 PM to 4:42 PM
Yamagandam: 9:09 AM to 10:39 AM
Varjyam: 07:31 PM to 08:55 PM
Gulika: 12:10 PM to 1:41 PM
Amritakalam: 07:29 AM to 08:54 AM, 03:58 AM to 05:22 AM
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:46 AM to 12:34 PM
HYDERABAD WEATHER
Forecast: Partly Cloudy
Temp: 31°C
Humidity: 65%
Sunrise: 6:04 AM
Sunset: 6:16 PM
Updated: September 16, 2024 5:00 PM

Shiv Sena MLA announces Rs 11 L reward for cutting off Rahul's tongue

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Shiv Sena MLA Sanjay Gaikwad has kicked up a row by announcing a Rs 11 lakh reward to anyone chopping off Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's tongue for his remarks on scrapping the reservation system.

As the remarks triggered a political firestorm and raised calls for action, police on Monday night registered a case against the Buldhana MLA.

"While he was abroad, Rahul Gandhi said that he wanted to finish off the reservation system in India. This has exposed the true face of the Congress," Gaikwad told reporters, before announcing

the bizarre reward. "During his recent US visit, Rahul Gandhi talked about ending reservations. It shows the mindset that is inherently opposed to reservations. I will reward anyone who cuts off Rahul Gandhi's tongue with Rs 11 lakh," Gaikwad said.

The Congress had defeated Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar in elections, he added. "Gandhi's comments are the biggest treachery of the people. Communities like Marathas, Dhangers and OBCs are fighting for reservation but before that, Gandhi is talking about ending its benefits," the MLA said.

"Rahul Gandhi used to show the Constitution book and spread a fake narrative that the BJP would change it. But it is the Congress that plans to take the country back by 400 years," he said. As the controversy raged over Gaikwad's remarks, the Shiv Sena ally, BJP distanced itself from Gaikwad's comments. "I will not support or endorse Gaikwad's comments. However, we cannot forget that the first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had opposed reservations saying it would affect the progress," state BJP president Chandrashekar Bawankule said. "Rajiv Gandhi had said giving reservations means supporting idiots. Now Rahul Gandhi says he would end reservations," the BJP leader

said. State Congress president Nana Patole on Monday asked Chief Minister Eknath Shinde to clarify his stand over Gaikwad's remarks and demanded legal action.

"Eknath Shinde should clarify his stand over Gaikwad's remarks. There should be legal action, otherwise, Congress party workers will take some decisive action against Gaikwad," Patole said. Atul Londhe, spokesperson of Maharashtra Congress said, "Sanjay Gaikwad does not deserve to live in society and politics. We want to see whether Maharashtra Home Minister Devendra Fadnis invokes charges of culpable homicide against Gaikwad."

Harish calls for action to rehabilitate public edu system

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLA Harish Rao has written an open letter to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy calling for swift action to rehabilitate Telangana's education system and improve the pitiable conditions in SC, ST, BC and minority hostels.

In his letter, Harish highlighted the rapid decline in public education under the Congress government and raised serious concerns about the deteriorating welfare infrastructure for students from marginalised communities.

He emphasised that the education system, which had seen substantial improvement under former Chief Minister KCR, is now crumbling.

He pointed out the alarming state of government schools noting that 1,864 schools are empty while 9,447 schools function with less than 30 students. He said that nearly 20,000 of 26,287 government schools are in distress with teacher shortages and inadequate facilities contributing to rising dropout rates.

Harish also expressed concern over the condition of gurukuls and welfare hostels. He described the situation in these hostels as "chaotic," and cited instances of students suffering food poisoning and snake bites. He said that 715 students have been hospitalised this year, with more than 40 deaths, but the government is silent.

"The future of our students is being jeopardized, and the welfare hostels, which were once a symbol of opportunity for marginalized students, have become breeding grounds for disease," Harish wrote in his letter.

Among the demands made by Harish are the reopening of nearly 1,900 closed schools, the appointment of vidya volunteers to address teacher shortages and the revival of the CM's Breakfast Scheme, which has been suspended.

He also demanded payment of pending salaries to teaching and non-teaching staff, clearance of hostel rent arrears and provision of essentials to students, including uniforms, bedding and toiletries.

CITY EVENTS

Rivaayat

An evening of Sufi and classical musical journey with Ustad Puran Chand Wadali and Lakhwinder Wadali. After two decades, the legendary Wadali family returns to Hyderabad for an unforgettable evening of Sufi and classical music.

Venue

Shilpakala Vedika, Madhapur
Sunday September 21, at 6.30 pm

City Pioneer



HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

03

Vande Bharat Exp launched

The South Central Railway has organised the inaugural launch of Nagpur–Secunderabad Vande Bharat Express train on Monday. According to South Central Railway officials, the regular services will be commencing from September 19. Originating at Nagpur at 5 am, the Vande Bharat Express would reach Secunderabad at 12.15 pm. It has two executive coaches and 18 chair-car coaches. It starts at Secunderabad at 1 pm and returns to Nagpur at 8.20 pm. It would cover a distance of 578 kilometers chugging at a speed of 130 kilometers per hour. Meanwhile, a few passengers of Mancherla and Kagaznagar raised their voice on X (formerly Twitter) for not having a halt for the train in these two stations.

IIIT-Hyd launches online course in AI for medical professionals

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The International Institute of Information Technology-Hyderabad (IIIT-H), in collaboration with the National Academy of Medical Sciences (NAMS), an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, and IHUB-Data launched an online course on AI for medical professionals on Monday. Prof Abhay Karandikar, Secretary of DST, Dr Shiv Kumar Sarin, President of NAMS and Prof P J Narayanan, Director of IIIT-Hyderabad, launched this first-of-its-kind course virtually.

The 12-week online orientation course will equip medical professionals with the requisite skills needed to understand, evaluate and apply AI technologies in clinical settings, improving patient care and operational efficiency. Participants will also explore ethical and governance issues using AI tools and techniques.

In all, 200 medical professionals, including senior faculty/research members from premier medical institutions with postgraduate degrees across 41 specialties spread over 24 states and 56 cities across the country will participate in the programme. Delivered through video lectures, weekly contact sessions and case studies, the course includes quizzes, assignments and assessments, leading to certification upon completion.

Prof P J Narayanan, Director of IIIT-Hyderabad said, "As the top-ranking institute in AI research in India, we feel it's imperative to share our expertise in making AI more accessible to the medical fraternity."

IMMERSION TO BE HELD IN 73 PONDS ACROSS CITY



30 health camps for people near immersion sites in Hyd

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha ordered arrangements for health services at Ganesha immersion sites on Monday.

In preparation for the upcoming Ganesha immersion, Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha has directed the State Health Department to make necessary arrangements to ensure prompt medical assistance. Health camps and ambulances will be strategically stationed in areas where the immersion takes place, particularly around Tank Bund in Hyderabad.

The Minister emphasised the importance of being vigilant, as large crowds of devotees and tourists are expected to gather. According to his instructions, 30 health camps will be set up across

Hyderabad, each equipped with doctors, nursing staff and medical kits. Ambulances will be on standby to offer immediate transport and care in case

need during the Ganesha immersion festivities. Meanwhile, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC)

in the city.

She inspected the Ganesha immersion arrangements at Necklace Road on Monday. She said that 15,000 employees, including the staff of Sanitation, Engineering, Urban Biodiversity (UBD) wing and Urban Community Development (UCD) departments will work for 24 hours in three shifts for Ganesha immersion.

She said that they held meetings with the Ganesha Utsav Committee and other organisations over the Ganesha immersion procession.

She said that immersion would be held in 73 ponds across the city, out of which 24 portable ponds, 22 excavation ponds, 27 baby ponds, are available for immersion. In all, 468 cranes have been placed so far for immersion.



of emergencies.

Minister Rajanarasimha stressed that all medical teams must be prepared to provide swift treatment to anyone in

Commissioner Amrapali Kata said that all arrangements have been completed without any problems for the devotees coming for Ganesha immersion

CONDUCTS EVENTS AT PUBLIC GARDENS

TG gov't violating HC orders, says Walkers Association



Even as citizens are their daily routine of performing Yoga on the Public Gardens' lawns, tents pitched for a government-sponsored event can be seen in the background, which vitiates the peaceful atmosphere of the park.

RASHMI BHUMIREDDY
bhumireddyashmi@gmail.com
■ HYDERABAD

The Members of Public Garden Walkers Association alleged that the Telangana government is violating the High Court orders to refrain from the use of Public Gardens as an office space. Instead, the government is busy organising functions which damage historical monuments and the green spaces of the garden.

The walkers pointed out that the central lawn has been repeatedly dug up to accommodate tents for dignitaries such as judges, military officers and politicians, damaging not only the landscape but also the dignity of the surrounding historical sites, which include Jubilee Hall, Jawahar Bal Bhawan, Health Museum, Indira Priyadarshini Auditorium, Lalitha Kala Thoranam and the YSR Archaeological Museum, all of which are affected by these events.

However, these activities are not new as it has been happening since the previous government. It has been a week that the order has been issued by the Telangana High Court, yet no action has been taken to maintain the garden.

Mohammed Abid Ali, social activist said, "It is very surprising to see despite the High Court orders, the government has repeatedly violated the norms. At present, the Public Gardens is being decked up for

the upcoming function Praja Palana Dinotsavam, to be held on Tuesday. Walkers are facing hardship to walk in the park as it has been cordoned off for the function. Also, some major landmarks that are situated in the park will be affected."

"Public Gardens, also known as Bagh-e-Aam, was built in 1846 during the period of the Nizams and is one of oldest gardens in the city. However, no effort has been made for its upkeep more than a decade. Despite the High Court's directive to refrain from using the Public Gardens as office space, the government violates the orders by damaging the environment and heritage buildings, said Sarwar Pasha, a daily morning walker.

Chilkur priest attends Milad blood donation camp in mosque

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a rare gesture of fostering communal harmony and sending a positive message of inter-faith brotherhood, Chilkur Balaji temple head priest CS Rangarajan, along with staff of the temple, participated in a blood donation drive organised by Health Care NGO, Helping Hand Foundation at Masjid-E-Muhammed Hussain in Rajendranagar on the occasion of Milad-un-Nabi.

The blood donation drive was organised to mobilise blood for children suffering from cancer at State MNJ Cancer Hospital. As per data from MNJ Cancer Hospital, nearly 100 units of blood is required in the hospital daily, where nearly 2,500 major and 4,000 minor surgeries are done in a year. Children with cancer, mostly Acute Leukemia (blood cancer), need regular transfusions while undergoing chemotherapy.

HHF and Chilkur Balaji temple have been working for the past five years in promoting



inter-faith dialogue, communal harmony and peace at a time when increasing polarisation between the majority Hindu community and the principal minority community are frosty.

Both the social reformers priest Rangarajan and HHF founder Mujtaba Askari are engineering batchmates from OU and got connected to each other in a case involving a Dalit woman who had tied a rakhi to the priest and who was in need of hearing aids, which were

sponsored by HHF way back in 2019.

Rangarajan appreciated the efforts of Muslim brothers and said their blood donation will go a long way in saving lives and what better day than the birth anniversary of the Prophet of Islam whose teachings stood for supreme human values and kindness. He further said he was highly inspired to see Hindus also come forward from the neighborhood and donate blood in this camp.

TG Tourism Minister proposes Hyd to host Nobel Peace Summit

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana State Minister for Culture and Tourism, Jupally Krishna Rao expressed his gratitude to the Nobel Peace Secretariat for inviting him to the 19th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates, which will be scheduled from September 18 to 21, 2024, in Monterrey, Mexico. Due to unavoidable circumstances, the Minister will be unable to attend in person. In his place, Sundeeep Kumar Makthala, Chairman of the Gandhi King Foundation, will represent Telangana at this historic event. Gandhi King Foundation, started by the US State Department, explores

the legacies of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Minister expressed deep appreciation for the Summit's role in uniting Nobel Peace Laureates and global leaders to foster strategies for a more peaceful world. In a pivotal move, he formally proposed Hyderabad, the capital city of Telangana, as the host for the next edition of the Nobel Peace Summit. By nominating Hyderabad as the next venue for the Nobel Peace Summit, the Telangana government aims to showcase the city's global stature. He highlighted Hyderabad's reputation as a global hub for innovation, culture, and technology, making it an ideal venue for this gathering.

Jupally Krishna Rao said, "Hyderabad is a city that beau-

tifully blends heritage with innovation. It is the perfect host for the next Nobel Peace Summit, and we are fully committed to providing all necessary support to ensure its success. This will not only elevate our state but also position India at the heart of the global peace dialogue."

Sundeeep Kumar Makthala, a leader in the technology sector and founder of the 'Cyber Satyagraha' movement—a nonviolent campaign advocating peace in the digital age—will lead Telangana's representation at the Monterrey Summit. He will contribute to discussions with Nobel Peace Laureates, policymakers and global thought leaders, sharing insights on how technology can be leveraged for peace building.

23-year-old nurse commits suicide in a hotel room

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A 23-year-old nurse commits suicide by hanging from the ceiling fan in a hotel room in Anjayyanagar under the Gachibowli police station limits on Monday.

According to Gachibowli Inspector Anjaneyulu, the deceased had been identified as Shruti. After completing the nursing course, she worked in Yashodha Hospital and then she joined the hospital in Narsingi.

But she left the job and went to her native Jadcherla 15 days back, said the police.

She had come from Jadcherla to witness Ganesha festivities in the city along with three friends and they stayed at a hotel in

Anjayyanagar, said Gachibowli police. After having dinner on Sunday night, the girl went to hotel room and committed suicide. When she had not opened the door, hotel management had opened the door using a master key, only to find the student hanging from the ceiling fan.

Immediately, the hotel staff informed the police about this incident. The police arrived at the scene and shifted the body to Osmania Hospital for post-mortem.

Parents of the girl alleged foul play claiming that their daughter has been murdered. The student's father expressed suspicion about the nature of the death. So he lodged a complaint with the police.

Rachakonda CP conducts surprise visit to Medipally PS



Rachakonda Commissioner of police Sudheer Babu conducting a surprise visit to Medipally police station on Monday

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Rachakonda Commissioner of police Sudheer Babu on Monday conducted a surprise visit to the Medipally police station, as a part of regular duty.

The Commissioner has inspected the Medipally police station premises and checked

some of the case details files and reviewed the investigation. The CP suggested how the investigation needs to be done and instructed the Station In-charge Officers to complete the investigation at the earliest by following the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), increase the conviction rate and do justice to the victims.

CREATES HIS FATHER'S FAKE DEATH CERTIFICATE

GHMC files complaint against a businessman for cheating

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation has filed a cheating case against businessman Voora Babji for allegedly creating a fake death certificate of his father Voora Jagadeeshwar. With the fake death certificate, the accused has inherited 267 square yards of land at Balapur from his father and sold it to others. That certificate was created in 2010. His father came to know that his son created a fake death certificate around five years back and the GHMC filed a criminal case against Babji in September 2024.

The complaint was filed by Assistant Medical Health Officer (AMHO) of Circle No.12 Dr Aizaz Khasim in Khairatabad police station. The case has been registered

against the accused under 417,420,468 IPC Sections.

The petition said that a few years back, Jagadeeshwar went to the sub-registrar at

The complaint was filed by Assistant Medical Health Officer (AMHO) of Circle No.12 Dr Aizaz Khasim in Khairatabad police station

Hayathnagar to link certain copies to his land, which is at Balapur. When he came to know that the said property was transferred in the name of

Voora Babji and that he died on May 12, 2010 leaving behind the land his legal heir, Voora Babji.

The petitioner said that after the land was transferred to Babji, he sold it by virtue of registered sale deed on May 24, 2019 in favour of KB Khurana, who in turn again sold the land to Indury Sandeep Reddy by virtue of registered sale deed on October 18, 2019.

Mehdipatnam AMHO said that Voora Babji created a fake death certificate without applying at GHMC office in the name of Voora Jagadeeshwar and cheated the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation as Voora Jagadeeshwar is still alive. However, Jagadeeshwar has filed a petition in II Metropolitan Magistrate Court, LB Nagar in 2020 and also filed a petition before Lokayuktha.

ISB emerges winner in B-School Challenge

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Indian School of Business, Hyderabad, emerged as the winner of Accenture B-School Challenge which focused on the theme of 'Reinvention in the Age of Gen AI.' Teams from Indian Institute of Management, Bengaluru and Faculty of Management Studies were the first and second runners-up respectively, and Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow team was recognised with a special jury award.

The annual challenge aims to recognise, fos-

ter and empower the next generation of consultants who will help reinvent businesses and drive growth. The Indian School of Business team emerged as the winner of the challenge. The winning teams received prizes worth Rs 10 lakh. In addition, the top three teams from all the participating business schools received a pre-placement interview opportunity with Accenture. About 11,000 students from top 16 business schools in India participated in the two month-long challenge. Students went through four rounds of intensive evaluation.

Hyd student drowns in Canada

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a tragic incident a 27-year-old Indian student from Hyderabad, A Praneeth, drowned in a lake in Canada while celebrating his birthday with friends.

Praneeth, a resident of Meerpet in Ranga Reddy district, had been in Canada for five years and was actively seeking employment after completing his master's degree. Speaking with The Pioneer, Praneeth's father, A Ravi expressed his grief, saying, "My son left for Canada five years ago. He completed his master's and worked for an year-and-a-half. He had plans to become a gym trainer and was working hard to obtain permanent residence in Canada." Praneeth's elder brother, A Pranay, also moved to Canada after seeing his sibling succeed.

He is still pursuing his studies there. A day before the tragedy, Praneeth called his father sharing his excitement about going for swimming with friends. Ravi had advised him to be cautious.



"Later, we got a call from my elder son, who informed us that while the group returned from the swim, they noticed Praneeth was missing. They searched for him but had to call the police. The res-

cue team eventually found his body," Ravi added.

Devastated by the loss, the family has requested their elder son to return to Hyderabad and seek work locally. Praneeth had dreamed of settling in Canada, but his untimely death has shattered those hopes.

The family has appealed for assistance in repatriating Praneeth's body to Hyderabad. Canadian authorities, along with the support of friends and local officials, are working on the repatriation process. The family is urging the government to expedite the process so they can perform his last rites in Hyderabad. This marks the second recent death of a Hyderabad student abroad, following a similar incident last month where a student from the city died in a tragic accident.

Techie buys laddu for Rs 15 L, dies of heart attack

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Tragedy struck the family of a software engineer in Rangareddy district. A software professional, Shyam Prasad, tragically died of a heart attack after he made a winning bid for Laddu at Rs 15 lakh Alkapuri colony at Manikonda in the district.

Shyam Prasad actively took part in the festivities, the Laddu auction, which reached bids as high as Rs 15 lakhs. After a night of joyful celebration, including dancing at the Ganesh pandal, Shyam collapsed while returning home after participating in the auction. The unfortunate incident left his family and residents of the colony devastated.

Shyam, known for his energetic dancing during the event, tragically passed away in front of his friends who had just picked up the laddu. A pall of gloom descended on the colony.

Shyam Prasad actively took part



in the festivities, enthusiastically danced and sang during the auction. Witnesses described how Shyam Prasad performed energetic dance, including "Teenmaar" moves, during the celebration.

First container school comes up in Mulugu dist



Container school

PNS ■ MULUGU

Taking advantage of used shipping containers in house construction, farmhouse construction and offices on construction sites, the first-ever container school has been set up in Mulugu district. The district has the distinction of having the first shipping container hospital too in Telangana.

Besides using them on construction sites, some others have been using the shipping containers to run their businesses.

The first-ever container school has been set up in Bangarupalli Gutti Koya group

habitat under Kannayigudemmandal of Mulugu district. The government officials have said that the special school has been set up for the benefit of the local children.

Since the area where the container school has come up is totally forest area, therefore, the Forest Department does not give permission to construct a building to house a school. The children of the Bangarupalli Thanda have been pursuing education hitherto in a thatched hut which is not comfortable to them. The school has only a single teacher besides the head master. With the Forest Department not

giving permission to set up a school in the forest area, the District Collector TS Diwakar thought imaginatively using new ideas instead of traditional ideas and came up with the innovative idea of using a container to fabricate a school. He sanctioned Rs 13 lakh for the purpose. He gave a new shape to the children's school. The container school is ready and is going to be inaugurated by Minister Sitakka next week. The school is 25 feet wide and 25 feet long. The classroom has 12 dual desks. There is space for three chairs for the teachers and headteacher to sit.

It may be recalled that the Mulugu district has the distinction of starting the first shipping container hospital in Telangana. It was set up in Pochapuram village of Tadwaimandal of Mulugu district, eliminating the need for the tribals to travel several kilometers to access medical support. By the time the tribals accessed the medical assistance, therefore, the collector took initiative and started the first container hospital in Telangana.

Praja Palana Dinotsavam to be celebrated at Minister's camp office

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Praja Palana Dinotsavam will be celebrated at the camp office of Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy on Tuesday, camp office in-charge T Dayakar Reddy said on Monday in a release.

At 8 am on Tuesday, national flag will



be hoisted at the Minister's camp office in Khammam and at 9 am in the MLAs camp office in Kusumanchi.

Therefore, he appealed to the elected people's representatives, party leaders, activists and followers take part in the event in good numbers.

Komatireddy vows to make Nalgonda a model district

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said that he would do his best to make Nalgonda a model district in the state.

As part of the Vinayaka Navaratri celebrations, he flagged off the Ganesh procession by performing special pujas at the first Vinayaka idol at Hanuman Nagar in Nalgonda on Monday.

The Minister appealed to people of Nalgonda district to organise Ganesh immersion in a peaceful manner. Nalgonda district has been a symbol of communal harmony and not a single incident has taken place in the district in the last 30 years. He called upon the Ganesh Utsav Committees and the youth to celebrate Vinayaka Nimajjanam peacefully this year as in the past.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that the Ganesh procession should be celebrated throughout the district and immersion should be done without any hindrance. The minister said that all reli-



Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy participating in special puja programme at a Ganesh pandal in Nalgonda on Monday

gions are given equal importance in the district and as part of this, the Idgah has already been developed and will be further developed in the future, as well as the Anjaneya Swamy

temple. He said that he is trying his best to make Nalgonda district a model district in the state, especially the work of six-lane Hyderabad-Vijayawada

National Highway at a cost of Rs 2,000 crore will be begun soon. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari will lay the foundation stone. Underground drainage and

concrete roads will be completed in two years. He said that 50 acres of land belonging to the Housing Board has been acquired to build houses for the poor and work on an integrated hostel in another 25 acres at a cost of Rs 80 crore will be launched soon.

District Collector C Narayana Reddy said that all necessary arrangements have been made for the peaceful conduct of Ganesh immersion. He also asked the festival committees, officials and youth to ensure that there are no problems and untoward incidents during the immersion throughout the district.

District Superintendent of Police Sarat Chandra Pawar said that 600 policemen, officers and staff were deployed in Nalgonda district to ensure peaceful immersion of idols.

Municipal Vice Chairman, Abbagoni Ramesh Goud, DSP Sivaram Reddy, RDO Ravi, Municipal Commissioner Musab Ahmed, Tehsildar Srinivas, members of Ganesh Utsava Samiti and others were present.

MJP Gurukul Schools still functioning in rented buildings

PNS ■ NIRMAL

Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Telangana BC Welfare Residential Educational Institutions, known as Gurukul Schools, have been functioning from private buildings since their inception in 2018.

In 2018, the then government established six Gurukul schools in Nirmal, Khanapur and Mudhole constituencies in Nirmal district. Of the six schools, three are exclusive for girls and three for boys. The government has been paying huge money as rent for the buildings in which the schools are housed. The schools have been established to provide quality education to students from poor families.

The rented buildings in which the schools are housed lack basic facilities. Classes are held in cramped rooms. Inadequate facilities are haunt-



ing the schools. Though the government upgraded the schools into junior colleges last year, facilities have not been improved.

The girls' Gurukul Schools are suffering from inadequate infrastructure. Due to the recent heavy rains, water entered the cellar and now all the students were sent home

after the holidays were declared. Students in another Gurukul school in Mudhole mandal were sent home after heavy rains lashed the district.

Holidays were declared for schools after water was released from Gaddanna Vagu. Every year, schools are given holidays in the rainy season.

3 students selected to take part in state-level Softball tournament

PNS ■ PEDDAPALLI

Three students from Krishnaveni Vikas Junior College - Repala, Vamsikrishna, Burra Siddhu and Manda Kaushik - here have been selected to represent the undivided Karimnagar district in the Telangana State Level Softball competitions to be held in RajannaSircilla district on Sep 21, 22 and 23.

At a special programme held at Krishnaveni Vikas Junior College here on Thursday, chairman and director Nagandla Jamuna

Ravikumar congratulated the students selected for the state level event. He wished them success in the tournament and

earn good name to the college by winning medal. The college management would extend its cooperation to students who show talent in sports besides the academics. He advised the students to work with a definite goal in mind.

Principal M Venkanna, academic principal Tirupati Reddy, college physical director Prashant and other lecturers took part in the event.



All set for celebration of People's Governance Day in RR dist

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

District Collector K Shashanka has said that all necessary arrangements have been made to organise Telangana People's Governance Day celebrations. The event, set to take place on Tuesday, on the premises of the Integrated District Offices, will mark an important occasion in the State's democratic governance.

The Collector, along with Additional Collector Pratima Singh, Maheshwararam Deputy Commissioner of Police Sunitha Reddy, District Revenue Officer Sangeeta, and Collectorate Administrative Officer Sunil, inspected the arrangements for the programme.

During the inspection, the Collector emphasised the importance of completing all



Rangareddy Collector K Shashanka giving directions to officials on arrangements for celebrations of People's Governance Day, in Shadnagar on Monday

preparations meticulously to organise the programme on a grand scale.

He further stressed the need for coordination among officials, instructing them to take all nec-

essary steps to avoid any errors in the organisation of the celebrations. His directives aimed at ensuring that the Telangana People's Governance Day is observed on a grand manner.

Tummala flags off Ganesh immersion procession

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Minister for agriculture and Marketing Tummala Nageswara Rao called for organising Ganesh idol immersion procession on a grand scale in the city.

On the occasion of the Ganesh idols' immersion in the city on Monday, the Minister flagged off the procession at Gandhi Chowk here, along with Collector Muzammal Khan and City police commissioner Sunil Dutt.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the Minister said that all arrangements have been made for the conduct of the procession on a grand scale. He said that he would spare no effort to develop the city, deriving inspiration from



Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswar Rao at Ganesh immersion procession in Khammam on Monday

the people of the city and their cooperation.

If the eco-friendly Ganesh idols are not installed, in future the Ganesh Utsav Committees would not be allowed to immerse the idols, he said. He called upon the Ganesh Utsav Committees to come forward to save nature and adopt harsh guidelines.

He recalled how the Ganesh festival celebrations started by freedom fighter Bal Gangadhar Tilak spread all over the nation. The Ganesh festival is celebrated by all sections of society. Therefore, all arrangements have been made for its peaceful celebration on behalf of the government, he said. He appealed to the devotees

to celebrate the occasion peacefully and give no room for mistakes in the celebrations. He appealed to the Ganesh Utsav Committee members, devotees, to cooperate with the officials and to the police in peaceful conduct of the event.

He exhorted the people of the city to remain united and achieve development and safeguard our traditions and culture.

Collector Muzammal Khan said that the Khammam district managed to come out of the recent floods with the blessings of the God. During the flood situation, everyone worked hard at the field level. He lauded the services of Ganesh Utsav Committee members and devotees at the field level during the crisis.

Police outpost at road bridge across Godavari river

PNS ■ RAMAGUNDAM

City Police Commissioner M Srinivas on Monday inaugurated a police outpost and control room at the border of Peddapalli and Mancherial districts under the limits of Ramagundam Police Commissionerate.

The Police Commissioner said that the outpost established near the road bridge across River Godavari would monitor the movement of vehicles with the help of CCTV cameras, besides posting the police personnel there. Since the area is the border between the two districts, the road bridge on Godavari district is monitored very closely.

In case of any danger, the River Guard police will always respond. The police machinery is ready with all kinds of equipment in case of any accident taking place near the River Godavari, he said.

Peddapalli DCP Chetana, Additional DCP Admin C. Raju, Special Branch ACP Raghavendra Rao, Godavariakhani ACP M Ramesh, traffic ACP Narsimhulu, Armed Reserve ACP Surendra, Godavariakhani one-tonned inspector Indrasena Reddy, two-tonned inspector Prasada Rao, RIs Damodar, Vamana Murthy, Sampath and others took part in the event.

Security has been beefed up for Ganesh idol immersion in Medak

PNS ■ MEDAK

District Superintendent of Police Uday Kumar Reddy on Monday said that the security has been beefed up for the Ganesh idol immersion festivities in the district to prevent any untoward incident.

The SP said that the celebration of Ganesh Nava Ratri went off peacefully and called upon the people to celebrate the immersion festivities in a happy and healthy environment. The police personnel are deployed at all Ganesh pandals. The department took measures for the peaceful con-



duct of the Ganesh idol immersion procession.

At the time of the Ganesh idols' procession, the villagers may accidentally come in contact with the overhead electric cables, therefore, he advised them to take precautions.

He asked the Ganesh pandal organisers to use only those vehicles which are in good condition. The drivers of the vehicles should be careful and should not drive vehicles under the influence of alcohol. He warned them of stern action against drivers if they were caught driving drunk.

If any untoward incident takes place, the pandal organisers immediately alert the local police, the police control room on 8712657888 or 100. He appealed to the people not to give credence to the rumours on social media.

GANESH IDOL IMMERSION

950 police personnel to be deployed in Asifabad dist

PNS ■ KAGAZNAGAR

Superintendent of Police DV Srinivasa Rao has said that all arrangements have been made for the peaceful conduct of the Ganesh idol immersion. He reviewed the security arrangements for the immersion procession at a meeting held here on with police officials. He asked the police personnel to behave courteously with the members of public in view of the possible large turn out of the people during the Ganesh immersion procession. He asked the police to discharge their duties and pre-



Asifabad Superintendent of Police DV Srinivasa Rao addressing the police personnel at Kagaznagar on Monday

vent any untoward incident from taking place.

In all, 250 police officials will be deployed, besides the police personnel to beef up security

for the procession. Similarly 950 police personnel have been deployed to ensure peace. He appealed to the people to cooperate with the police to ensure

peaceful conduct of the Ganesh idol immersion. No policeman or the officer should never leave the place of their duty under any circumstances.

In case of any doubt about discharging duties, they should get it clarified from senior officials. In case of any undesirable incident taking place at their place of duty, they should immediately alert their superiors about it to their superiors. Special personnel were deployed in sensitive areas. He warned the police personnel of taking stern action if anyone was found neglecting their duties.

ACROSS THE STATES



Two sisters swept way in Ganga while trying to save brother

Two minor sisters were swept away in the strong current of the Ganga river while trying to save their younger brother from drowning in Haripur Kalan here on Monday. Police said that the incident occurred at the Geeta Kutir Ghat at around 11:30 am where a woman was bathing along with five children of two families. According to officials, nine-year-old Suraj started drifting in the strong current following which his two sisters - Sakshi (15) and Vaishnavi (13) - jumped into the water to save him. The sisters saved Suraj by pushing him towards the river bank but were themselves swept away in the strong current. The police immediately called the State Disaster Police Force to the spot and a search operation was launched in the river.



Grenade attack on Manipur minister's residence

A grenade, hurled by suspected militants, exploded in the residence of Manipur minister Kashim Vashum in Ukhrul district, causing damage to his property, police said on Monday. No one was injured in the incident that occurred on Saturday night, a senior officer said. Vashum said he and his family members were not at home when the grenade exploded. The grenade explosion damaged walls and parts of the minister's house, he said. "Splinters have been recovered and tight security measures have been taken after the grenade attack," the officer said. CCTV footage of the surrounding areas was being examined for investigation, the officer said. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack, he said. Vashum is a legislator of the Naga People's Front (NPF), an ally of the ruling BJP in the state.



Man held for stalking, following minor girls in Delhi Cantt

A man has been arrested for allegedly stalking a woman and her daughters in the Delhi Cantonment area, police said on Monday. The complainant alleged that at 8.30 pm on August 23, she was walking towards Gopinath market with her mother and two daughters. Her daughters were 100-150 metres ahead of her, when a car started following them continuously for almost 15 minutes, Deputy Commissioner of Police (southwest) Rohit Meena said. The complainant alerted her daughters and also posted about the matter on social media. She also filed a complaint at Delhi Cantt police station the next day, he said. An FIR was registered under 78(1) BNS and 12 POCSO Act and further investigation was taken up, the DCP said. A team was formed to nab the offender. The team analysed CCTV track of the alleged car for more than 115 kilometres covering from Delhi Cantonment to Pari Chowk in Noida and then back to Delhi. However, complete footage trail could not be checked as no CCTV were present in UP beyond Pari Chowk, the police said.

Climate change risks grow faster for wealthy: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Economic risks for the wealthy due to climate change is growing at the fastest rates because of impacts to global supply chains and goods and services, even as the highest risks remain with the poorest around the world, according to a new study. Across countries, lower-income consumers are known to face higher economic risks in a changing climate because of a low capacity to adapt. However, researchers explained that inequality in consumption between varied income groups within a country is grounded in how easily one is able to substitute goods to adapt to the effects of climate change, including shocks to supply chains.



The team from the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), Germany found that low-income consumers are more vulnerable to supply shocks as they spend a greater share of their budget on hard-to-substitute necessary goods. On the other hand, high-income consumers spent larger shares of their budget on easier-to-substitute goods so that they suffer smaller reductions of consumption, the researchers said.

India best bet for 21st century, its solar revolution a golden chapter: Modi

PNS ■ GANDHINAGAR

India is unique in terms of diversity, scale, capacity, potential as well as performance and the world feels the country is the best bet for the 21st century, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday.

When the history of the 21st century will be written, the chapter of India's solar revolution will be written in golden letters, the PM said in his address at the 4th edition of Global Renewable Energy Investors Meet and Expo (RE-INVEST 2024) in Gandhinagar. He also said his government in the first 100 days of its third term had tried to address every sector and factor for rapid progress of the country.

"India is preparing the base for development for the next 1000 years and the focus is not just to reach the top but to sustain the rank. In the first 100 days, you can witness our priorities, speed and scale," he said.

India knows its energy requirements to become a developed nation by 2047 and since the country does not have its own oil and gas resources and is not energy independent, it has decided to build its future on the

strength of solar, wind, nuclear and hydro power, Modi said. "India's diversity, scale, capacity,

potential and performance are unique and that is the reason I say Indian solutions for global applica-

tion. The world is understanding this very well. Not just Indians, today the entire world feels India is the best bet for the 21st century," he asserted.



When the history of the 21st century will be written, the chapter of India's solar revolution will be written in golden letters, the PM said in his address at the 4th edition of Global Renewable Energy Investors Meet and Expo (RE-INVEST 2024) in Gandhinagar. He also said his government in the first 100 days of its third term had tried to address every sector and factor for rapid progress of the country

The Congress will chair the parliamentary standing committees on external affairs, agriculture, and rural development in the Lok Sabha and education in the Rajya Sabha, party sources said on Monday, with talks between the government and the opposition over the panels' chairship concluding

'Cong to get chairship of several key committees'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In all, the Congress is set to have the chairship of four department-related standing committees -- three in the Lok Sabha and one in the Rajya Sabha.

The Congress will chair the Department Related Standing Committee on External Affairs; Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing; Rural Development and Panchayati Raj in the Lok Sabha; and Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports in the Rajya Sabha, a source said.

Significantly, the Congress will chair the crucial committee on

external affairs after a gap of five years. Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor headed the panel on external affairs between September 2014 and May 2019.

The Congress last held the chairship of two department-related standing committees in the Rajya Sabha and one in the Lok Sabha. While Jairam Ramesh headed the committee on Science and Technology; Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Abhishek Singhvi chaired the panel on Commerce.



'Fight between Gandhi-Abdullah families and BJP'

PNS ■ KISHTWAR

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said there is a clear fight between the Congress-National Conference alliance and the BJP — one wanting to bring back Article 370, and the other committed to stopping it.

He said voting in favour of BJP candidate Shugan Parihar is not only for development and progress but also to pay tribute to martyrs, including her father.

"This election in Jammu and Kashmir is clearly between two forces. On one side are the National Conference (NC) and the Congress, and on the other side is the BJP. It is a contest



between the BJP and the Gandhi-Abdullah families. Both have clear agendas," Shah told a public rally here.

He said the BJP follows the ideology of Prem Nath Dogra - "One Constitution, one flag, and one Prime Minister,

affirming that Jammu and Kashmir is an inseparable part of India, and "no one can reverse that".

Haryana Cong not a divided house, will fight polls unitedly: Chidambaram

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram on Monday asserted that the Haryana Congress was not a divided house and would fight the October 5 state assembly elections unitedly.

Addressing the media here, the former union minister lashed out at the BJP government over several issues including agriculture, economy, and state debt.

He also said that the Congress will come out with its poll manifesto this week.

Polling for the 90 assembly seats in Haryana will be held on October 5 and votes will be

counted on October 8.

On reports of infighting in the Haryana Congress, Chidambaram said, "I do not think Haryana PPCC is a divided house. There are leaders of high stature. Naturally, the leaders will ask for greater influence in the selection of candidates but once the candidates have been selected, I am sure that all of them will campaign together and win the election.

"There is no dissidence in the Congress party. There are several leaders in a state unit and we respect all of them. Naturally, there will be a healthy competition among the leaders," he said.

BRS looted TG, enjoyed..

Continued from page 1

One has a 1,000-acre farmhouse, another has a 100-acre farmhouse, and another has Pragathi Bhavan built on 10 acres. The new secretariat was constructed in the name of Vaasthu and the Kaleshwaram Project was constructed after looting Rs 1 lakh crore. That is the history of the KCR family, the CM said.

"Why didn't this family which looted Telangana install the Telangana Thalli statue?"

he asked. "The Congress Government is going to install the Telangana Thalli statue in the secretariat on December 9," the CM said. "Some are saying that they will remove Rajiv Gandhi's statue from here. Let's see who will do that. Congress activists will see their end," the CM said. Describing KCR as an evil-doer, who did not pay his respects to Konda Laxman Babuji when he died, even though he had helped the BRS, the CM said the Congress government named the Indian

Institute of Handloom Technology after Konda Laxman Babuji and has decided to name the Women's University as Ailamma's University. The Telugu University would be named after Suravaram Prathap Reddy, he said. He said that Jawaharlal Nehru was in jail for a long time as he fought for the country's freedom and his family sacrificed a lot during the freedom movement. The CM said that Indira Gandhi did not accept any post when Nehru was alive. She nationalised banks, abolished privy purse and distributed lands to SC, STs and weaker sections.

Demolitions..

Continued from page 1

He reportedly mentioned the MS Maqta area in Khairatabad which had been there for decades and questioned the feasibility of clearing such places by HYDRABAD.

It is learnt that KCR ignored Arikepudi Gandhi's defection and took it with a pinch of salt. KCR was keen to ensure that the BRS knocks on the doors of the Supreme Court in case the defection issue suffers a setback in the High Court.

Sources said that KCR is calm and is believed to be observing Revanth's moves carefully. He is said to have commented on the constant transfers of senior officials, including the Commissioners of Police of Hyderabad and Rachakonda which exposed Revanth's lack of administrative experience.

KCR is also understood to be giving Revanth Reddy some time to manage the situation, but according to sources, he pointed to the increasing public dissatisfaction.

"All benefits under various schemes started by BRS have been stopped," KCR said, noting that programmes like Rythu Bandhu, which continued even during the pandemic have seen delays under Congress rule.

Will be celebrated as Telangana..

Continued from page 1

According to the order, this day marks the historic event of September 17, 1948, when the geographical region that is now Telangana became part of the Indian Union, ending monarchic rule and entering a new era of democratic governance.

The order highlights the significance of this epoch-making event, which is considered pivotal in the political and social transformation of the region. The notification emphasises that the

memoriation will be held annually across the state. The Telangana Government plans to conduct the 'Telangana Praja Palana Dinotsavam' to honour the region's transition into democracy and its contribution to India's political history.

The official notification, issued under the authority of the Governor, will be published in the extraordinary issue of the Telangana State Gazette on September 16, 2024, making it effective immediately.

IT Min charts future of Genome..

Continued from page 1

"Genome Valley is lighting the way for our ambitions, with Hyderabad International Lifesciences Square (HILLS) ushering in a new era for the life sciences ecosystem. It will be a launchpad for international giants, driving innovation and collaboration. These state-of-the-art facilities are not just about building infrastructure;

they are about creating a future where Telangana leads the way in life sciences and draws new investments from renowned international companies."

At the inauguration of 3GV, Milind Ravi, CEO of Rx Propellant, highlighted the facility's green credentials. "We are proud to announce the inauguration of 3GV, our flagship life sciences facility in Genome Valley, Hyderabad."

'One nation, one election'..

Continued from page 1

How long is this government going to survive by leaking selective information?"

"How long is this government going to survive by turning a blind eye to real and actual problems of this nation? How long is this government going to survive by planting information, by releasing these hot air balloons to test the waters?"

"The reality is that there is no draft, the reality is that there has been no discussion, the reality is that there are assemblies in progress, the reality is that the government has made no attempt to speak to us," she said at a press conference.

"It is absolutely not pragmatic to do this but the government

has to have a conversation. So these sources-based information, that is what this government has survived on, leak sources-based information, run (it) in news channels, do reportage through WhatsApp, this nonsense must stop but that is what continues and that has continued in the last 100 days," Shrinete said.

The Trinamool Congress (TMC) called it another 'gimmick' of the ruling party and questioned why the Maharashtra elections were not announced along with the Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls.

"One nation, one election' is just another gimmick from the anti-democratic BJP," TMC Parliamentary Party leader in Rajya Sabha Derek O'Brien said. Communist Party of India

(CPI) general secretary D Raja also said his party does not support the 'one nation, one election' proposal.

"Our party, the CPI, is not in favour of 'one nation one election'. In fact, I met the former president who was heading the committee," he said.

Raja said India is a diverse country and elections are held in Parliament and the state legislative assemblies. The Constitution makes clear the tenure of Lok Sabha, state assembly, the powers of elected chief ministers and governments in the states, he said.

The Union government cannot snatch all powers from the state governments, he said, adding this issue was discussed in the Constituent Assembly and things are very clear.

CM reviews Ganesh immersion..

Continued from page 1

He also advised that staff should be alerted every hour with instructions from the Command Control Centre to ensure smooth operations.

Focusing on critical areas, the CM directed more attention to problematic locations. He further instructed officials to maintain records of blind spots and hot spots and to take necessary precautions to avoid any disruptions.

BRS has no right to criticise..

Continued from page 1

He said that Rajiv Gandhi was a visionary and it is painful that minor politicians are speaking ill about him.

Someone (KCR) says that he survived death at a time when 1,100 youths were dying. Another one (T. Harish Rao) says that he could not find a matchbox after pouring petrol

on his body. Another one (KTR) talks as much as he can, Venkat said. He demanded that KTR should apologise immediately for speaking ill about Rajiv Gandhi. "On behalf of myself, Congress leaders, workers and the people of Telangana, I thank Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for installing the statue of Rajiv Gandhi."

Undermined Telangana ..

Continued from page 1

He advised Revanth Reddy to correct this mistake immediately, warning that the people of Telangana would teach a lesson to him at the right time

if he failed to do so. KTR clarified that while they have no objection to the Congress government installing Rajiv Gandhi's statue, they oppose its installation at the spot designated for a statue of Telangana Thalli.

Telangana launches..

Continued from page 1

An advisory committee will be set up to examine all aspects of the welfare of Gulf workers including migration challenges and issues faced by them. The children of Gulf workers will be provided priority admission in Government Residential Schools. All departments have been directed to implement these initiatives in a time-bound manner.

'KCR insulted Telangana..

Continued from page 1

So, taking that responsibility on its shoulders, the BJP government at the Centre is officially celebrating Liberation Day here under the leadership of Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Speaking to the media after examining arrangements for Telangana Liberation Day celebrations at the Parade Grounds on Tuesday, Eatala said that Liberation Day celebrations are going to be held at the Parade Ground on Tuesday.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Damage control

Kejriwal's resignation announcement sparks speculation about the move and the future of AAP

In a move that has surprised many, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is set to resign on September 17. As speculations swirl about the reasons behind his decision, political observers are divided—some see it as a strategic manoeuvre, while others suggest it might be a forced move driven by internal and external pressures. The resignation raises serious questions about the future of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and crucially, who might succeed him as the next Delhi chief minister. Kejriwal, known for his populist style of politics, has in the past made many bold announcements that appeared to be strategic gambles, often aimed at galvanising his voter base. His decision to step down as Delhi's Chief Minister in 2014 over the Jan Lokpal Bill is a notable example. The Congress party maintains that this upcoming resignation could be another political gimmick, designed to keep Kejriwal in the spotlight or shift the narrative around AAP's recent challenges, especially when the Delhi elections are just months away.



Interestingly, Kejriwal did not resign while he was in jail and ran the Delhi government from behind the bars. He maintains that it is the BJP's design to embroil non-BJP chief ministers into false cases of corruption and send them to jail, make them resign and split their party. He is vocal about it and implores other CMs not to resign come what may. However, there are also compelling arguments that this resignation may be more than just a stunt, an attempt to revive the party. His resignation is perhaps a necessary response to salvage his image as an honest and selfless leader and boost his party's standing in the

upcoming elections. He would have an advantage when he goes to voters and tells them about his resignation and plays a victim card. Regardless of whether Kejriwal's resignation is a tactic or a forced measure, it undeniably leaves AAP at a critical juncture. Kejriwal has been the face of the party since its inception, and his exit from the Delhi Chief Minister's office could destabilise the party's core support base. More so as second-in-command, Manish Sisodia will also not be named as the new CM. AAP has worked hard to position itself as an alternative to the national parties, with a focus on governance, education, healthcare, and anti-corruption measures. However, the party's fortunes have largely depended on Kejriwal's leadership. His potential resignation could either pave the way for the party to mature into a broader, more stable entity or expose its dependency on a single individual. The pressing question now is: Who could be the next CM? Many AAP leader could take his place—Sanjay Singh, Atishi Marlena, Raghav Chadha or even his wife Sunita but it would be Kejriwal's choice for sure. As AAP looks ahead, the question remains: can the party make a comeback in the next elections despite its top brass embroiled in serious charges of corruption and wrongdoing. Well, Delhities would know better.

PICTALK



Folk artists take part in a human chain organised as part of 'International Democracy Day' celebrations, in Bengaluru PTI

A cup of garam chai: The essence of India

In India, tea is a symbol of unity, ritual, and tradition. This humble drink connects regions, cultures and generations, creating cherished memories, one sip at a time

In India, tea transcends mere consumption; it embodies a lifestyle. Whether in the bustling streets of Mumbai or the serene backwaters of Kerala, the clinking of tea cups resonates, marking the essence of every region in the country. Whether it is scorching summers or bone-chilling winters, tea is a remedy that brings Indians together to start the day, refuel, or simply enjoy a moment of solace.



This particular beverage serves as a connection across various regions and cultures, firmly establishing itself as a fundamental element in the majority of Indian households. The humble beverage, often referred to as "chai," unites people in a truly unparalleled way. In moments of family togetherness, during brief pauses between meetings, or while enjoying time with friends, tea remains a steadfast presence. The allure of tea is found in its ability to offer a blend that caters to each person's unique preferences and methods of preparation and enjoyment. For some, it is the timeless combination of milk and water; others enjoy it as a

brew crafted entirely from milk. Next come the imaginative elements: cardamom for an aromatic boost, ginger to add a warm, spicy flair, or masala for its rich, intricate taste. The possibilities are limitless, reflecting the boundless diversity that India embodies. But what unites us all is the essence of tea. It's not just about the flavours, but the moments it creates. Picture a rainy monsoon day, the air fresh and invigorating, with a warm cup of tea cradled in your hand. You take a sip, relishing the warmth, as you nibble on fresh theplas or crispy pakoras. Perhaps it's one of those crisp early winter mornings when you are cocooned in your blanket, your chai infused with ginger

to stir your senses as you savour that buttery paratha. These experiences are not just about satisfying a craving but about creating memories and connections, one cup at a time. Tea doesn't just complement Indian food—it enhances it. Whether it's dunking biscuits into a hot cup of chai, enjoying a slice of cake alongside tea, or savouring it with savoury snacks like samosas, this beverage possesses an enchanting quality that enhances any meal. Tea is often the centrepiece of these culinary experiences. There's an unspoken rule in many households: the tea must always be hot, plentiful, and perfectly brewed. Once the kettle is on, everything else fades into the background. The allure of tea

Debunking conspiracy theories with AI

Amid the digital chaos, the truth is the first casualty. It must be revealed before it is too late. AI comes handy in the fight for clarity and clearing doubts



SANTHOSH MATHEW

As the digital age unfolds, one thing is clear: conspiracy theories have never been easier to spread, nor harder to debunk. In 2024, as humanity embraces cutting-edge technologies like artificial intelligence, it's a strange paradox that ancient prophecies and far-fetched theories still hold a powerful grip on the collective imagination. From claims that the Moon landing was faked to the spread of false narratives about the COVID-19 pandemic, conspiracy theories shape our perception of world events, offering an alluring—if misleading—explanation for the chaotic times we live in.

Our fascination with the unknown has deep historical roots. Figures like the 16th-century mystic Nostradamus and the blind Bulgarian prophet Baba Vanga have captivated millions with their supposed ability to foresee global disasters, political upheavals, and even pandemics. For centuries, people have tried to align Nostradamus' cryptic quatrains with real-world events, from the rise of Hitler to the assassination of JFK. Similarly, Baba Vanga's alleged predictions of 9/11, Brexit, and natural disasters have only fueled modern fears of impending doom. Yet, despite the scepticism that surrounds their claims, these figures remain symbols of the human desire to make sense of a world that often seems beyond our control. In today's world, conspiracy theories have evolved. No longer confined to whispered conversations in dimly lit rooms, they now dominate social media platforms and news outlets.

The Flat Earth Society, which defies centuries of scientific evidence to insist that the Earth is flat, finds new believers daily. The widely debunked theory that NASA staged the 1969 Moon landing still draws attention, as do theories that connect Nostradamus' prophecies to modern political figures like Donald Trump. While such theories may seem harmless or even entertaining to some, the consequences are often real and dangerous. The COVID-19 pandemic, for exam-



ple, was a breeding ground for conspiracy theories. False claims that the virus was engineered as a bioweapon, or that 5G technology spread the disease, circulated rapidly. These beliefs not only stoked fear but also fueled vaccine resistance, leading to a slower public health response. As artificial intelligence continues to revolutionize our world, it's also becoming a powerful tool for both the spread of and the fight against conspiracy theories. AI itself has become a subject of suspicion, with some fearing it as a means of mass surveillance or control. But AI is also being deployed to combat misinformation. Researchers have recently begun experimenting with AI chatbots, like GPT-4, to engage with conspiracy theorists directly. In a controlled study, participants were invited to express their beliefs in specific conspiracy theories. The AI then engaged them in a three-round dialogue, offering counterarguments and evidence to debunk their claims. Remarkably, these conversations led to a 20% reduction in participants' belief in their chosen conspiracy theory, and the effect lasted for at least two months.

While these results are promising, they only scratch the surface of a much larger issue. Conspiracy theories persist because they provide simple, emotionally charged explanations for complex global events. In times of uncertainty, people naturally seek out answers that make sense of their fears. Whether it's the belief that the U.S. government orchestrated the 9/11 attacks or that NASA faked the Moon landing to win the space race, these theories offer a false sense of order in a disorderly world. Social media algorithms amplify these ideas, often pushing the most extreme narratives into the spotlight, further fueling distrust and division. Even AI, with its potential to debunk misinformation, cannot overcome the deep-seated fear and scepticism that drive people to embrace conspiracy theories in the first place. The rise of AI has sparked its own set of conspiracies, with some claiming that it's part of a grand plot for world domination or that it's being used to control the masses. As much as AI can engage and educate, its ability to change hearts and minds is limited when faced with the sheer emotional power of fear and distrust. And it's not just AI or social media that keeps conspiracy theories alive. Historical events like the 9/11 attacks, the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the AIDS epidemic have all been used to fuel false narratives. One long-standing theory claims that HIV was a man-made biological weapon designed to target specific



AI IS ALSO BEING DEPLOYED TO COMBAT MISINFORMATION. RESEARCHERS HAVE RECENTLY BEGUN EXPERIMENTING WITH AI CHATBOTS, LIKE GPT-4, TO ENGAGE WITH CONSPIRACY THEORISTS DIRECTLY

populations, particularly African Americans and Latinos. Despite decades of scientific research disproving such claims, these ideas continue to find an audience among those who mistrust government and scientific authorities. At the heart of every conspiracy theory lies a fundamental distrust of authority. As Roman historian Tacitus once observed, when governments or those in power lose the trust of the people, manipulation and suspicion take root. And in today's hyper-connected world, these suspicions spread with unprecedented speed. Yet, there is hope. While AI alone cannot solve the problem of misinformation, it can be a valuable tool in the broader effort to rebuild trust and foster dialogue. The challenge is not just to debunk falsehoods but to address the deeper emotional and psychological needs that drive people to believe in them in the first place. It requires a concerted effort from governments, media, educators, and individuals to promote transparency, critical thinking, and open communication. As the world becomes more connected, the stakes grow higher. Misinformation, once confined to fringe groups, now has the power to shape global events. (The writer is an associate professor, views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

KEJRIWAL TO RESIGN

Madam — Kejriwal's move to resign and call for fresh elections to Delhi Assembly is a ploy to assert his position in the party and capitalize incarceration sympathy in popularity. The SC's bail condition in any case bars him from entering the secretariat and permits signing only such orders which are to be sent to LG for his assent which effectively debars him as a functional CM. This condition will require an alternative CM until the term ends in February 25 which is too long a period in politics by which time the alternative leader chosen, can marginalize Kejriwal, to assert his leadership position. AAP now has a chance to negotiate a deal with Congress by bartering seats in Haryana for a possible coalition in Delhi elections and can fight to regain its hold on Delhi. The victory thus scored in Delhi assembly election apart from giving a morale booster for Kejriwal and his supporters in AAP will also help him assert his leadership position in the party. He will also move the court subsequently, as popularly elected leader of the assembly, for relaxation in the bail conditions which court may also consider with some conditions which bears relation to the charges framed.

Gopalaswamy J | Chennai

NEED FOR MORE EXPRESS TRAINS

Madam — It is with reference to the news: P M Modi flags of Vande Metro, inaugurates four Vande Bharat trains in Bihar - September 16. Recently Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated four Vande Bharat trains in Bihar and Vande Metro in Gujarat. As Railway Minister said these trains not only reflect the success of the "Make in India" initiative but also set new global standards of speed, safety and service. In the fast moving world Vande Bharat trains, Tejas Express, Shatabdi Express and Duronto trains are must for Indian Railways. But these premium trains to attract niche clientele in spe-

A politician and a gentleman



Heaping praises on any big figures from any walk of life after their demise is a common trend but the septuagenarian veteran Marxist leader and general secretary of the CPI(M) Sitaram Yechury was one of the select few national political personalities who was always held in the highest esteem by all

his peers across the political divide, irrespective of divergence of views. Verily, the departed Communist leader's out-of-the-blue passing away has left the his party orphaned and, hence, it will take time to find his befitting replacement notwithstanding, the void his demise has caused in the national political space can never be filled adequately. Sitaram Yechury has left a deep void in the national political arena. Revered by peers across political divides, his untimely demise has orphaned his party, leaving a leadership gap that will take time to fill. Despite political differences, Yechury's ability to command respect from all corners remains unparalleled. His absence will be profoundly felt, and the space he occupied will be difficult to replace. A true stalwart, his legacy will endure. Rest in peace, Sitaram Yechury.

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

PRISONER NO 626710

Madam — Umar Khalid has completed four years in jail without trial. He was arrested under the UAPA on September 14, 2020, in connection with the Delhi riots. Recently, the Supreme Court has ruled that courts cannot decline bail, even under the special anti-terror law UAPA, and other offences, once the accused satisfies his prima facie innocence. But he and 11 others have still been awaiting trial in jail. Khalid is accused of making two speeches that instigated protestors to block roads. A documentary, "Prisoner No. 626710 is Present", on him has shown his controversial speech in Maharashtra in 2020 in its entirety. It is reported that he urged the people in that speech to use Gandhian means to oppose the new citizenship laws, which sparked fears of disenfranchisement. If it is true, then it means that Mahatma Gandhi could have faced the UAPA had he still been alive.

Sujit De | Kolkata

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

P Victor Selvaraj | Tirunelveli



FIRST COLUMN KARMIC CYCLES AND VEDIC WISDOM

Shradh rituals help ancestral souls go beyond cycle of birth and death



ASHWINI GURUJI

The soul incarnates into a physical body which is made up of the five elements in various permutations and combinations, reincarnating birth after birth depending on the kind of karmas that one does in a lifetime. Certain souls do not reincarnate, either because they are finished with their karmic cycle of the lok (the Prithvi lok) or because they are stuck in a different dimension of existence and are unable to manifest in the human body, as their karmic balance is not sufficient to entitle them for human birth. These souls either remain suspended as energies and are called ghosts and spirits or they go to a different dimension of existence called the pitr lok or the lok of the ancestors. Whatever dimension or level of existence they are in unless they have been freed from the cycle of birth and death, they need energy from their offspring to offset their karmic balance to enable them to reincarnate again. Shradhs are an important part of the Hindu/Vedic culture and cater to these ancestors' needs. On these days the constellations are such that the gateways to the other dimensions open and they are allowed to visit the earth to meet their near and dear ones. These ancestors depend on their children and grandchildren to do good deeds in their name and to chant specific mantras, both these acts free the souls from bondages of these not-desired yonis or levels of existence. It is the basic duty of the family members to perform certain rites and do charity and guardian in the names of their close ones. At present and age, the youth of the country has no idea about the power and efficacy of the Vedic sciences and the phenomenal knowledge of the Vedic



mantras and rituals, the present education system is to be blamed for this as it is completely based on what the colonial masters chose for us, they were fearful of the power of the Vedas and hence destroyed the gurukul system and ensured that we were taught redundant sciences and tweaked history to their advantage the purpose was so that the coming generations lose faith in their culture and follow the colonial masters blindly. The result that they wanted is visible today.

For the younger generations who might be thinking by now that this article reeks of Hindutva and is a fairy tale based on fiction, I would like to point out certain facts of history. In the ancient world, the main cultures flourishing around 4000 years back were the Egyptians, the Mesopotamians, the Romans, the Mayans etc. and of course our very own culture. None of the present day religions or schools of thought were present, except the Hindu religion and the Vedic thought. All the cultures are prevalent believed in the other world and travelling of the soul to other dimensions.

The pyramids are aligned in the north-south direction and the shafts in them are pointing towards the three main stars of the Orion belt which the scientists of today say could be the birthplace of stars and human origin. The technology to move such heavy stones to build pyramids is still not available to mankind. As a matter of fact, scientists are to date baffled by them, they were further baffled when they found high doses of radioactivity in the bones indicating an atomic explosion of the human remains at Mohenjo Daro. 4000 years back when these civilisations were flourishing, at that time the third guy or the diaper yug was in process, if we just try to go back further to the treta yug and read about the various weapons used in the Ramayana war, we would realise that our ancestors knew the way the creation functions and the secrets of the lokas and the world of energy. The hindu culture is the only culture that predates all the other cultures and is still the largest practised religion, its mantras and practices are not mumbo jumbo but they are a gift of a highly advanced civilisation to the present day humans. That's why it has survived till date.

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

Social business promises inclusive development



UTTAM CHAKROBARTY

Social businesses have the potential to blend financial sustainability with solutions to social issues like poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation

The deliberations of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across the globe are getting louder. However, SDGs have much to do with inclusive development in India. Nevertheless, as India marches towards becoming a global economic powerhouse, the challenge of inclusive development remains a daunting task. Despite robust economic growth, disparities in wealth, education, healthcare, and opportunities persist, leaving large segments of the population marginalized. In this context, the concept of social business has garnered increasing attention as a solution that addresses both social and economic challenges simultaneously.

Of late, this alternative paradigm for development is getting a boost in the country. Social business is a powerful model designed to tackle pressing social problems - poverty, inequality, healthcare and education - while operating in a financially sustainable way. Unlike traditional businesses, which prioritize profit maximization for shareholders, social businesses are driven by a mission to solve societal issues, and any profits generated are reinvested into the business to scale its impact. This innovative approach to entrepreneurship is particularly relevant in India, where the scope for addressing societal gaps through market-driven solutions is immense. The Genesis of Social Business Over the past decade, India has witnessed a surge in interest in social entrepreneurship. Fueled by rising awareness of social issues, a growing youth population, and the rise of impact investment funds, the country is now home to a plethora of social businesses across sectors.

Organizations like SELCO, which provides affordable solar lighting to low-income households, and Araku Coffee, which empowers tribal farmers through sustainable agriculture practices, exemplify how businesses can be a force for good. India's unique landscape of socio-economic diversity also presents a fertile ground for social innovation. Entrepreneurs are finding creative ways to solve challenges related to agriculture, healthcare, sanitation, education, and financial inclusion. For example, Amul, India's dairy cooperative giant, operates on principles that align closely with social business, ensuring fair wages for farmers while providing quality products to consumers. Similarly, Goonj, a non-profit working in rural India, converts urban waste into useful products, addressing both poverty and waste management. An Alternative Path India, with a population of over 1.4 billion, faces an array of socio-economic challenges.

Although the country has made significant progress in areas like technology and infrastructure, millions continue to struggle with basic needs like clean water, healthcare, education, and employment opportunities. Traditional government interventions and charity-driven models, while vital, often fail to create sustainable and scalable solutions. This is where the social business model comes in—bridging the gap between business and social responsibility. Facets of Social Business India's healthcare sector, while rapidly growing, remains highly unequal. Millions of people, particularly in rural areas, lack access to quality medical services. Social businesses like Narayana Health, founded by Dr. Devi Shetty, are addressing this issue by providing low-cost, high-quality



WITH THE RISE OF A NEW GENERATION OF SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS ENTREPRENEURS, SUPPORTED BY IMPACT INVESTORS AND TECHNOLOGY, THE POTENTIAL FOR SOCIAL BUSINESS TO DRIVE CHANGE IS GREATER THAN EVER

ity healthcare to the masses.

The education sector in India faces challenges of accessibility, quality, and affordability, particularly in rural and marginalized communities. Social enterprises like Teach For India are working to bridge the gap by bringing talented individuals to teach in under-resourced schools. Agriculture remains the backbone of India's economy, employing over 50% of the population. However, smallholder farmers often struggle with access to markets, credit, and sustainable practices. Social businesses like DeHaan, which offers end-to-end agricultural services including input distribution, crop advisory, and market linkage, are empowering farmers and improving their incomes. India's push towards renewable energy, in line with its commitments to combat climate change, has opened up a new frontier for social businesses.

The rise of eco-friendly and sustainable products, driven by social businesses, has also led to a growing market for sustainable fashion and organic products in urban areas.

Growing Graph of Social Business

A critical enabler of social business in India has been the rise of impact investing. Impact investors, unlike traditional venture capitalists, seek to generate not just financial returns but also measurable social and environmental impact. The growth of funds like Aavishkaar, Acumen, and Omidyar Network has provided crucial capital to early-stage social businesses, allowing them to scale and deepen their impact. The Indian government has also recognized the potential of social businesses to drive inclusive growth. Programs like Startup India, which provides financial support, mentorship, and tax incentives, have been extended to social enterprises, encouraging more entrepreneurs to tackle pressing social issues. Not All Roses Many social businesses, especially those operating in rural areas, struggle to secure the necessary funding to scale their operations. Traditional financial institu-

tions often view social enterprises as

high-risk, given their focus on impact rather than profit maximization. Although impact investing is on the rise, the availability of patient capital—long-term, low-return investments necessary for social businesses to thrive—is still limited. One of the biggest challenges for social businesses is scaling their impact while maintaining financial sustainability. Often, social enterprises are deeply rooted in local contexts, which can make it difficult to replicate their models across different geographies. Additionally, scaling can sometimes dilute the focus on the social mission, as businesses seek profitability to sustain growth. The regulatory environment for social businesses in India is still evolving. Navigating complex bureaucratic processes, securing the necessary permits, and dealing with multiple government agencies can be time-consuming and expensive. There is also a lack of clear legal recognition for social businesses, which often operate in a grey area between non-profit organizations and traditional for-profit companies.

Measuring Social Impact:

Unlike traditional businesses, where success is measured purely in terms of financial performance, social businesses must demonstrate their social impact. However, measuring impact can be complex, and there is no standardized framework for doing so. Many social businesses struggle to strike a balance between maximizing their impact and ensuring that they remain financially viable. India's booming tech industry has become a key driver of social innovation.

The proliferation of smartphones and internet connectivity has enabled social businesses to reach remote and underserved populations more effectively. From fintech solutions that provide micro-loans to rural entrepreneurs, to edtech platforms offering quality education at scale, technology is unlocking new opportunities for social businesses to deepen their impact. One notable example is the Jan Dhan-

Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM) trinity, a government initiative that has expanded financial inclusion by linking bank accounts to mobile numbers and Aadhaar (India's biometric identification system). This digital infrastructure has empowered social businesses to deliver services like digital payments, insurance, and healthcare more efficiently.

The Way Forward

As India continues its journey toward becoming an inclusive, equitable, and sustainable society, social businesses will play an increasingly important role. With the rise of a new generation of socially conscious entrepreneurs, supported by impact investors and technology, the potential for social business to drive change is greater than ever.

The COVID-19 accelerated the momentum for social entrepreneurship in India, with many seeing social businesses as a key pillar in the country's post-pandemic recovery. However, for the social business movement to truly take off, greater support from the government, investors, and civil society is essential.

Policymakers must create an enabling environment through targeted incentives and streamlined regulations. Meanwhile, impact investors need to provide more patient capital to allow social enterprises to grow sustainably. Precisely, social business represents a powerful tool for driving inclusive development in India. By addressing social problems through innovative, financially viable solutions, social businesses can empower individuals, uplift communities, and contribute to a more equitable and prosperous society.

As India continues to evolve, the role of social business will only grow in importance, offering hope for a future where economic growth and social progress go hand in hand.

(The writer is an Associate professor at the School of management, Presidency University, Bengaluru; views expressed are personal)

Empowering teachers, empowering India: Paving the path to becoming Vishwa Guru

With the National Education Policy 2020 and NCTE programs paving the way, India is poised to reclaim its status as a global beacon of knowledge

PM quotes 'Education is not just a way to gain knowledge but a means to transform the world'. It is our teachers who will lead this transformation, making India not only a land of knowledge but a beacon of hope and wisdom for the entire world. Teacher's Day, celebrated few days back, serves as a poignant reminder of the selfless contributions made by teachers throughout their careers.



PANKAJ ARORA

It allows students to express their gratitude, love, and respect for the people who have guided and inspired them to become true citizens. The celebration is a vehicle for recognising the immeasurable value teachers bring to society and emphasising the importance of education

as a pillar of the nation. India now moves closer to realizing its dream of becoming a Vishwa Guru, the teaching profession continues to be a vital force in this journey, as India is well on its way to reclaiming its ancient mantle. India's rich educational heritage is deeply rooted in its culture, recapitulating the legacy of Indian education, where teachers are equated

with creators 'Brahma, the creator of the universe' in Hindu philosophy. This essence of the guru-shishya (teacher-student) relationship, where knowledge was imparted by sages in gurukuls, gave a strong emphasis on the holistic development of children. The teachers or 'Gurus' were revered, holding a status that was even higher than that of emperors. India's ancient universities like Nalanda and Takshashila were some of the earliest global learning centres of learning for the world. India's ancient texts, such as the Vedas and Upanishads, have long been sources of wisdom for the world.

As India strives to reclaim its position as a global leader in knowledge, the role of teach-

ers becomes even more crucial who are at the centre of this transformation. The time is ripe for the youth of India to embrace the teaching profession; by investing in the teaching profession and addressing its challenges, India can build a strong foundation for a future where it leads not just in power, but in wisdom and knowledge as well. The role of teachers in this endeavour is indispensable, making them the true architects of India's bright future, by inspiring curiosity, encouraging critical thinking, and instilling values, they are shaping the future leaders of the world. Prime Minister Modi's vision for India as a global leader is not just about economic growth or technological advancement; it is



about creating a society where knowledge, wisdom, and values are cherished. As India marches towards its goal of becoming a Vishwa Guru, the teaching profession will be playing a pivotal role in shaping this vision. Teachers are the torchbearers

of knowledge, and their empowerment is crucial when India embarks on its mission of becoming a Vishwa Guru. India's aspiration to become a Vishwa Guru is deeply intertwined with its education system, where National Education

Policy (NEP) 2020 has emerged as a significant step in this direction, focusing on improving teacher education, and professional development, and creating a conducive environment for teaching and learning. The New Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which emphasizes a more flexible, multidisciplinary approach to education, places a strong focus on the professional development of teachers.

For India to truly become a Vishwa Guru, it must invest in its teachers, who serve as architects of the nation's future through their unwavering dedication. This is where NCTE is playing a pivotal role in providing them with the resources, training, and support they

need to excel in their profession. The flagship programs of NCTE are instrumental in elevating the status of teachers in society, by giving them the right support & training. India's teachers will undoubtedly lead the way in shaping the future of the world. It recognizes that to nurture future leaders, teachers themselves must be continuously learning and adapting to new pedagogies to ensure that they are equipped to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

(The writer is the Chairperson, National Council for Teacher Education, Ministry of Education, New Delhi and Professor of Education in the Department of Education, University of Delhi; views are personal)

IN BRIEF



HSBC India launches global education payments

HSBC India on Monday launched global education payments to enable Indian students and the bank's customers to pay fees directly to more than 600 international universities and colleges. Aiming to simplify the process of foreign currency payment, it provides students and their families a completely digital experience when making tuition payments for their overseas education, the bank said in a statement. With this new feature on the HSBC India mobile banking app, customers can select the country or territory and the university and get pre-loaded, pre-verified account details of the university, it said. They can then add student details, upload loan documents, make a payment request instantly and securely through the mobile app and benefit from reduced remittance costs compared to other international education payment options available.



Reliance board to meet for preferential issue

The board of Reliance Infrastructure Ltd will meet on September 19 to consider a preferential issue of shares to raise funds, the firm said in a stock exchange filing on Monday. The company had raised Rs 550 crore in July 2021 by issuing shares on preferential basis, wherein promoters infused Rs 400 crore and Varde Capital Partners -- an international investor -- subscribed to shares aggregating Rs 150 crore. In the filing, the firm said its board on September 19 will "consider and approve raising of long term resources from domestic and/or global markets, inter alia, by issue of equity shares/ equity linked securities/ warrants convertible into equity shares, by way of preferential issue and/ or qualified institutional placement and/ or rights issue or any other method including determination of issue price". It, however, did not disclose the amount the firm was looking to raise.



Rupee rises 4 paise against US dollar

The rupee witnessed range-bound trade and settled for the day higher by 4 paise at 83.88 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday supported by weak American currency and significant foreign fund inflows, while firm crude oil prices capped sharp gains. Forex traders said market participants are eagerly awaiting cues from the US Fed policy on Wednesday, with a rate cut all but certain. However, the magnitude of the cut remains uncertain. Moreover, the rupee continues to hold steady within a well-defined range on active intervention by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), they added. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.89 and witnessed an intraday high of 83.87 and a low of 83.90 against the American currency. The domestic unit finally settled for the day at 83.88 (provisional), higher by 4 paise over its previous close, amid a positive trend in domestic equities. On Friday, the local unit settled higher by 4 paise at 83.92 against the US dollar. "We expect Indian rupee to trade with a slight positive bias on continued weakness in the US dollar ahead of the FOMC meeting this week," said Anuj Choudhary -- Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas. Choudhary further said that "there are broad expectations of a 25 bps rate cut by the Fed following a 25 bps rate cut by ECB last week. Fresh foreign inflows and a positive tone in equity markets may further support the domestic currency. However, a recovery in crude oil prices may cap sharp upside." Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was down 0.39 per cent to 100.72 points. Brent crude, the international benchmark, gained 0.56 per cent to USD 72.01 per barrel in futures trade.

Govt to further strengthen start-up ecosystem: Goyal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Monday said a decision has been taken to set up a not-for-profit company under section 8 of the Companies Act to include all initiatives and bodies of Startup India under one roof.

Goyal said the company can be industry-led, similar to Invest India, which can manage its affairs.

At present, Startup India is housed in Invest India, which is a national body to promote investments.

"We will support it as a catalyst so that policy-wise, it is on the right track. It will have an independent board and organisation structure and we would do a little oversight. The National Startup Advisory Council can also be a part of it," Goyal said.

The Startup India initiative



"We will support it as a catalyst so that policy-wise, it is on the right track. It will have an independent board and organisation structure and we would do a little oversight. The National Startup Advisory Council can also be a part of it," Goyal said.

was launched on January 16, 2016. Under this, several programmes have been rolled out to support entrepreneurs, build a robust startup ecosystem and transform India into a country of job creators instead of job seekers.

These programmes are managed by a dedicated Startup India Team, which reports to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade

(DPIIT). The initiatives are implemented through the Startup India action plan, under which fiscal and other incentives are provided.

Launching a platform for the sector, Goyal said, "I have taken a decision just a few days back, I think the process has kick-started. Please finalise starting a section 8 company so that the national startup advisory council also comes

within the new startup company".

"Today, Startup India is housed in Invest India. I think, now startup India has become such a powerful ecosystem by itself that it should have a house of its own."

He added that SIDBI can also be actively involved in this company.

"How do we recognise our unicorns? Why not have a system where we will be issuing shares also in that section 8 company to everybody who became a unicorn? We have to find ways to encourage people to support that," he added.

He suggested the startups own this company and manage it professionally.

"And then, that company can start owning these assets of technology also, that way it will be nimble, and industry lead...So, you can rightfully see that trade secrets are not let out," Goyal said.



Odisha to emerge as Tata Steel's largest investment destination

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Tata Steel on Monday said Odisha would emerge as the company's single-largest investment destination after the phase-II expansion of its Kalinganagar plant from 3 million tonnes per annum to 8 mtpa.

The steel major has invested Rs 27,000 in phase-II of the Kalinganagar plant expansion, and the company is on the verge of commissioning its expanded capacity at the unit, it said in a release.

The ongoing expansion in Kalinganagar will play an important role in Tata Steel's ambition to achieve its target of 40 mtpa capacity in India by 2030, the company said.

"The phase-II expansion of

Tata Steel's Kalinganagar plant in Jajpur district of Odisha... will also catapult the eastern state to an enviable position of becoming the single-largest investment destination for the country's oldest steel maker," the release said.

The company completed the first phase in 2015 with an investment of Rs 25,000 crore and further ramped up capacity in Odisha through the acquisition of Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd (NINL) in 2022 with an additional investment of Rs 12,100 crore. Along with the Tata Steel Meramandali (formerly Bhusan Steel Ltd) plant in Dhenkanal district, the company's total investment in Odisha stands at over Rs 100,000 crore, it said.

HMSI recalls 300-350 cc bikes to replace faulty parts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India on Monday said it is recalling certain units of its bike models like CB350 and H'ness CB350 due to issues with wheel speed sensor and camshaft.

The company is recalling CB300F, CB300R, CB350, H'ness CB350 and CB350RS, manufactured between October 2020 and April 2024, for issues with wheel speed sensor, the two wheeler major said in a statement.

"It has been observed that due to an improper molding procedure being followed, water may seep into the wheel speed sensor. This may lead to a speed sensor malfunction causing error in the speedometer, traction control or ABS intervention," it said.

In the worst case scenario, it may result in ineffective braking, it added.

Units manufactured from October 2020 to April 2024 are affected under this potential issue, the company said.

For issues with camshaft component, HMSI is recalling units of CB350, H'ness CB350 and CB350RS.

Finance Minister to launch NPS Vatsalya Scheme

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will launch the NPS Vatsalya scheme on Wednesday in line with the announcement made in the Union Budget 2024-25. The finance minister will also launch an online platform for subscribing to NPS Vatsalya, release a scheme brochure, and distribute Permanent Retirement Account Number (PRAN) cards to minor subscribers. As part of the launch here, NPS Vatsalya events



will be organised simultaneously at nearly 75 locations throughout the country, the finance ministry

said in a statement on Monday. Other locations will join the launch through a video conference and also distribute PRAN membership to new minor subscribers in that location. NPS Vatsalya will allow parents to save for their children's future by investing in a pension account and ensuring long-term wealth with the power of compounding. The scheme offers flexible contributions and investment options, allowing parents to make a minimum investment of Rs 1,000 annually in

the name of the child, thus making it accessible to families from all economic backgrounds. This new initiative is designed to start early in securing the financial future of children, marking an important step in India's pension system. The scheme will be run under the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA). The launch of NPS Vatsalya highlights the government's commitment to promote long-term financial planning and security for all, the statement said.

Indoor amusement centres expanding: JLL

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indoor amusement centres are becoming popular in India with more than 500 such facilities currently operational in 83 cities covering 66 lakh sq ft of retail space, according to JLL.

Real estate consultant JLL India said Indoor Amusement Centers (IACs) offer a variety of entertainment options for individuals or groups. These centres feature a combination of games and attractions to provide recreational and leisure experiences. In some formats, IACs' operators offer food and beverage (F&B) option.

India has about 6.6 million sq ft of operational IACs across over 500 centres in 83 cities. Of the total space occupied by



operators, 72 per cent area is in shopping malls, 19 per cent in standalone properties, 6 per cent in high-street locations and 3 per cent in mixed-use projects.

This stock is expected to grow to reach around 11 mil-

lion sq ft by 2028, the consultant said.

JLL noted that these centres are emerging as a key driver of footfall and consumer engagement. "It is seen that Indoor Amusement Centers are

becoming one of the major specialty anchors in retail developments. Multiple Indoor Amusement Centers are now present in prominent shopping malls. Currently, over 90 malls across the country host multiple IACs," the consultant said in a statement on Monday.

Rahul Arora, Senior MD and Head, Retail Services and Office Leasing Advisory, India, said 1.43 million sq ft space has been leased by IAC operators in the last 20 months.

"It is interesting to see that emerging formats such as eatertainment, competitive socializing, and edutainment are also gaining traction apart from the growing stock of gaming arcades and trampoline parks," he said.

Blockbuster debut for BHF Shares jump nearly 136 pc to hit upper circuit

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Bajaj Housing Finance Ltd made a solid market debut on Monday and ended with a huge premium of nearly 136 per cent against the issue price of Rs 70. The stock was listed at Rs 150 on the BSE and NSE, reflecting a jump of 114.28 per cent from the issue price.

It zoomed 135.7 per cent to settle at Rs 164.99 -- its upper circuit limit -- on the BSE.

At the NSE, shares of the firm surged 135.71 per cent to settle at the upper circuit limit of Rs 165. The company's market valuation stood at Rs 1,37,406.09 crore. In traded volume terms, 608.99 lakh shares of the firm were traded on the BSE and 6,367.27 lakh shares on the NSE during the session.

"Magnificent subscription demand by breaking all records got listed as per our expectation. We believe Bajaj brand always rewarded investors and housing finance business give similar opportunity to invest in one of India's leading players in the



housing finance sector," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

The Rs 6,560-crore initial public offer of Bajaj Housing Finance Ltd received 63.60 times subscription on September 11, the last day of bidding, amid overwhelming participation from institutional buyers.

The initial share sale had a price band for the offer at Rs 66-70 per share.

The IPO had a fresh issue of equity shares of up to Rs 3,560 crore and an offer-for-sale (OFS)

of equity shares worth Rs 3,000 crore by parent Bajaj Finance.

In the equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 97.84 points or 0.12 per cent to settle at a new record peak of 82,988.78. During the day, it jumped 293.4 points or 0.35 per cent to hit a fresh lifetime intraday high of 83,184.34.

The NSE Nifty went up by 27.25 points or 0.11 per cent to settle at 25,383.75. During the day, the benchmark gained 89.2 points or 0.35 per cent to hit a new intra-day record peak of 25,445.70.

Eol floated for coal gasification tech project

PNS ■ KOLKATA

An Expression of Interest (EoI) for shortlisting licensors of coal gasification technology for a proposed coal-based synthetic natural gas (SNG) plant in West Bengal was floated by the GAIL and Coal India Limited (CIL) joint venture responsible for promoting the project, an official said on Monday.

The project, valued at an estimated amount of Rs 13,052 crore, considering a debt-equity ratio of 70:30, was approved by the Cabinet, and coal for the plant will be supplied by CIL's subsidiary, Eastern Coalfields Ltd. Coal India will hold a 51 per cent stake in the JV, while GAIL will have a 49 per cent share. "The EoI, floated by Projects & Development India Limited (PDIL) on behalf of the JV, seeks responses from internationally reputed technology licensors with the requisite coal gasification technology, willing to provide it for the commercial production of SNG," the official said.



Sensex rebounds nearly 100 pts to hit lifetime high Nifty scales record intra-day level

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark index Sensex rebounded nearly 100 points to hit a lifetime closely high on Monday, while the broader Nifty ended shy of its record peak, propelled by bargain hunting in energy, utility and banking stocks amid sustained foreign fund inflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 97.84 points or 0.12 per cent to settle at a new record peak of 82,988.78. During the day, it jumped 293.4 points or 0.35 per cent to hit a fresh lifetime intra-day high of 83,184.34.

The NSE Nifty rose 27.25 points or 0.11 per cent to settle at 25,383.75, over 5 points lower than its previous record. During the day, the benchmark gained 89.2 points or 0.35 per cent to hit a new intra-day high of 25,445.70.

"The domestic market traded in a narrow range with a positive bias as the participants are keenly awaiting the Fed's decision this week. The weakness in the US job market and benign inflation are pointing at a slew of rate cuts on the table. "The inflow of foreign money

and an expectation of stability in domestic growth may keep sentiment optimistic," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said.

NTPC was the biggest gainer on the Sensex chart, rising 2.44 per cent, followed by JSW Steel, Larsen & Toubro, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, Nestle, Mahindra & Mahindra and Tata Steel.

Bajaj Finance declined over 3 per cent. Hindustan Unilever, Bajaj Finserv, Adani Port and Asian Paints were the other laggards.

"The Indian markets continued their bullish trend, with Nifty reaching a new record high, driven primarily by foreign institutional investor (FII) buying and a strong market breadth. "Investors remain cautiously optimistic ahead of the US Federal Reserve's meeting later this week, which could influence short-term trends. Investors are advised to stay aligned with the current trend, but watch for potential market reactions to the US Fed's policy announcements," Vikram Kasat, Head - Advisory, LPL Capital - Prabhudas Lilladher, said.

'India well-poised to benefit from new jobs emerging with AI'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India is well-poised to take advantage of new jobs that emerge from advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI), according to Meta India Vice President Sandhya Devanathan.

In an interview to PTI, Devanathan weighed in on raging debate around AI and its impact on jobs, saying she is of the firm belief that AI would now lead to new opportunities for

India. "I think that India is potentially well-poised to take advantage of new jobs that could come up with AI," she said.

Devanathan said that the nature of jobs may change, however.

"I think it offers opportunities for new kind of jobs to get created...jobs may change in terms of what they look like, but there will be new things that could end up coming up as a result of that (AI)...and it would lead to new



opportunities for us as a country," she said.

The views assume significance in the backdrop of persistent debate in tech circles and civil societies on whether AI will augment the labour market or displace workers.

The Economic Survey in July warned about potential challenges that AI could present, saying it "will create barriers and hurdles to sustained high growth rates for India in the coming years

and decades" and that the corporate sector has a responsibility "to think harder about ways AI will augment labour rather than displace workers".

On the regulatory frameworks in areas such as AI, personal data protection as well as competition in digital markets, Devanathan said Meta welcomes regulations which are "progressive" and balance user safety and innovation. "This is evolving as we speak...We welcome any regula-

tion that is progressive. There is a need to balance user and citizens safety with innovation, for the country. Both are important goals and we welcome regulations that balance both," she said.

Facebook and Instagram parent Meta counts India among its key priority markets globally, as rising popularity of its offerings -- from Reels to business messaging -- and increased engagement on AI tools is supercharging growth here.



PNS|HYDERABAD

As Hyderabad's vibrant fashion scene continues to evolve, a pivotal moment unfolded mid-week, drawing an elite crowd to witness the next phase in Indian couture. On a serene evening, Gaurav Gupta, one of India's foremost couturiers, celebrated the grand opening of his Hyderabad atelier. The event wasn't just a store launch; it was a statement. A carefully curated mini-show featuring key pieces from his India Couture Week collection brought the couture vision to life, blending tradition with futuristic elegance.

The collection, titled *Arunodaya*, meaning "the rising sun," embodied a deep connection to renewal and hope. The designer's new collection was inspired by the transformative beauty of dawn—the mystical shift from darkness to light. Just as daybreak offers new possibilities, Gupta's couture reflected the dawn of a new era. The palette was an ode to the morning sky, with delicate hues of Ivory Pearl, Comet Blue, Petal Pink and Mauve capturing the ethereal glow of early light. Deeper tones of slate, sand, bordeaux and lava added a sense of intensity, reminiscent of the sun's fiery ascent. These colours framed the essence of the collection, a unique dialogue between nature's subtleties and Gupta's signature innovation.

In keeping with his boundary-pushing aesthetic, his collection seamlessly blended traditional Indian silhouettes with modern, cutting-edge elements. His signature sculptural cuts were present but refined, creating a more elevated and sophisticated look. The collection featured heavy lehengas, saree gowns and draped sarees, showcasing intricate floral embroidery inspired by Indian *zardozi* techniques, combined with surreal, futuristic lines. Metallic breastplates, glass and metal-reflective embroidery and embossed flying birds added a bold, avant-garde touch, while sheer fabrics conveyed a sense of lightness and transparency, echoing the gentle embrace of dawn.

"The concept of light was integral to this collection," shared Gaurav Gupta at the event. "We explored reflective embroidery that glistens when touched by light. It's a sophisticated take on bling, a new direction for him that feels both modern and timeless." The standout pieces included a reimagined pant suit inspired by the traditional *sharara*, marrying old-world charm with contemporary sophistication. He emphasised that the collection was a perfect hybrid of Indian couture and Parisian influences, blending the two worlds into a seamless, elevated narrative.

He added, "This collection is different from our usual offerings. We have moved beyond the dramatic sculpting and shaping we're known for and focused more on the intricacies of embroidery, the fits and the colour story. It's more subtle, yet more refined." Among the luminaries present at the launch was Deepika Reddy, founder of Alinari, one of Hyderabad's leading multi-designer stores. A key figure in Hyderabad's fashion landscape, Deepika has long been a champion of Indian design. Her admiration for Gaurav Gupta's work was evident as she reflected on the designer's unique impact on Indian fashion.

"It's great to be here, celebrating Gaurav's remarkable journey. He's truly a pioneer," Deepika shared enthusiastically. "He's not just defined a new aesthetic, but he's also reshaped how people perceive Indian fashion, both nationally and internationally. India was once seen as a manufacturing hub, but designers like Gaurav, Sabyasachi and Rahul Mishra have changed that perception. They've elevated Indian fashion to a design hub, where creativity meets craftsmanship."

When asked what sets Gaurav Gupta apart from his contemporaries, Deepika said, "He has a very strong point of view. There's always something original in his collections. He's carved out his own unique aesthetic and because of that, he has created his own market. His work speaks to those who are experimental, individualistic and unafraid to stand out." Adding a touch of glamour to the event was Krithi Shetty, the rising star of South Indian cinema. Draped in one of Gaurav's stunning ensembles, Krithi embodied the fresh, youthful energy of the collection. Her effortless grace and charm lit up the evening, making her the perfect muse for Gaurav Gupta's vision. "Krithi is cute and so pretty," Gaurav gushed, expressing his admiration. "She's a rising star, not just in the South but across the country. She's the ideal fit for the brand and her presence here adds a layer of excitement to the evening."

With the launch of Gaurav Gupta's Hyderabad atelier, the city has officially welcomed a new chapter in Indian fashion. This launch not only expands Gaurav Gupta's reach but also cements Hyderabad's status as a significant player in India's growing couture market. The evening also served as a reminder of Gaurav Gupta's philosophy: fashion is not merely about clothing but about telling a story—of individualism, creativity and the courage to break away from the conventional. "My inspiration has always been anyone who thinks for themselves, who is both individualistic and experimental," he said. As Hyderabad's fashion enthusiasts applauded his artistry, it was clear that the dawn of *Arunodaya* marked not just the rise of a new collection but the beginning of a fresh, exciting chapter in Indian couture. The atelier launch was a celebration of this evolution—an ode to tradition with an eye firmly set on the future.

Hyderabad glitters as Gaurav Gupta says, 'COUTURE O'CLOCK!'

WE EXPLORED REFLECTIVE EMBROIDERY THAT GLISTENS WHEN TOUCHED BY LIGHT. IT'S A SOPHISTICATED TAKE ON BLING, A NEW DIRECTION FOR THE BRAND THAT FEELS BOTH MODERN AND WVE EXPLORED REFLECTIVE EMBROIDERY THAT GLISTENS WHEN TOUCHED BY LIGHT.



Korolova's beats brighten Hyderabad's sunsets

The Ukrainian music producer and DJ Korolova, who was here in India for her latest *Electric Sunsets Tour*, speaks to *The Pioneer* exclusively, sharing her love for the audience here and performing for them

TEJAL SINHA
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When the highly skilled Ukrainian music producer and DJ Korolova revealed her *Electric Sunsets Tour* in India, fans were ecstatic for her vibe to hit Kolkata, Mumbai and Hyderabad. The Sunburn-curated tour, sponsored by Johnnie Walker Refreshing Mixer Non-Alcoholic, had concluded, turning the weekend into a 'Fantastic' one.

Similar to her musical style, the energy was electrifying throughout the entire weekend as fans of EDM were swept up in the Korolova craze! Her performances showcased her expertise in melodic house and techno, leaving audiences in awe. Every show was a meticulously planned adventure, presenting her well-known songs such as *WHISPERS* and *Shining* along with beloved fan favourite *Be Strong*. In Kolkata, Mumbai and Hyderabad, she skillfully mixed deep basslines, intricate melodies and atmospheric synths during the nights. Her performances captivated crowds with their wide range of dynamics and emotional profundity, establishing an engaging experience that deeply connected with supporters in each of the three cities.

The Pioneer got an opportunity to catch up with the star of the evening for an exclusive chat ahead of the Hyderabad show and to begin with great regards, the *Shining* artist shares, "I love this beautiful country, so I couldn't be more grateful and excited to be back here playing for the lovely people of India. These shows have been a big highlight of my year."

The tour was an unforgettable experience filled with epic vibes, top-tier tunes and jaw-dropping sunset views, showcasing music and style. This event represented another significant achievement in bringing the most popular international music artists to India, providing fans with an unforgettable live experience that they will remember for a long time. Elated by the energy of the melomaniac, the *Ready for More* fame shares, "The energy and passion from the fans have been incredible at every stop of the tour. It's been amazing to share these moments with them. The energy here has truly been electric and unforgettable."

Well, going ahead, she shares, "The audience in India is so passionate about the music and you can really tell they are so tuned into it! I always like to play my shows by reading the audience, so I prepare what I think they'll like, but also make sure to be present so I can feel what they want to hear next. I feel so loved in India that I can truly play a show based on trusting the audience, because I know the atmosphere will be incredible no matter what."

Music, she says, has been her life. "Of course, it has evolved a lot during the last decade I have been making music and there's lots of challenges that come with my chosen career, but at the end of the day, I love it," shares the *Heal My Mind* fame for whom making music and playing in shows is therapeutic and an incredible opportunity she's lucky to have.

This tour signified Korolova's eagerly awaited comeback to India after a remarkable show the year before. Her skill in connecting with the audience and adjusting her performance based on their energy made every show distinctive and memorable! The excited reaction from the fans highlighted Korolova's status as a top worldwide techno star.

With great fanaticism for India, the *Voyager* fame signs off by sharing, "Honestly, every time I come to India there's so much to explore. I am unfortunately not able to be around before and after shows to explore as I'm always travelling, but I always like to spend as much as possible just making sure I partake in any traditions or key things that locals do or would recommend seeing."



REVIVING KANI WEAVING

From an early age having witnessed his elders deftly move their hands across the loom, transforming soft (woollen) yarn into one-of-a-kind Kani shawls, each piece weaving the stories of tradition, patience and expertise, master weaver Fayaz Ahmad Wani, an artist at Kani Shawl Heritage grew up surrounded by the sound of looms. He in collaboration with Kashmir Looms has created some of the finest pieces of Kani shawls over the past 20 years. Being the third generation in his family working with Kani, he believes weaving to be not only a means of livelihood but a way of preserving his family's rich legacy, referring to Kani Weaving as "Our Virasat". Ahmad is going to be a part of the Karigar Pavilion, a special interactive section, dedicated to handmade crafts and innovation, where visitors can watch how artisans give form to objects at the AD Design Show 2024.



"Kani weaving as an art form is a centuries-old tradition, it plays a vital role in preserving Kashmir's cultural heritage. In the 1980s, the government was investing in the revival of Kani weaving in Kashmir. To support this, they helped set up a large karkhana in their house with 18 looms," says Ahmad. Its intricate designs and techniques serve as a testament to the region's artistic history. Only selected master craftsmen are capable of producing Kani shawls to the highest standard. Using a fine twill tapestry technique, they recreate nature-inspired designs that are reminiscent of impression-

ist paintings. The creation of a single Kani piece can take several years. The patterns and motifs often reflect the region's natural beauty, such as flowers and paisleys. This artistry not only highlights the aesthetic value of Kashmir but also reinforces the cultural identity and traditions of its people, making Kani shawls a source of local pride.

Fayaz Ahmad, unit head, artist and Kani weaver at Kani Shawl Heritage, began his training from the 1990s, learning the intricacies of the craft. Today, after 34 years, he has much to be proud of. He continued by stating, "I don't work for the awards and recognition; it is more important for me to give back to the craft. When I was young, there were only 7 or 8 people with me. Today, I have trained 42 karigars who are now master weavers themselves." Even after decades of weaving, the learning never stops. He is keen to explore new ideas, but remains most passionate towards reviving vintage Kani designs.

what's brewing?

● Sushila Bokadia

● Anika Khara

● Shilpa

● Shazia Bakal

Socialites from the city attended the grand inauguration of Tapasme Restaurant, which was a celebration with vivid flavours and a memorable atmosphere, hosted by Shazia Bakal Events. Visitors savoured a variety of tapas that expertly combined classic and contemporary cuisine.

● Deepthi

● Sakshi and Eesha

● Mittal

● Reksh

● Urimila

PARTY

Photos by- SV Chary

● Deepthi Alapati and priya Rajiv

● Regina Cassandra

● Gareth Wynn Owen

● Chaitanya

Democratic Sangha launched its "Young Leaders for Social Change" program at T-Hub, aimed at empowering students to become future leaders. The event was inaugurated by Gareth Wynn Owen, British Deputy High Commissioner, Lava Sri Krishna Devarayalu Member of Parliament, along with co-founder Regina Cassandra.

Academically global successfully concluded its second leg of MedConnect with Dr. Akram Ahmad at Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad (JNTUH). The event was attended by Dr. K Vijaya Kumar Reddy, Rector-JNTUH and Dr. M.Sunitha Reddy, Principal, JNTUH UCPS.

Novotel Hyderabad Airport, marked its 16th anniversary on Tuesday. This milestone represents the hotel's steadfast commitment to delivering outstanding service and creating memorable guest experiences, further solidifying its reputation as a leading hospitality destination.

Rasha achieved a significant milestone by being invited to an exclusive international event. The event, attended by high-profile personalities such as Zara Larsson, Harriet Herbig-Matten, Enzo and Liza Soberano, was a grand affair. Yet, it was Rasha's effortless elegance and style that truly captivated the audience.

Fresh from the success of her live Broadway style musical show *Umrao Jaan Ada* in nine US cities, actress and national award winning producer Neetu Chandra attended the prestigious runway at New York Fashion Week (NYFW) right at Times Square in New York, further solidifying her position as a global multifaceted talent.

FUN

ARCHIE

VERONICA, YOUR BOYFRIEND'S GETTING HIS GRUBBY CLOTHES ON OUR EXPENSIVE SOFA!

I'LL FIXIT PAPPY!

I GOT A THROW FOR THE SOFA! NEVER MIND! I HAD A BETTER IDEA!

A THROW FOR YOUR BOYFRIEND!

CALVIN AND HOBBS

HEY MOM, CAN WE GO OUT FOR HAMBURGERS TONIGHT?

NOT TONIGHT, DEAR.

AM, MOM? WHY NOT?

BECAUSE I'M ALREADY FIXING SOMETHING FOR DINNER.

YEAH I KNOW.

GARFIELD

IS THERE ANYTHING BETTER THAN FINE DINING...

AND FASCINATING CONVERSATION?

HUH? IS THERE?

HOW SHOULD I KNOW?

REALITY CHECK

FRUIT JUICES

SAWES AND WAINADES

SALAD PRESSING

CONDIMENTS

STUFF YOU WILL CRAM INTO THE BACK OF YOUR FRIDGE UNTIL IT EXPIRES

SPEED BUMP

NO, YOU TELL HIM IT'S WRONG.

GOD IS MY CO-PIRATE

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5
6		7		8
9	10		11	
12			13	14
16	17			18
				19

NANCY

JIGGLING IT A LITTLE HELPS!

LIKE THIS?

SUDOKU

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

Yesterday's solution

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

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.

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

ACROSS

- The lightest gas
- Bore a hole with this tool
- Robe
- A hole in your nose
- Tell a fib
- Cleaned with water
- Egg centres
- A type of spotted dog
- Cook in this room
- Very unkind
- Leaves out
- The first letter in the Greek alphabet
- A male relation
- A hired car
- A famous French emperor

DOWN

- A special holiday for a couple just married

SOLUTION

P	A	U	W
B	L	A	C
R	O	A	M
I	A	A	N
S	H	A	K
O	E	H	M
N	E	A	R
R	E	A	R
E	L	T	A
R	E	S	T
S	O	L	E



'I am confident about OG; it will give me good recognition'



Actor Venkat, known for his film *Annayya*, will next star in the Pawan Kalyan-starrer *OG* and an action film *Harudu*. He shares interesting insights about the film and also speaks of plans of producing a film

SURESH KAVIRAYANI

Back in 1998, director YVS Chowdary, in his debut film, introduced the talented actor, Venkat, with the film *Sri Sita Ramula Kalyanam Chootham Rarandi*. The film got the actor into the limelight with all the appreciation surrounding him as a debutant.

From then onwards, Venkat has appeared in several films like *Anandam*, *Annayya* and *Sivaramaraju*, to name a few. While in *Annayya*, he was seen playing the role of Chiranjeevi's younger brother; he will now be seen in the upcoming film *OG*, alongside Pawan Kalyan.

"I can't reveal much about my role in *OG*, but I am doing a prominent role. I do have scenes with Kalyan," said Venkat.

Though Venkat has done a few films in recent times, he couldn't utilise much through them personally. "I am confident about *OG*, which is a big project. It will give me good recognition. Before that, I signed a few films, which will begin to hit the screens soon," said Venkat.

Another upcoming film *Harudu*, in which he plays a prominent role, is an action film and to this he revealed, "I am playing a cop, an encounter specialist."

Talking about *Harudu*, he said the film is a complete commercial film with all ingredients. "There are action scenes and special songs with a nice story. I am confident that this film will definitely enthrall the audience," said Venkat. Natasha Singh, former Miss India pageant, is playing as the

female lead, while Hebah Patel is also seen in a prominent role. Saloni Aswani of *Maryada Ramanna* fame did a special song in the film.

Going ahead, he shared that the Telugu cinema is on top in India and is doing extremely well. "Compared to earlier times, now the market has widened. There's OTT, Hindi dubbing and many more to the business for a Telugu cinema. Action films are in big demand for Hindi dubbing and OTT," said Venkat.

Now, Venkat has his focus clear, which is on films only. "Apart from *Harudu*, which is releasing in November, there are a few films in the pipeline," he said, adding that he wants to explore himself as an actor. "Not only do I want to play the lead role, but I also want to develop as an actor. I have a negative role in one of my next films that is equal to the leads," said Venkat.

Venkat also shares a close bond with the Chiranjeevi family. "After *Annayya*, I've maintained constant communication with Chiranjeevi Garu. He is like family to me all the time. Kalyan shook his head and spoke well of me right away when the original director informed him that he had cast me in a role. They support me constantly and are like family to me," said Venkat, who also shares that the director had disclosed it to the actor after he was roped in for the role in *OG*.

When asked if he is interested in direction, Venkat says, "no," adding, "I am not into direction, but definitely I will start my own production. In the near future, I will produce films," signs off Venkat.



SIDDHARTH, ADITI'S ETERNAL LOVE BEGINS!

Actors Siddharth and Aditi Rao Hydari are now officially married. Siddharth and Aditi entered the wedlock in a simple ceremony held at the historic Sri Ranganayaka Swamy Temple in Srirangapur, in the Wanaparthy district of Telangana. Family members of both Siddharth and Aditi, along with other close friends, had attended this ceremony.

On Monday, Aditi Rao Hydari shared a few pictures of their marriage on her social media page and soon after, the pictures had gone viral. "You are my Sun, my Moon, and all my stars. To Eternal Love, Light and Magic. Mrs and Mr Adu-Siddhu. Big Thank you to our dearest

humans who were with us with their love and artistry, grateful and beyond (sic)," posted Aditi on her social media page.

Aditi had previously spoken about her relationship with Siddharth in many of her latest interviews. While working on the film *Maha Samudram* their love blossomed.

During her interviews, she mentioned that Siddharth proposed to her at a school established by her grandmother in Hyderabad. Upon learning about her grandmother's death, he asked her to take her to the school and proposed Aditi at the premises.

The couple made their engagement official in March.

Jani Master faces serious troubles!

The Raidurgam police in Cyberabad have filed charges against choreographer Shaik Jani Basha, also known as Jani Master, for allegedly sexually assaulting a 21-year-old female choreographer. The accusation claims that Jani Master attacked the victim on several occasions while filming outdoors in Chennai, Mumbai and Hyderabad, as well as at her home in Narsingi. The zero FIR filed at Raidurgam has now been transferred to the Narsingi police for additional investigation.

Jani Master is accused of violating section 376 (rape), section 506 (criminal intimidation) and section 323 (voluntarily causing hurt) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Shikha Goel, head of the Women Safety Wing in Telangana, recommended that the film industry should initiate an internal investigation under the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (PoSH) Act and file a case with the police.

Meanwhile, Tollywood choreographer Sheikh Jani Master, who joined Jana Sena Party in January, has been suspended from the party with immediate effect.



AISHWARYA RAI BACHCHAN BAGS BEST ACTRESS AWARD FOR PS-2

SHIMA ended on Sunday, featuring awards for Malayalam and Tamil films. Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and her daughter Aaradhya stole the show on the second day. Aishwarya received the Critics' Award for Best Actress in a leading role for her role in the movie *Ponniyin Selvan 2*. This film is directed by Mani Ratnam. Aishwarya was present at the event to accept the award and her daughter Aaradhya recorded a video with her mobile phone while she received it, which was another noteworthy moment of the occasion.

Chiyaan Vikram achieved the Best Actor Award for his role in the movie *Ponniyin Selvan 2*. Siva Karthikeyan received the Critics' Choice Award for Best Actor in a Leading Role for his role in the movie *Maaveeran*. Nayanthara was awarded the Best Actress in a Leading Role for her role in *Annappoorani*. Both Nayanthara and her husband Vignesh Shivan are the focus of attention after both were honoured with awards. In the Malayalam category, actor Tovino Thomas and actress Anaswara Rajan won the Best Actor and Best Actress Award for the movies *2018* and *Neru* respectively.

Joju George received the Critics' Award for Best Actor in a Leading Role for his role in the movie *Iratta*. A large number of actors from Tamil and Malayalam film industries were present at the awards ceremony.



Prince and Naresh Agastya's KALILOCKS RELEASE DATE

Actor Prince was spotted in a different character in the movie *Tillu Square*. The movie was a big hit and now the actor is teaming up with another upcoming actor, Naresh Agastya, for the movie *Kali*. Siva Sashu writes and directs this film. Leela Gowtham Varma serves as the producer. The movie is being presented

ed by well-known storyteller K Raghavendra Reddy.

As per the makers, the tale is a psychological thriller and it guarantees a distinctive experience. They indicated that Kali is the central character of the story. Neha Krishnan, Gautham Raju, Mani Chandana and other actors are also part of the cast

in the movie.

They brought in Jeevan Babu to work as the music director for this film. Renowned lyricist Ramajogaiah Shastri wrote the songs for the movie and the filmmakers assured that the audience will have a unique experience while watching it.



Advay's debut film looks impressive

Sai Kumar's brother, P Ravi Shankar, is well-known in Kannada for his work in various roles, including actor, director, writer and dubbing artiste. A couple of years ago, he revealed his plans to debut his son Advay as the main actor in the movie *Surahmanyaa*. Ravi Shankar's sole focus is on looking after his son, which is why he is helping his first movie.

A couple of days ago, the pre-look of *Surahmanyaa* was released and received praise from all. The movie is a socio-fantasy adventure directed by Thirumal Reddy and Anil Kadiyala. The team revealed a sneak peek in Dubai at a prestigious award ceremony in front of the entire Indian film industry, showcasing the grandeur and special effects. The quick look has been met with overwhelmingly positive feedback from individuals in all areas of the movie business.

In the glimpse, director Ravishankar has kept the ultimate highlight. The last scene of the teaser will be out shortly. Advay underwent training overseas and appears effortlessly natural on camera. His behaviour, facial expression and approach bring charisma and liveliness to the scene. Vignesh Raj handles the cinematography, while Ravi Basrur takes care of the background score. Ravi Shankar is sparing no expenses on his son's debut film, as he has enlisted the

help of some top technicians. The movie is being filmed in a large format to provide an exciting thriller experience for viewers to see on

Premium Large Format and IMAX theaters. The film is set to be released in Telugu, Kannada, Tamil, Malayalam and Hindi languages.



SKIPPER HARMANPREET TWIN STRIKE IN 4-1 VICTORY OVER KOREA

PTI ■ HULUNBUIR (CHINA)

Skipper Harmanpreet Singh's sublime form resulted in twin strikes as defending champions India entered the final of the Hero Asian Champions Trophy with a clinical 4-1 win against South Korea in the semi-final here on Monday.

India scored through Uttam Singh (13th minute), skipper Harmanpreet Singh (19th, 45th) and Jarmanpreet Singh (32nd), while Korea's lone goal came from through Yang Jihun (33rd's) penalty corner conversion.

India will take on hosts China in Tuesday's final. Earlier in the day, China defeated Pakistan 2-0 via shoot-out in the first semifinal after the two teams finished 1-1 at the end of regulation 60 minutes.

In the previous league stage encounter between the two finalists, India prevailed 3-0. Pakistan and Korea will face off in the third place classification match which will also be played on Tuesday.

Meanwhile in the fifth-sixth place classification match, Japan beat Malaysia 4-2 in shoot-out following a 4-4 stalemate in normal time.

In the second semifinal as expected, the Indians started on the



INDIA IN ACT FINAL

offensive and tested the Korean defence with persistent attacks from the word go.

The Koreans, on the other hand, were content to sit back and defend and rely on sporadic counter attacks.

Abhishek came tantalisingly close to handing India the lead in the fourth minute but his reverse hit was brilliantly saved by Korean goalkeeper Kim Jaehan.

The Indian made promising build ups and penetrated the Korean circle on consistent basis in the first quarter.

India's attacking intent finally paid off in the 13th minute when Uttam positioned himself at the right place at the right time to tap in Arajjeet Singh Hundal's supply from the right.

A minute from the first break, Korea secured back-to-back penalty corners but failed to utilise the chances.

Four minutes into the second quarter, India secured their first penalty corner and Harmanpreet scored his sixth goal of the tournament to hand his side a 2-0 lead.

At the stroke of half-time, custodian Suraj Karkera came out of his line to save an effort from the opposition player.

India continued in the same vein after the change of ends and extended their lead two minutes into the third quarter.

A brilliant scoop from Sumit from the right finds Jarmanpreet just outside the circle on the left flank and the latter neatly collected the ball and took a step or two to get inside the circle and slap the ball into the Korean goal to extend India's lead.

But Korea pulled one back a minute later from a penalty corner through the tournament's top-scorer Yang Jihun.

The goal hardly bothered the Indians as they continued their attacking game and dominated the share of exchanges.

With a second left for the third quarter, India secured another penalty corner when Korean goalkeeper Jaehan was shown the yellow card for handling the ball out side the circle, and Harmanpreet made no mistake to extend the lead.

Eight minutes from the final hooter, India's second goalkeeper Karkera made a fine double save to deny Park Cheoleon, but the Koreans secured a penalty corner which went in vain.

Thereafter, it was controlled show from the Indians as they defended



Sharma finishes T-42nd as Hojgaard pips McIlroy to Irish title

PTI ■ DUBLIN

Indian golfer Shubhankar Sharma had a choppy back nine leading to a round of 1-over 72 as he finished a disappointing T-42nd at the Amgen Irish Open at Royal County Down.

Sharma, who was in the top-15 after the first two days, ended with a total of 4-over 288.

He parred through the front nine and two more holes before finding his first birdie on the 12th.

He bogeyed 13th and the 15th but birdied 16th only to drop a shot on 17th and close with a par.

Meanwhile, Rasmus Hojgaard holed out twice and produced a stunning finish with four birdies in last five holes as he beat local favourite Rory McIlroy.

McIlroy looked on course to claim his first professional win on home soil when he led by two shots with four holes to play at a venue just an hour from where he grew up.

However, Hojgaard's superb closing 65 saw him claim his fifth DP World Tour title and move to second in the Race to Dubai Rankings and to the top of the European Ryder Cup standings.

McIlroy had taken a one-shot lead into the final round and made the ideal start with birdies on the first and second. With playing partner Matteo

Manassero then dropping shots on the third and fourth, McIlroy briefly enjoyed a four-shot lead before making a bogey on the seventh after failing to get up and down from left of the green.

He then missed from inside ten feet for birdie on both the eighth and the ninth as Hojgaard kickstarted his challenge with an outrageous chip-in for birdie on the tenth. A birdie on the 11th edged McIlroy two in front again, but that advantage was wiped out as Hojgaard birdied the 16th and McIlroy bogeyed the 15th.

Hojgaard then dramatically holed out from a greenside bunker on the 17th and, although McIlroy drew level with a birdie on the 16th, he charged his birdie putt on the 17th past the hole and missed the return.

Hojgaard's third birdie in a row on the 18th meant McIlroy needed to make an eagle on the same hole to force a play-off and a towering approach from 191 yards gave him a chance from 15 feet, only for the eagle putt to slide just wide.

"I was nervous. I was shaking out there the last few holes. I obviously knew that Rory was going to be there because he's got the whole support on his back there. It was nerve-racking going down the last few holes knowing that he was right behind me," Hojgaard said.

Rohit, team sweat it out in third training session in Chennai

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Rohit Sharma and Co had another extensive training session in the build up to the first Test against Bangladesh with all 16 squad members turning for practice at the Chepauk here on Monday.

After a day off, the India squad members took part in their third training session since their arrival here last week. The first Test begins on Thursday.

As it is often the case, Virat Kohli was among the first set of batters to hit the nets. In the adjacent net was southpaw Yashasvi Jaiswal as both him and Kohli faced Jasprit Bumrah and home hero R Ashwin.

The next set of batters included skipper Rohit, Shubman Gill and Sarfaraz Khan, the last named player arriving here after taking part in the second round Duleep Trophy match in Anantapur. The captain focussed on playing spinners keeping Bangladesh's slow bowling attack in mind.

Ravindra Jadeja, Rishabh Pant and pacer Mohammed Siraj too



added. India's campaign begins on October 4 against New Zealand followed by the clash against arch-rivals Pakistan on October 6.

India, who lost to Sri Lanka in the women's Asia Cup final earlier this year, will take on the team from the island nation on October 9 and each of their first three group stage matches will be played in Dubai.

India's final group match against Australia will be played at Sharjah on October 13.

Kaur said the team's combination of players from different states in the country gives an opportunity to learn further.

"All the players in our team come from different states. It feels good when you see so many different characters in the team. People from various states share the dressing room, and you get to learn about their cultures.

"I think you can only experience that in sports, not in any other career,"

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Indian players have been working on their mental strength for a "long time" which should help the team in overcoming hurdles, says skipper Harmanpreet Kaur ahead of the upcoming women's T20 World Cup next month.

India, who finished as runner-up in the 2020 edition of the tournament, are placed in Group A along with six-time winners and defending champions Australia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and New Zealand.

Kaur said on Monday that the Indian players have been working on the mental aspect to bring out their best in crucial moments.

"We have been working on mental strength for a long time. The last 3-4 overs are the most crucial. At 20 cricket is not a small format; at the end of the day, you are playing 40 overs," Kaur told Star Sports.

"In the last 4-5 overs, the team that is mentally strong wins the match. We

Indian players working on mental strength ahead of T20 World Cup: Harmanpreet

have been focusing on this for a while. If we can remain mentally stable in those final five overs, we can execute what's best for us."

India's performances in summit clashes have featured in discussions given the team lost in the 2020 final by 85 runs to Australia, while England had pipped them by a mere nine runs in the 2017 ODI World Cup final.

Even in the Commonwealth Games 2022, Australia eked out a nine-run win to clinch the gold medal despite a spirited show with the bat from India in the final, with Kaur's team settling for the silver.

"We are working on those aspects, and hopefully, we will overcome this hurdle in the tournament," she



Sakshi Malik, Aman Sehrawat and Geeta Phogat announce Wrestling Champions Super League

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Olympic medallists Sakshi Malik and Aman Sehrawat, along with former world championship bronze-winner Geeta Phogat, on Monday announced that they would soon launch a Wrestling Champions Super League (WCSL) for the country's budding grapplers but the national federation has refused to sanction the initiative.

Sakshi, along with Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat, had spearheaded the wrestlers' protest against ousted Wrestling Federation of India President Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who was accused of sexual harassment. She has, however, distanced herself from the latter two after they took the political plunge by joining Congress ahead of next month's Haryana assembly elections.

She won the 58kg bronze in 2016 Rio Olympics, and announced the project with Phogat, a 55kg bronze winner in 2012 World Championships through their

social media handles. The two, while announcing that they had Paris Games bronze-winner Aman on board, did not provide any details.

Phogat told PTI that she is hopeful of support from the federation and the government.

"Sakshi and I have been planning this League for long. Soon it will take a final shape. We have not yet spoken to the WFI but it would be great if WFI and government support us. It will be the first league that will be operated only by the players," Phogat said.

"We are doing it for the players, for their benefit. That is the idea and vision, so no one should have any problem with it. It's a proud moment for us. We won't stop anyone from getting involved in it, if WFI or government comes on board, even better. We have not yet spoken to them.

"There will be international wrestlers, and coaches involved, so it should help our junior wrestlers. They will get good exposure."

The WFI said it would not give its sanction to the league.



"We won't approve it. We are reviving our pro wrestling league and hopefully we will have it soon. The wrestlers are free to do their own league, they can promote the game, but we won't be linked with that," WFI President Sanjay Singh said.

Asked if there will be prize money involved, and about the format and venue for the

event, Phogat said, "You will have to wait a bit to know all this. We will share the details very soon."

Sakshi, who retired from wrestling after Sharan Singh's close aide Sanjay Singh became WFI head, said she hopes to give back to the sport through this initiative.

"The only way to repay your trust is to dedicate our sporting talent, experience, grit & success to the service of the sport. The 2 of us have therefore come together to create the Wrestling Champions Super League (WCSL)," she posted on X.

"The WCSL, a world class international league, will skill & strengthen our wrestlers to dominate the sport globally by taking on the world's best in a hyper competitive, expertly supervised environment with best-in-class support systems in place."

She also said that Sehrawat, who won bronze in 57kg in Paris Olympics, also "shares our vision and is joining us on this journey."

"This league is a very

commendable initiative which will help Indian wrestling greatly and therefore I want to be a part of it and support it fully," Aman was quoted as saying by Sakshi.

Daughter of noted wrestling coach Mahavir, Geeta is a cousin of Vinesh, who will be contesting from Julana constituency during the Haryana elections.

Sakshi said the aim of the league is to build a culture of sustained high performance in the sport in the country.

"While WCSL is focused on wrestling, it is inspired also by our overwhelming urge to build a culture of sustained high performance in Indian sport & motivate every Indian to experience the joy of playing.

"Although founded by the 2 of us, the WCSL is a national mission committed to respecting & working in close partnership with all stakeholders. Winning, after all, is a team sport. Our hearts beat only for India, for Indian wrestling & for Indian sport. Come, let's build the sporting India of our dreams