www.dailypioneer.com Published From: HYDERABAD DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL RAIPUR CHANDIGARH BHUBANESWAR RANCHI DEHRADUN VIJAYAWADA



MEMENTO' FROM HER PARIS TRAVEL



Nearly 3,000 women record harassment statements



The BJP and the BRS are ignoring Backward Classes. The BJP should explain why it removed Bandi Sanjay Kumar from the Telangana BJP president's post when he was working actively. Why did the BJP give only a **Union Minister of State** post instead of a Union 🛭 Cabinet Minister post to a Bandi Sanjay Kumar, a BC

QUOTE OF THE DAY

the pioneer

- TPCC chief B. Mahesh Kumar Goud

#### State collaborating with Centre of...

Emphasizing that Telangana

produces 74 lakh metric tonnes of food and vegetables annually, with 20 to 30% being perishable due to inadequate cold chain solutions, IT Minister D Sridhar Babu said the government is collaborating with the Centre of Excellence and the University of Birmingham to find sustainable solutions. He participated in the Cold Chain Unbroken 2024, a thought leadership event at the Airport Novotel on Thursday evening. Addressing the conference, he expressed fascination with the

#### Jaishankar holds phone...

future of cold chain...

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday held a phone conversation with newlyappointed Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha with a focus on boosting bilateral ties and finding a solution to the conflict in Ukraine. The conversation came nearly a month after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's highprofile trip to Kyiv. "I spoke with Subrahmanyam Jaishankar to build on Narendra Modi's historic visit to Kyiv and talks with Zelenskyy," Sybiha said. "We agreed to take ... -PAGE: 5

#### 'India major contributor to...

India remains a major partner for Maldives and also a major contributor to the development. especially in the education sector. Maldives Education Labour & Skills Minister Ahmed Shafeeu has and skilling resources exhibition and conference DIDAC INDIA, on Wednesday. "India has been a leader in many ways, not only in the region but also globally. When we consider India's economic and technological development, as well as its contributions to education and skill development...

#### Ashwin, Jadeja tango saves India...

Seasoned off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin sparkled on home turf with his sixth Test hundred as he combined with Ravindra Jadeja to steer India out of trouble and post a formidable 339 for six on day one of the first Test against Bangladesh here on Thursday. Ashwin (102 batting) and Jadeja (86 batting) added 195 runs (174 minutes, 225 balls) for a riveting unbroken seventh wicket stand after young pacer Hasan Mahmud (4/58) reduced India to 144 for six, despite Yashasvi Jaiswal making a solid..

## Tirupati laddu sparks political row

TDP releases lab test reports indicating presence of animal fats in ghee used for the laddu

CM Naidu alleged that TTD laddu was made using ghee adulterated with beef tallow, lard (pig fat), and fish oil.

The KMF clarified that the TTD had not purchased ghee from it in the past four years. It said it has

been supplying ghee to TTD for laddus only since TDP came to power.

former TTD Chairman YV Subba Reddy, have denied the allegations, accusing Naidu of political manoeuvring.

YSRCP leaders, including

The YSRCP argues that the sample testing occurred after the TDP came to power, while

TDP sources claim the ghee stock was from the previous administration.

PNS VIJAYAWADA

A political storm has erupted in the State following allegations by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu that the famed Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) laddu, a revered offering at the Lord Venkateswara Temple, was

adulterated with animal fats. Naidu and the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) on Wednesday

released lab reports from a Gujarat-based livestock laboratory, asserting that the ghee used in the preparation of the laddu contained 'beef tallow',

# Skilling TG to new heights

GOVT ANNOUNCES RS 100 CRORE, 150 ACRES FOR YOUNG INDIA SKILL UNIVERSITY

CM REVANTH ASKS INDUSTRIALISTS TO PLAY PIVOTAL ROLE

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana government will allocate Rs 100 crore and 150 acres of land for the Telangana Young India Skill University, which is set to become a national model for skill development, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said.

Addressing the university's board members and industrialists during a meeting at the Secretariat, the CM emphasised the importance of this initiative in bridging the skill gap of youth and aligning education with industry needs.

play a pivotal role in the university's growth by contributing to a corpus fund and by helping to construct university buildings. The buildings would be named after the companies or donors to indicate their involvement, the CM said.

The Chief Minister stressed that the university's management and development would be in the hands of its board, particularly Anand Mahindra, who was named as the board's chairman.

Revanth expressed confidence that Mahindra's experience and



versity to new heights. As part of the government's commitment to youth empowerment, he announced that the next focus would be on establishing the Young India Sports University, aimed at preparing athletes for the 2028 Olympics.

This sports university will be established on 200 acres, with plans to train athletes to win gold medals for India.

Revanth assured those present that the Telangana government does not face any financial constraints and is prepared to invest in these initia-

tives. "The government is propel the university to new heights. As part of the government's commitment to youth empowerment, he announced that the next focus would be on establishing the Young ready to spend even

crore from our Rs 3 lakh establishing the Young India Sports University. crore budget to support these ventures as this is an investment in our

Rs 1,000

youth," the CM said. He also urged industrialists to participate not just financially but also the difficulties faced by unemployed by playing a significant role in shap-youth.

ing the university's future. The meeting was attended by sev-

eral prominent individuals like Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, Minister Sridhar Babu, University Board Chairman Anand Mahindra, Co-Chairman Srini Raju and board members like P. Devayya, Suchitra Ella and Satish Reddy. Andhra Pradesh CM's daughter-inlaw Nara Brahmani was also present. Senior officials like Chief

Secretary Shanti Kumari, Special Principal Secretary Jayesh Ranjan and the Principal CM's Secretary Sheshadri

were also present. Board members Manish Sabharwal, Sanjeev Bikhchandani, MM Murugappan and Dr KP Krishnan

attended the meeting

via video conference. During his speech, Revanth shared his plans for the Skill University stating that it was born out of his observations of

# Help propel TG initiatives

#### Agriculture Minister Tummala engages Union Ministers

PNS HYDERABAD

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao met several Union Ministers in New Delhi on Thursday.

He first met Union Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammohan Naidu in his office and requested the crop. airport Bhadradri-Kothagudem district.

He also urged the Union Minister to speed up the process of setting up airports in Warangal, Adilabad, Mahbubnagar and Kothagudem. Later, he had a meeting with

Union Agriculture Minister

BRS panel to probe

deaths of infants.

mothers

The BRS would appoint a fact-find-

ing committee on behalf of the

party to investigate the maternal

and infant deaths at Gandhi

Hospital, BRS Working President

This committee, comprising

experts, will conduct a detailed study of the situation and share its findings

with both the government and the

public. KTR urged the government

to cooperate with this initiative and

to accept the advice and suggestions

provided by the opposition to improve public health services.

PNS HYDERABAD

KT Rama Rao said.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan. During the meeting, Tummala requested the establishment of a new Coconut Board office in Telangana. He also expressed gratitude for imposing a 28% import duty on oil palm, which would promote domestic cultivation of

in only by imposing import duties on oil palm can farmers benefit from oil palm cultivation. He also said that reducing imports and promoting domestic production could save foreign exchange.

PNS HYDERABAD

The Congress is sincere about con-

ducting a caste census, BC Welfare

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said.

The Congress will conduct a caste

census even if the opposition creates

ruckus about caste census, he added.

ducted as per reservation norms so

that BCs will get their due share. The

Congress wants a large number of

BCs to get elected in local body elec-

meeting for the new TPCC chief, B.

Mahesh Kumar Goud, organised by that Mahesh Kumar Goud should

He said that in the coming days elections to local bodies will be con-



Cong sincere about caste census

BCs will get their due, assures Minister Ponnam

#### Applications for new ration cards from Oct 2

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy ordered officials to prepare an action plan for issuing new ration cards. The authorities have been asked to accept applications for new ration cards from October 2. The Chief Minister held a review of the procedures that have to be Ministers N. Uttam Kumar Reddy Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and Damodara Rajanarasimha made some suggestions and gave instructions to officials regarding ration cards. The CM and ministers discussed the issuing of digital ration cards to the needy and decided.

#### It was a flow of graft Ponguleti alleges massive corruption in Mission Bhagiratha



BRS Govt failed to supply clean water to 53 per cent of houses: Ponguleti

PNS HYDERABAD

There was massive corruption in the BRS government's flagship programme Mission Bhagiratha, Revenue, Housing, I&PR Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said.

He said that corruption in the Rs 46,000 crore Mission Bhagiratha scheme amounted to Rs 15,000 crore to 20,000 crore. The Minister said the Congress government found that 53 per cent of houses were not getting Mission Bhagiratha water during a survey.

Ponguleti was speaking after the

inauguration of the Government Medical College at Narsampet in Warangal district along with Health Minister Damodara Rajanarsimha and Endowment Minister Konda Surekha on Thursday.

He said the Mission Bhagiratha Scheme was not executed for the people but to fill the pockets of BRS eaders. The Minister made it clear that the Congress government will supply drinking water to all villages after revealing the facts regarding the Mission Bhagiratha scheme.

'The leaders of the BRS government, who looted thousands of crores in the name of irrigation projects and Mission Bhagiratha, are now creating havoc to cover it up.

Floods due to unbridled release of water to save Jharkhand: Mamata



## DISCOMs propose hike to partly bridge Rs 14,222 cr revenue gap

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana Distribution Companies (DISCOMs) have submitted their Annual Revenue Requirement (ARR) for fiscal 2024-25, estimating a revenue gap of Rs 14,222 crore with the existing tariff.

DISCOMs have proposed a tar-iff hike that could generate an additional Rs 1,200 crore to reduce the deficit while the remaining Rs 13,022 crore is expected to be made up by the state government through

In their ARR proposal, DISCOMs have projected energy sales of 75,895 million units (MUs) and a power purchase quantum of 85,284 MUs. The total cost of power purchase is estimated to be Rs 42,702

crore, with additional transmission costs (inter and intra-state) amounting to Rs 5,271 crore. The cost for the State Load Dispatch Centre (SLDC) is pegged at Rs 84 crore, while distribution costs stand at Rs 9,377 crore. Interest on consumer security deposits will account for Rs 423 crore.

The total ARR for the financial year 2025 is calculated at Rs 57,857 crore, against which the estimated revenue stands at Rs 44,835 crore, leaving a revenue gap. A tariff hike of Rs 1,200 crore has been put forward to cover this gap partly.

and fixed charges

Consumers in the High Tension (HT) category are expected to see a substantial hike in both energy



Participating in a felicitation BC organisations at the Ravindra do justice to the SCs, STs and BCs

Bharati on Thursday, Ponnam said in the Congress.

tions, he said.

Helicopter trips, once reserved for Chief Ministers during natural disasters or official visits, have now become routine for political leaders in Telangana and AP.

Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka, Ministers Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, Uttam Kumar Reddy and Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy have been frequently using helicopters.

Recent discussions have sparked debates over whether such travel is necessary, especially for short trips to nearby districts like Nalgonda. Questions are being raised about the need for helicopters when a twohour car ride would suffice.

Analysts say that Telangana faces

then government helicopters are used for official tours, even short ones. Some wonder whether ministers, disappointed at being unable to bag the Chief Minister's chair, are compensating by engaging in helicopter trips.

The practice is drawing criticism for being an avoidable financial burden on the state. There was no chopper available to rescue flood victims but ministers keep flying every other day, pointed out the

On Friday, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy are scheduled to visit Nalgonda by helicopter. In the past,

major financial challenges and even even Chief Ministers used to go by regular flights for New Delhi visits. However, after the state was divided, the scenario changed, with political figures considering special flights a right.

This trend was started by KCR in Telangana and Chandrababu in Andhra Pradesh, and later, Jagan Mohan Reddy took it to another level in Andhra Pradesh.

In Telangana, during BRS rule, not only did KCR frequently use helicopters, but ministers like KTR and Harish Rao also followed suit. IAS officers like Smita Sabharwal were also provided helicopters for official trips, setting a new precedent.

## contractors for demolitions implosion techniques and demo-

HYDRAA invites bids from

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) has invited sealed bids from contractors on Thursday for demolishing buildings and for the removal of debris for a year.

Eligible bidders must possess specialized equipment, including a hi-reach hydraulic boom capable of reaching 20 meters, jaw crushers, shear cutters and rock breakers, the notice said.

Contractors should also have carried out at least one demolition project worth over Rs 1 crore in

those who have experience in

litions of structures having structures nearby.

Bidders must provide statutory registrations and financial documents and must have an annual turnover of at least Rs 2 crore. Accreditation is mandatory along with the presence of a certified safety engineer with a minimum of five years' experi-

Proposals should be submitted in sealed envelopes to the Commissioner, HYDRAA, by the specified deadline, with clearly marked reference numbers. Bidders must also include their charges, factoring in costs Preference will be given to for materials and labour, the notice said.

#### BRS sniffs gains in Revanth's camaraderie with TDP's allies

naveena.ghanate@gmail.com

■ HYDERABAD Chief Minister Revanth

Reddy's growing camaraderie with the TDP's allies, like the BJP and Jana Sena, is reportedly playing into the hands of

The lines have been drawn and the enemy has been picked by the BRS. KTR also referred to CM Revanth Reddy as 'Chitti Naidu.' Although, it was not a famous term in Telangana, thanks to Tollywood it has been made popular. People can easily recall Chandrababu Naidu when this is referred to and it is not derogatory, sources said.

Sources close to political developments indicate that this unexpected alignment could indirectly benefit the BRS, as it stirs old regional sentiments and disrupts internal dynamics.

Revanth recently attended a meeting at Basavatarakam actor-politician Balakrishna, where he openly praised TDP chief praised . Chandrababu Naidu. His comments, which many in Congress circles saw as overly enthusiastic, have raised eyebrows.

meeting was the icing on the cake for BRS. Revanth has been actively engaging with leaders from TDP and their allies like Jana Sena and BJP. In fact, he was supposed to attend Nandamuri Balakrishna's event, but it was a last-minute cancellation due

to Khammam floods.

His speech at the Kamma

### Give party president's post to BCs, Aadi tells BRS

PNS HYDERABAD

Government Whip Aadi Srinivas demanded that the BRS should give the post of party president to BCs.

Making it clear that the Congress government is committed to conducting a caste census, Aadi Srinivas said on Thursday, "KTR does not need to teach us morals on the BC caste census."

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has said on many occasions that reservations should be based on population and that the BC Caste Bill has already been introduced in the Assembly, he said.

Srinivas said that a GO has

already been issued for the BC caste census and that the caste census will be conducted soon. He said his government is committed to 42 per cent reservation.

"BRS leaders are acting with a cunning mind saying that they have done it. Why didn't you come up with the idea of conducting a caste census in the last 10 years? There are no BCs in the posts of BRS President, Working President, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly. Like you, Revanth did not come up as the son of his father or as a nephew of his uncle. The post of PCC chief was given to

# Why was Bandi shunted out?

TPCC chief calls out BJP for removing him from state prez post

#### Slams BRS for reducing BCs reservation

PNS HYDERABAD

Declaring that the BJP and BRS are 'ignoring' BCs, TPCC president B. Mahesh Kumar Goud asked the BJP to reveal why it removed Bandi Sanjay Kumar from the post of Telangana BJP President when he was working actively. Why did the BJP give only a Union Minister of State post instead of a Union Cabinet Minister post to Sanjay, he asked. Addressing a felicitation

Ravindra Bharati on Thursday, Mahesh asked BRS Working President KT Rama Rao to explain why the BRS reduced reservations for BCs from 42 per cent to 23 per cent in local body elections.

"Does the BRS have the guts to make a BC its president," he asked. Mahesh said the BRS entered into a secret pact with power with the support of chief Mallikarjuna Kharge,"

meeting for him held at the BCs, he said. "We have to keep castes aside because it will destroy the unity of BCs. There is a need for the unity of BCs. It is our fortune that we have a great leader like Rahul Gandhi. I will provide 60 per cent of the posts to SCs, STs and BCs in TPCC committees. The Congress will do justice to all sections while appointing the corporation chairman and the BJP before elections. conducting local body elections However, the Congress came to under the leadership of AICC

Mahesh said. The TPCC Chief said that BJP leaders are seeking votes in the name of gods and misleading the people.

"It is not good to fall into the quicksand of caste and religion. The people of Telangana have good relations with the people of AP although Andhra and Telangana got separated. However, the BJP and the BRS are trying to 'create hatred' and it is time to teach a lesson to the BRS and the BJP," Mahesh

## BJP leaders engaging in tactics to divert public opinion: Chamala Kiran

PNS HYDERABAD

Alleging that BJP leaders are engaged in diversionary politics like joint elections to divert public attention, the Congress MP from Bhongir, Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, said that it is easy to say 'one country...one election,' which sounds good but requires a lot of amendments.

Demonetisation was also carried out similarly without anyone knowing how much profit was made and how many lakhs of crores of black money was generated, Chamala Kiran ridiculed the BJP-led Central government.

Speaking to the media at the Gandhi Bhavan on Thursday, Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy said the BJP should avoid

diversionary tactics.
"We oppose the NDA gov-



ernment's decision on joint elections. Joint elections are good...but all possibilities should be considered...It is impossible to hold joint elections without the approval of states. Because the arrangements, equipment and personnel required for the conduct of elections should also be adequate. When the Centre has the

power to conduct joint elec-tions... Why was the parliamentary election not held at the same time? There are 194 countries in the world. Joint elections are held only in 10 countries," the MP said.

Chamala Kiran said that Article 83, which determines the tenure of the Lok Sabha, and Article 172, which deter-

God will not forgive this massive betrayal of Hindus: Sanjay

Assemblies have to be amend-

He said before holding a Cabinet meeting and discussing 'one country, one election', the people should be informed. There are no facts in Ram Nath Kovind's report and no clarity about who in the country the committee talked to and where the meeting was held, he said.

"If joint elections are to be held, 18 amendments will have to be made. The Centre is not in a position to conduct elections, which are going to be held in four states. BJP leaders are misleading the people," he slammed

The MP said that 362 Lok Sabha MPs, 164 Rajya Sabha MPs and 14 states have to endorse the new move, he

take strong action against the persons respon-

Animal fats are being used in laddus. This is a

betrayal of the Hindus who pray to Tirumala

Venkateswara Swamy. We had raised the con-

cern that allowing individuals from other

communities and atheists as employees and

inducting them into the TTD Board would lead

"God will not forgive this betrayal of Hindus.

#### Harish asks Kharge to take disciplinary action against Revanth

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

In a strongly worded letter addressed to AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge, BRS MLA Harish Rao has called for disciplinary action against Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.

The letter outlines Harish's concerns over the Congress's tolerance of what he described as Revanth Reddy's "abusive and criminal language" against former TG Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR) and his family.

Harish said the irony is that the Congress is condemning the derogatory remarks made by BJP leaders against Rahul Gandhi, while allowing Revanth to continuously use "defamatory and offensive" language against

In the letter, Harish specifically referenced Revanth's inflammatory statement calling for KCR to be "pelted with stones and hanged," as well as his recent remarks during the Rajiv Gandhi birth anniversary celebrations, which Harish described as "vulgar

and unbecoming of a democratic leader."

Harish said that under Revanth Reddy's leadership, Telangana has devolved into "dictatorial rule" where the police and the state admin machinery are used to sup-

press the opposition.

He emphasised that while the Congress demands decen-cy in political discourse, particularly regarding Rahul Gandhi, it fails to hold its leaders accountable for their actions, suggesting a "dubious nexus" which shields Revanth Reddy from scrutiny.

Harish's letter also drew a parallel with the Mahabharata, likening the Congress's tolerance of Revanth Reddy's behaviour to King Dhritarashtra's willful ignorance of Duryodhana's transgressions.

He urged the Congress leadership to prove its commitment to democratic values by taking action against Revanth Reddy to prevent further erosion of political decency and constitutional

## Separate elections burdensome

#### Polls to LS, Assemblies cost around Rs 4,500 crores: Kishan

PNS HYDERABAD

The expenditure required for holding separate elections to Parliament and State Assemblies is around Rs 4,500 crore, Union Minister of Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy

He said that a heavy financial burden is falling on the Centre due to separate elections and the public is facing traffic jams and sound pollution due to election rallies and meetings. In a statement issued on Thursday, Kishan said that discussions are going on across the nation on the Union Cabinet's decision on a

KTR condemns Danam's offensive

single election. He said that he is confident that parties opposing joint elections would extend their cooperation soon.

"The Centre will appoint a committee to decide on joint elections to LS and Assemblies. Now the election code would be in force due to elections somewhere across the nation at any given time due to the present pattern of elections and this is an obstacle for governments in making policy decisions. Sometimes governments are not in a position to take even simple decisions due to the election code," he said.

## BRS condemns arrests of farmers across state

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLA Harish Rao strongly criticised the Congress government, stating that it has been shaken by the united call by farmers to march to Praja Bhavan, demanding implementation of the loan waiver

The farmers' frustration over the government's inaction on this issue has led to mass arrests across the state, with police detaining farmers and leaders of farmer unions at different police stations. Harish termed the arrests of

the farmers as a disgraceful act and strongly condemned the government on behalf of the

"We demand the immediate and unconditional release of all farmers," he stated. Taking a jab at Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, he asked, "Is this the government without restrictions, the open government you boast about, Revanth?"

He criticized the barricading and restrictions around Praja Bhavan, and asked why the

government was so fearful of farmers gathering to demand their rightful dues.

'Why is there so much fear in the Chief Minister when farmers approach the Praja Bhavan?" he asked.

He emphasized that the farmer movement, which backing, cannot be silenced by political rhetoric.

"How do you plan to answer the farmers who are coming to ask you about loan waiver?" he demanded of Revanth Reddy.

Harish reminded the Chief Minister of his promises, stating, "You pledged to waive loans of Rs 2 lakh for all farmers, and now you have broken that promise. This is becoming a noose around your neck

and your government's neck." He declared that the BRS, Telangana, would not rest until the loans are waived in full.

"A government that ignores the tears of farmers and neglects agriculture has never succeeded in history,"

#### Jagadish meets DGP over attacks on BRS leaders

PNS HYDERABAD

BRS MLA G. Jagadish Reddy said that BRS leaders and activists are being attacked across the state. He said the police are hand in glove with Congress leaders and are involved in the attacks. He was addressing a press conference at the DGP's office on were attacked.

Thursday. He said that junior police officials have a role in these attacks and pointed to an incident in Suryapet's Tirumalagiri, where Congress thugs, along with police personnel, attacked BRS leaders. Similarly, in Khammam district, when they went to

#### to corruption and disrespect towards Hinduism," he said. ernment should conduct a comprehensive probe into the matter to uncover the truth and Danam must apologise to

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi

Sanjay Kumar reacted to laddu making during

Sanjay said, "God will not forgive this mas-

sive betrayal of Hindus, that is, using animal fat

He demanded that the Andhra Pradesh gov-

YSŔĊP rule on his X account on Thursday.

PNS HYDERABAD

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

for making laddus."

The Telangana BJP Mahila Morcha burnt an effigy of Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender on Thursday at the Gandhi Bhavan Metro Station alleging that Danam made derogatory comments against actor-cum-BJP MP Kangana

The Mahila Morcha activists under the leadership of Telangana Mahila Morcha President M. Shilpa Reddy demanded that Danam Nagender should apologise to Kangana Ranaut immediately. Mahila Morcha leaders said that Danam Nagender's

released by central govern-

ment organisation DVC from

its dams. This is a man-

made flood, and it's unfortu-

nate. Why isn't the Centre

dredging the DVC dams, where the water storage

Kangana: Mahila Morcha comments dishonoured

> Shilpa said the Mahila Morcha condemns the remarks of Danam Nagender and that they will not remain silent if anyone makes insulting comments against women. It is not proper for an MLA to make such cheap comments,

Later, they submitted a complaint against Danam Nagender to the Telangana Women's Commission.

It may be recalled that Danam Nagender said that Kangana Ranaut, who portrays 'Bhogam' (prostitute) roles in films has no stature to criticise Rahul Gandhi.

#### remarks against Kangana PNS HYDERABAD

BRS Working President KT Rama Rao (KTR) has strongly condemned the derogatory comments made by Congress MLA Danam Nagendar against MP Kangana Ranaut, emphasising that no political goal can be justified by show-

ing disrespect towards women. In a statement, KTR expressed dismay over the vile language used and said, "While I may not agree with her opinions or her party's ideology, the level of discourse should never sink to such lows. Respect for women is non-negotiable."

KTR criticized the silence of

al and state levels, questioning whether their lack of response indicated approval of such behaviour.

He pointed out how BRS leaders have historically responded to disrespectful remarks. "When Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma made disgraceful comments about Sonia Gandhi, it was KCR who was the first to condemn those remarks, even before Congress leaders in Telangana, including the current CM Revanth Reddy

reacted," KTR said. He emphasised that a

Congress leaders at the nationheinous crime, whether it is rape, murder, or a degrading remark against a woman, should be condemned with

equal intensity. He called on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to set a higher standard within his party and instil the values of decency and respect towards women among his party

"Political affiliations do not determine respect for women. This is basic human decency," KTR concluded, urging all political leaders to rise above differences and maintain ethical standards in public discourse.

#### TODAY **ALMANAC** Krishna Paksha Tithi: Tritiya: Sep 20 12:40 AM to Sep 20 09:15 PM Chaturthi Sep 20 09:15 PM to Sep 21 06:14 PM Nakshatram: Sep 20 05:15 AM Ashwini to Sep 21 02:42 AM Sep 21 02:42 AM to Sep 22 12:36 AM 10:39 AM to 12:09 PM Rahukalam: 3:09 PM to 4:40 PM Yamagandam: 11:28 AM to 12:55 PM Varjyam: 7:38 AM to 9:08 AM 08:16 PM to 09:42 PM Amritakalam: Abhiiit Muhurtham: 11:45 AM to 12:33 PM HYDERABAD WEATHER Forecast: Partly Cloudy **Temp:** 31° Humidity: 67% Sunrise: 6:05 AM Sunset: 6:14 PM Updated: September 19, 2024 5:00 PM

## Floods due to unbridled release of water to save Jharkhand: Mamata

Warns WB govt will sever ties with DVC

PNS KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday alleged that the flood situation in the state was because of DVC's unbridled release of water from its dams to save Jharkhand.

Holding the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) responsible for the "manmade" floods in West Bengal, she said her government would sever all ties with it.

She also accused the Centre of failing to carry out dredging at DVC dams, the release of water from which resulted in floods in several districts of West Bengal.



Banerjee, who visited in Purba Panskura Medinipur district and Udaynarayanpur in Howrah district to monitor the flood situation, said, "This is not rainwater, this is water capacity has decreased by 36 per cent. There is a larger conspiracy at play. This cannot continue and we will start a major movement The flood situation in

West Bengal is because of DVC's unbridled release of water from its dams to save Jharkhand. We will not keep any ties with DVC," she DVC dams are located at

Maithon and Panchet, both along the Jharkhand-West Bengal border. Banerjee alleged there was

a "well-planned conspiracy" to put West Bengal in this situation.

#### **US** court summons Doval in Pannun case

PNS NEW YORK

Khalistani separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun has filed a civil lawsuit against the Government of India and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, with a US court issuing summons in the case.

In New Delhi, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Thursday described as completely 'unwarranted and unsubstantiated" imputations the lawsuit filed by Pannun, who heads the radical group Sikhs for Justice. "As we've said earlier, these are completely unwarranted and unsubstantiated imputations. Now that this particular case has been lodged, it doesn't change our views about the underlying situation.

#### Vote for J&K's future: Modi Promises restoration of statehood

PNS KATRA (J&K)

Asking people to cast their votes wisely in the ongoing Assembly polls that are "linked to the future of Jammu and Kashmir", Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the voters should ensure the sunset of the politics practised by the Congress, NC and PDP, which have "inflicted wounds" in the region for

years together. Addressing a poll rally in Katra, the base camp for the pilgrims visiting the Vaishno Devi shrine in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, Modi also accused the Congress leadership of insulting Hindu gods and goddesses under a "wellthought-out conspiracy" and due to a "Naxal mindset". This



was the second rally addressed by the prime minister in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday and third in a week. He addressed another rally in Srinagar earlier in the day. On September 14, Modi had addressed a rally in Doda district.

prime minister reiterated that his government will restore statehood in Jammu and Kashmir and also asserted that terrorism and sepa-

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#### **CITY EVENTS**

#### **Annual Leadership** Conclave

The theme for the conclave is Uplift rising together. The chief guest for the event is Dr Dansari Anasuya Seethakka, Minister of Panchayati Raj & Rural Development, Rural Water Supply Women and Child Welfare.

Danube Hall, Tech Mahindra Learning World, Madhapur, Hyderabad September 20, 10 am to 11.15 am

#### First Flagship Store

Anupam Store, 550F, Road No. 92, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad September 20, 4pm tp 7pm

#### 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 and

#### **L&T Hyd Metro** Rail's X account hacked

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Cybercriminals hacked the X account of the L&T group in the early hours of Thursday and put it up for sale. This incident is part of a larger hacking spree targeting X accounts, which according to reports has fueled a pumpand-dump scheme for the \$HACKED Solana token, with buyers rushing to purchase the crypto currency.

In addition to L&T's @ltmhyd account, which has over 37,000 followers, other prominent accounts that were ĥacked include MoneyControl (1.4 million followers), People Magazine (7.8 million followers) and EUinmyRegion, an account managed by the European Commission with nearly 100,000 followers.

The posts from all hacked accounts were identical, proclaiming, "THIS IS HACKED ACCOUNT! INTRODUC-ING \$HACKED ON we hack, we publish the token address so we pump it and make profits together."

According to bleepingcomputer.com, the cyber attack is being used to promote the \$HACKED cryptocurrency token on the Solana blockchain. The method of account compromise remains unclear, but it is suspected that a compromised API key or third-party apps linked to the accounts

may have been used. Meanwhile, L&T quickly regained control of its account. A post from the @ltmhyd account at 8:30 am stated, "Our official Twitter/X account (@ltmhyd) has been hacked. Please avoid clicking on any links."

# City Pioneer



HYDERABAD | FRIDAY | SEPTEMBER 20, 2024

#### **Startup Fest from Sept 26 to 28** to focus on backing innovators

The International Startup Festival 2024, scheduled from September 26 to 28, will focus on strategic solutions and support grassroots innovators. ISF, a non-for-profit organisation, aims to boost the startup ecosystem. It partners with International Startups Network Pvt Ltd (ISN), a global incubation hub, to host the event at the Engineering Staff College of India (ESCI), Gachibowli. Chairperson of the International Startup Festival (ISF) 2024, JA Chowdary, said, with the theme "Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the AI Era," ISF plans to partner with Sri City to establish ISF Gurukul, a platform for upskilling graduates and professionals in data science and engineering. More than 15 countries will attend

## RGIA wins CII awards of energy efficient unit 2024

PNS HYDERABAD

Rajiv Gandhi International Airport Limited (RGIA) has been honoured with the esteemed titles of National Energy Leader and Excellent Energy Efficient Unit at the 25th National Award Ceremony for Excellence in Energy Management, an event organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on

September 12. The airport has received the National Energy Leader accolade for the sixth consecutive year the Excellent Energy Efficient Unit distinction for

the eighth time. These awards underscore its unwavering commitment to promoting energy efficiency and sustainability within its operations, reflecting its role as a leader in energy management in the aviation sector. Managed by the GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd, RGIA is known for its sustainable practices and dedication to energy conserva-

Its ongoing initiatives to minimise its carbon footprint and enhance energy efficiency through innovative strategies have garnered recognition from industry experts. Over the years, the airport operations have resulted in significant energy savings of around 1.82 million units (MU). It has received Level 4+ 'Neutrality' Accreditation from the Airports Council International as part of its Airport Carbon

Accreditation programme.
Pradeep Panicker, CEO, GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd said, "We are committed to achieving Net Zero by investing in energy-efficient technologies across our organisation. This dedication reflects

our goal to promote sustainable practices and reduce our carbon footprint. By prioritising energy efficiency, we aim to lead by example and foster a

culture of sustainability, aligning economic growth with ecological respon-

RGIA harnesses the power of green energy through a combination of its own 10 MWp (megawatt peak) solar power plant and green energy supplied by TSSPDCL. Some of the RGIA's commitments that help it secure its position as a pioneer in energy management include incorporating green building designs, implementing progressive generation and utilisation of renewable energy sources to power airport operations, practising energy management techniques to optimise energy usage and promote conserva-

#### STRESS ON DECENTRALISING COLD CHAINS FOR WIDER ACCESS

# State collaborating with Centre of **Excellence for viable solutions**



IT Minister D Sridhar Babu addressing the Cold Chain Unbroken 2024, a thought leadership event at the Airport Novotel on Thursday

**SAMUEL JOSHUA** samuelmjoshuamjmc@gmail.com

HYDERABAD

Emphasizing that Telangana produces 74 lakh metric tonnes of food and vegetables annually, with 20 to 30% being perishable due to inadequate cold chain solutions, IT Minister D Sridhar Babu said the government is collaborating with the Centre of Excellence and the University of Birmingham to find sustainable solu-

He participated in the Cold Chain Unbroken 2024, a thought leadership event at the Airport Novotel on Thursday evening. Addressing the conference, he expressed fascination with the future of cold chain solutions, mentioning he saw a unique packaging unit with advanced technology while visiting the exhibition stalls. He stated that India, being an agricultural country, now gives much importance to packaging, which has become crucial to prevent perishables from spoiling within 24 to 48 hours.

The Minister highlighted the need for stronger cold chain packaging in the pharma sector, noting that Telangana produces 30-40% of the national output, leading the industry with \$ 6 billion in revenue.

He emphasised Hyderabad's potential and the need to decentralise cold chains for wider access, especially in rural areas, benefiting women and marginal farmers. He also mentioned that cold storage units in Rythu Bazaars and affordable mobile cold rooms could help farmers and support

vaccine transport for tribals. He stressed enhancing cold chain solutions from the grassroots level and said the government is planning the next phase for the Centre of Excellence to create innovation. The Minister encouraged integrating AI into cold chain systems for more innovative solutions and sustainability.

Sridhar Babu also mentioned that there are over 10 startup hubs for innovative packaging at T-Hub, encouraging the use of both T-Hub

## House-to-house survey urged to weed out bogus ration cards

PNS HYDERABAD

The Forum for Good Governance (FGG), a nontion, has commended Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for initiating a consultation process to establish eligibility criteria for the issuance of new ration cards.

However in a statement, president Padmanabĥa Reddy shared several suggestions regarding the matter and asked the Civil Supplies Department to conduct intensive house-to-house survey to eliminate bogus ration cards.

Padmanabha Reddy said, 'According to the Minister's briefing, there are approximately 90 lakh ration cards in Telangana, covering 2.84 crore people issued by both the Union and State governments. Telangana's population is esti-



mated to be around 4 crore, with 3.74 per cent classified as multi-dimensionally poor, according to a NITİ Âayog report. Additionally, about 20 per cent of the population falls under the Below Poverty Line (BPL) category. This means that only 80 lakh people or 20 per cent of the population are eligible for food security through the Public Distribution System (PDS).

Reddy pointed out that nearly 2 crore ineligible indi-

viduals currently possess ration cards, resulting in a leakage of approximately Rs 600 crore per month, as these people draw under the scheme. He called for an intensive house-tohouse survey to eliminate bogus ration cards.

The previous government was criticised for issuing ration cards to 75 per cent of the State's population, allegedly for political gains. The FGG urged the present government to restrict ration cards to BPL families and provide additional support, such as 1 kg of dhal and 1 liter of cooking oil,

alongside free rice. The FGG welcomed the Minister's statement that finequality rice will be distributed via PDS starting January 2025, but emphasised the urgent need to weed out ineligible ration cardholders before introducing smart cards.

## 29 faculty members of UoH among global top researchers

PNS HYDERABAD

About 29 retired and present faculty and High Energy Materials, two each members/associates from the in Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric University of Hyderabad are among Sciences and Physics, one in the top two per cent of most-cited researchers world-wide as per the study of the global top two per cent of most widely cited researchers in different disciplines by John P.A. Ioannidis of Stanford University.

This ranking is based on standardised information on citations, h-index, co-authorship adjusted hm-index, citations to papers in different authorship positions and a composite indicator (c-score) and is considered as prestigious across the globe. The August 2024 data update includes more than 2,17,000 researchers categorised under 22 scientific fields and 174 subfields. It shows that 29 retired and present faculty members/associates from the University of Hyderabad are among the top two per cent of most-cited researchers world-wide.

The distribution of varsity's top researchers is 10 from Chemistry,

seven in Life Sciences, three each in Computer and Information Sciences Literary/Communication and Textual Studies, and one in Mathematics and Statistics. Prof. Goverdhan Mehta, Prof. MNV

Prasad, Prof. Attipalli R Reddy, Prof. AS Raghavendra, Prof. Soma Venugopal Rao, Prof. Pramod K Nayar, Prof. Ashwini K Nangia, Prof. Rajadurai Chandrasekar, Prof. Anunay Samanta, Prof. Nagender Kumar Suryadevara, Prof. Satish Narayana Srirama, Prof. Alok Singh, Prof. Niyaz Ahmed, Prof. SN Kaul, Prof. D Narayana Rao, Dr Arunasree M Kalle, Prof. Appa Rao Podile, Prof. Lalitha Guruprasad, Prof. Dhevalapally B Ramachary, Prof. Karumuri Ashok, Prof. G Vaitheeswaran, Prof. Sachin Bhalekar, Prof. Surya P Tewari, Prof. SR Shetye, Prof. KD Sen, Prof. Deevi Basavaiah, Prof. Mariappan Periasamy, Prof. Samudranil Pal and Dr Mehanathan Muthamilarasan.

#### Three engineering students held for selling drugs in city

PNS HYDERABAD

The sleuths of Telangana Excise department (Drug Task Force) on Thursday arrested three engineering students in Madhapur for allegedly selling drugs to make easy money.

The arrested students have been identified as Charan Tej, Kaushik Thuboti and Syed Sarfaraz. These students are studying engineering in Chennai. They were arrested and produced in court. Along with the drugs, a bike was also seized from these students in this case.

The students, who were pursuing their engineering studies, were caught with 30 Lysergic Acid Diethylamide (LSD) drugs worth Rs

The arrest took place on Madhapur Road number 37, Jubilee Hills, after getting the information about the incident.

A case has been registered against Arun Raj, a Chennai-based supplier believed to be provid-

ing drugs to these three students.

The Excise officials stated that Arun Raj is currently absconding, and efforts are underway to

#### **Tollywood choreographer Jani Master arrested in Goa**

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

Tollywood choreographer Shaik Jani Basha alias Jani Master was arrested by the Cyberabad Special Operations Team (SOT) in Goa on Thursday, a day after he was charged with Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO), in a

sexual abuse complaint filed by a 21-year-old colleague choreographer. According to the

statement released by the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Rajendranagar Zone of Cyberabad, the accused was arrested in Goa and produced before the local court and obtained a transit warrant. The accused is being brought to Hyderabad and he will be produced before the regular

On recording the victim's statement it was disclosed that, at the time of offence, she was minor. Therefore, Section 5 (l) r/w 6 of POCSO Act 2012 was added. Earlier, based on the com-

plaint of the victim, Zero FIR was registered in Raidurgam police station and later the case was transferred to Narsingi police station, as the victim resides in Narsingi. On September

Ñarsingi Police re-registered a case in Cr.No. 1371/2024 U/s 376(2)(n),506, 323 IPC. The victim alleged that Jani Master sexually

assaulted her in 2020 during a work trip to Mumbai and continued sexual harassment and threatened not to disclose to anyone. He allegedly threatened to ruin her career in the film industry if she disclosed the assault to anyone.

After the case was booked under POCSO, Cyberabad police intensified its efforts to nab Jani Master. On Thursday, police teams arrested him in

#### CS discusses Integrated Residential Schools works

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari discussed the grounding works for Integrated Residential Schools at Kondangal and Madhira constituencies on

The first meeting of the Management Committee for monitoring of Integrated Residential Schools was held and Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari instructed the officials to complete the grounding of Integrated Residential Schools at Kondangal and Lakshmipuram village in Madhira constituency by the end of next month.

During the meeting, the procedures to be adopted for submitting proposals for administrative sanction and finalisation of the nodal department to process the proposals were discussed.

## **MOVED BY HER AUNT'S ILLNESS** Student creates utensil supporter machine

RASHMI BHUMIREDDY bhumireddyrashmi@gmail.com HYDERABAD

Witnessing the struggles faced by the midday meal workers, especially her aunt who is suffering from serious illnesses and unable to carry heavy cooking utensils used for making meals, P Vineela, a Class X student of Rajanna Sircilla district, has created a womenfriendly utensil supporter machine which helps in lifting huge utensils, thereby creating a change in the lives of workers. Her innovation has been used in a few government schools in Sircilla.

In order to provide quality meals to government school students, the State govern-ment has implemented the mid-day meal scheme. Vineela, under the guidance of her physical science teacher have seen her struggling with 2023.



friendly utensil supporter machine which helps in lifting huge utensils, thereby creating a change in the lives of workers

Thaduri Sampath Kumar, has created the utensil supporter machine.

Speaking to the Pioneer Correspondent, Vineela of Dammannapet said, "My aunt is a mid-day meal worker. I

heavy utensils everyday. So, I thought of developing an instrument that will give relief to the mid-day meal workers. The material used in making this women-friendly supporter machine, includes aluminum metal frames, wheels, holed lid, heavy utensil and nails with chain.'

Narrating about her innovation, she said that once the utensil is placed on the machine and by rotating the jockey which is fixed on the top of the machine, one can easily lift the heavy utensil and separate the draining rice water from the large utensils without anyone's help."

Vineela received the highrange book of world record and School innovation challenge award, South India Science Festival award and Intinta Innovator Award in

#### HYDRAA invites sealed bids from contractors

PNS HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) has invited sealed bids from contractors for the demolition of structures and removal of carting for a period of one year, on Thursday. Eligible bidders must possess specialised equipment, including a hi-reach hydraulic boom capable of reaching 20 meters, jaw crushers, shear cutters, and rock breakers, said the notice. Contractors should also have completed at least one demolition project worth over Rs 1 crore in Telangana, with preference given to those with experience in implosion techniques and demolitions near adjacent structures.

Bidders must provide statutory registrations, financial documents and demonstrate an annual turnover of at least Rs 2 crore. Accreditation is mandatory and the presence of a certified safety engineer with a minimum of five years of experience.

#### Sanitation must be managed smoothly: GHMC chief

PNS HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Greater Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner Amrapali Kata conducted a surprise inspection of the Charminar zone on Thursday, following the completion of the Ganesh

immersion process in preparation for the Milad-un-Nabi Commissioner Amrapali visited several areas, including Aliabad, Shamshir Ganj, Injan Bowli Shalibanda Main Road and Falaknuma bridge. She reviewed the sanitation measures in these areas.







#### Minister inaugurates medical college in Narsampet

PNS WARANGAL

Health Minister Damodar Raja Narsimha, along with Minister for Revenue Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and Minister for Forests and Environment Konda Surekha, on Thursday inaugurated the Narsampeta government hospital and medical college, built at a cost of Rs 183 crore, in the

The Ministers also inaugurated Indira Canteen on the premises of the college and tasted various foods sold at the canteen. They planted saplings on the premises of the college. They distributed cheques worth Rs 2 crore to 15 self-help group women on the occasion.

Later, the Ministers, along with Mahabubabad MP Porika Balram Naik, laid the foundation stone for the Banjara Bhavan at Rajupeta under the aegis of Tribal Welfare Department. The Bhavan will be built with SDF funds of Rs 2 crore.

The Ministers later laid the foundation stone for the 600 KL Elevated Level Storage Reservoir and internal pipeline works under Amrut 2.0 in Narsampet municipality.

# **Bhatti to provide fresh** impetus to SLBC project

The Deputy Chief Minister will inspect Srisailam Left Bank Canal works on Friday and give necessary directions to officials

PNS NALGONDA

During the padayatra, the Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka had promised to complete the Srisailam Left Bank Canal (SLBC) project. In line with this promise, funds had been allocated in the budget. A comprehensive action plan has been devised to complete the project within two years.

The SLBC and Nakkalagandi projects have been neglected under a decade of BRS rule. During his visit today, the Deputy Chief Minister on Friday will provide direction to officials.

"Despite being in power for ten years, the BRS government has neglected to complete a 10-kilometer stretch of the SLBC tunnel. During the Congress rule of the United AP, 80 per cent of this project was completed. If the TRS government had allocated just Rs 1,000 crore in its first year in power, water for irrigation could have been provided to 4 lakh acres and drinking water to 512 villages in Nagarkurnool and Nalgonda districts. The BRS rulers have no intention of providing water to farmers. But, under Indiramma's reign and a people's government, I will complete the SLBC tunnel and ensure irrigation



Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramaka visiting SLBC project during his padayatra in Nalgonda district in 2023 (File photo)

water for the farmers," promised the then CLP leader and current Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu on the 83rd day of the People's March Padayatra (June 7, 2023) while inspecting the SLBC tunnel works, according to an officials press statement here

To fulfill this promise as soon as the people's government came to power, Bhatti Vikramarka, along with Irrigation Minister Uttam

not to hesitate regarding funds. Additionally, the required budget for completing the SLBC tunnel works has been allocated.

project and instructed the officials

With the special initiative of Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, the stalled project works, neglected for the past ten years under the BRS regime, have begun to progress. Officials have initiated actions to import the damaged Tunnel Boring Machine bearing from the USA to resume tunneling work. The machine bearing is expected to arrive soon, and the outlet works are set to commence.

In this context, to ensure completion of the works within the government's stipulated deadline, the Deputy CM will review with representatives of the contractor and officials. On Friday, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka will visit the SLBC tunnel, accompanied by fellow ministers, to guide the officials on the necessary actions to expedite the project.

Minister for Irrigation N Uttama Kumar Reddy, Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy and Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara ao will also visit the SLBC project, along with the Deputy Chief Minister.



Students staging a protest in front of the bus station in Shadnagar on

#### Students protest delay in bus services

PNS RANGAREDDY

In Rangareddy district, students have spilled out onto the street protesting against the apathy on the part of the TSRTC officials in failing to operate buses with punc-

Students on Thursday expressed their anger at the Shadnagar RTC bus depot manager, accusing him of negligence in improving the punctuality of buses. The students claimed that despite submitting several peti-tions, the depot manager has failed to address their concerns about irregular bus services, leading to major inconveniences for those attending schools and colleges. A large-scale protest was organised in Shadnagar by the All India Students Federation (AISF) and the Students' Federation of India (SFI), bringing together thousands of students from both government and private institutions. The protest turned tense when police forcibly detained the protesters, taking them into cus-

The student unions argued that the free bus scheme is not benefiting the students as intended. They said that buses frequently fail to arrive on time, causing both students and villagers to wait for hours. Local employees also voiced their frustrations, stating that their daily routines are affected due to the buses running without a proper schedule. Despite repeated petitions to the Shadnagar depot manager, no action has been taken, according

to the protesters. Under the leadership of AISF and SFI, students gathered at Shadnagar Square to demand immediate action from the higher authorities. They called for the deployment of more buses, threatening to escalate their protests if their demands were not met. AISF Shad Nagar President A Vijay Chari, SFI Rangareddy District Vice President Srikanth, AISF Rangareddy District Vice President Shiva, and other prominent leaders were present.



Nalgonda Collector C Narayana Reddy holding a review meeting in Nalgonda on Thursday

#### Officials told to complete screening test for KGBV, Model School students

PNS NALGONDA

District Collector C Narayana Reddy has directed official to complete by next Friday the screening tests for students in all Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) and model schools.

At a review meeting held at the District Collectorate on Thursday with Anganwadi supervisors, CDPOs (Child Development Project Officers), and Anganwadi teachers, the Collector emphasised the need for comprehensive screening under the Rural Health and Nutrition Scheme (RBSK). He instructed the CDPOs and medical officials to conduct the screenings in all KGBVs and model schools. Anganwadi teachers were also advised to

identify children suffering from nutritional deficiencies and those with below-average weight for their age. Subsequently, plans should be made to provide them with appropriate nutritional support and to raise awareness among parents regarding these issues.

The Collector noted that arrangements have been made to ensure 24-hour delivery services at the district's main government hospitals, including Nalgonda Government General Hospital, and those in Devarakonda, Mirvalaguda, and Nagarjunasagar. He urged Anganwadi teachers to fully cooperate with the health department in this regard. Emphasis was placed on ensuring deliveries take place at government hospitals rather than private ones, which could help reduce the number of surgical deliveries. The Collector also stressed the importance of immediate registration after pregnancy, regular ANC (Antenatal Care) check-ups, and the proper use of medicauntil delivery. Additionally, he highlighted the need for mandatory vacci-

nations for young children. The meeting was attended by Additional Collector T Purnachandra, District Welfare Officer Sakkubai, District Medical and Health Officer Puttla Srinivas, ZP CEO Prem Karan Reddy, District Tribal Welfare Officer Raj Kumar, District BC Welfare Officer Ramesh, DPO Murali, and MEPMA PD Karunakara among others. PNS KUMURAMBHEEM ASIFABAD

Students of the Government Model School here took out a rally from the school to Saibaba temple in the town demanding that the government appoint teachers to the school. Recently, the government transferred 17 teachers working in the school to various places.

Kumar Reddy and District

Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, reviewed the irrigation

project with officials at the state secretariat. They discussed the

required funds, machinery for

digging the tunnel, and other nec-

essary details and prepared a com-

prehensive action plan to complete

the project within two years. The

government is ready to allocate any necessary budget to complete the

The students staged a protest in front of the Saibaba temple demanding that the governschool and render justice to

In-charge District Education Officer, on learning about it, along with DSP Karunakar and

Circle Inspector Satish rushed to the spot and tried to persuade the students to withdraw their protest. However, the students did not relent. They staged road blockade agitation for nearly two hours. The officials at last persuaded them to give up their protest by promising to resolve their problem.

Later, the officials took a group of the students to the Collector and the latter submitted a memorandum to the Collector Venkatesh Dhotre ahliahtina their demands students brought their problems to the notice of the Collector who said that the transferred teachers would be



Students of the Government Model School staging protest in Asifabad on Thursday

they were prepared to come back. Otherwise teachers would be appointed on an ad hoc basis to solve their problems. On the brought back to their school if assurance of the Collector, the

Students stage protest for appointment of teachers

students returned to their school. The parents of the students have been expressing their anguish over the government not

school which has a strength of over 800. The transfer of teach ers in the middle of the academic year put a big question mark appointing teachers in the model on the future of the students.

## Collector asks Special Officers of MPPs to focus on people's problems

PNS KUMURAMBHEEM ASIFABAD

District Collector Venkatesh Dhotre has directed the Mandal Praja Parishads (MPPs) special officers and officials of various departments to work with coordination for the comprehensive development of the

Addressing a special meeting chaired by him held at Zilla Parishad conference hall here on Thursday, he said that the role of the special officers in development of mandal is very crucial as the term of the MPPs and ZPTCs expired. The special officers should visit villages under their jurisdiction and find

out problems there to resolve them. The officers should visit the hostels, residential schools and Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas and ensure that the food is served to students as per the menu and go through the attendance registers. They should visit the Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and monitor the attendance of the PHCs by medical officers and other staff and check the stocks of medicines and medical services being provided to the people. Sanitation should be properly maintained in villages. They should ensure that the internal roads and



Kumuram Bheem Asifabad Collector Venkatesh Dhotre speaking at an officials meeting in Asifabad on Thursday

drainages are cleaned regularly in villages.

The farmers interested in cultivating oil palm should be identified and encouraged, he said. Every household should get safe drinking water through the Mission Bhagiradha. They should focus on seasonal diseases and take steps to conduct medical camps

#### Breach to old **Palair canal** plugged

PNS KHAMMAM

Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy ensured that the repairs to the old canal in Palair was carried out on a war-footing in a record time of just 15 days to the delight of farmers.

According to a press release by the minister's camp office incharge Tumburu Dayakar Reddy on Thursday, the old canal in Palair developed breach on September 1 under the impact of floods triggered by heavy rains lashed the district.

Immediately afterwards, the Minister alerted engineering officials and directed them to take temporary repairs to the canal to plug the breach and constantly monitored the progress of the work. He ensured that the works were executed as early as possible to provide irrigation to 20,000

### TUs concerned over delay in SCCL declaring profits

PNS PEDDAPALLI

Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) trade union activists have been scratching their heads as to why the company has been delaying the declaration of profits for the fiscal year 2023-24. There are no signs of the company declaring the profits even six months after the current fiscal year, though it declared earnings for the last year in July itself.

Why the SCCL is delaying declaring the profits despite coal production and sales being in order, said the trade union leaders.

The SCCL is a Government coal mining company jointly owned by the Government of and Telangana Government of India on a 51:49 equity basis. It has been declaring profits since 1999. It distributed 10 per cent of



the profits of the SCCL

among the workers. For the year 2022-23, the company declared profits of 32 per cent and distributed the same among the workers. However, for the years 2023-24, the trade unions have been demanding the company distribute 35 per cent of the profits among the work-

With the ending of June 2024, one more quarter of the current fiscal year was over, but there were no signs of the company announcing the

profits, attracting criticism from the SCCL workers and trade unions

Other public sector undertaking in the coal sector have been declaring their profits every quarter, but the SCCL declares profits every year, there was no plausible answer to the question why. The SCCL workers have been eagerly waiting for their share in the profits.

The company earned gross profits of Rs 2,222 crore for the fiscal year 2022-23 as the company turnover reached Rs 32,830 crore. The turnover has increased by 23 per cent compared to the previous

The company earned Rs 28,540 crore through the sale of coal and Rs 4,371 crore by way of selling thermal power. Last year, it distributed 32 per cent of the profits among the

#### **Retired railway** employee murdered

PNS PEDDAPALLI

Unidentified assailants killed a retired railway employee on the busy main road in Kottapalli village unswe Peddapalli mandal on Thursday afternoon. The murder created a sensation in the village.

The deceased was identified as Kalavena Rajesam (60). He was the retired railway employee. The assailants smashed either with a boulder or an iron rod, the police suspected. Property disputes with the relatives were stated to be the motive behind the murder. Rajesam was on his way to meeting Revenue and Electricity officials in a land

related issue. His rivals, learning about it, hatched a plan and committed the murder.

#### Semiconductor packaging sector to create employment opportunities

wherever necessary

PNS SANGAREDDY

A two-day International Technological Conference on Semiconductor Materials Packaging, AIML, reconfigurable VLSI architectures for IOT, future communication Technologies (Smart 2024) was inaugurated on Thursday at BV Raju Institute of Technology at Narsapur in Medak district

Prof Pandurang Ashrit, Dean of University de Moncton, Canada, who was the guest of honour, expressed the hope that students would get more opportunities by grasping the modern knowledge coming in the field of materials.

Professor Madhavan Swami Nadhan, head of the Electrical Engineering, Pennsylvania State University, who was the chief guest said that the major changes taking place in the semiconductor packaging sector and they are becoming a



Chairman of Vishnu Educational Society KV Vishnu Raju speaking at International Technological Conference at Narsapur in Medak district on Thursday

boon for the students in India, the development in the packaging sector with billions of investment is going to create thousands of employment opportunities, and all the students will develop the relevant skills and excel in the semiconductor packaging sector.

Chairman of Vishnu Educational Society (SVES) KV Vishnu Raju said that the technological explosion coming in the field of semiconductor will increase more employment opportunities and for that, IIT Hyderabad has become a partner with BVRIT for skill training of students and teachers, and expressed hope that students and teachers in the fields of research and development will take advantage of this opportunity. .



HYDERABAD | FRIDAY | SEPTEMBER 20, 2024

#### ACROSS THE STATES



#### White tigress 'Riddhi' dies at Bhopal's National Park

15-year-old white tigress, 'Riddhi', a prime attraction for visitors at Bhopal's Van Vihar National Park for several Ayears, has died possibly due to old-age related problems, a veterinarian said on Thursday. Riddhi was brought to Van Vihar from Indore zoo under an animal exchange programme when she was four-year-old. The while tigress, now aged 15, was housed in an enclosure and was one of the main attractions for visitors at the national park. "Since the last two days, the tigress had not taken her regular meals, which was a normal practice for her. She appeared normal in her enclosure till Wednesday, but on Thursday morning, the animal was found unconscious," said the park's wildlife veterinarian, Atul Gupta. After a medical examination, Riddhi was declared dead, he said, adding the carcass was disposed of as per norms after an autopsy. Prima facie, the wild animal's cause of the death was failure of internal organs due to old-age, Gupta informed.



# 2-year-old girl rescued from borewell after 17 hrs

two-year-old girl was rescued safely from a 35-foot-deep borewell in Rajasthan's Dausa district on Thursday morning after being trapped inside for more than 17 hours, officials said. They said Neeru Gurjar fell into the pit in Jodhpuriya village under the Bandikui police station around 5 pm on Wednesday and became trapped at a depth of 30 feet. State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) Commandant Rajendra Singh Sisodia said a team comprising 10 personnel started the rescue operation around 7:15 pm. NDRF soldiers were also brought in from Ajmer, he said, adding a camera was lowered into the borewell to monitor the girl and oxygen was pumped in as well. The local administration continued digging the ground with the help of heavy machinery at a distance of 15 feet from the borewell and after 17 hours of hard work, the team successfully rescued the girl trapped in the pit, Sisodia said



#### **SC** starts online mediation training web-portal

he Supreme Court has launched an online mediation training web-portal developed by National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) in collaboration with the apex court's Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee (MCPC). Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice Sanjiv Khanna, executive chairman NALSA, launched the portal on Wednesday. Speaking at the function, Chandrachud said this training programme will help make mediation the first and a default mode of dispute resolution by training lawyers, judges, law students etc. in the art of mediation. Developed over a span of five months, this initiative introduces a comprehensive online training module. "The Online Mediation Training Web-Portal combines theoretical knowledge with practical skills, covered by 50+ lectures on 20 topics pertaining to mediation and 10+ hours of online/ interactive practical sessions," a release said. "A key feature of this Online Mediation Training Programme is its ability to make high-quality, expert-curated content accessible remotely across India.

#### Skilling TG to new...

Continued from page 1

"Many young people with degrees, engineering qualifications, or post-graduate certifications come to me asking for jobs, but they lack the skills required by companies. There is a mismatch between the skills of educated youth and the actual needs of industries," he said.

He noted that this gap between education and employment opportunities had made him launch the Skill University, which would focus on equipping youth with the practical skills needed for employment in various sectors. He said that while government jobs are limited, opportunities in various industries abound for those with the right skills. "If our youth acquire the necessary skills their employment opportunities will increase manifold," he added. Industries Minister Sridhar Babu elaborated on the plans for the university, highlighting how it would contribute to making Hyderabad a world-class destination.

He also announced that a Future City is being planned, alongside efforts to establish an Artificial Intelligence City, as part of the state's strategy to attract global attention and investments

# Modi to have substantive engagement with Biden: FS

PNS NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden will have a substantive engagement on the sidelines of the Quad summit on Saturday, and the two sides will sign at least two agreements following the talks.

One pact will be related to the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) and the other memorandum of understanding (MoU) will be on the India-US drug framework, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said on Thursday.

Modi will pay a three-day visit to the United States beginning September 21 to attend the annual Quad summit and address the "Summit of the Future" at the United Nations General Assembly.

Modi will hold separate bilateral talks with Biden, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida on the sidelines of the Quad summit in Wilmington, Delaware on September 21.

The talks between Modi and Biden will take place amid some unease in the India-US ties following Washington's allegations of an Indian link to a foiled plot to kill Sikh separatist Gurpatwant Singh



The US has consistently pressed India for updates on the Indian investigation into the plot and made it clear that it seeks accountability in the case.

At the meeting, Modi is also expected to apprise Biden of his recent talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow and with Ukrainian Volodymyr President Zelenskyy in Kyiv on finding a peaceful solution to the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

There will be an opportunity to have a substantive engagement between the prime minister and President Biden, where they will have the opportunity to review the comprehensive global strategic

partnership

between India

and the US, which today covers almost every aspect of human endeavour through the 50-plus engagements and bilateral diaogue mechanisms," Misri said.

He was briefing the media on

Modi's trip to the US.
"It will also give an opportunity to thank President Biden for his pioneering role in strengthening the India-US relationship and several new initiatives, such as the initiative on critical and emerging technologies," Misri said.

The foreign secretary said there will be an opportunity for both sides to exchange a few agreements, including one on

The pact on the IPEF is related to the clean economy and fair economy pillars.

In line with Washington's

long-term vision for the Indo-Pacific, Biden launched the ambitious Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) in May 2022.

It is an initiative aimed at deeper cooperation among like-minded countries in areas like clean energy, supply-chain resilience and digital trade. Besides India, Japan and

Australia, the other member countries of the IPEF are Brunei Darussalam, Fiji, Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The IPEF has four pillars -trade, supply-chain resilience, clean economy and fair economy. India is yet to join the trade pillar and discussions between the two sides on it are underway.

To a question on whether Modi will meet former US president Donald Trump during his US visit, Misri did not give a direct reply.

#### **FOCUS ON BOOSTING BILATERAL TIES**

## Jaishankar holds phone conversation with Ukrainian counterpart

PNS NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday held a phone conversation with newly-appointed Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha with a focus on boosting bilateral ties and finding a solution to the conflict in Ukraine.

The conversation came nearly a month after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's high-profile trip to Kyiv.

spoke with Subrahmanyam Jaishankar to build on Narendra Modi's historic visit to Kyiv and talks with Zelenskyy," Sybiha said.

"We agreed to take our bilateral relations forward in all promising areas of cooperation. We exchanged views ahead of UNGA and coordinated next steps in political dialogue," he said after the

In a post on X, Jaishankar said he was looking forward to working with the Ukrainian foreign minister.

Spoke with the new Ukrainian FM @andrii\_sybiha today. Congratulated him on his appointment. Look forward to working with him," he



It is learnt that the Russia-Ukraine conflict figured in the talks.

In his talks with Zelenskyy, Modi said both Ukraine and Russia should sit together without wasting time to end the ongoing war and that India was ready to play an "active role" to restore peace in the

The prime minister said India was on the side of peace since the beginning of the conflict and he would even like to contribute personally for a peaceful resolution of the crisis. Modi's nearly nine-hour visit to Ukraine, the first by an Indian prime minister since its independence in 1991, came six weeks after he held summit talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow.

#### HARYANA POLLS

## State has become 'ghotala-mukt', 'vikas-yukt' under BJP rule: Nadda

BJP president J P Nadda on Thursday claimed that under the party-led government's rule during the past decade, Haryana has become "ghotala mukt" (scam-free) and "vikas-yukt" (development-oriented), as he appealed to the people to "renew" their "licence" by voting the party back to power.

The BJP on Thursday released its manifesto for the October 5 Haryana assembly polls, promising a monthly assistance of Rs 2,100 for women, two lakh government jobs for the youth and guaranteed government job for Agniveers hailing from the state.

ing a party workers meeting after releasing the manifesto in Rohtak, Nadda said, "The state has become ghotala-mukt and vikas-yukt and is marching on the path of progress."

The Union minister said under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi "we formed government at the Centre for the third time".

This election is not only to bring back BJP government in Haryana, but this poll is about maintaining the state's growth trajectory and further accelerating it, he said.

This poll is to keep Haryana

Nadda said everyone remembers what was the situation in Haryana during Congress rule.

Roads were damaged, power supply was erratic, "parchikarchi" system in jobs, he said referring to the alleged corruption and favouritism prevailing earlier under the Congress

"Only selected people used to

land scams or not," he asked. Nadda said after the BJP

came to power it gave transparent administration and jobs were given on merit. "We are running a Non-Stop Haryana (party's poll) campaign... now it is your job to renew the licence (vote back

BJP)," Nadda appealed to the people.

He said in the Congress, there was no culture of giving report card of works done whereas under the BJP government right from the prime minister to chief minister and down

below everyone gives account of their works Instigating one caste against favouritism, this "tod-phod" politics used to go on, whereas now report card politics is there,

Taking on Congress on farmers' issue, Nadda said they only raise mere slogans and shed crocodile tears for them whereas it is the BJP which has taken numerous steps for farmer wel-

#### RAJNATH TO TOP NAVAL COMMANDERS

## Remain prepared to deal with any situation

PNS NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday called upon top commanders of the Indian Navy to remain prepared to deal with any security challenges considering the volatile global scenario and underlined the need to further boost India's overall naval prowess.

In his address at a naval commanders' conference, Singh said India is now seen as a preferred security partner in the Indian Ocean and the Indian Navy is playing a crucial role in promoting peace and prosperity in the region. The defence minister reiterated the governthe Indian Navy's combat capability by inducting state-of-theart ships and submarines.

Singh highlighted that 64 ships and submarines are currently under construction in Indian shipyards, and orders have been placed for 24 additional platforms.

He asserted that the Indian Navy's growing strength in the



tinue introspection from time cable connections in the seas to time, according to the make it extremely sensitive," he defence ministry. The defence said. His comments are seen as commanders to remain prepared for every situation in today's volatile global scenario.

Singh emphasised on the need of a strong naval capability to protect the economic, trade, transport and overall national interests "A large part of the world's trade passes through the region, which makes it valuable. At the same targeting various cargo ships and vessels in the Red Sea and adjoining areas in the last few months.

"Our Navy has made a significant contribution in protecting the economic interests of all stakeholder nations of the Indo-Pacific and in smooth movement of goods in the Indian Ocean region," Singh said.

Help propel TG..

He urged the Centre to pro-

vide a minimum support price

for palm oil and also request-

ed the establishment of a cen-

tre of excellence at

Aswaraopeta, Khammam dis-

trict. Later, Tummala dis-

cussed the recent floods in

Khammam district with

Chouhan and requested finan-

cial assistance from the Centre,

following the minister's earli-

er visit to assess damage.

Chouhan responded, assuring

assistance as soon as the report

After this, Tummala met

Union Food Processing

Minister Chirag Paswan, and

requested the establishment of food processing units in Telangana to process the

state's major crops. As part of

his New Delhi visit, Minister

Tummala Nageswar Rao also took part in the World Food Summit being held at the

on damages was received.

Continued from page 1

#### Cong sincere...

Continued from page 1

"BCs should not think about who will give us opportunities. The BCs should fight and grab posts. Our leader Rahul Gandhi said 'Jithna Hissedari...Utna Bhagidari' and made it clear in Parliament that the Congress will certainly conduct a caste census if elected to power. The SCs, STs and BCs will get justice in the coming days. We have already introduced a Bill in the Assembly regarding a caste census and have allocated funds for that. The Congress government appointed a committee a week after the appointment of the BC Commission," Ponnam said

Continued from page 1

KTR expressed disappointment

with the government's focus on

retaliating against the BRS for

bringing the issue to light, instead

of addressing the core problem. He

criticized the government for

diverting attention away from solving the issue and instead

engaging in blame games.

He asked whether the

Congress government had con-

ducted any review of the deaths

or taken steps to ensure quality

healthcare.

#### Continued from page 1

and fish oil. According to these reports, the ghee tested positive for traces of these animal fats, which are considered controversial in the context of temple offerings.

TDP spokesperson Anam Venkata Ramana Reddy presented the findings at a press conference, citing an analysis from the National Dairy Development Board's Centre for Analysis and Learning in Livestock and Food (CALF). The analysis revealed that the ghee was mixed with a variety of foreign fats, including soybean, sunflower, olive, rapeseed, linseed, wheat germ, maize germ, cottonseed, fish oil, coconut, palm kernel fat, palm oil, beef tallow, and lard. The

have disrupted medical services.

He urged the government to

address this issue and make

efforts to reduce the mortality

ing the issue of infants dying without medical care," he asked

angrily. He questioned the gov-

ernment's claims saying, "If the

BRS was trying to help private hospitals why would we build large hospitals around

Hyderabad, construct the largest hospital in Warangal, establish

Basti Dawakhanas and clinics in

"Are you blaming us for rais-

BRS panel to probe deaths of infants...

KTR also raised concern over rural areas? Would we have set

the transfer of senior doctors up 33 medical colleges when from the hospital which may there were only two earlier?"

#### Tirupati laddu... 2024, with the lab report issued

on July 16.

Reddy alleged that during the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) administration, animal fats were used in the ghee, compromising the purity of the Tirupati laddu. The report indicated significant contamination with these fats, which has heightened the controversy. In response, YSRCP leader and former TTD Chairman YV Subba Reddy held a press conference in Tadepalli on Thursday, vehemently denying the allegations. Reddy accused Naidu of attempting to damage the reputation of the Tirumala temple sample was recorded on July 9, and undermine the faith of mil-

lions of Hindus. He argued that the claims were politically motivated and aimed at tar-

nishing the YSRCP's image. B Karunakar Reddy, another senior YSRCP leader and former TTD chairman, defended the party, accusing Naidu of using the issue to gain political advantage. Reddy suggested that Naidu's allegations were part of a broader strategy to target the opposition party and its

leader, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. The KMF clarified that the TTD had not purchased ghee from it in the past four years. It said it has been supplying ghee to TTD for laddus only since TTD came to power.

It was a flow of...

BRS leaders are living with the illusion that

even now corruption and irregularities are tak-

Ponguleti said the Congress government

has allocated Rs 72,000 crore for agriculture

in the budget. The government waived loans

amounting to Rs 18,000 crore of 23 lakh farm-

ers in just 27 days. However, some farmers did

not get their loans waived due to technical rea-

sons but the Congress government will solve

the problem as soon as possible. The govern-

ment will waive the loans of all eligible farm-

ers as per the word given to the people even

if it crosses the expected amount of Rs 31,000

crore, he said. Ponguleti said the government

is going to give health cards and ration cards

separately to all those eligible and that the gov-

ernment is going to lay the foundation stone

for Indiramma houses in a few days.

ing place," he said.

The Tirumala temple, dedicated to Lord Venkateswara, is regarded as a sacred site, often referred to as Kaliyuga Vaikuntha and its offerings hold significant spiritual importance. Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh shared a video clip of his father, CM Naidu, expressing astonishment over the allegations and condemning the purported use of animal fats in the prasadam.

YS Congress chief YS Sharmila, sister of YSRCP president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, has demanded a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) inquiry to validate Naidu's claims. She criticised both Naidu and the YSRCP for engaging in 'heinous politics' over the preparation of the

For HT consumers with loads at 33 KV and 132 KV or above, the charges will be aligned with those for 11 KV consumers. The fixed charges for HT consumers will increase from Rs 475 to Rs 500 per KVA. For Low Tension (LT) consumers, no increase in energy charges has been proposed. However, fixed charges will be raised for those whose consumption exceeds 300 units. The fixed charge for this group will increase from Rs 10 per kW to Rs 50 per kW. This hike will primarily affect domestic consumers in the

#### DISCOMs propose..

Continued from page 1

LT category.

#### Chopper rides...

Continued from page 1

Bharat Mandapam.

been the first instance in the country that helicopters were arranged for officials to conduct reviews. Curiously, former Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan was often denied the same privilege. Ministers who criticise KCR's governance model seem to be following his example when it comes to helicopter travel.

Sources claim this might have

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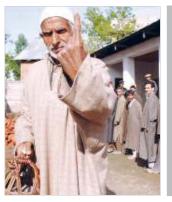
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-PAPER WITH PASSION----

## **India wins in J and K**

The large turnout and peaceful voting in phase I of the elections marks a significant victory for the nation

The first phase of polling in Jammu and Kashmir, held on September 18 was not only peaceful but also a thumbs up for democracy as 58 per cent voters cast their vote. Approximately 23.27 lakh voters, including 5.66 lakh youths, were eligible to cast their votes to determine the fate of 219 candidates in Phase 1. Though two more phases are left but morning shows the day. Widespread apprehensions arose following a series of attacks in Jammu, raising serious concerns about the high likelihood of disruption. The successful democratic exercise in itself is a victory for the country. Indeed, it marks a crucial moment in the political landscape of the region. For the first time since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, the Union Territory is witnessing elections that hold significant weight for both the state and the country at large. This election is not merely a democratic exercise; it is a test of the stability, governance, and the long-term vision for integrating the region more firmly with the rest of India. The elections are being



closely watched, particularly after the transition of Jammu and Kashmir from a state to a Union Territory. For the people of the region, the act of voting is more than just a participation in democracy. The return of democratic process after years of instability, militancy and unrest is expected to reassure the local population that their voices matter in shaping their future. The turnout, especially in rural areas, is a clear indications that people feel secure enough to participate in democratic process.

The election campaign has brought a range of issues to the forefront, which will determine how the political winds blow in the region. Development, unemploy-

ment, and security are the most pressing concerns, with local leaders attempting to address the economic stagnation that has plagued Jammu and Kashmir for years. Tourism, once the backbone of the state's economy, has taken a severe hit, and while efforts have been made to revitalise the sector, it remains a sensitive issue in the polls. At the same time, political parties have taken contrasting stances on the abrogation of Article 370. While some align with the central government's move, touting it as a path to progress, others continue to advocate for the restoration of special status. This dichotomy underscores the ongoing divide between different regions of Jammu and Kashmir, which will likely influence the outcome of the elections. A high voter turnout and peaceful elections emboldens the government's stance on its Kashmir policy, reinforcing the narrative that the decision to revoke Article 370 was justified and has led to positive outcomes for the region. For opposition parties, the elections offer an opportunity to challenge the ruling government's narrative and build alliances with local players. As the first phase of polling concludes, Jammu and Kashmir stands at a crossroads. The region's political future hinges on how the rest of the election unfolds and what messages the electorate sends through their vote.



# Modi@74: A journey of triumphs and challenges



Narendra Modi, a man who rose through the ranks, from RSS worker to become a global leader, has undergone a remarkable transformation

turns 74, the Prime Minister of India stands at a pivotal **\_**point in his political career. Having transformed from a grassroots worker in the RSS to a global leader, Modi's leadership has been marked by several triumphs, while also weathering significant criticism. A closer look at his governance reveals a complex blend of successes and shortcomings, reflecting his unique vision for India and the challenges of implementing sweeping reforms in a diverse, evolving democracy. Successes; Economic Reforms: Modi's tenure has been defined by key economic reforms aimed at spurring growth and investment. The implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in 2017 stands as one of India's most transformative reforms, simplifying the tax system and promoting ease of business.

Another flagship initiative is the Make in India" program, which sought to position India as a manufacturing hub, attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) in sectors such as defence, electronics, and pharmaceuticals.

Digital India:Modi's push for a digital revolution has reshaped India's financial and technological landscape. The Digital India campaign significantly expanded internet connectivity, especially in rural areas. Innovations like the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) have revolutionized digital transactions, while the Aadhaar system has streamlined welfare distribution, reducing inefficiencies in benefit transfers.

Foreign Policy: On the global stage, Modi has strengthened India's relationships with key nations like the U.S., Japan, and Israel. Under his leadership, India has played a more prominent role in global forums such as G20 and BRICS. A major achievement has been the International Solar Alliance (ISA), promoting globenergy and showcasing India's leadership in sustainable develop-

Nationalism and Identity Politics: Modi has adeptly tapped into nationalist sentiments, reinforcing the Bharatiya Janata Party



Challenges Before Modi: As Narendra Modi enters the later stages of his political journey, he faces a series of challenges that will shape his legacy and influence India's future. While his tenure has seen significant achievements, Modi's leadership must now address pressing concerns across various sectors that demand urgent attention and innovative solutions.

and Ujjwala Yojana have

improved housing and provid-

ed cooking gas to millions of

households

**Economic Recovery and Job** Creation: India's economic recovery post-COVID-19 remains fragile. Despite some growth, inflation continues to be a persistent challenge, driven by rising global oil prices and domestic supply chain disruptions. For the average citizen, higher living costs are



ON THE GLOBAL STAGE, MODI HAS STRENGTHENED INDIA'S **RELATIONSHIPS** 

WITH KEY NATIONS LIKE THE US, JAPAN, AND ISRAEL. **UNDER HIS** LEADERSHIP, INDIA HAS PLAYED A MORE **PROMINENT** ROLE IN GLOBAL FORUMS SUCH

AND BRICS

squeezing household budgets, particularly for the poor and middle class. Modi's government must balance inflation control with promoting sustained economic growth.

The issue of unemployment, especially among the youth, looms large. Urban and rural areas continue to experience high joblessness, and despite various reforms, the informal sector, which provides most jobs, is still recovering from the effects of demonetization, the Goods and Services Tax (GST), and the pandemic. Modi will need to focus on bolstering labour-intensive industries, strengthening small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and encouraging

entrepreneurship. Agriculture and Farmers' Discontent: Even after repealing the controversial farm laws following large-scale protests, rural distress persists. Indian farmers continue to face challenges such as low productivity, insufficient infrastructure, and limited access to credit. To address these problems, Modi will need to prioritize rural development and improve agricultural infrastructure. However, he must tread cautiously with new reforms to avoid reigniting protests. Farmers will require sustained support through initiatives like improving Minimum Support Prices (MSP) and introducing technological innovations to

enhance productivity. India-China Relations and **Regional Security:** 

India's strained relations with China, particularly after the 2020 Galwan Valley clashes, remain a significant foreign policy challenge.
The border standoff continues,

and while diplomatic negotiations have curbed escalation, the potential for conflict still exists. Managing the delicate balance between regional security and diplomatic efforts with China is critical. Despite these successes, Modi's tenure has not been without short-comings. The "Make in India" initiative has struggled to create enough manufacturing jobs, and his government's 2016 demonetization policy disrupted the informal economy without yielding longterm benefits. Modi also faced one of the largest protests in Indian history over controversial farm laws, which he ultimately had to repeal. Additionally, his leadership has been criticized for deepening communal divisions, with incidents of religious violence and the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) sparking social tensions.As Modi continues to lead his legacy will depend on balancing development with social harmony and democratic gov-

(The writer is a strategic affairs columnist and political analyst; views are personal)

ernance.

## Kolkata's protests and the culture of rape: A call for societal change



The tragic incident at RG Kar Medical College, Kolkata underscores the urgent need for a profound societal shift in attitudes toward women

he recent public outcry in Kolkata, sparked by the tragic incident at RG Kar Medical College, has transformed into a significant and sustained protest. Junior doctors gathering in front of the Health Department, alongside widespread public engagement, underscores a profound frustration with the pervasive violence against women in India. Reflecting on the August 9 incident, it's evident that the protest is not merely about the individual responsible. Despite the apprehension of the perpetrator, the continuing movement raises crucial questions about why such intense outrage persists.

The root problem, as I see it, lies in the cultural context that enables such violence. It's not just about one person's actions but about a broader cultural environment. The protests highlight a growing recognition that the issue is embedded within a culture that normalizes and perpetuates violence against women.

The Kolkata demonstrations have brought to light a critical aspect of this cultural problem: the normalization of rape and the way women are effectively, we need to funda-

perceived and treated. In Îndian culture, women are often valued primarily for their reproductive roles, linking respect to their capacity as mothers. This perspective reduces women to their biological functions, overlooking their full humanity.

The "culture of rape" is evident in societal behaviors and attitudes that tolerate and perpetuate violence against women. This deeply ingrained culture is reflected in everyday interactions and institutional practices, indicating that the issue goes beyond individual acts.

The ongoing protests signify a crucial desire for a profound cultural shift. The movement in Bengal represents a broader call for cultural transformation. To address the problem norms and practices that contribute to a pervasive culture of violence and exploitation. As long as these cultural attitudes persist, incidents of rape will continue.

of sexual violence in Indian mation. It's not just about legal society is evident in various ways. For instance, the fact that the name of the doctor murdered and raped in Bengal was trending on porn websites for an extended period reflects a serious cultural issue. It shows how sexual violence is often sensationalized and dehumanized rather than addressed with the seriousness it deserves.

This critique extends to societal behaviors and attitudes, illustrated by the public reaction to the Ujjain incident. The fact that such a violent act occurred in a busy area, with onlookers observing and recording it, underscores the disturbing normalization of sexual violence. Such incidents are met with alarming indifference. Examining the cultural foun-

dations of this issue reveals how cultural norms perpetuate gender inequality and violence. There are many

mentally change societal subtle signs of rape culture that are often overlooked, such as the objectification of women and the normalization of harmful attitudes and practices.

Addressing this issue requires The troubling normalization a profound cultural transformeasures or punishing offenders; it's about transforming the norms and values instilled from a young age. Culture is nurtured in our homes, and changing how we educate and raise our children is crucial to addressing rape

In conclusion, the protests in Kolkata and similar movements across India are not just reactions to individual cases of violence but a critical response to a deep-seated cultural issue that normalizes and perpetuates sexual violence. This situation underscores the urgent need for a fundamental cultural shift. Until we address the broader culture of rape, incidents of sexual violence will continue to plague our society.

(Acharya Prashant is a Vedantá teacher and an advocate of women rights; views expressed are personal)

#### **ONE NATION ONE POLL**

Madam — The Cabinet nod for 'One nation - One election' (19-9-24) displays the misplaced priority of the Union government. Except the cost factor there is no other point worth considering to support the decision of the Cabinet. Election is an opportunity for the people to demonstrate their democratic sanction or resentment over the policies and programmes of a government. People exercising this right to ventilate their agreement or disagreement over the governments in the Center or the States should not be curtailed just to avoid expense. The expectations of the people being state specific in assembly elections and nation specific in the Parliament elections there is possibility of either of them getting swayed by the general mood. Possibility of holding elections in a massive way is not practically feasible. We are seeing the inability of the Election Commission to hold elections to a few States at one stroke. The Commission is not able to hold elections to Maharashtra Assembly along with elections in J&K and HP. Even elections to the state assembly are held in multiple slots. We have also seen the Commission rendered helpless to deal properly with the violations reported during the last General elections. The very idea of mandating holding elections to assemblies along with election to the Parliament is against the very Federal structure of the constitution. Proposal to hold elections to local bodies in 100 days after the General elections is also expensive and it is aimed at swaying the polls taking advantage of the outcome of national level elections. The arbitrary decision is undemocratic, antifederal and strangulates the right of the people to decide their choice on local, state and nation specific needs and demands. Above all, the move of government is, as usual, to divert the attention of the people from the basic and burning issues of the nation in many of which the performance of the government is definitely not

upto the mark. A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

#### **Hundred days of achievements**

E EDITO



Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first 100 days of his third term have demonstrated a clear focus on development and global leadership. The government's investments of ?3 lakh crore in infrastructure projects like roads, railways, and ports are vital steps toward boosting the economy and creating jobs. Raising capital expenditure to Rs11.11 lakh crore reflects

#### **WORLD BAMBOO DAY**

Madam—Bamboo is one of the largest members of the grass family and is the fastest growing woody plant on the planet. Its growth rate varies according to the soil and climate, and is best known as a major food source for pandas. Bamboo is also used for culinary and medicinal purposes in many parts of the world, as well for construction materials, furniture, textiles, musical instruments, bicycles, clothing and more.

As a packaging material, bamboo is strong, durable and sustainable. It is one of the more remarkable natural materials available to us. The Economist recently quoted that bamboo is literally, the green equivalent of plastics. This is because it is renewable and low-carbon. It also said bamboo is now part and parcel of our packaging material. Furthermore, bamboo produces up to 35% more oxygen than trees, thus helping to offset carbon-dioxide emissions. It's easy to see why bamboo is a favorite when it comes to sustainable materials

C.K. Subramani Iyer | Coimbatore

a strong commitment to job creation and overall economic growth. Efforts in agriculture, such as the ?20,000 crore allocation to farmers and increased MSP, along with the recognition of 1 crore "Lakhpati Didis," are praiseworthy. Foreign policy initiatives, including Modi's engagement with nations like the U.S., Russia, and China, indicate a proactive approach in shaping India's global standing. These accomplishments set a positive tone for the future, even as challenges like inflation and political tensions remain.

In his first 100 days of a third term, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has focused on development and global leadership, with significant investments in infrastructure, agriculture, and foreign relations. While progress is evident, challenges like inflation and political tensions continue to test his government's future agenda. Vishesh Shukla | Lucknow

#### **CONGRESS PROMISING THE MOON**

Madam — The Congress election manifesto in Haryana is a bundle of high cost freebies not at all feasible financially for the State to implement. While the political parties must examine the impact of their pre poll announcements over the health of the State exchequer and present the detailed outline of available revenue which would bear the brunt of the free-

The poll regulator Election Commission of India should also draft strict rules for manifestos and promises which are not

The cult of freebies must stop if we really wish to progress morally, economicaland socially and if Election Commission fails, the Supreme Court of India must take cognizance of the matter and direct the Election Commission to stop this nonsense. The freebies can become a real liability for the exchequere.

Jai Prakash Gupta | Ambala

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## **FIRST COLUMN**

# APPLY SPORTS ETHICS IN THE WORKPLACE

The lessons learned through sports cultivate a healthier and productive work environment



ports have since long been a crucial element of human culture, teaching participants important life skills and values. The discipline, teamwork and perseverance developed in sports can easily be translated into a professional setting, where these qualities often lead to success. Applying sports values to the workplace creates a healthier and more productive environment that benefits individuals and teams

The term 'resilience' is one of the core values in sports, where athletes regularly face challenges, setbacks and failures. Whether it's losing a game, dealing with injuries or facing tough competition, athletes learn to recover, adapt and continue working toward their goals. The similar value is crucial in the workplace, where employees encounter stress, failed projects and unexpected obstacles. Resilience helps employees bounce back from difficulties and maintain a positive attitude despite setbacks. It encourages them to see failure as an opportunity for growth rather than a reason to give up.

There is no denying the fact that athletes exhibit tremendous commitment and passion for their sport, dedicating hours of practice, maintaining a strong mental focus and striving to overcome challenges. At the workplace, too, similar commitment is essential for both personal as well as organizational success. Employees who are passionate about their work are more engaged, motivated and willing to go the extra mile. Just as athletes work toward improving their performance, committed employees consistently seek opportunities to learn, grow and contribute

When talked about the Paralympics, these athletes provide a powerful



source of inspiration when it comes to work ethics. They demonstrate exceptional dedication, resilience and perseverance—qualities that can directly inspire and shape one's approach to professional life. The lessons learned from their incredible journeys highlight the importance of maintaining a strong work ethic, overcoming adversity and striving for excellence in any field. Passion fuels innovation and creativity, leading to breakthroughs and a sense of fulfilment in one's job encouraging professionals to remain committed to their goals even when facing challenges at the workplace. It teaches us that obstacles, whether personal or professional, can be overcome with time, effort and persistence.

The values learned through sports are not only essential for athletic success but also for professional growth and productivity in the workplace. By embracing these values, individuals and teams can foster a work culture that promotes collaboration, perseverance and a drive for excellence. Recognizing progress, no matter how small reinforces one's belief that effort pays off and celebrating these victories along the way keeps the individual motivated and energized to continue. Instead of shying away from difficulties, one must see them as opportunities to learn and grow. When an individual approaches obstacles with the belief that effort leads to improvement, they build resilience and perseverance.

As stated above, undoubtedly, Paralympians have to cope with significant adversity, whether it's learning to use a prosthetic limb or recovering from a life-altering injury. In the workplace, this means that failures, mistakes or even unexpected challenges are not the end but an opportunity to bounce back stronger. In the workplace, adopting a mindset that welcomes challenges rather than avoiding them is a key part of developing a strong work ethic. It pushes professionals to take on difficult tasks, expand their capabilities and evolve in their careers. Sports values do provide excellent lessons that can be transferred to the workplace, promoting personal growth, team cohesion and overall success. (The writer is an educator; views expressed are personal)

# Sri Lanka's pivotal presidential election



With traditional parties in decline and new alliances emerging, this election may spring surprises. The outcome will determine Sri Lanka's capacity to address its urgent challenges

ri Lanka faces a pivotal moment in ri Lanka faces a pivotal moment in its political history as it prepares for the presidential election this Saturday, 21 September. This election, the ninth for the executive presidency, unfolds amid severe political polarisation, sharply contrasting with the last election in November 2019. The decline of traditional political parties and the rise of various political alliances are prominent features of this election, with three main candidates competing in a manner distinct from the two-horse races of previous presidential contests. The fragmentation of political parties, the absence of anti-defection laws, and the formation of new alliances driven more by personal interests than by cohesive agendas pose significant risks to democratic stability and governance. The 2019 presidential race featured two main candidates and a notable but relatively minor third-party candidate. It saw a record voter registration of 15,992,096 and a turnout of 83.72% (13,387,951), surpassing previous highs of 81.52% in 2015 and 81.06% in 1982. Despite this high turnout, 135,452 votes were invalid, leaving 13,252,499 votes as valid. Gotabaya Rajapaksa of the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna won with 52.25% of the valid votes (6,924,255), while his main opponent, Sajith Premadasa of the National Democratic Front, received 41.99% (5,564,239). Anura Kumara Dissanayake of the National People's Power secured a mere 3.16% (418,553 votes). In the subsequent general election on 5 August 2020, Premadasa and Dissanayake faced off again for parliamentary seats. Premadasa won 305,744 votes, while Dissanayake received 49,814 votes.

In the 2015 parliamentary elections, Premadasa garnered 112,645 votes from Hambantota, whereas Dissanayake, contesting from Colombo, secured 65,966 votes.Ranil Wickremesinghe, one of main three main contenders, in this year's race but absent from the 2019 presidential election, leads the United National Party. His party received 249,435 votes (2.25%) in the general elections, including 30,875 from Colombo and 28,282 from Gampaha. Although his party did not win a parliamentary seat, Wickremesinghe was appointed to a national list position. Amid severe social upheaval caused by economic mismanagement, which resulted in the resignation of both the President and Prime Minister. Wickremesinghe, a seasoned politician and six-time Prime Minister, capitalised on the moment to make his comeback. After Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa was forced to resign, Wickremesinghe was

appointed as Prime Minister. However, protests demanding the resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa led to his dramatic escape, first to Trincomalee by navy ship, then back to Colombo by air force chopper, and finally to the Maldives by air force cargo flight. Rajapaksa officially resigned on 14 July 2022. Subsequently, Prime Minister Wickremesinghe was appointed as President by the constitutional process. Wickremesinghe's appointment highlights the complexities of Sri Lanka's

According to the constitution, the President must appoint a Prime Minister who commands the majority's confidence in Parliament, illustrating the considerable unchecked powers inherent in the executive role. Rajapaksa's assumption that Wickremesinghe, who came to Parliament through the national list, was the candidate who earned the majority's confidence reflects the intricate dynamics of Sri Lankan



FRAGMENTATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES, THE ABSENCE DEFECTION LAWS, AND THE FORMATION OF **NEW ALLIANCES** DRIVEN MORE BY PERSONAL **INTERESTS** THAN BY **COHESIVE AGENDAS** POSE SIGNIFICANT RISKS TO **DEMOCRATIC** STABILITY

politics. However, Wickremesinghe has effectively stabilised the situation after the social upheaval. In this context, Wickremesinghe has emerged as a major candidate, yet the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna has nominated its candidate, Namal Rajapaksa.

Reports suggest that Rajapaksa's ambitions to secure the prime ministership were opposed, leading a faction of his party to break away from Wickremesinghe. Rajapaksa's candidacy appears more focused on maintaining his family's political lineage rather than presenting a genuine bid for leadership. Nonetheless, his endorsement of supporting Sajith Premadasa, where he appeals to supporters to cast their second vote for Premadasa, could be a decisive factor in the election outcome. Meanwhile, the NPP, initially opposed to the public uprising that led to Rajapaksa's removal, has become a significant

Anura Kumara Dissanayake, who ironically led his political party into alliances with traditional parties to secure ministerial positions over the past few decades, has skilfully capitalised on widespread dissatisfaction with corruption and the growing anger towards conventional politicians to bolster his standing. His alliance's emotionally charged propaganda has infiltrated every corner of society, despite its lack of deep ideological substance. The Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), his original party, has skilfully harnessed this discontent to challenge the status quo.

However, Dissanayake's path to victory remains uncertain, especially with three major candidates in the race. Voter statistics reveal additional obstacles: with 17.1 million registered voters and an anticipated 80% turnout (13.7 million), a candidate would need approximately 7 million votes to secure the presidency in the first count. The NPP's past performance shows

limited success, receiving 418,553

votes (3.16%) in 2019 and 445,950 votes (3.84%) in parliamentary elections in 2020. The party faces challenges in Tamil-majority districts like Nuwara-Eliya, Jaffna, Wanni, Batticaloa, Trincomalee, and in areas with lower voter counts, such as Polonnaruwa and Matale. To suc-

ceed, the NPP must secure substantial votes from Colombo, Gampaha, Kalutara, Kandy, and Kurunegala, requiring an estimated 700,000 to 800,000 additional votes. Given these dynamics and the competition among three candidates, the NPP or JVP may struggle to achieve significant success in

this election. However, the election remains crucial in determining the country's social and governance structure. Conversely, Sajith Premadasa appears to have significant poten-

tial to garner a majority of the votes, while Wickremesinghe has also gained substantial ground. Therefore, it is unlikely that any candidate will secure over 50% of the vote in the first round of counting, which may necessitate counting the second votes. This uncertainty could trigger a

new wave of political instability if major alliances and key candidates fail to manage the results effectively and refuse to accept the people's verdict. Despite flashy manifestos and hefty campaign budgets, none of the candidates have provided a clear plan to tackle the staggering \$100 billion national debt. They all parrot the same old IMF rhetoric, yet almost none offer a concrete strategy beyond this wornout solution.

The situation in the island nation is dire, and there's no straightforward path for the incoming leader to steer the country out of its deepening crisis. As of 1 July 2024, about 24.8% of Sri Lanka's population lives in poverty, with rates varying dramatically between districts—3.5% in Colombo versus 44.2% in Nuwara-Eliya.

Poverty in rural areas has surged from 15% to 32%, while urban poverty has tripled from 6% to 18%. A recent survey revealed that 31% of the population is impoverished, with 33% skipping meals and 47% cutting back on meal sizes. Malnutrition affects nearly onethird of children under five, and over 40% of women aged 18-60 are overweight or obese, reflecting severe economic and health issues. Regardless of the election's outcome, Sri Lanka's entrenched political divisions threaten to entrench a fragmented legislative body, where effective governance and decisive action may become increasingly

Such divisions risk entrenching a cycle of delays and inefficiencies, potentially leading to a state of perpetual gridlock that hampers national progress. Antonio Gramsci's notion of passive revolution becomes pertinent here, warning of significant changes that merely preserve existing power structures. Hannah Arendt's insight that "The most radical revolutionary will become a conservative the day after the revolution" cautions against decisions driven by emotion

Thus, the question looms: can this election transcend emotional politics to instigate genuine reform, or will it simply entrench the status quo? Regrettably, the candidates' manifestos seem to hint at the lat-

> (The writer is a journalist and author. Views expressed

#### Chronicles of compliance: The missing case diaries in money laundering probes

**GOVERNANCE** 

Money laundering poses a significant threat to society, undermines democratic institutions, and fosters criminal activities and corruption

he international community established the - Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to combat money laundering and terrorist financing through international standards. The FATF's 40 Recommendations provide a comprehensive framework for countries to prevent and address these financial crimes. India enacted the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in 2002, effective from July 1, 2005, in alignment with its international obligations. The PMLA aims to combat the laundering of illicit funds, including those from activities such as drug trafficking, thereby safeguarding the country's financial integrity. The Role and Importance of finish times of the investigathe Case Diary: The case tion, locations visited, witness



tion 172 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), maintains a chronological record of the investigation process conducted by the police officer. This detailed documentation includes every step taken during the investigation, such as the date and time of receiving information about the crime, the start and diary, as mandated under sec-statements recorded, and evi-

dence collected. This comprehensive record ensures continuity and transparency in the investigation, serving as a crucial handover document when different officers handle the case at various stages. The case diary is essential for maintaining continuity and transparency in the investigation process, offering a comprehensive overview of progress to courts and defence lawyers. This transparency is indispensable for maintaining procedural integrity and accountability in the investigative process.

Concerns Regarding the Absence of a Case Diary under PMLA: In contrast, the PMLA mandates thorough investigations into money laundering but does not specify the need for a the investigation, the absence

detailed case diary as in the CrPC. This absence raises concerns about potential misuse by the Enforcement Directorate. Without a mandated case diary, there is no obligation for investigators to maintain a comprehensive, chronological record of their actions. This lack of documentation could reduce accountability and allow for the manipulation or selective presentation of evidence without a transparent trail of how and when it was obtained, compromising the investigation's integrity. This can lead to biased or unjust conclusions, under-

investigation and in cases

where multiple officers are

involved in different stages of

of a detailed case diary can result in inconsistent handovers. Critical information might be lost or altered, impacting the continuity and coherence of the investigation. This ultimately leads to violations of individual rights and compromise on due mining the integrity of the process of law.

Case Diary Maintenance: It is important to understand that the accused under CrPC does not have an automatic right to defeats the very purpose for

view the case diary. Access to the case diary is at the discretion of the Court or the police officer. However, the significance of maintaining a case diary as noted above lies in its ability to keep investigating agencies diligent and accountable throughout the investigation process.

Furthermore, under the criminal law procedure, it is considered a dereliction of duty if the Magistrate does not request and review the case diary before authorizing any form of custody to the accused which means the perusal of the case diary by the magistrate is essential before any remand, whether judicial or police custody and haphazard maintenance of a case diary discredits those responsible and

Therefore, it is suggested that similar practice needs to be fol-lowed under the PMLA cases as well. Mandating ED to maintain a case diary ensures that it adheres to the due process of law during investigations and thereafter, the court will become entitled to use the case diary during trials or inquiries as an aid in the inquiry or trial, thereby holding the ED accountable for its investigative procedures, doing this the magistrate will be getting aid and true picture of the detailed record of the investigation proceedings conducted by ED till date in a narrative form, recorded promptly, with sufficient detail, and in chronological order and thus. will be able to objectivity decide whether to remand the

which it is required.

The Supreme Court is set to review 2 aspects of PMLA in July 2024, firstly, the FIR which is akin to ECIR under PMLA should be supplied to the accused or not. Secondly, the reversal of the presumption of innocence. It is to be noted that giving a case diary a statutory requirement under PMLA and thereby, mandating the ED to maintain one will be crucial in shaping the final judgement, which could fundamentally impact the legal framework for money laundering investigations in India. A ruling in favour of maintaining a case diary would enhance the fairness and transparency of PMLA proceedings, ensuring the accused's right to a fair trial.

(The writer is a law student; views expressed are personal) HYDERABAD | FRIDAY | SEPTEMBER 20, 2024

#### IN BRIEF



#### Gold up Rs 100; silver jumps **Rs 500 after Fed rate cut**

old prices rose by Rs 100 to Rs 75,650 per 10 grams in the national capital on Thursday due to increased demand from local jewellers and strong global cues after the US Federal Reserve cut interest rate. The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 75,550 per 10 grams on Wednesday. Silver prices rose for the sixth straight session, climbing by Rs 500 to touch Rs 91,000 per kg on Thursday, according to All India Sarafa Association. It had closed at Rs 90,500 per kg in the previous session. In the six trading sessions, silver prices have zoomed by Rs 7,200 per kg. Additionally, gold of 99.5 per cent purity increased by Rs 100 to Rs 75,300 per 10 grams on Thursday. Traders attributed the rise in yellow metal prices to a pick-up in demand by local jewellers and retailers in the domestic



#### Infosys to invest up to Rs 17 cr in space tech startup GalaxEye

T firm Infosys on Thursday said it will invest up to Rs 17 crore in space tech startup GalaxEye Space Solutions as part of Infosys Innovation Fund. The investment will be made in equity and series A compulsory convertible preference shares allotment, a regulatory filing said. "Infosys Ltd has agreed to invest in SpaceTech startup, GalaxEye up to INR 17 Crores (approximately \$ 2 million) as part of Infosys Innovation Fund," it said. The all-cash deal is expected to be completed on or before September 30, 2024. Infosys will undertake a "minority holding" in GalaxEye, not more than 20 per cent of the outstanding share capital of the company, the filing said. Incubated at IIT Madras and based out of Bengaluru, GalaxEye is building multi-sensor satellites and synchronisation platform, which generates comprehensive allweather, high-resolution and intuitive datasets. The technology defence, insurance, logistics, utilities, infrastructure, agriculture disaster management and mining



#### **Govt okays sale of FSNL to Japan's Konoike Transport Co**

he government on Thursday approved the privatisation of Ferro Scrap Nigam Ltd (FSNL) to Japanese corporation Konoike Transport Co Ltd for Rs 320 crore. Under the Steel Ministry, FSNL is a 100 per cent subsidiary of MSTC Ltd. The government had received two technically qualified financial bids for the company. The Alternative Mechanism, comprising Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Steel Minister H. D. Kumaraswamy, have approved the highest bid amounting to Rs 320 crore of Konoike Transport Co Ltd for sale of 100 per cent equity shareholding of MSTC Ltd in FSNL along with transfer of management control, a finance ministry statement said. The 320 crore bid was higher than the reserve price of Rs 262 crore set by the government on the basis of valuation carried out by the Transaction Adviser and Asset Valuer. The strategic sale of FSNL received two technically qualified financial bids. The bid submitted by Konoike Transport Co. Ltd at Rs 320 crore was the highest of the two bids and was also above the reserve price.



#### White Revolution to boost dairy sector: Shah

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a major push to transform India's dairy cooperative sector, Union Minister Amit Shah on Thursday unveiled 'White Revolution 2.0', a comprehensive initiative aimed at empowering women farmers and creating job opportunities.

The programme focuses on four key areas - empowering women farmers, enhancing local milk production, strengthening dairy infrastructure, and boosting dairy exports. The programme is one of the three initiatives undertaken in the first 100 days of the Modi government's third term.

"Maximum women are engaged in the dairy sector, with some generating business worth Rs 60,000 crore in Gujarat alone. This new initiative will focus on empowering women and further strengthening the

fight against malnutrition," Shah said while addressing the gathering. The minister also launched

the nationwide rollout of RuPay Kisan Credit Cards for dairy farmers and the installation of micro-ATMs at dairy cooperative societies. Additionally, he released standard operating procedures for the computerisation of 67,930 Primary Agriculture Credit Societies

Under White Revolution 2.0,

the government aims to increase milk procurement by dairy cooperative societies by 50 per cent over the next five years. The plan involves setting up and strengthening 1,00,000 new and existing district cooperative societies, multi-purpose district cooperative societies, and multi-purpose PACS, which will be linked to milk routes with necessary infrastructure.

# Banks to play key role in achieving Viksit Bharat: FM

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said the banking sector will have to play a crucial role in driving the agenda of making India a developed nation or Viksit

Bharat by 2047.
The Finance Minister was speaking at an event here to mark the 90th Foundation Day of the Bank of Maĥarashtra, a public sector lender.

She said the vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047 has key pillars of economic growth, social progress, environmental sustainability, and good gover-"Banks will have to play a

crucial role in driving the agenda set by the vision of the Prime Minister and by your role, we are going to give greater momentum to achieving this dream," she said.

The vision of Viksit Bharat,

Sitharaman added, envisages providing strong momentum in infrastructure; ensuring availability of need-based funding to MSMEs; bringing the unbanked population under the ambit of formal banking channels; and providing insur-



The vision of Viksit Bharat envisages providing strong momentum in infrastructure; ensuring availability of need-based funding to MSMEs; bringing the unbanked population under the ambit of formal banking channels; and providing insurance net to all citizens

ance net to all citizens. The minister further said technology is reshaping India's banking landscape and it provides a secure, easy-to-navigate digital banking experience to customers. The system needs to be robust, reliable and user-

friendly. However, she added that "you (banks) cannot have a digital system which somewhere gets hacked, and the entire system and the trust which is laid on it getting compromised. So you need to have a robust and resilient and then you need to make sure that the firewalls are adequate, any emergency drill which you need to do, what if situation so you know to handle if there is an emergency in terms of digital insecure inci-

The finance minister also said the fintech's growth is also

going to help.
Unified Payments Interface
(UPI), the real-time payment
system launched in April 2016
by NPCI, has played a significent role in the growth of cant role in the growth of retail digital payments.

"Today, approximately 45 per cent of all real-time digital payments in the world happen in India. Banks should look at prospects to expand it," she

Sitharaman said so far, UPI has been launched in seven countries - Bhutan, France, Mauritius, Nepal, Singapore, Sri Lanka and the UAE

She emphasised that the digital footprints which are being generated should be fully tapped.

"As we use technology to our advantage, we also need to get well-equipped to mitigate the risks," she added.

#### RBI lifts restrictions on **IIFL Finance's** gold loan biz

PNS NEW DELHI

IIFL Finance on Thursday said RBI has lifted the restrictions imposed on its gold loan business. These restrictions were imposed on March 4, 2024, which prohibited the company from sanctioning, disbursing, or assigning/ securitising/ selling any of its gold loans. "The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), through its communication dated September 19, 2024, has lifted the restrictions imposed on the gold loan business of IIFL Finance Ltd," IIFL Finance said in a regula-

tory filing The RBI's decision is effective immediately and allows the company to resume the sanctioning, disbursal, assignment, securitisation, and sale with all relevant laws and reg-

#### **India's logistics cost to come** down to single-digit : Gadkari

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's logistics cost will come down to single-digit within the next five years, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Thursday.

Addressing the 'Deloitte Government Summit' here, Gadkari said the ministry is constructing several highways and expressways which will help reduce India's logistics cost.

'I am confident that within five years our logistics cost will be in single-digit," he said.

However, according to quick estimates of economic think tank National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), the logistics cost in India ranged from 7.8 per cent to 8.9 per cent of GDP in

highways minister further said

he aimed to make the Indian automobile industry number one in the world.

Last year, India had overtaken Japan to become the thirdlargest automobile market in the world, only behind the US and China, he said. According to him, the size

of India's automobile industry rose from Rs 7.5 lakh crore in 2014 to Rs 22 lakh crore in 2024. Talking about

India's macroeconomy, Gadkari said India is the fastest-growing major economy in the world.

"If we can increase the purchasing power of farmers, then it will have a big positive impact on our economy," he

Gadkari also emphasised that India needs to increase its exports and reduce imports.

The road transport and village is also economically ghways minister further said viable," he said.

### 'Will adopt nuanced approach to deal with 'at risk' NPOs'

PNS NEW DELHI

India on Thursday said it will adopt a 'nuanced' approach to deal with 'at risk' non-profit organisations (NPOs), an issue raised by the global crime watchdog FATF in its report which has otherwise appreciated India for its efforts to tackle terror financing and money laundering.
Additional Secretary

(Revenue), Finance Ministry, Vivek Agarwal said India has excelled on 6 'immediate outcomes' of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), including in risk, policy and coordination, international cooperation, financial intelligence, confiscation and proliferation financing.
On the five other parame-

ters, including abuse of NPOs and terror financing sanctions, as well as prosecution of money launde financing cases India has got a medium rating



As regards the abuse of NPOs for terror financing, Agarwal said the scope for NPOs being misused is very less in India because there is a cap on cash donations.

We were trying to make a case that regulatory framework is good enough... Their case is that since the NPO sector is very big, we should have ased metrics India, it should be a risk-based al insurgencies in North East regulation and not stifling and Left Wing extremism.

**COMPUTATION OF GDP** 

Govt mulls change in

base year to 2022-23

regulation... We don't see a case for further tightening. We see a case for a more nuanced approach to identify at-risk ÑPOs," Agarwal said.

He further said that efforts of India are towards having a better outreach with the NPOs to encourage them to maintain their accounts, and donors list so that the chances of getting abused are min-

Agarwal said India has suffered the effects of terrorism consistently

Independence and has been taking steps to deal with the menace. As per the FATF India

mutual evaluation report, which has upgraded India to "regular follow up category", theatres of terrorism threats are Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), Al-Qaedalinked terror groups, radical-

## Sensex jumps 237 pts to close at all-time high after US rate cut

PNS MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty climbed to fresh record high levels on Thursday in line with firm global trends after the US Federal Reserve announced the first cut in policy rate in more than four years.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 236.57 points or 0.29 per cent to settle at a all-time high of 83,184.80. During the day, it jumped 825.38 points or 0.99 per cent to scale a new all-time intra-day high of 83,773.61 but pared some of the gains at close.

The NSE Nifty gained 38.25 points or 0.15 per cent to 25,415.80. During the day, it surged 234.4 points or 0.92 per cent to hit a fresh intra-day record peak of 25,611.95.

From the 30 Sensex firms, NTPC, Nestle, Titan, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Maruti, Hindustan Unilever, Bharti Airtel and HDFC Bank were the biggest gainers.



HCL Technologies, Tata Consultancy Services, Adani Ports, Larsen & Toubro, JSW Steel, State Bank of India, Tech Mahindra and Bajaj Finance were among the laggards from

"În the Indian market, Nifty has climbed 2.1 per cent over the past 10 days in anticipation of the rate cut, although market activity remained relatively flat today, with early excitement tapering off by the after-

"This suggests that markets may have already priced in the rate cut and are looking ahead to other clues. Additionally, crude oil prices are trading at 52-week lows, and essential metals like iron ore and steel are hovering near multi-year lows-clear indicators of a slowing global economy," Amit Golia, Group MarketsMojo, said.

Looking forward, markets may shift their focus to how these rate cuts affect corporate earnings and broader economic health, especially if global demand continues to weaken, Golia added.

The BSE smallcap gauge declined 1.06 per cent and midcap index dipped 0.53 per

Among the indices, consumer durables climbed (0.64 per cent). Realty (0.47 per cent), bankex (0.46 per cent), consumer discretionary (0.34 per cent) and auto (0.32 per cent) were among the gainers.

#### India on track to be third-largest economy by FY31: S&P report

PNS MUMBAI

India is on track to becoming the third-largest economy by 2030-31, driven by a projected annual growth rate of 6.7 per cent this fis-cal, S&P Global said in a report on Thursday.

The report also said that with 8.2 per cent growth rate in FY2024, continued reforms are crucial to improving business transactions and logistics, boosting private sector investment, and reducing reliance on public capital.

It said equity markets are expected to stay dynamic and competitive due to strong growth prospects and better regulation, and foreign inflows into Indian government bonds have surged since the country joined major emerging market indexes, with further growth antic-

#### from 2011-12 PNS NEW DELHI

The government is considering to change the base year for computation of the GDP to 2022-23, from 2011-12 at present, to reflect an accurate picture of the economy, sources said on Thursday.

This will be the first revision in over a decade. It was last done in 2011-12, they said.

The Ministry of Statistics Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is likely to make a suggestion for accepting 2022-23 as a base year to the Advisory Committee on National Accounts Statistics (ACNAS), they said.

The 26-member ACNAS, which was constituted under the Chairmanship of Biswanath Goldar, is expected to complete the exercise by early 2026.

The estimates of the new base are likely to be released in February 2026, sources said.

... Considering the major data source availability such as ASUSE (Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises), HCES (Household Consumption Expenditure

Survey) from NAS (National Accounts Statistics), MoSPI will place 2022-23 as next base for consideration of ACNAS," they said.

As per sources, in the new computation some items like lanterns, VCRs, recorders will be removed and products like smart watches, phones and processed food items will be added.

The GST data is a new data source that could be used in GDP computation.

In addition to this, a number of studies have been conducted to update the rates and ratios used in computation of GDP and therefore will improve the computation, sources said.

The government is also taking various other measures to improve the statistical system for a strong data governance which reflects a better and accurate picture of informal sectors.

Sources said a pilot survey is underway to see the feasibility for conducting Annual Survey of Service Sector Enterprises (ASSSE) based on GSTN based sampling frame.

#### 'India major contributor to development of edn sector' PNS NEW DELHI "India has been a leader in their intellectual growth. said that to support It was inaugurated by

Wednesday.

India remains a major partner for Maldives and also a major contributor to the development, especially in the education sector, Maldives Education, Labour & Skills Minister Ahmed Shafeeu has

He was addressing educa-tion and skilling resources exhibition and conference DIDAC INDIA, on

many ways, not only in the region but also globally. When we consider India's economic and technological development, as well as its contributions to education and skill development, it's important to recognize its significance," Shafeeu said at the three-event that began on September 18 here. The event is being organised by Messe Stuttgart India in collaboration with India Didactics Association (IDA).

renowned spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar in the presence of Shafeeu and

Jacinta Allan, Premier of Victoria. Ravi Shankar said educational institutions should prioritize addressing the mental health issues of teachers, students, and parents. It is crucial to establish a platform to help students growth. develop mental resilience for

Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan said there are 200 academic and research collaborations between

Victoria and India. Victoria stands as the number one destination for Indian international students and "we see transnational education

as the greatest opportunity for Aditya Gupta, CEO, of IDA

Government of India's vision and to further boost India's education system, DIDAC INDIA 2024 convenes thought leaders, educators, policymak-ers, and industry officials from all around the world for in-depth exploration and global showcase.

India is witnessing a massive shift in the education and skilling sector with the introduction of AI and tech-driven solutions, he added.

Addressing this need of the hour, DIDAC INDIA's 14th edition will showcase a diverse array of futuristic solutions and resources to bolster the sector. DIDAC INDIA opened new

doors for foreign investments. tech innovation and collaborations to fuel India's education and skill sector. The participating countries

include Maldives, Germany, Finland, the State of Victoria the State of New South Wales and the UK

## GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION 'E' PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE NT No. 25/E.E. 14/GHMC/2024-25 Dated: 19-49-2024

Name of work: Beautification work under Division-14, KZ, GHMC. Estimate
Amount/ ECV: Rs. 32.00 Lakhs, Start date / Last date & time for receipts of Bids: 20-09-2024 @ 11.00 AM / 23-09-2024 @ 11.00 AM. Name & Address officer. Executive Engineer -14, GHMC, 5th floor, Abids Parking Complex, Abids, Hyderabad. For further details can be seen at e-procurement website Sd/- Executive Engineer www.tender.telangana.gov.in

# Hyderabad the pioneer load the pioneer load and the pioneer load the pioneer load and the pioneer load the pioneer load and t

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Friday September 20, 2024

Kanika Kapoor recalls her 'peculiar memento' from her Paris travel



SINGER KANIKA KAPOOR, WHO WAS NOT LONG AGO ADORING THE BEAUTY OF LONDON AND MYKONOS DURING HER TRIP, SPEAKS TO THE PIONEER ABOUT HER TRAVEL, HER LIBERATING TRIP AND A LOT MORE AROUND HER TRAVEL DIARIES

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inger Kanika Kapoor loves to travel to new places and attempts to fully immerse herself in the local way of life. It has guaranteed that she will continue to grow as a person and has expanded her horizons. With a little creativity, we can take you on her recent vacation as we write this article for our travelogues segment.

"My last trip was to London, a city that always feels like a home to me," she says in an exclusive interview that she is having with us from Dallas. "Ralph, my new dog, is adorable and I enjoy having him around. The ideal destination to travel with my family and kids is London. Every time I have a break from work, I take a plane back to my family. In addition, I just visited Mykonos, Barcelona and Spain. Right now, we are in Dallas, Texas, for a live performance. Indeed, travel is an integral aspect of my life"

travel is an integral aspect of my life."

The Ragini MMS star gives us a brief overview of her observations, saying, "The museums, the buildings and even the street art tell a story. In terms of style, London is a great place to try out new looks! I experiment with bold boots, stylish berets and traditional trench coats. I adore how the city encourages you to blend sophistication and edge!"

She has been to the British Museum, an amazing repository of cultural and historical artifacts. Kanika found the Egyptian mummies and the Rosetta Stone to be quite fascinating. She goes on, saying that she likes to stay in Ritz Carlton hotels and: "I always buy friend magnets from all the cities I travel to and I once brought back a mini Eiffel

Tower filled with sand from the Paris beach. It's a peculiar memento that always takes me back to that journey."

She never stops telling us these amusing stories that make us think of her while also bringing us back in time. "Mumbai is truly unique," she says. "With a fusion of cultures, languages and nationalities, it's a city that never sleeps. There's never been energy like this. My parents and the amazing food there are the two things that provide me joy; therefore, Lucknow comes in second."

A recent trip that felt liberating? The *Roy* fame states, "My spouse and I would travel to Lagos, Nigeria. Afro musicians from that region are nice; they have a whole different culture and lately, I have been working with them frequently. It's been quite freeing and satisfying. My dream travel destinations are to see the Northern Lights in Iceland and the Japanese

cherry blossoms."
Yes, folks, she also has some travel advice! "Always keep a scarf and reusable water bottle with you. The scarf can be used as a blanket, a fashion piece, or as a pillow on lengthy trips, while the bottle keeps you hydrated!"



From music videos

talent shining through, Dhvani Bhanushali

is ready to prove that she can make a splash

on both the music and film stages, captivat-

ing audiences in new and exciting ways.

## Handcrafting tales of perseverance!

**TEJAL SINHA** tejal.sinha30@gmail.com

orn from a desire to women, empower Himalayan Blooms thrives. Challenging the idea that quality is lacking in rural areas, they have been providing tools and training to women in the community, we maintain tradition while reaching the highest levels of excellence. Here, women acquire the necessary skills and resources to succeed. They can express their creativity, attain economic freedom, and provide for their loved ones. Empowering the people in the Himalayan community allows us to empower the community as a whole, creating a better

future step by step.
Let's take you a little back through its story. *The Pioneer* connects with Pratibha Krishnaiah, the founder, who begins, "The inspiration began when I left my job in Bangalore to join the SBI Foundation Youth for India Fellowship program. Assigned to work with the BAIF Development Research Foundation, I immersed myself in the local community."

During this, she discovered that many women in the village

During this, she disc many women in the vill were passionate about knitting and crocheting for their families. When asked if they would be interested in earning an income from their craft, their enthusiastic "yes" planted the seed. The women of Khetikhan inspired

the vision to harness

their talents for a

meaningful change.

While engaging with the local women, she recalls, "I saw the potential of their knitting skills and their eagerness to work. Originally, I planned to hand over the project to the NGO after my fellowship. However, the support from funders who read about my work motivated me to continue. It

In an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*, Pratibha Krishnaiah, founder of Himalayan Blooms, connects with us about being a testament to the dedication of its artisans, uplifting their spirits, and significantly contributing to their household income



was born out of this support and the desire to empower rural women through handicrafts, turning their skills into a sustainable source of income." Through knitting and crochet, the women of Khetikhan are preserving traditional skills while blending them with modern designs. This approach ensures that age-old techniques aren't lost to time while produc-

ing products that resonate with both

local and global markets.

"Our work extends far beyond economic empowerment," shares Pratibha with great enthusiasm. "Women who once had no exposure to technology are now proficient in software like Tally and MS Office, navigate the internet, use AI tools, and manage marketing and customer relations. These women are not just earning an income—they are managing and running the foundation themselves, being a true social enterprise."

With a mission to empower women in Khetikhan, it has been providing them with more than just financial stability. "We aim to offer true independence, a respected place in society and the skills necessary for self-sufficiency. Our goal is to elevate their status, giving them the tools and confidence to thrive within their communities. We foster collaboration, creativity, and compassion by connecting our artisans with ventures around the world. This exposure helps our women engage in global partnerships, expanding their professional networks. By working on creative projects with compassion at the core, they see their work appreciated on a global scale, boosting their confidence and self-worth."

But again, things didn't come out in place without challenges: "Initially, there was hesitance from many women. Only one out of a group of seven to eight embraced the opportunity. Social norms and economic pressures at home kept their skills hidden. Gradually, by building trust and showing the benefits of empowerment, more women joined us, overcoming these barriers."

overcoming these barriers."

Going ahead, she shares with us one story that stands out—a 20-year-old girl pursuing her Bachelor of Arts degree. While studying, she crochets for them, earning about Rs 5,000 a month. After her father's passing, she helps her mother with household and agricultural work while supporting her four younger siblings. Her income not only helps with her own education but also covers essential household expenses. Working with Himalayan Blooms has given her hope and a sense of purpose. She now plans to join us full-time after completing her studies.

"We continue to grow stronger each day, creating a supportive, inclusive and empowering work culture for all the women in our local community. Our focus remains on building a better future and expanding opportunities for more women to join and thrive in our mission," signs off Pratibha on a brighter note.



# what's brewing?



SANTOOR

Wipro Consumer Care & Lighting announced the launch of its 9th edition of the Santoor Scholarship Program, a flagship initiative aimed at empowering girl students from underserved regions across India. This year, the program continues its focus on providing financial assistance to 1,500 eligible

students, with priority given to those from aspirational (backward) districts in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka and Chhattisgarh.





FMS Dental





GRUNDFOS





Grundfos is set to host its Industry End-user fair 2024 in India. The event will showcase its cuttingedge E-solutions designed to help industries achieve energy efficiency and their net-zero emissions goals, while hosting over 200 customers from various industry verticals. During the fair, it will be exclusively launch its textile vertical, featuring solutions tailored specifically for Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) applications.

The much-anticipated 6th edition of the Gentlemen's League, held at the opulent Claridges dazzled attendees with a breathtaking showcase of men's fashion and luxury lifestyle, firmly cementing its status as a premier event in the global fashion calendar. Over 500 distinguished guests attended the event, featuring collaborations with more than 30 luxury brands. Adding to the glamour of the evening, the event was graced by the presence of Bollywood actor Rohit Roy, whose star power added an extra touch of elegance to the affair.

In line with its vision of 'Making in India, for the World,' Ultraviolette opens its doors to its latest UV Space Station Experience Center in Hyderabad. This new facility represents the fifth major milestone in Ultraviolette's expansion. It also aligns with their vision of establishing 50 futuristic experience centers globally, with plans to be present in 10 Indian cities by Diwali 2024.

#### ARCHIE









**CALVIN AND HOBBES** 







#### **GARFIELD**





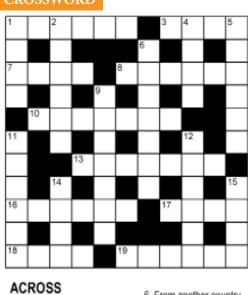




#### REALITY CHECK SPEED BUMP MAYBE SHARED CUSTODY WASN'T



#### **CROSSWORD**





**GINGER MEGGS** 







#### **SUDOKU**

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1 Baking instructions

8 Rub to a shine

13 Fake document

16 Extra-intelligent

10 Young hen

person

17 Finished 18 Playthings

19 Almost DOWN

7 Play this with two sticks

3 Factual

#### 6 From another country 9 A sea creature with many arms 11 Aeroplane trip

- 12 Motorist 14 Jealousy
- 15 Large group of soldiers

### HOLIDAYS ARE MEANT TO BE FOR RELAXING AND HAVING FUN!







# Nearly 3,000 women record harassment statements in TFI

SURESH KAVIRAYANI sureshkavirayani@gmail.com

ollywood is making headlines yet again after a young female choreographer filed a complaint against a senior choreographer. Previously, actresses such as Samantha and Anushka Shetty publicly urged the Telangana government and film industry to release the subcommittee report on sexual harassment. The Voice of Women, a support group for women in the Telugu film industry, was founded in 2019. Even on social media, many people are concerned about the working conditions in Tollywood. A few days back, the Sexual Harassment Redressal Panel also asked any woman can approach them with evidence if anything wrong happened at their workplace. Actress Poonam Kaur on her social media also asked the Tollywood bigwigs to question popular director Trivikram Srinivas.

"After the Sri Reddy issue, there was a subcommittee formed and nearly recorded the statement of 3,000 women actresses, technicians and other women who are working in the Telugu film industry (TFI). They recorded the statements in the years 2019 to 2021 and submitted the report to the Telangana Film Development Corporation (FDC)," said Thammareddy Bharadwaj, one of the members of the committee.

The FDC has been inactive for several years due to the absence of a suitable chairman. Once the BRS Government took control, they selected producer Ram Mohan Rao as the FDC Chairman, but



Pooja Hegde steals the show in #Vijay69, as Samantha stays off the script

couple of days ago, it was revealed that Tamil superstar Thalapathy Vijay's next film is #Vijay69 H Vinoth sarves as the discontinuous Ravichander acting as the music director. Before transitioning to full-time politics, KVN Productions from Bengaluru is currently working on Vijay's upcoming film. There are not many female leads named Samantha featured in various media sections.

but here is some exclusive news about one! According to a source close to the actress, Pooja Hegde will be the female lead in Vijay's upcoming film. As per the source, the actress will start filming for this movie on October 1. Vijay's latest movie, GOAT: Greatest of All Time, helmed by Venkat Prabhu, turned out to be a major failure at the box office. Vijay has agreed to work on another movie directed by H Vinoth, which will be his final film. In addition to Samantha, there are rumours that Trisha might be cast as the female lead, but the producers ultimately select Pooja Hegde

> filming commercials as the brand ambassador in Benguluru.

for the role. Currently, the actress is in Bengaluru filming a

commercial advertisement. She is cui

after his departure, there was no suitable replacement. Presently, Revanth Reddy serves as the Chief Minister, while Komati Reddy Venkat Reddy holds the position of Cinematography Minister. Revanth Reddy has named Giridhar Reddy as the head of the FDC, although he has no desire to assume the role. Therefore, both the chairman position and the office itself are not functioning effectively.

The FDC and its chairman are key players in the relationship between the Telugu film industry and the state government. However, the FDC is currently inactive and industry leaders are avoiding commenting on it, given its ties to the government.

Revanth Reddy criticised individuals in the Telugu film industry for not reacting when he introduced the Gaddar Awards; however, the TFI promptly responded with their support to the FDC. Due to the FDC's inac

positive response. "I told the media that we responded immediately and sent a letter to the FDC," said Thammareddy.

He also mentioned that the government needs to review the report and offer appropriate instructions for workplaces; the film industry plans to adopt it.

Damodara Prasad, who serves as secretary to the Telugu Film Chamber of Commerce, stated that the subcommittee gathered testimonies from female staff, including actresses and technicians and forwarded them to the FDC.

"If the government gives proper guidelines, the chamber will send those guidelines to all the production houses to implement them. Then the government, along with the Film Chamber, can monitor whether the production houses are implementing those guidelines in a proper way," said Damodara Prasad.
Earlier also, there were instances where one

actress openly held a media conference and accused a director, but later both compromised. There are a few instances that have happened in Tollywood, but the problem is that they didn't approach the organisations in a proper way.

Now, with choreographer Jani getting arrested and once again all eyes are on Tollywood. According to a source, a few industry people, including Thammareddy, are going to meet Chief Minister Revanth Reddy few days and may discuss with him the tivity, the Chief Minister has not received the sub-committee report that is on the FDC table.

## Another film of Vijay Antony is ready

The movie *Bichagadu* has made Tamil actor Vijay Antony gain popularity among Telugu audiences. All of his movies are translated into Telugu and then made available for release in this region as well. Regardless of whether or not his movies are successful at the box office, the actor continues to release films frequently. After releasing his recent movie *Toofan* in August, he is now preparing to release another film titled Hitler. Dhana serves as the director, with DT Raja and DR Sanjay Kumar serving as the producers.

The director stated that the movie *Hitler* will have a captivating action plot and is scheduled to come out in theaters on September 27. The film's trailer has been released, revealing that it is an action-packed drama. In this preview, Vijay Antony appears changed and appears to have established some goals that he aims to pursue. According to the trailer, the movie appears to be full of action scenes with unexpectable of the second scenes with unexpectable of the second scenes with unexpectable of the second se pected developments. Charan Raj portrays a political leader, while renowned director Gautam Vasudev Menon is featured in a significant role in the movie. Riya Suman plays the main female role.

### **Sharwa** to work with director Sampath Nandi

Sharwanand is currently involved in several projects, with another film being revealed on Thursday. The actor has committed to his ambitious and challenging project #Sharwa38, which will be helmed by Sampath Nandi. The producer is KK Radhamohan. The creators described the narrative as an exciting historical action film taking place in the countryside of North Telangana, along the border of Telangana and Maharashtra, during the late 1960s. The narrative takes place in a society governed by terror, where blood is often the solution to various issues.

> The makers stated that this movie will have a powerful storyline, intense action and emotionally charged scenes. It will mark the debut of Sampath Nandi and Sharwa in a film that will introduce neverbefore-seen storylines and elements in cinema. The filmmakers have also revealed that this movie will be available in every language upon its release. Director Sampath Nandi, who has a reputation for his long-term dedication to his work, put significant effort into developing this story with the intention of presenting Sharwanand in a fresh and unique role, as stated by the creators. Sharwa will be going through a total transformation for this role, which is based on the 1960s era. The music will be provided by Bheems Ceciroleo.

↑he movie *Dasara* showcases Nani in a new role in his career and also brought recognition to the director Srikanth Odela. It has also been the recipient of numerous awards. Now, Nani and director Srikanth Odela are teaming up once more for a new movie. Nani is currently filming his next movie, *Hit 3* and also has a project with Srikanth Odela that was revealed on Thursday. The director guarantees that their next project will surpass their previous film Dasara in scale. The director shared a sneak peek from the announcement video shoot, reaffirming his dedication to providing an engaging product.
Srikanth mentioned that he wrapped up

filming for his last movie *Dasara* on March 7, 2023, as the director. Now, on September 18, 2024, he announced his next project with Nani by saying 'action'. Sudhakar Cherukuri, the producer of *Dasara*, is also producing this film. Nani also responded on his social media

and said, "This one's madness is back in my life. Be prepared to be blown away (sic)





# ASHWIN, JADEJA TANGO SAVES INDIA AFTER HASAN MAHMUD'S EARLY STRIKES

Seasoned off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin sparkled on home turf with his sixth Test hundred as he combined with Ravindra Jadeja to steer India out of trouble and post a formidable 339 for six on day one of the

339 for six on day one of the first Test against Bangladesh here on Thursday.
Ashwin (102 batting) and Jadeja (86 batting) added 195 runs (174 minutes, 225 balls) for a riveting unbroken seventh wicket stand after young pacer Hasan Mahmud (4/58) reduced India to 144 for six, despite Yashasvi Jaiswal

making a solid 56.
The ebb and flow of the day's proceedings quite was remarkable and mostly revolved around Ashwin, Jadeja and Mahmud, who made his Test debut in March this year and was just three games old in the format before this match.

this match.
In a stunning first spell of 5-2-6-3, the 24-year-old Mahmud accounted for the cream of Indian top-order -- Rohit Sharma (6), Shubman Gill (0) and Virat Kohli (6) -- before snapping Rishabh Pant's return to Test cricket (39 off 52 balls) to Test cricket (39 off 52 balls) in the initial moments of the second session.

KL Rahul, another Indian batter who is re-entering the Indian Test establishment, fell for 16 to off-spinner Mehidy

pendulum stayed firmly in Bangladesh's quarter.
But then came the two

gladiators who know Chepauk like the back of their hand --Ashwin by birth and Jadeja through his long association with the Chennai Super Kings. with the Chennal Super Kings.
One more wicket at that stage would have extended the dominance of Bangladesh, but such thoughts hardly disturbed Ashwin and Jadeja.

Ashwin went off the blocks with a flurry of boundaries, a firm validation of his oh-sosmooth timing born out of fluent hand movement through shots and precise footwork.

There was this ramp shot off Mahmud, who tried to rattle Ashwin with a short-pitched delivery that climbed onto his

But the veteran player arched himself back ever so slightly to gain space to execute the ramp over the slip -- fabulous in conceptualisation and execution.

At times, he scored at a strike

rate in excess of 100 and was not hesitant to travel the more uncultured way. A slog sweep that went for six over mid-wicket off left-arm spinner Shakib Al-Hasan testified that. Iadeia was a tad different in his approach. Sensing that Ashwin was in good touch, the left-hander had the simple job of keeping his end going and he

tank decided to rest the

shock for the pundits of the

R Praggnanandhaa played out a quick draw as black against

Yangyi Yu of China while P

Harikrishna pressed for some time before the position

petered out to be equal in the

ensuing rook and pawns

endgame against Wang Yue of China on the fourth board.

Earlier Arjun Erigaise went

for the kill against an alert Bu

Xiangzhi and the latter found

a nice piece sacrifice to force a

With just four rounds to

come, the Indian men have

done everything correct thus

far and are sitting pretty with a 100 percent score like their

Iran is the only team in close

pursuit of the leaders on 13

points while a pack of four

teams - Serbia, Hungary, Armenia and defending

champions Uzbekistan share

the third spot on 12 points

In the next round now, the

Indian men will take on Iran while the women are pitted

**RESULTS ROUND 7 OPEN:** 

India (14) beat China (11)

2.5-1.5 (D Gukesh beat Wei

beat Vietnam (11) 2.5-1.5;

(10) 3-1; Serbia (12) beat Netherlands (10) 3-1; Armenia (12) beat England

(10) 2.5-1.5; France (11) drew

Women: India (14) beat Georgia (11) 3-1 (D Harika

drew with Nana Dzagnidze;

Lela Javakhishvili lost to R

Vaishali; Divya Deshmukh

drew with Nino Batsiashvili;

Bella Khotenashvili lost to

Vantika Agrawal); Ukraine

(11) drew with Poland (12) 2-

2; Azerbaijan (10) lost to

Kazakhstan (12) 1-3; Armenia (11) drew with

United States of America (11)

2-2; Mongolia (11) drew with

with Georgia (11) 2-2.

draw through repetition.

female counterparts.

each.

against Poland.



A past master in operating A past master in operating from behind the giant shadows of superstars, Jadeja looked extremely comfortable doing that once more, providing the assurance Ashwin needed.

But there were moments, the showman in Jadeja came forth and Shakib was the aggrieved party, getting hammered for

Bangladesh's star of the day Mahmud, too was not spared as Jadeja, who raised his fifty off 73 balls, played a drag-pull off the pacer to send him for a

six.

Other times, he wing-heeled across the pitch for those ones and twos to keep the Bangladesh bowlers frustrated. The spectators eventually witnessed the moment that they had been waiting for when Ashwin reached the hundred with a single off Shakib, and they welcomed it with applause, cheers and loud bugling. It was his second consecutive hundred at his home ground after going past the three-figure mark here against England in 2021. And it could not have come at a

it could not have come at a better time as well.
But before the epic fightback, the Indian innings resembled a crumbling rampart. It's not often that a team winning the toss would elect to bowl first here as that translates into a fourth-innings chase. But Bangladesh

bullet while going against the trend, and was rewarded for it too. Rohit, who was saved by DRS when he was on 1, was the first to depart.

The Indian skipper had little choice other than playing a wobble seam delivery that came at him on a tight angle as he edged to Shanto at second

slip.
Gill lasted just eight balls but
he would count himself unlucky, feathering Mahumd's down the leg side delivery to stumper Litton Das.

Kohli walked into the Chepauk amid loud cheers and looked confident. But an old failing resurfaced to haunt him. Mahmud pitched one just

short of the length outside the off-stump, and the length was not suitable for a drive. But the star batter chose to play

an expansive one with the ball nestling in Litton's gloves after taking a healthy edge off his

Jaiswal and Pant added 62 runs for the fourth wicket to temporarily check the free fall before both perished in close succession in the middle

session. Bangladesh might have thought the effort was good enough to keep the home side flat on the ropes, but Ashwin and Jadeja made them wiser as to why it is so tough to keep India on the back-foot at home



## Indian women crush Georgia; Gukesh leads men to victory over China

**PTI** ■ BUDAPEST

reigning world champion.That was already a and Vantika Agrawal put up impressive performances as Indian women defeated Georgia while World Championship challenger D Gukesh led the men to victory over China in the seventh round as both teams continued their unbeaten streak in 45th Chess Olympiad here.

Vaishali and Vantika notched wins against Lela Javakhishvili and Bella Khotenashvili as Indian Lela women thumped second seeds Georgia 3-1, while the men eked out a 2.5-1.5 over

China. On a day that saw D Harika on a day inat saw D Harika settling for a draw with Nana Dzagnidze and Divya Deshmukh being held by Nino Batsiashvili from a better position, it was Vantika who handled her time pressure extremely well to play almost 20 moves with just about a minute on her clock to win her game and seal India's seventh straight

victory. The Indian women took their tally to an impressive 14 points out of a possible 14 and stretched their lead to two points over nearest rivals Poland, Kazakhstan and France who all have 12 points apiece.

In a surprising turn of events a blunder by Olivia Kiolbasa of Poland against Nataliya Buksa of Ukraine cost the Polish team dearly in the sixth hour of play as what looked like a certain victory became a 2-2 draw.

In the open section, Indian Grandmaster Gukesh showed the way.

Playing the white side of a Closed Sicilian Gukesh reached a drawn endgame after nearly five hours of play but he remained focus to find one mistake that was made by Chinese top board Wei Yi.

Speculation were rife about a possible clash between D Gukesh and Ding Liren - the two contestants in the next World Championship for a final showdown ahead of their match in Singapore in

November. Germany (11) 2-2; Spain (10) However, the Chinese think lost to France (12) 1.5-2.5.

Kevin de Bruyne injury scare as Man City is held 0-0 by Inter Milan in the Champions League

Manchester City faces a New injury concern for Kevin de Bruyne ahead of a showdown with Premier League title rival Arsenal after the playmaker was substituted at halftime of Champions League match against Inter Milan.

Milan.
The Belgium international looked in discomfort after making a run late in the first half. After receiving treatment, De Bruyne didn't return for the second half and was replaced by Ilkay Gundogan. The game ended 0-0. ended 0-0.

City hosts title rival Arsenal at Etihad Stadium on Sunday.

City manager Pep Guardiola said he didn't know the extent of De Bruyne's injury, but was informed by the club doctor the playmaker could not carry on in the second half "I didn't speak with the doctors

yet," Guardiola said about De Bruyne' availability for the weekend. "(He will be) Assessed tonight, maybe tomorrow. We will have more info tomorrow."

De Bruyne endured an injurydisrupted campaign last season when he was sidelined from August to January with a hamstring problem. He returned to help the club secure a record fourth straight English title.

He has started every game this season and scored in City's 4-1 win against Ipswich last month.

City held off challenges from Arsenal in each of the last two seasons to lift the title. The north London club is expected to be City's main rival again this term. Arsenal has its own injury

problems ahead of the game after captain Martin Odegaard was ruled out with ankle ligament damage.
Without De Bruyne, City failed

to find a breakthrough against Inter and was shut out at home in the Champions League for the first time since a 0-0 draw with Sporting Lisbon in March

It was only the second time in all competitions since then that Guardiola's team failed to score at home - the other coming in a 0-0 with Arsenal in the league in March.

City extended its unbeaten home run in European games to 32, dating back to a 2-1 loss to Lyon in 2018. Haaland locked on 99

Erling Haaland has looked unstoppable this season with nine goals in his first four games of the campaign before

Wednesday match. But that run was snapped by Inter with the Norway striker stuck on 99

goals for City. Haaland also failed to score against the Italians when the teams met in the Champions League final in 2023, which City won 1-0 to int the day for the first time in its history.

masters of City won 1-0 to lift the trophy "They are masters defending," Guardiola said.

Guardiola's future With his contract expiring at the end of the season, Guardiola sounds like he's still

loving life at City.
Asked by an Italian journalist if he could see himself working in Italy in the future, Guardiola said: "I really enjoy being here. I love English football, it is fantastic, really enjoyable. They leave you alone to get on with the job. That doesn't happen anywhere else.



## PSG's post-galactico era begins with a last-gasp win

#### THANKS TO GIRONA GOALKEEPER'S BLUNDER

in the first Champions League match of its post-galactico era. PSG scraped a 1-0 home win over tournament newcomer Girona on Wednesday with a stoppage-time goal, which came when goalkeeper Paulo Gazzaniga let a left-wing cross from Nuno Mendes trickle under his hands and through his legs.

For the first time in more than a decade, PSG began its Champions League campaign without at least one star player, known in soccer as a

"galactico." But after the likes of Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Edinson Cavani, Neymar, Kylian Mbappé and Lionel Messi came and went without winning Europe's elite club competition, PSG started this campaign with a new identity based on more French players and greater teamwork.

Champions League game scant attacking play.

It took a huge blunder to gift without Mbappé for seven "All the teams have things to years after France's star joined improve," Zaïre-Emery said. Real Madrid, scoring for his new club on Tuesday.

Mbappé was reproached by his critics for not tracking back or closing down enough when he played up front for PSG.

Yet PSG coach Luis Enrique could he heard shouting when his players failed to close down properly and, at one point, Girona kept the ball for 2 1/2 minutes with PSG's ballwatching players chasing

aimlessly.
"They defended well and we struggled to create clear-cut chances," Enrique said.

After 34 minutes, whistles could be heard from the crowd at a subdued Parc des Princes. Aside from half-chances from midfielder Warren Zaïre-Emery and Marco Asensio, who went off injured late in the first half with an apparent

It was also PSG's first hamstring injury, there was

We have new players coming

into the team who need to

settle in."

Yet this was even more the case for a Girona team that lost several key players from last season, including striker Artem Dovbyk, winger Savinho and right back Yan Couto.

Girona defender Ladislav Krejcí made a brilliant tackle on Ousmane Dembélé after the PSG attacker went clean through on goal in the first

But with moments left, Gazzaniga's howler spared PSG.

"We didn't play very well, and we have to say it," PSG midfielder Vitinha said. "We had trouble keeping the ball. You have to give Girona credit, but we need to look at what we

## Malvika beats Kristy Gilmour to enter China Open quarterfinals

Young Indian shuttler Malvika Bansod continued her fine form as Yi; Yu Yangyi drew with R Praggnanandhaa; Arjun she cruised to her maiden Super 1000 quarterfinal after Erigaise drew with Bu Xiangzhi; Wang Yue drew with P Harikrishna); Iran (13) eking out a hard-fought victory against higher-ranked Kristy Gilmour in the China Open here on Thursday. Malvika, ranked 43rd, toiled Lithuania (10) lost to Hungary (12) 1.5-2.5; Uzbekistan (12) beat Ukraine

hard for one hour and five minutes before pulling off a 21-17 19-21 21-16 win over the the two-time Commonwealth Games medallist and world number 25 from Scotland in a women's singles round-of-16 contest.

"This is the first time I will play a quarterfinal of a Super 1000 tournament so it is a dream come true and the biggest achievement of my life so far," Malvika said after the match.

"I dreamt about this before the tournament that how would it be if I reached the quarters and now I'm top 8, so it's a great feeling," she added. Talking about the match, the Indian, who now leads head-



to-head against Gilmour 3-2, said "There is a lot of drift from this part so I found it difficult to control in the last parts of the last game and

second game as well. But I'm glad god helped me." The win comes a day after the 22-year-old defeated Paris has bee Olympics bronze medallist shuttle

Gregoria Mariska Tunjung of Indonesia. The Nagpur shuttler feels she has been able to control the

the

conditions here.

'My retrieving is working well, I am able to control the shuttle better than the others. tricky The conditions are a bit tricky

for both players but I'm able to handle it better," she said. She added that she has focused on enhancing her strength, and it is yielding positive results.

This circuit is very tough because if you are entering a Super 500 or 1000 you end up playing a top 10 in the first round as I'm not seeded yet. So, I need to be physically strong from the beginning itself. I have been working on that."

However Malvika, who is the lone Indian shuttler remaining in the competition, has a tough challenge ahead of her as she will be up against fourth seed and two-time world champion Akane Yamaguchi of Japan in the last eight stage.

Although the Japanese shuttler has won both the outings against Malvika, the Indian had come close to defeating Yamaguchi and hopes she can cross the line this time round.

"Hope for the best. I am in good form let's see how it goes tomorrow. I will give my best,"