



Banks to play key role in achieving Viksit Bharat: FM




KANIKA
 KAPOOR RECALLS HER 'PECULIAR MEMENTO' FROM HER PARIS TRAVEL



Nearly 3,000 women record harassment statements IN TFI



QUOTE OF THE DAY
 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



- TPCC chief B. Mahesh Kumar Goud P2

DON'T MISS...
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 future of cold chain...
 -PAGE: 3


Jaishankar holds phone...
 External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday held a phone conversation with newly-appointed Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiba 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. "I spoke with Subrahmanyam Jaishankar to build on Narendra Modi's historic visit to Kyiv and talks with Zelenskyy," Sybiba 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 said. He was addressing education 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..."
 -PAGE: 8

Ashwin, Jadeja tango saves India...
 Seasoned off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin sparked 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...
 -SPORTS

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.
- YSRCP leaders, including former TTD Chairman YV Subba Reddy, have denied the allegations, accusing Naidu of political manoeuvring.
- 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', 'lard' (pig fat), and...

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. He also called on industrialists to 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 brand image would 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 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 initiatives.



Revanth expressed confidence that Mahindra's experience and brand image would 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 India Sports University.

ing the university's future. The meeting was attended by several prominent individuals like Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, Minister Sridhar Babu, University Board Chairman Anand Mahindra, Co-Chairman Srinu Raju and board members like P. Devayya, Suchitra Ella and Satish Reddy. Andhra Pradesh CM's daughter-in-law Anara Brahmani was also present. Senior officials like Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari, Special Principal Secretary Jayesh Ranjan and the CM's Principal Secretary Sheshadri were also present. Board members like 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 the difficulties faced by unemployed youth.

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 construction of a new greenfield airport in Bhadrachalam-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 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 the crop. The minister emphasized that 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.



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 adopted to issue ration cards. 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
 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 Rajanarasimha 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 leaders. 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."



BRS panel to probe deaths of infants, mothers
 PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 The BRS would appoint a fact-finding committee on behalf of the party to investigate the maternal and infant deaths at Gandhi Hospital, BRS Working President KT Rama Rao said. 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.

Cong sincere about caste census
 BCs will get their due, assures Minister Ponnam
 PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 The Congress is sincere about conducting 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. He said that in the coming days elections to local bodies will be conducted 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 elections, he said. Participating in a felicitation meeting for the new TPCC chief, B. Mahesh Kumar Goud, organised by BC organisations at the Ravindra Bharati on Thursday, Ponnam said that Mahesh Kumar Goud should do justice to the SCs, STs and BCs in the Congress.



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 tariff 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 subsidies. 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. Consumers in the High Tension (HT) category are expected to see a substantial hike in both energy and fixed charges.

Chopper rides by Telangana Ministers come into question

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 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 two-hour car ride would suffice. Analysts say that Telangana faces major financial challenges and even 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 BRS. On Friday, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy are scheduled to visit Nalgonda by helicopter. In the past,

HYDRAA invites bids from contractors for demolitions

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 Telangana. Preference will be given to those who have experience in implosion techniques and demolitions 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' experience. 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 for materials and labour, the notice said.



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



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 Narsampet government hospital and medical college, built at a cost of Rs 183 crore, in the district.

The Ministers also inaugurated Indra 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 Srisailem 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 Srisailem 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-kilometre 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 Indramma's reign and a people's government, I will complete the SLBC tunnel and ensure irrigation



Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka 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 official press statement here.

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

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

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 Uttam Kumar Reddy, Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatreddy 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 Thursday

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 punctuality.

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 petitions, 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-

to-day.

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 officials 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, Miryalaguda, 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 medications until delivery. Additionally, he highlighted the need for mandatory vaccinations for young children.

The meeting was attended by Additional Collector T Purnachandra, District Welfare Officer Sakkubai, District Medical and Health Officer Putla 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.

Students stage protest for appointment of teachers

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.

The students staged a protest in front of the Saibaba temple demanding that the government appoint teachers to their school and render justice to them.

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 highlighting their demands. The students brought their problems to the notice of the Collector who said that the transferred teachers would be brought back to their school if



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 assurance of the Collector, the students returned to their school. The parents of the students have been expressing their anguish over the government not appointing teachers in the model school which has a strength of over 800. The transfer of teachers in the middle of the academic year put a big question mark 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 district.

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

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 in-charge 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 acres.

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 Telangana and the Government of India on a 51:49 equity basis. It has been declaring profits since 1999. It distributed 10 per cent of



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 year.

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 workers.

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 Kalavenna 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

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.

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 years, has died possibly due to old-age related problems, a veterinarian said on Thursday.



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

A 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.



SC starts online mediation training web-portal

The 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).

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.

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.

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.



Pannun.

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.

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

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.

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 region.

HARYANA POLLS

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

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

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.



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.

get jobs, was the state known for land scams or not," he asked. Nadda said after the BJP came to power it gave transparent administration and jobs were given on merit.

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.

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... Una Bhagidari' and made it clear in Parliament that the Congress will certainly conduct a caste census if elected to power.

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.

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.

Help propel TG..

Continued from page 1

He urged the Centre to provide a minimum support price for palm oil and also requested the establishment of a centre of excellence at Aswaraopeta, Khammam district. Later, Tummalam discussed the recent floods in Khammam district with Chouhan and requested financial assistance from the Centre.

BRS panel to probe deaths of infants..

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.

have disrupted medical services. He urged the government to address this issue and make efforts to reduce the mortality rate.

It was a flow of..

Continued from page 1

BRS leaders are living with the illusion that even now corruption and irregularities are taking place," he said.

DISCOMs propose..

Continued from page 1

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.

Chopper rides..

Continued from page 1

Sources claim this might have 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.



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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 indication 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, unemployment, 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.

PICTALK



Pilgrims arrive at the Shri Badrinath Dham in Chamoli district

Modi@74: A journey of triumphs and challenges



K S TOMAR

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

As Narendra Modi 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 global cooperation on renewable energy and showcasing India's leadership in sustainable development.

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



(BJP) as a champion of Hindu pride and Indian sovereignty. His government's initiatives, such as the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, reflect a blend of cultural and political assertiveness, though the latter move drew international criticism.

Infrastructure Development: Under Modi's leadership, infrastructure has seen significant growth. Projects like Bharatmala and Sagarmala have expanded transportation networks, while initiatives like Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and Ujjwala Yojana have improved housing and provided cooking gas to millions of households.

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.

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 AS G20 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 shortcomings. 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 long-term 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 governance.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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, anti-federal and strangles 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



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 ₹11.11 lakh crore reflects

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 'Lakshpati 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

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

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 freebies. The poll regulator Election Commission of India should also draft strict rules for manifestos and promises which are not viable. The cult of freebies must stop if we really wish to progress morally, economically and 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 exchequer.

Jai Prakash Gupta | Ambala

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

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



ACHARYA PRASHANT

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

The 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.



perceived and treated. In Indian 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 effectively, we need to funda-

mentally change societal 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. The troubling normalization of sexual violence in Indian 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 foundations of this issue reveals how cultural norms perpetuate gender inequality and violence. There are many

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 a profound cultural transformation. It's not just about legal measures 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 culture.

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 Vedanta teacher and an advocate of women rights; views expressed are personal)



FIRST COLUMN

APPLY SPORTS ETHICS IN THE WORKPLACE

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



SAKSHI SETHI

Sports 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.

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.

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.

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 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.

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.

(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



NILANTHA LANGAMUWA

Sri 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.

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.

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.

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.



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

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 political entity.

However, Disnayake'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 approxi-

mately 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, Wannai, Batticaloa, and Trincomalee, and in areas with lower voter counts, such as Polonnaruwa and Matale.

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 potential 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.

The situation in the island nation is dire, and there's no straightfor-

ward 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 one-third of children under five, and over 40% of women aged 18-60 are overweight or obese, reflecting severe economic and health issues.

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.

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 latter.

(The writer is a journalist and author. Views expressed are personal)

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

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

The 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.



PRAKHAR BAJPAI

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 finish times of the investigation, locations visited, witness 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

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, undermining the integrity of the investigation and in cases where multiple officers are involved in different stages of the investigation, the absence



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 process of law.

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

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 defeats the very purpose for

which it is required. Therefore, it is suggested that similar practice needs to be followed 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 objectively decide whether to remand the

accused or not. 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)

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

TRAVELOGUE



SHIKHA DUGGAL
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Singer 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."

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!"



Handcrafting tales of perseverance!

TEJAL SINHA
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Born from a desire to empower women, 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 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 handcrafts, turning their skills into a sustainable source of income."

Through knitting and crocheting, 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 producing 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 indepen-

dence, 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 hesitation 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."

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.



From music videos to movie magic

Dhwani Bhanushali, the popular singing sensation known for her chart-topping hits and vibrant presence in music videos, is set to embark on a new journey as she makes her acting debut in the upcoming film *Kahan Shuru Kahan Khatam*. As she transitions from the world of music to film, Dhwani shares insights into the challenges and differences between acting in music videos and movies.

"There's a significant difference between acting in music videos and acting in films," Dhwani explains. "In music videos, I'm usually portraying a version of myself. But in a movie, it's a whole new ballgame; you're stepping into someone else's shoes, portraying a different character altogether. To truly become the character, I had to dive deep into understanding this new process, which involved a lot of unlearning and approaching it with fresh eyes."

The preparation for her role as Meera was intense. "We put immense effort into shaping the character with my director, Saurabh Dasgupta. Just two days before filming began, I was working closely with Laxman sir, refining every scene to ensure I did justice to the vision that Saurabh and the writers had crafted. It was crucial for me to embody the character fully and give it my all, so that what we envisioned could come alive on screen."

Reflecting on her experiences in different mediums, Dhwani states, "Both music videos and films require different approaches to acting and both come with their own set of challenges. As an artist, I hope to do justice in both of these spaces and deliver performances that resonate with audiences."

Kahan Shuru Kahan Khatam features an ensemble cast packed with industry stars, including Supriya Pilgaonkar, Rakesh Bedi, Sonali Sachdev, Rajesh Sharma, Akhilesh Mishra, Chittranjan Tripathy, Vikram Kochhar, Himanshu Kohli and Vikas Verma. Directed by Saurabh Dasgupta, the film is a collaboration between Bhanushali Studios Limited and Kathputli Creations, produced by Vinod Bhanushali, Laxman Utekar, Karishma Sharma, and Kamlesh Bhanushali. Set to release theatrically on September 20, 2024, *Kahan Shuru Kahan Khatam* promises to be a delightful young musical family entertainer. With her dual talent shining through, Dhwani Bhanushali is ready to prove that she can make a splash on both the music and film stages, captivating audiences in new and exciting ways.

what's brewing?



● Sony

● Vedvika

● Sravanthi

On September 30, 2024, Bethel Exhibitions will dazzle Hyderabad's fashion and lifestyle enthusiasts at the Hotel Park Hyatt in Banjara Hills. Sravanthi Chokkarappu attended the event with other style enthusiasts!



● Bindu



● Sindhu

PARTY

Photos by- SV Chary



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 Hospitals have launched the Neuromuscular Dentistry specialty. This comes up as a solution to many typical facial pains and has emerged as pioneers in this dentistry discipline.



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.

Grundfos is set to host its Industry End-user fair 2024 in India. The event will showcase its cutting-edge 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.



FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



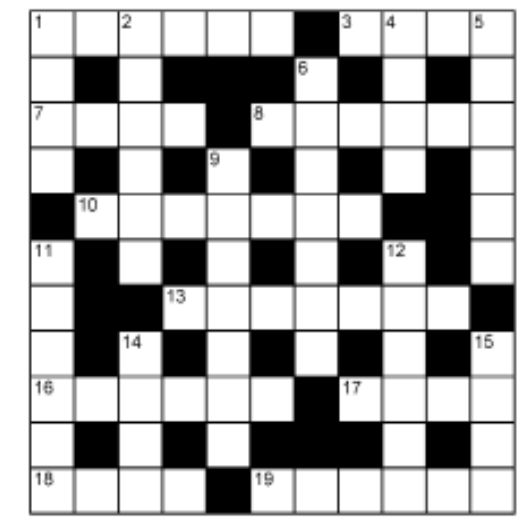
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



NANCY



SUDOKU

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Yesterday's solution

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

- ACROSS**
- Baking instructions
 - Factual
 - Play this with two sticks
 - Rub to a shine
 - Young hen
 - Fake document
 - Extra-intelligent person
 - Finished
 - Playthings
 - Almost
 - From another country
 - A sea creature with many arms
 - Aeroplane trip
 - Motorist
 - Jealousy
 - Large group of soldiers
- DOWN**
- Travel by horse
 - Captured
 - Water from the sky
 - Breathe out
- SOLUTION**
- | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | T | A | R | B | O | A | R | D |
| S | M | E | A | T | T | O | R | H |
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GINGER MEGGS



Nearly 3,000 women record harassment statements in TFI

SURESH KAVIRAYANI
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Tollywood 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

A couple of days ago, it was revealed that Tamil superstar Thalapathy Vijay's next film is #Vijay69. H Vinoth serves as the director, with Anirudh 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 for the role. Currently, the actress is in Bengaluru filming a jewellery commercial advertisement. She is currently filming commercials as the brand ambassador in Bengaluru.

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 inactivity, the Chief Minister has not received the

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 in a few days and may discuss with him 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 unexpected 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.

DASARA COMBINATION ONCE AGAIN!

The 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)"



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 never-before-seen storylines and elements in cinema. The film-makers 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.



