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JET-SETTING TRAVELS FROM **LONDON TO GREECE**



Can Devara Break '100 crore barrier

QUOTE OF THE DAY the pioneer Do not get inspired by those involved in the Kaleshwaram Project but rather follow the path of legendary engineers like Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya. Some engineers who worked on the Kaleshwaram Project maligned the profession to satisfy their political bosses. Young engineers should remember that they were hired to serve the public

= Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, Minister p7

Bhatti hails Hoover Dam for safety ...

Telangana's Deputy Chief Minister and Energy Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu lauded the Hoover Dam as a model of water utilisation and safety practices. Currently on an official visit to the United States, Bhatti Vikramarka, along with Energy Department Secretary Ronald Ross, Singareni CMD N Balaram and Special Secretary Krishna Bhaskar, visited the Hoover Dam on Wednesday. The US Federal government officials gave an in-depth briefing on the engineering marvel, highlighting how the dam, built during the severe drought

MEIL to develop 4,000 MW ...

Megha Engineering & Infrastructures Limited (MEIL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Water Resources. Government of Maharashtra, to develop two prominent Pumped Storage Projects with a total capacity of 4,000 MW, the Kamod Pumped Storage Project in Nandurbar district and the Ghosla Pumped Storage Project in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar district in the state of Maharashtra. It is noteworthy that MEIL is executing its first pumped storage hydro projects under the



India needs to do more to boost...

India has done well in areas like infrastructure in the last 10 years, but it also needs to do more in other sectors to boost local manufacturing and job creation. former RRI G Rajan said on Thursday. In an interview with PTI, Rajan further said the government's focus on production, whether it is goods or services is a good thing, but it is also important to do it the right way. Responding to a question on the Modi government's flagship initiative 'Make in India', he said, "I would say the intention..

-PAGE: 8

India likely to maintain...

India would want their big guns Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma to fire when the mighty hosts aim for a clean sweep against a beleaguered Bangladesh in the second and final Test starting here on Friday. The all-round show of Ravichandran Ashwin, Shubman Gill's sublime hundred Bayindra .ladeia's quality batting and Rishabh Pant's roaring comeback allowed India to script a comfortable victory in Chennai despite being put under pressure by the Bangladesh pacers on day one. The way India...

CM sets six-month deadline for priority Irrigation Projects

Asks officials to focus on key projects



Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has asked officials to prioritize the completion of irrigation projects. He emphasized the need to focus on projects that can provide irriga-tion to the maximum possible area within the next six months.

The Chief Minister said that projects nearing completion, which can serve a substantial command area, should be prioritized over others.

He advised the Irrigation Department to speed up work on projects that are set to be completed within the next two years and urged them to prepare an action plan to meet deadlines and achieve targets within stipulated timeframes.

The Chief Minister said that spending on long-pending projects, which have dragged on for five or six years would not yield benefits. Instead, completing projects that are already 75% or more complete

could bring irrigation to a larger area by the next Kharif season.

The Chief Minister also asked the Finance Department to ensure the availability of funds for priority projects in both the Godavari and Krishna basins.

He added that bills for these projects should be paid through a green channel to ensure quicker progress, especially those that would irrigate more land in a shorter time.

Revanth urged officials to resolve issues promptly to overcome obstacles and address problems impeding project completion. He also highlighted challenges such as payment disputes with the power sector and asked the Irrigation Department to organize a joint meeting with TRANSCO, GENCO and DISCOMs to resolve billing issues. Coordination with the Revenue Department was also stressed to speed up land acquisition.



'We don't need 2 BHK houses'

Musi riverfront residents oppose HYDRAA ops ... High tension marks survey

'RB-X' marked on houses identified for demolition in Musi River's buffer zone, FTL area

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Tension gripped several neighbourhoods along the Musi River as revenue and municipal officials conducted surveys to identify houses for demolition and marked them

Early on Thursday morning a drive began in the areas of KCR Nagar, Chaderghat, Shankar Nagai and Musi Nagar among others.

Officers arrived at the houses and asked the residents for their Aadhaar cards, and electricity and water bills. Then they explained with maps that the houses are in the Full Tank Level (FTL) and buffer zones of the Musi River and marked their

Many residents, who have lived

in these areas for generations, said that they are not interested in the proposed relocation plans which include providing 2BHK homes. Some residents said they would

papers." "I was reluctant to explain but submitted all my papers. I am Officers arrived at the houses and asked the residents

asked us if I am the owner or a ten-

ant and demanded my electricity bill, Aadhaar card and property

for their Aadhaar cards, and electricity and water bills. Then they explained with maps that the houses are in the Full Tank Level (FTL) and buffer zones of the Musi River and marked their houses RB-X

remain in their homes even if it meant facing demolition.

One of the residents, K, Ravi, said while speaking to 'The Pioneer,' "The officers came and

working in a retail shop and this house is my only asset. How can I lose it? I have three children to maintain," he added.

The officials identified 2,166

illegal houses in the Musi River area and in Bahadurpura 386 structures were identified. Another woman Sheena said, "I am facing medical problems and still work from 9 am to 7 pm. My house is marked for demolition. I do not want a 2BHK house which is far away from the

Many residents who saw the officers and had not left for work gathered and said that they have houses and don't need the admin's 2BHK houses. "Our houses are our only assets and the government will not provide anything they promise after the demolitions. Now we can fight for our rights. The facilities in 2BHK houses are not good. How can our children study," another

Cabinet expansion on the anvil?

Congress trying to finalise names for cabinet berths

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress high command in consultation with Chief Minister exercises to finalise names for the remaining six cabinet berths as competition is tough for them.

According to sources, the party will give two posts to Reddys, one each to BC, SC, ST and minorities or women. If not given to minorities/women, most probably that will go to BCs, it is learnt. However, the Congress is plan-

ning to give cabinet-rank corporation chairman posts to MLAs, who did not get cabinet berths.

The party may give the posts of



TGSRTC chairman, YadagiriGutta Temple Development Authority (YTDA) chairman, Musi River Front Development Corporation (MRFDC) Chairman, Transco and Genco chairmen and Medical Infrastructure Development Corporation chairman to MLAs who did not get a berth in the cabinet, it is learnt.

The party would also give the Chief Whip post to one of the MLAs who did not get a cabinet berth. According to sources, the MLAs the fray are P. Sudarshan Reddy.

Komatireddy Raj Gopal Reddy, Malreddy Ranga Reddy, T. Rammohan Reddy and some others from the Reddy community. Vakiti Srihari, Beerla Ilaiah and

Aadi Srinivas are from the BC community, Gaddam Vivek and Adluri Laxman and some others are from SCs. Balu Naik and Ramchandra Naik are from STs.

MLC Amer Ali Khan is the only choice for the Congress if it wants to give a Minister post to minorities.

TG didn't submit reports on

'Digital health cards for TG residents in 30 days'

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said that digital health cards would be introduced for residents of

He was speaking during the inauguration of the Durgabai Deshmukh Renova Cancer Hospital in Hyderabad, where he emphasized the government's commitment to affordable healthcare and efficient med-

ical record

management. During the event, the CM praised the hospital for its service to the poor, particularly in providing cancer treatment, which he

> burden for many families. "The Durgabai Deshmukh Hospital is doing commendable work by offering affordable healthcare to the poor and cancer treatment, in particular, needs to be more affordable for every-

one," he said. The CM expressed concern over the current system,

Rs 508.95 crore sanctioned for energizing farm pumps

PNS HYDERABAD

In a move to boost agricultural infrastructure, the Telangana Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (TGSPDCL) has sanctioned Rs 508.95 crore for providing electricity supply to agricultural pumps across multiple districts.

This scheme, spread

Land scam worth billions behind Pharma City cancellation:



devolution of powers to RLBs, ULBs 16th Finance

Commission raised questions regarding devolution

NAVEENA GHANATE naveena.ghanate@gmail.com

HYDERABAD

Telangana's performance in local governance has come under scrutiny following revelations that the state has not submitted reports on the devolution of powers to Rural Local Bodies (RLBs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

regarding the achievements of pan- Municipal

chayats and municipalities, this lack of reporting has raised concerns from the 16th Finance Commission, questioning the gap between the accolades received and the failure to comply with fundamental governance obligations.

Highly placed sources said the 16th Finance Commission has raised concerns over Telangana's failure to submit reports on the devolution of func-Despite receiving national awards tions by key departments like the

Govt hikes minimum wage rates for workers up to Rs 1,035 per day

PNS NEW DELHI

The Union government on Thursday announced a hike in minimum wage rates for workers up to Rs 1,035 a day by revising variable dearness allowance.

This adjustment is aimed at helping workers cope with the rising cost of living, a labour ministry statement said. After revision, minimum wage rates in area 'A' for workers in construction, sweeping, cleaning, loading & unloading for unskilled work



will be Rs 783 a day (Rs 20,358 per month). For semi-skilled workers, the minimum wage rate will be Rs 868 a day (Rs 22,568 per month) and for skilled, clerical and watch &

States must conduct caste census on their own: Eatala

PNS HYDERABAD

It would be better if states conducted caste censuses on their own, the BJP's Malkajgiri MP, Eatala Rajender, said here on Thursday.

He said that some castes are in different categories in different states. A caste which is considered upper caste in one state is considered backward caste in other states and so state governments have to conduct caste censuses comprehensively and reveal details of the pop-

ulations of various castes, he said. The courts would also not object if states conduct caste censuses on their own. Tamil Nadu is the best example of this, Eatala said. Eatala said that it is not possible to

hide religion, caste and nationality these days. Some say why raise the caste issue after 75 years of independence. However, caste still exists in the country, he said. Eatala demanded that the state government should increase the quota for BC reservations before local body elections. He said that all political parties should provide appropriate positions to BCs first and that the number of OBC Ministers is more for the first time in Prime Minister Modi's cabinet. He said that an OBC has not

become the Chief Minister of Telangana so far and recalled Modi's statement that the BJP will appoint an OBC individual as the Chief Minister of Telangana if voted to power.

Did not manufacture drugs flagged in CDSCO report PNS NEW DELHI

Drug companies, including Sun Pharma and Torrent Pharma, on Thursday termed the medicines flagged in the central drug regulatory authority's report as "counterfeits" and not manufactured by them while asserting that their products conform to quality stan-

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has listed samples of more than 50 drugs, including paracetamol, Pan D, calcium and vitamin D3 supplements, and anti-diabetes pills, as "not of standard quality" in its latest report.

When contacted, a Sun Pharma spokesperson said the company has investigated the matter and found that Pulmosil (Sildenafil

medicine brands now come with Pharma companies blame it on 'counterfeits' Injection), batch no the regulatory KFA0300; Pantocid authority are not (Pantoprazole Tablets manufactured by

Sun Pharma," it stated. IP), batch no SID2041A and Ursocol 300 The company is taking several steps to ensure patient (Ursodeoxycholic Acid safety, it added. "Some of our leading Tablets IP), batch no GTE1350A are spurious. "The said batches tested

QR codes printed on the label, allowing patients to easily verify their authenticity by scanning them. Additionally, we have incorporated a 3D security strip for further protection," the drug maker

Torrent Pharmaceuticals stated that to verify the genuineness of the sample collected by the CDSCO, it carried out an evaluation of the same batch of Shelcal 500. "The outcome of the analysis concluded that the sample seized by CDSCO is not manufactured by Torrent and is in fact non-genuine and spurious," it

As anti-counterfeit measures, the company has implemented QR codes on Shelcal, displaying batch manufacturing details to verify its



Srujan serves legal notice on KTR, demands public apology

PNS HYDERABAD

Former BRS MLA Kandala Upender Reddy's son-in-law Sudini Srujan Reddy has served legal notices on BRS Working President KT Rama Rao on Thursday alleging that KTR had levelled baseless allegations regarding Amrut tenders and demanded a public apology. It may be recalled that KTR said that there was corruption in awarding Amrut tenders to Shodha Construction and had demanded that the government should order an inquiry into it. He also sent letters regarding this to Union Ministers Manohar Lal Kattar and Tochan Sahu last Friday.

KTR had said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had allotted Amrut Scheme tenders worth Rs 1,500 crore to his brother-in-law Sudini Srujan Reddy although Shodha had no eligibility for that.

However, Srujan in his legal notice sought a public apology from KTR and demanded that he remove the allegations from his social media account and websites.

He also said that KTR made baseless allegations that the CM awarded Amrut tenders to Shodha just because Srujan is a close relative of the CM.

Srujan said in his legal notice that the Shodha Construction Company had been in business from 2010 and that Shodha has been running joint ventures with AIR and IHP companies from 2020.

Kaleshwaram: a model study in failure: CM

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy described the collapse of the Kaleshwaram Project as a "model study in failure."

The CM was speaking during a function held at the Jala Soudha on Thursday during which he handed over appointment orders to newly recruited Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs) of the Irrigation Department.

He pointed out that despite spending Rs 1 lakh crore on the lift irrigation scheme, the project failed to irrigate even one lakh acres and called for accountability from both officials and politicians.

He demanded transparency to find out who was responsible for the failure, whether it was officials or the politicians who controlled them. He expressed concern over the internal conflicts between engineers at various levels, stating that EEs and SEs were pointing fingers at each



The Chief Minister also criticised the BRS government for the collapse and urged the new engineers not to repeat the mistakes of their predecessors.

The CM recommended that officials responsible for the failure, especially those appointed based on recommendations, should be transferred to distant places as punishment. He said that the focus should be on perfor-

than on securing favoured postings.

importance of field experience in ensuring the success of projects, drawing on the legacy of renowned M o k s h a g u n d a m Vishveshwariah.

He said that such situations would not have arisen if the wrong decisions taken by politicians were not imple-

Govt not following natural justice while demolishing houses: Kishan

PNS HYDERABAD

Declaring that the Congress government is trying to get name and fame through demolitions, the Union Minister of Coal and Mines, G. Kishan Reddy, said that the Congress government is demolishing buildings without

following natural justice. In a letter addressed to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Thursday, Kishan said that the Congress government chose demolitions to be in the news and that there is a need demolitions.

"We do not support encroachments and illegal construction, however, a government must act legally, fairly and in accordance with natural justice. This is especially so in the case of the poor and middle class. In most cases, the government is not following he principles of natural justice. There is a need to think sensitively about what is being demolished today. The government has provided roads, streetlights, drinking water facilities, drainage facilities,

electricity connections and Ponnam to launch 'Pravasi Prajavani' counter for Gulf NRIs today

PNS HYDERABAD

Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar would launch a special 'Pravasi Prajavani' counter for Gulf workers and NRIs at the Praja Bhavan on Friday at 10 am at the Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Praja Bhavan. Planning Board Vice-President G. Chinna Reddy,

MLAs from constituencies with large numbers of NRIs, the TPCC's NRI wing, families of Gulf workers, Gulf union leaders and others will attend the programme.

Ponnam appealed to the

Don't learn from Kaleshwaram engineers, says Venkat

Roads, Buildings and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy advised newly appointed engineers not to get inspired by those involved in the Kaleshwaram Project but to follow the path of legendary engineers like Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya.

Speaking at the five-day orientation programme held at the National Academy of Construction (NAC) in

Madhapur, on Thursday, Venkat told the 156 engineers of the Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department selected by the TSPSC that he was concerned about the shortage of engineers in the last decade.

The state, as well as the R&B department, suffered due to lack of engineers which left many works unsupervised.

"In some cases, there was only one

PNS HYDERABAD

The Congress government has

launched extensive steps to

ensure the future of Telangana

vouth, Revenue, Housing,

Information and PR Minister

Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said.

He said the Congress government established the Skill University to provide skill

training to unemployed youth and that the Congress govern-

ment will establish Skill

Development Colleges in all

Ponguleti was speaking

while attending the 'Swatcha hi

Seva' event organised under the

PMKVY 4.0 (Temporary

PNS HYDERABAD

BRS to fight for BC quota

on the TN model

district headquarters soon.

engineer for 10 mandals. To address this, 1540 Assistant Executive Engineers were recruited through the TSPSC, of which 156 have been allotted to the R&B Department," Venkat said, emphasising the significance of the orientation programme before the engineers took

He stressed that engineers have to play a vital role in Telangana's rebuild-

Skill development colleges in

all districts soon: Ponguleti

Training) scheme of the

National Institute for MSME

(NI-MSME) and the National

Skill Development Corporation

(NSDC) on Thursday as chief

guest, he said the Congress gov-

ernment aims to make

Telangana a leading destination

BRS will not be able to save its deposits if by-elections Station Ghanpur MLA Kadiyam Srihari, who was Speaking to the media on

elected from the BRS and later joined the Congress, said that the Congress is ready to face by-elections. Countering

Working President KT Rama Rao's statement that the state will face by-elec-

Thursday, Kadiyam said that the BRS is the party that encouraged defections from the beginning by destroying democratic systems.

Congress ready for by-polls: Kadiyam

He said the BRS is synonymous with corruption and

BRS has a history of swallowing the legislature members of other parties. Reacting to Kadiyam

Srihari comments, KTR reiterated that by-elections will come soon and that the 10 MLAs who defected from the BRS should get ready for that. The 10 defectors would

KTR slams govt for ignoring Siricilla weavers, inaugurates school in memory of grandparents

PNS HYDERABAD

During a visit to Siricilla, KTR criticised the government for its lack of support for weavers in the region, drawing attention to their struggles and the rise in suicides.

He stressed how the BRS government under KCR's leadership had given orders worth Rs 3,312 crore for Bathukamma sarees and other garments, which helped the weavers financially. He accused the Congress government of cancelling these orders, pushing weavers back into distress, with 22 suicides so far. "The government's apathy towards weavers is unbearable. They promised jobs for 365 days but have left weavers without work for 10 months now," he said.

the government about weaver suicides, there has been no action. He pointed out the stark difference between the government's treatment of the poor and the rich. "While the homes of the poor are being demolished, big



KTR slams government for neglecting weavers in Siricilla, inaugurates school

builders continue constructing massive buildings on the banks of the Musi River without facing any consequences," he added.

KTR also inaugurated a primary school in Boyinapalli mandal's Kodurupaka village in memory of his grandparents, the late Joginipalli Keshavarao and Lakshmibai. Speaking on the occasion, KTR shared the emotional connection he has with the village. "I am not here as a politician, but as the grandson of my beloved grandparents. I have fond memories and a deep connection with this village

Land scam worth billions behind Pharma City cancellation: KTR

ident of the BRS, said that a land scam worth thousands of crores is the reason for the proposed cancellation of the Hyderabad

Speaking at a press confer-

n a scathing attack on the Congress government, KT Rama Rao, the working presboth the public and the High thousands of crores behind the Pharma City cancella-

Pharma City project.

Court. He questioned the government's stance, claiming that it is misleading both the public and the judiciary by stating different things about the Pharma City project.

tion. We will soon reveal details," KTR stated, adding that the move is "a conspiracy to help the Chief Minister's brothers with billions of Rupees.'

Artisans stage protest at TGSPDCL office demanding regularisation

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TODAY

ALMANAC

Tithi: Dashami:

Ekadashi

Pushya:

Ashlesha

Rahukalam:

Varjyam:

Yamagandam:

Amritakalam:

Temp: 30°°

Humidity: 73% Sunrise: 6:06 AM

Sunset: 6:08 PM

Nakshatram:

The TGSPDCL office in Mint Compound witnessed a massive protest by over 2,000 artisans, who staged a dharna demanding the regularisation of their services.

The Artisans JAC (Joint Action Committee) led the protest, insisting that only after regularising the artisans should the recruitment for posts like JLMs, subordinates and

Sep 26 12:25 PM

Sep 27 01:20 PM

Sep 26 11:34 PM

Sep 28 01:20 AM

to Sep 28 01:20 AM

to Sep 29 03:37 AM

10:37 AM to 12:06 PM

03:21 PM to 05:07 PM

06:28 PM to 08:11 PM

Abhiiit Muhurtham: 11:43 AM to 12:30 PM

Updated: September 26, 2024 5:00 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Mostly Cloudy

3:05 PM to 4:35 PM

7:38 AM to 9:08 AM

to Sep 27 01:20 PM

to Sep 28 02:50 PM



junior assistants be initiated. The protestors raised slogans urging the government to promote eligible artisans based on educational qualifications. They stressed the immediate need for the regularisation of their posts and issued an ultimatum to the government to fulfil their demands ensuring promotions for those qualified.

ers met with senior officials of the Tamil Nadu BC Welfare department in Chennai on Thursday, advocating for reservations similar to those implemented in Tamil Nadu. The delegation, comprising former ministers, ex-

A delegation of BRS BC lead-

stressed that achieving reservations for BCs in education and employment is essential for their advancement. They emphasised that development can only be achieved when backward classes are provided with opportunities in all sectors. The BRS BC team is studying various aspects of BC representation in Tamil Nadu, including welfare schemes and political representation of marginalised communities.

During the four-hour-long meeting held at the BC Bhavan in Chennai, the delegation discussed in detail the reservation policies and development schemes being implemented for BCs in Tamil Nadu. Senior officials, led by Tamil Nadu BC Welfare Secretary Vijayakumar, gave a comprehensive presentation on the

State's BC reservation policies, providing historical context and insights into the state's approach to social justice since the Madras Presidency. The delegation was informed about the various legal steps taken by the Tamil Nadu government to ensure the continuation of BC reservations, including the introduction of a special reservation law follow

Sawhney case. Additionally, Tamil Nadu fought to secure constitutional protection by incorporating BC reservations into the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution. The team was also briefed on the scientific methods adopted by the Justice Ambashankar Commission to collect data through household surveys, which formed the basis for allocating reservations in education and employment sec-

The BRS leaders raised questions about reservations in legislative and local bodies. Tamil Nadu officials explained that while there may not be formal reservations in these areas, BCs, SCs, and STs have secured over 90 percent of the positions through strong social awareness and Tamil identity.

GHMC allots 2BHK flats to 16 people as part of rehabilitation

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has announced that it has distributed 2BHK flats to 16 people on Thursday.

for investors from all over the

world and to help TG youth to

The Telangana Government

established the Skills University

of Telangana in Hyderabad with

public-private partnership to

achieve this objective, he said.

acquire world-class skills.

The residents used to live in Jaibhavani Nagar near Musi river. They were chosen as beneficiaries, which was the recent decision made in Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's review

Amrapali Kata, GHMC Commissioner, has said that this initiative is a significant step towards providing secure and sustainable housing for those in need, reaffirming the government's commitment to building a better and inclusive Hyderabad. One of residents who was content with the allotment, said that she is happy that her family was not left on the road but provid-

Cong's maximum time goes into infighting: Modi

Says it failed as opposition in past 10 y



The Congress spends most of its time infighting and every child in Harvana is aware of it, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday while asserting the people have decided to give one more chance to the BJP to serve the state. Interacting with Haryana

BJP workers through the NaMo app, he discussed fieldwork at the booth level for the upcoming state polls and encouraged them to devise a strategy for the party to win the election.

While alleging the Congress has failed as an opposition in the past 10 years, PM Modi claimed the grand old party's maximum time goes into infighting and taking on each other. Every child in Haryana is aware of the grand old party's internal strife, the prime minister said. Attacking the Congress, he said, "The entire basis of those fighting against us in the polls is lies. They repeatedly tell lies, their talks have no head and tail and they vitiate the atmosphere."

These days, the Congress loudspeakers which earlier were making big claims have fallen weak, PM Modi said. "Some are saying the Congress is becoming weak each day. During the past 10 years, the Congress has failed as opposition too.'

"The party remained far from people's issues for 10 years... such people can never win the trust of the people of Haryana," he said. Modi said the Congress

made tall promises in Himachal Pradesh but after they came to power in the state, development came to a standstill and they were unable to pay salaries.

One cannot imagine how many atrocities were committed against the Dalits during the Congress rule in Haryana, PM Modi told the BJP workers and asked them to expose such incidents pub-

Recounting the BJP government's initiatives for farmers, the prime minister alleged that during the Congress rule in Harvana, the farmers got Rs 2 compensation cheques for

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageshwara Rao gave a call to the Seedsmen Association to make Telangana seeds gain ground not only in India but also abroad. Everyone should join the government's efforts for this, he said. Participating in the Seedsmen Association's 29th AGM as chief guest on Thursday at the FICCI Bhavan, he said that the government would support the interests of seed farmers and the seed industry and also protect the interests of farmers.

'Promote Telangana seeds'

This Seedsmen Association which started with 20 to 30 people in 1995, today has 507 members representing all the seed companies of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, and on behalf of our government, we extend our heartiest wishes to all of you who have made Telangana the top in the country in agriculture, especially in seed production. Producing the seeds of various crops is being done on around eight lakh acres across the state and this sector is now not only meeting the needs of the state but also the country's needs," he said.

He said one lakh families are directly or indirectly employed in seed production. Moreover, seed farmers earn 30% to 40% higher income than conventional crop farmers. The favourable climatic conditions in Telangana also help in seed production. After the Congress government came to power, the seed production sector was given high priority.

Modi 'systematically' ended employment system

Alleges Rahul Gandhi at Haryana rally

PNS CHANDIGARH

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday over the unemployment issue and accused him of "systematically" ending the employment system of the country.

Addressing a poll rally in Assandh, the leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha exuded confidence that the Congress would sweep the October 5 Haryana assembly election.

He raised the issue of caste census and also accused the



BJP of dividing the people and pitting them against each other. The Congress is going to sweep the Haryana elections. A storm is coming and we will form the government for all," Gandhi said

Congress MP Kumari Selja,

former Haryana chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, the party's state unit chief . Udaibhan and other leaders were present at the rally.

Attacking the BJP government, Gandhi said it has "destroyed" Haryana.

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CITY EVENTS

SERP - SARAS **Fair-2024**

Venue

People's Plaza, Hyderabad September 27 to October 7

Qadir Ali Baig Theatre **Foundation**

The premiere of its new play to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the-atre doyen Qadir Ali Baig. In the august presence of Governor of Telangana Jishnu Dev Verma. `SUNSET - SUNRISE' (English / 60 minutes)

Novotel Hyderabad Convention Centre & HICC, September 29

Mix, stomp & indulge

Enjoy the finer things in life, delicious food, refreshing beverages and delightful moments

Venue

Novotel, Hyderabad Airport, September 29, 12 pm to 4 pm

Dubai Proprty Show

Property experts coming to your city

ITC Kohenur, HYTEC City, Plot No. 5, Survey No. 83/1, Madhapur, Opposite Inorbit Mall October 5 and 6.

Toxic

By Abhishek Upmanyu

Shilpakala Vedika November 2

Prateek Kuhad

Slhouettes tour. Venue

Hyderabad international convention centre November 8

Digital twin for water network launched at IIITH

PNS HYDERABAD

Smart City Living Lab launched digital twin for water network in IIIT-H, in Technologies, a CSR initia-

Anuradha Vattem, Chief Technology Architect, mentioned that the idea of building a digital twin has been triggered when an MoU was signed for establishing Centre of Excellence for Water (Water COE) with Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) last February and one of the problems discussed was the digital twin for water and sewerage treatment plant.

In continuation with that, the team started understanding and thinking on how the digital twin can be applied and used for utility networks like water.

An area of water network in the Kohli research block was identified where different nodes (water quality, water flow, water level and motor control) were

deployed. After extensive research into existing software options and exploring all possibilities, the team opted to develop its own software stack, tailored specifically for this project.

It has used the standard stack used for smart city solutions (including the oneM2M interoperable

City Pioneer



/ HYDERABAD | FRIDAY | SEPTEMBER 27, 2024

DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER BHATTI VIKRAMARKA MALLU AT HOOVER DAM

Bhatti hails Hoover Dam for safety aspects

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana's Deputy Chief Minister and Energy Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu lauded the Hoover Dam as a model of water utilisation and safety practices. Currently on an official visit to the United States, Bhatti Vikramarka, along with Energy Department Secretary Ronald Ross, Singareni CMD N Balaram and Special Secretary Krishna Bhaskar, visited the Hoover Dam on Wednesday.

The US Federal government officials gave an in-depth briefing on the engineering marvel, highlighting how the dam, built during the severe drought between 1931-36, now generates 2,080 megawatts of hydroelectric power through its 17 generators, supply-

ing electricity to three states.

The dam not only meets the energy needs of the region but also supplies water to nearly 8 million people across three major cities and ensures irrigation for vast farmlands. Standing at 726 feet high and 1,244 feet wide, Hoover Dam has created a large artificial lake that stretches 185 kilometers when filled to capacity. It also



attracts about 8 million visitors annually. The deputy chief minister expressed interest in how the State could incorporate these practices to boost Telangana's hydroelectric projects and enhance safe-

Bhatti Vikramarka reviewed the dam's operational efficiency, its machinery, water management, and safety protocols in place. He urged the State officials to explore opportunities to enhance the capacity and safety of Telangana's

hydroelectric plants, taking inspiration from the Hoover Dam. The historical construction footage and photographs of the dam, presented during the visit, captured the Minister's attention. At the Minex-2024 international

exhibition, Bhatti Vikramarka, along with a State delegation, visited several prominent company stalls on Wednesday. At the Sandvik stall, he reviewed the cutting-edge continuous miner machinery. He also experienced the virtual reality mining technology, which simulates real-time conditions inside a mine. The technology enables operators to train in a highly realistic environment, ensuring better preparedness and safety.

Organisers demonstrated how this virtual reality system allows miners to assess the working conditions inside the mine from the outside, making it an advanced mining method. Bhatti Vikramarka, donning the VR headset himself, expressed that the benefits of this technology were remarkable, as it helps minimise accidents and enhances safety for workers.

He also urged Singareni CMD N Balaram to explore the possibility of implementing such technology in current and future mines to ensure worker safety. State Energy Secretary Ronald Ross and other officials also attended the exhibi



Hyderabad Commissioner of police CV Anand speaking at Round Table Discussion on DJ systems and fire

DJs a cause of concern to many, says Hyd CP

PNS HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Commissioner of Police CV Anand on Thursday said increasing DJs trend in religious processions has become cause of concern for many people and suitable measures need to be taken to control it.

Speaking at the Round-Table Discussion on DJ Systems and Fire Crackers in Religious Processions, held at TG&ICC building in Banjara Hills, Commissioner Anand said, "We have got lots of complaints to dial 100 and on social media regarding the rampant use of DJs in processions during Ganesh and Milad festivals.

Lots of people raised their concern over the use of DJs and firecrackers during the processions.

"I was surprised to see the increasing sound pollution over the years, that too because of the DJs during the processions and organisers defying police orders are conducting DJs during the religious processions," said the Commissioner.

He said that old aged people, pregnant women and children are facing many health issues due to this noise pollution. Strict legal action will be taken against those who violate the instructions given for use of DJ System, he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Goshamahal MLA Raja Singh said that they have been using DJs in Ganesh festival procession, Navaratri and Ram Navami Shobha Yatra without any single incident happening. Before imposing the ban on DJs, we have to think about the people whose families depend on the DJ business," he said.

Instead of imposing a ban on DJs, we should lock the DJs' sound systems for certain levels of decibels," he added.

MLA Danam Nagender said that political parties should take a stern stand on banning DJs in religious processions.

Suitable infra to help startups find global market: IT Min

samuelmjoshuamjmc@gmail.com HYDERABAD

Drawing attention to Telangana's desire to partner with national and international companies to help innovators find the right infrastructure and markets, IT Minister D Sridhar Babu inaugurated the three-day International Startup Festival-2024, which began at the Engineering Staff College of India on Thursday.

Addressing the gathering, Sridhar Babu discussed how to leverage startups and companies, emphasising that the State ner wit their growth. He added that the government wants to strengthen support so that startups can gain global attention for their production and innovation.

He expressed belief that the



IT Minister D Sridhar Babu inaugurating the three-day International Startup Festival-2024 at the Engineering Staff College of India on Thursday

meeting of startups at this festival will provide access to every startup in creating a supply chain mechanism. He emphathat many innovators struggle to find the right market or scale up. He also shared that the government wishes to create suitable infrastructure to help startups find the right market in India and overseas to

connect and access global

Sridhar Babu appreciated the Chairperson and Convenor of International Foundation, JA Chowdary, for introducing the new concept of 'Junicorns' at the stalls, after Unicorns and Soonicorns, encouraging the next generation of innovators.

Tollywood actor Abhishek held

filed in SR Nagar and Jubilee Hills police stations. The investigation of these cases is currently going on in court. However, Abhishek has not As he was not attending the

and arrested him in Goa.

Realtor booked for unlawful villa registration

PNS HYDERABAD

The Economic Offence Wing (EOW) of the Cyberabad police station arrested the managing director of M/s Goldfish Abode Private Limited, who had unauthorisedly executed villa registration and also misappropriated Rs 6.81 crore.

The arrested person has been identified as Chandra Shekar Vege. S Vikranth Reddy Secretary of Zresta Villas Owners MACS Limited complaint, stated that Vege unauthorisedly executed villa registrations through his directors between 2020 and 2023 by violating AGP-cum-Development Agreement and also misappropriated Rs 6.81 crore collected from villa owners towards corpus fund and maintenance charges.

Vege was arrested and produced before the court and sent to judicial remand. During the investigation it was revealed that Vege has been involved in 7 criminal cases within the Narsingi police station limits and one case at Gachibowli police station.

Swachhta Hi Sewa initiative draws good response

PNS HYDERABAD

Swachhta Hi Sewa initiative organised by NTPC SRHQ saw enthusiastic participation from NTPC employees, GHMC authorities, police personnel and Gandhi Hospital senior officials and staff in cleaniness campaign on Thursday.

Following the signature campaign, all participants took a Swachhta pledge. The pledge emphasised individual responsibility towards cleanliness and maintaining hygiene in both personal and public spaces.

ised, which commenced from the NTPC Secunderabad office and concluded at Gandhi Hospital. During the rally, participants raised slogans to promote the Swachhta Hi Sewa campaign. These slogans highlighted the importance of cleanliness as a civic duty.

The employees' involvement nderscored the collective

effort required for cleanliness drives followed by a Cleanliness Drive at Gandhi Hospital. Upon reaching Gandhi Hospital, NTPC SRHQ employees actively participated in a cleanliness drive within the hospital premises.

The drive was conducted in collaboration with Gandhi Hospital officials, ensuring the hospital grounds were cleaned and maintained.

As a goodwill gesture, NTPC handed over a set of dustbins to Gandhi Hospital with an initiative to provide sustainable tools to maintain cleanliness

Traffic curbs ahead of Prez visit to Hyd

PNS HYDERABAD

Ahead of the visit of President of India Droupadi Murmu to Hyderabad on September 28, traffic restrictions have been imposed in certain areas in the

northern part of the city.

According to the traffic advisory, sent by P Viswa Ádditional Prasad, Commissioner of Police (Traffic), public is advised to avoid Begumpet, Hyderabad Public school, PNT Junction, Rasoolpura, CTO Junction, Tivoli, Secunderabad Club, Karkhana, Trimulgherry cross roads, Lothkunta, Bolarum, Rashtrapathi Nilayam and surrounding junctions between 9 am to 7pm on that day.

There might be traffic congestion on these roads leading to these junctions.

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Tollywood actor Abhishek was arrested on Thursday in Goa by the officials of Telangana Anti Narcotics Bureau (TGNAB) for his involvement in multiple drug

According to the sources, Abhishek was one of the accused in drugs-related cases

been attending the hearings. hearings, the court issued an arrest warrant against Abhishek. TGNAB officials found out Abhishek's location

Chakali Ilamma remembered

PNS HYDERABAD

Celebrating the birth anniversary of Telangana freedom fighter Chakali Ilamma on Thursday, rich tributes were paid to her by Cyberabad Commissioner of Police

Avinash Mohanty. The Cyberabad CP, along with other officers garlanded the portrait of Chakali



Cyberabad Commissioner of Police Avinash Mohanty garlands the portrait of Chakali llamma on her 129th birth

Ilamma. The programme was attended by Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) D Joel Davis, DCP K Prasad, ADCP (Admin) Ravichandan Reddy and other officials.

Rachakonda Commissioner of Police Sudheer Babu also garlanded the portrait of Chakali

KALARM SHOWCASED AT GLOBAL START-UP FESTIVAL

Bionic hand for people with disabilities

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Helping people with disabilities through India's first bionic hand inspired by APJ Abdul Kalam, Hyderabad-based start-up Makers Hive's KalArm, the most advanced and affordable bionic hand, was showcased in a stall at the International Startup Festival 2024 on Thursday at the Engineering Staff College of India (ESCI).

When asked, general manager bionic hand is the most Vijay Bagade explained that their



affordable, compared to others

priced at Rs 35 to 40 lakh. He said they have developed a more advanced and customized version using their own R&D and aim to reduce the price further to make it accessible to the common man.

Vijay shared that this bionic hand has 18 grip patterns, can lift up to 20 kg and works for one-and—a-half days on a two-hour charge with a 2850 mAh battery.

It features firmware updates via a mobile app, performance monitoring, 6 custom grips and comes with a 3-

year warranty. Weighing only 450 grams, it's easy to remove and use when needed.

Vijay also mentioned that it is designed for people over 15 years, which works through

responding to muscle movements by sensors. He also noted that they are working with NGOs to skill amputees and provide jobs.

He also shared that they are planning an MoU with Telangana Co-operative Vikalangula Corporation (TVCC).



lelangana :-





HYDERABAD | FRIDAY | SEPTEMBER 27, 2024

Wednesday.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA

Revenue (Land Acquisition) Department

40 per cent burns.

shifted him to Gandhi hospital in

He was identified as Bollaram

Siva Prasad, 36, of Chintakuntawada of Jagityal town.

Korutla sub inspector Sweta was accused of ill-treating him.

Discord arose between Siva Prasad and his wife and they used

to clash frequently. The couple has two sons. His wife hailed from

Korutla. Because of the clashes,

Kavita lodged a complaint with the

Hyderabad as his condition was stated to be critical. He sustained

MEIL to develop 4,000 MW hydro projects in Maharashtra

Megha Engineering & Infrastructures Limited (MEIL) has signed a Memorandum Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Water Resources, Government of Maharashtra, to develop two prominent Pumped Storage Projects with a total capacity of 4,000 MW, the Kamod Pumped Storage Project in Nandurbar district and the Ghosla Pumped Storage Project in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar district in the state of Maharashtra. It is noteworthy that MEIL is executing its first pumped storage hydro projects under the 'Build-Operate-Maintain (BOM)'

These two projects will involve an estimated investment of Rs 21,100 crores and are expected to generate employment for approximately 2,500 people. MEIL plans to complete the Ghosla Pumped Storage Project within three and a half years, while the Kamod Pumped Storage Project is expected to be com-

pleted in five years. The two Pumped Storage Projects are off-stream in nature and the projects are planned to provide a minimum of six hours of energy storage on a daily basis. The Pumped Storage Projects will have newly constructed reservoirs i.e., Upper and lower reservoirs (closed loop system) utilising



Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and MEIL president RVR Kishore exchanging copies of MoU for development of hydro projects in Mumbai on Thursday

A powerhouse equipped with reversible pump turbines, generators, and other ancillary systems will be installed between the two reservoirs, interconnected through a water conductor system. The reversible turbines will pump water during non-peak hours and generate power during peak demand. Water for the projects will be drawn from existing reservoirs or dams for initial filling and replenished annually to compensate

the head for the generation of for losses due to evaporation

and seepage.
Pumped Storage Projects are recognised for their costeffective energy storage, grid management, frequency regulation, and integration with

renewable energy sources. The MoU signing event was attended by Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Deepak Kapoor, Additional Chief Secretary of the Water Resources Department, representing the Maharashtra state

Engineering & Infrastructures Limited (MEIL) was represented by company president RVR Kishore, along with Girish, Ravi Kiran, and Sameer

At this MoU Ceremony between MEIL and Government of Maharashtra, MEIL president RVR. Kishore said, "These projects will not only address Maharashtra's energy needs but also drive the state's development. We are proud to contribute to national progress by supplying power through the grid across India."

at butter manufacturing unit

In a significant operation, the Rajendranagar Special Operations Team (SOT) raided a butter manufacturing centre at Mylardevpalli, Katedan Industrial Estate, in the district. The raid uncovered shocking violations with operators found repacking butter in unsanitary conditions in direct violation of health and safety regulations. The facility has been found operating without the necessary permits, leading to authorities registering a case against the operators. The case has been handed over to the Mylardevpally police for further investigation.

SOT flags hygiene violations

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

During a counseling session to end marital discord, a woman sub inspector on Sunday last reportedly behaved in a high-handed manner with a Dalit leading to him attempting suicide on Monday by setting himself ablaze after dousing in petrol, according to a delayed reports reaching here on He was rushed to the local government hospital by relatives, but

Dalit attempts suicide over

'ill-treatment' at police station

Dalit undergoing treatment at a hospital on Thursday

Korutla police against Siva Prasad under Section 498.

On Sunday, sub inspector called the couple to the police station for counselling. She reportedly threat-ened him rather harshly asking him to mend his ways. She also allegedly slapped him. The peeved Siva Prasad, who nursed a fear for visiting the police station again on Monday for second round of counselling, attempted suicide, according to his relatives.

4) Duvvula

Sanjeevu

Fear grips

PNS RANGAREDDY

Rajendranagar's Khaleez Khan Dargah area in Rangareddy district. The residents of a local basti were shocked and alarmed by the frequent arrival of people and vehicles at the house of a person reportedly practicing black magic. Tension escalated when members of the alleged black magic practitioner's family indiscriminately attacked a young man, Nawaz Uddin, from the basti after a

confrontation.

colony over 'black magic'

A horrific incident involving alleged black magic has stirred up unrest

The young man sustained serious injuries and was ferried to hospital, where he is currently undergoing

Man loses vision due to 'botched' cataract surgery

Family protest at hospital, offered Rs 4 lakh payout

PNS MAHABUBNAGAR

In a shocking incident in Mahbubnagar district, a due to an alleged botched surgery at a private hospital. The senior citizen, identified as Ramulu from Chinna Revalli village under the Balangar mandal, experienced deteriorating vision and sought treatment from a local doctor, who referred him to a private hospital in Shadnagar.

Upon examination, the hospital staff informed Ramulu that a membrane had formed in his eye and that surgery would restore his vision. In July, he underwent cataract surgery. However, after the procedure, Ramulu continued to experience eye pain and noticed no improvement in condition.



Concerned over deteriorating condition following the surgery, he sought further examinations at prominent hospitals in Hyderabad. The doctors there revealed irreversible damage to an optic nerve.

This revelation prompted Ramulu and his family to stage a protest outside the private hospital at which he underwent surgery, accusing the medical team of negligence that led to the loss of his vision, according to his family members.

Initially, the hospital management denied wrongdoing but later agreed to negotiate with the victim's family. Ultimately, they offered a compensation of Rs 4 lakh.

It is to be seen whether the authorities will investigate the incident to find out the truth.

Ensure protection of every plant: Minister to officials

Minister for Forest, Environment and Konda Surekha has directed officials to ensure the protection of every plant planted during the Van Mahotsav.

During her visit to Medak district on Thursday, the Minister participated in Van Mahotsav programme organized by the Forest Department on the Integrated Collectorate premises, where she planted saplings.

Speaking at the event, the Minister urged everyone green cover cam be increased only through the planting of trees. She highlighted the importance of group planting initiatives, stating that Van Mahotsav is aimed at increasing forest cover. She stressed that trees are vital for human survival and encouraged everyone to plant and nurture saplings. The event was attended by Medak MP M Raghunandan Rao, MLA Rohith Rao, MLA



Minister for Endowments Konda Surekha planting a sapling in

Lakshmareddy, Subhash Reddy and Yadava SC/ST Commission Chairman Bakki Venkataiah, District Collector Rahul Raj, Additional Collector Venkateshwarlu, DFO Joji, public representatives, and

(PRELIMINARY DECLARATION) 5) Duvvala (Under Section 19 (1) of The Right to Fair Compensation a fransparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettle Rajaiah S/o Act 2013, (Central Act 30/2013) and State Rule 25 (1)) Camchanda Collector's File No. G1/3843/2022 6) Duvvala Special deputy collector's file No. B/30/2022 Date: 04-09-2024 Kanukayya Gazette No: 121/2024 Date: 20/09/2024 W/o Saniee As per the directions of the Government of Telangana/ Distri 7) Kurapati Collector, Ac.3.01 guntas in Konayipalli village of Nangnoor mandal is needed for public purpose i.e. for the excavation of LD4 (1)-LM1 minor of the RMC of Sri Ranganayaka Sagar Reservoir under Kaleshwaram S/o Siddaiah 8) Duvvala roject. Therefore, the declaration under Section 19 (1) of the Right to Srinivas Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabil S/o Rajaial and Resettlement Act 2013 has been issued. 9) Duvvala Therefore, the declaration has been issued for the acquisition of Ac 3.01 guntas in Konayipalli village of Nangnoor mandal of Siddipet district S/o Ema SCHEDULE 10) Duvvala Pattadar Total Extent 0.18 173 Pata Dry 0.19 Duwala Mallalah S/o Duwala Mallaiah S/o W/o Balaiah Silo Lingaiah 188 186 168 164 Duvvala 4) Duvvula W/o Sattaial 5) Duwula Chinna Mallais S/o Lingaiah 1) Duvvala 2) Duvvala) Kavati Sio Narayan W/o Balaiah 2) Bairi Srini Ram Narsaia Sio Lingaiah 3) Duwula 4) Bairi Rajalah Sio Ram 188 186 168 164 Srinivas W/o Rajajah S/o Lingalah 5) Duvvala Yellavva W/o Sattaiai 5) Duwula Maisalah Sid Chinna Mallaia 6) Duwula 1) Duvvala Sio Narayani Total Extent 0.15 2) Duvvala Sio Lingaiah S/o Narayana () Kurapati 1-Well Ram Narsaiah Silo Siddaiat 1-Tadi Sio Narayana 4) Bairi 172 171 Srinivas S/o Lingalah 4) Duwula 5) Duvvala Yellavva S/o Narsaiah W/o Sattaia 5) Bairi Shiva inga Murthy Balaram lo Srinivas S/o Yerra Bairi Srini Sío Lingaiah 3 173 Pata Dry 0.03 Duyyata Kurapati Sío Siddaiaí 3) Duvvula 14 173 Pata Dry 0.03 1) Duvvala Duvvala 172 171 W/o Mallaiah Kanakaiah S/o Narayana S/o Yerra 4) Duwula Lingaial Mallaiah 2) Duvvala Sio Narsaiah Sio Narayar 3) Duvvala Jinga Murthy Ram Narsaial S/o Narayan Srinivas S/o Lingaia 5) Duvvala 2) Duvvula Mallaiah W/o Sattaia S/o Narsaia 6) Duvvala 3) Bairi 164 S/o Yema S/o Lingalah 1-Wate 4) Duvvula Total Extent 1.29 S/o Rama 188 Pata Dry 0.07 Duvvala 186 187 181 chandraiah

District administration to deploy bio-mining to clear dump yard

PNS BHADRADRI KOTHAGUDEM

District Collector Jitesh V Patil on Thursday directed the officials to deploy bio-mining technology to clear dump yards in all urban areas.

Holing a review meeting on deploying bio-mining technology here, the Collector stressed the need to treat the waste at accumulated at dump yards.

The technology would convert waste into high-quality manure and it can be used for plants in parks and traffic island plantations. He asked the officials to ensure that the plastic waste is recycled. Stones can be used for landfilling.

The Collector suggested that

plastic waste may be sold to companies which recycle it. He asked the officials to speed up deploying of bio-mining technology in the limits of all four municipalities.

After clearing the dump yards, Jitesh V Patil instructed the officials to promote agroforestry. Subabul and eucalyptus can be grown on the land cleared of waste and it would generate revenue for the munic-

Additional Collector Vidyachandana, Revenue Divisional Officers Damodar Rao and Madhu, District Agriculture Officer Babu Rao, District Pollution Control Board Officer Ravinder and others were present.



Bhadradri Kothagudem Collector Jitesh V Patil holding a review meeting in Kothagudem on Thursday

Rajgopal Reddy plays food inspector

Provides Rs 10,000 assistant to food cart vendor

from next day onwards, only

high-quality oils should be

Rajgopal Reddy immedi-

ately provided financial

assistance of Rs10,000 and

encouraged Kumaraswamy

to use quality oil for prepar-

inspection to a nearby gro-cery store, where he thor-

oughly examined various branded oil packets. He

inquired about the source of

these oils and reiterated that

the use of adulterated oils is

leading to serious health

issues, including cancer,

raising concerns over pub-

Later, Reddy extended his

ing his bajjis.

In a gesture of goodwill,

used to prepare snacks.



Congress MLA Komatireddy Rajgopla Reddy counselling a vendor at Chandoor in Nalgonda district on Thursday

PNS NALGONDA

In a surprise move, Congress Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy carried out inspection of food carts in Chandoor Municipal limits. He questioned the cooks at the food carts about the type of oils being used. He meticulously examined the oil packets and expressed concern that the use of adulterated oils is causing public health issues. Rajgopal Reddy, voicing his frustration, advised the vendor, Kumaraswamy, not to use such oils anymore. He further instructed him that

Reddy also warned that strict action would be taken against any encroachment on government land. To safeguard government properties, task forces would be formed.

He further advised that there must be separate systems for rainwater and sewage to avoid contamination. A master plan for the future growth of the municipality, aligned with increasing population needs, is also

5) Duvvala

Rajaiah S/o

Ramchanda

Kanukayya

W/o Sanjee

7) Kurapati

S/o Siddaial

8) Duvvala

S/o Rajajah

S/o Erra

10) Duvvala

W/o Sattaia

Duvvula

Sattavva

Mallaiah

3) Bairi

Srinivas

172 Patta Dry 0.06 2 Duvvuta

W/o Mallaiah

S/o Narsaiah

164

essential. He conducted a review of road widening works in Chandoor Municipality. During his visit, he inspected the stormwater drains and sewage channels and was made aware of encroachments.

He issued a clear warning that strict action would be taken against those encroaching on government

Reddy reviewed the road widening project and clarified that it must extend 50 feet on either side from the road's center point.

As no objections have been received in response to th liminary notification within the time stipulated, under Section (15) Central Act 30/2013) the declaration has been issued. Since the land acquisition in Konayipalli village of Nangno nandal of Siddipet district is limited to a small area for excavation of

Total Extent 0.07

Total Extent 3.01

the LD 4(1)-LM1 distributary minor canal of the RMC of Sr Ranganayaka Sagar Reservoir under Kaleshwaram Project and the excavation of the canal would improve the irrigation water supply to the residual lands and thereby improve the livelihoods, no families o ivelihoods or habitats are going to be affected by the land acquisition Therefore, the question of rehabilitation and resettlement does not arise.

Since the land is being acquired for the project, mines of coa on-stone, slate or other minerals lying under the said land or an particular portion of the said land are not needed or may be used hey are useful to the project.

The plan of the abovesaid land to be acquired may be inspected in he office of the Special Deputy Collector, Land Acquisition Department-1, Siddipet, during working hours on any working day. Sd/-

Tahsildar, Spl. Dy. Collector (LA) Addl. Collector Dist. Collecto ar Project Unit -1 Siddipet Dist Siddipet Dist



ACROSS THE STATES



Death sentence for Kolkata man for rape-murder

Kolkata court on Thursday sentenced a man to death for the rape and murder of a seven-year-old girl in 2023, Aholding that it was a case of the rarest of rare nature. The girl had gone missing from near her house at Tiljala in south-east Kolkata on March 26 last year when she went out on some chores. The police launched an investigation after a missing diary was lodged and found her body in a nearby flat. The tenant of the flat was arrested and charged with rape and murder of the girl after post-mortem examination reports confirmed the crimes. The body bore blunt weapon injuries and strangulation marks post-rape, according to the autopsy report. Special Judge (POCSO) at Alipore court, Sudipto Bhattacharya, finding the accused guilty of rape and murder, sentenced him to death, holding that it was a case of the rarest of rare nature. He observed that the girl, who was of the tender age of seven, had no possibility of defending herself and was subjected to the heinous crime



Naga govt stops seer from holding 'Gau Dhwaj Yatra'

prominent seer along with five others who had arrived in Nagaland for the 'Gau Dhwaj Sthapana Bharat Yatra' were told to return following restrictions imposed by the Nagaland government. Jagadguru Shankaracharya Swami Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati accompanied by five others arrived at Dimapur on Thursday, but they had to return, officials said. Shankaracharya was scheduled to hold the Gau Dhwaj Sthapana Bharat Yatra, a movement demanding to declare the cow as the mother of the nation and to enact a central law to stop cow slaughter. However, on arrival at Dimapur airport, they were prevented from coming out of the airport following an order from the state government, an official said. "As per the state government order Swami and others were not allowed to step outside the airport," the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Chumoukedima district, Polan

Did not manufacture drugs..

Continued from page 1

authenticity, which was found to be lacking in the sample seized by CDSCO, it added.

"Our assessment of establishing authenticity of samples including physical appearance, QR code and labelling text comparison establishes that the NSQ (non-standard quality) sample is non-genuine and counterfeit, whereas our controlled sample matches with pre-defined specifica-

tions," the drug firm said.
Torrent has already submitted a formal response along with an assessment report, concluding the seized sample as spurious to CDSCO, it noted. An Alkem Laboratories spokesperson said the drug firm gives utmost importance to quality. "The products mentioned seem to be spurious and not manufactured by Alkem. The company is engaging with the authorities on this matter, the spokesperson stated.

A Glenmark spokesperson said: "At the outset, we would like to categorically state that the product mentioned in the list is counterfeit and has not been manufactured or distributed by Glenmark. This

has been confirmed by the regulatory authorities in the list you are referring to."

As a responsible organisa-

tion, the drug firm has always prioritised patient safety and the quality of products, the spokesperson said. "To deal with the menace and tackle this issue of counterfeit products, we have implemented advanced security measures to ensure the authenticity of our products," the spokesperson said."In light of these issues, we urge all pharmacy outlets to ensure they source Glenmark products exclusively from our authorised stockists. This is crucial for maintaining the integrity and quality of the medications provided to patients," the spokesperson added. The CDSCO's drug alert for August included samples from batches of medications such as Shelcal, Vitamin B Complex with Vitamin C Softgels, vitamin C and D3 tablets and Ciprofloxacin

High blood pressure medications Telmisartan and Atropine Sulphate and antibiotics such as Amoxicillin And Potassium Clavulanate tablets have also been categorised as not of "not of standard quality"

The largest investments are projects in Rajendranagar, where Rs 3,002.91 lakh have been allocated for 3,570 pump sets, and Suryapet, where Rs 2,607.89 lakh have been sanctioned for 2,881 pump sets.

TGSPDCL, Musharraf Ali Faruqui, stated, "This initiative Rajendranagar, Medak and As per this scheme, the underscores our commitment to supporting the farming community by enhancing power distribution for agricultural needs. We aim to ensure that the infrastructure is set up efficiently to support irrigation and

'No more adjournments'

SC on Godhra train burning case; next hearing on Jan 15

PNS NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said it will hear on January 15 the appeals filed by the Gujarat government and several other convicts in the 2002 Godhra train burning case.

A bench of Justices J K Maheshwari and Rajesh Bindal made it clear that no adjournment will be given in the matter on the next date of hearing.

On February 27, 2002, 59 people were killed with February 15 people with February 15 people were killed with February 15 people with February 15 people were killed with February 15 people with Fe

6 coach of Sabarmati Express was burnt at Gujarat's Godhra, triggering riots in the state. Several appeals have been

filed in the apex court challenging the October 2017 verdict of the Gujarat High Court which had upheld conviction of several convicts and commuted the death penalties of 11 to life term. The Gujarat government had in February last year told the

apex court that it will be seeking award of death penalty to the 11 convicts whose sentences in the case were commuted to life imprisonment by the high court. The batch of pleas came up for hearing on Thursday before the top court.

Gujarat government's counsel Swati Ghildiyal requested the bench to post the matter for hearing on some other day as she was to argue before another bench of the apex court in a death penalty-related matter.

'We have to first understand what are the cases of individuals. What is the prosecution's case. Then we have to ascertain the roles," the bench observed, adding that hearing in the matter will take at least three days. "Now we will not adjourn it on the next date," the bench said.

"At the request of Swati Ghildiyal, counsel appearing for the State of Gujarat, list on January 15, 2025," it said. During the hearing before the apex court earlier, the state's

counsel had said 11 convicts were sentenced to death by the trial court and 20 others were awarded life term in the case.

The high court had upheld total 31 convictions in the case and commuted the death penalties of the 11 convicts to life term,

Will not allow terrorism to stage comeback in J&K: Shah

PNS CHENANI/UDHAMPUR

Ahead of the third and final phase of polling in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elec-tion next week, Union Home Minister Amit Shah intensified attacks on the Congress, NC and PDP on Thursday, saying the three dynastic parties are responsible for terrorism, which has been buried by the BJP and will not be allowed to stage a comeback.

Promising a terror-free Jammu and Kashmir under the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) regime, Shah alleged that the National Conference-Congress alliance would implement Pakistan's agenda if it comes to power in the Union Territory.

Addressing back-to-back rallies in the Chenani and **Udhampur** Assembly segments in support of the BJP candidates, Shah said the world has its eyes on the Jammu and Kashmir election, which is taking place for the first time after the provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution were



The government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi fulfilled the dream of BJP patriarch Syama Prasad Mukherjee in August 2019, when it abrogated Article 370, in line with his slogan -- "ek desh me do vidhan, do pradhan aur do nishan nahi chalenge" -- Shah said.

The home minister arrived at the venue of his first rally a few hours late after his chopper failed to land at Chenani due to inclement weather. However, he flew to Udhampur and reached Chenani by road.

Mentioning the delay during his speech, Shah lauded the Modi government for providing "Delhi and Gujarat-like roads" in hilly areas.

The BJP leader returned to Udhampur by road and addressed his second rally of the day. He is also scheduled to attend election rallies in the Bani and Jasrota constituencies in Kathua district and March constituency in Jammu district

The home minister said whoever spreads terror in Jammu and Kashmir will get his answer at the gallows.

"I want to ask you, whether (Parliament attack convict) Afzal Guru should have been hanged or not? The NC and the Congress are now saying he should not have been hanged...," he said.

"They want to release stone pelters and terrorists. Omar Abdullah gave up these dreams because you cannot do it. It is the duty of courts and we have enforced such laws that nobody will dare to hurl a stone anymore," Shah said at the first rally in Udhampur district's Chenani area.

The first phase of polling was held on September 18, followed by the second phase on September 25. The third phase, covering 40 Assembly seats in Jammu, Udhampur, Samba, Kathua and the north Kashmir districts of Kupwara, Baramulla and Bandipora, is scheduled to be held on

Tech upgradation should empower the poor: Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said a country can aim for high achievements only if it has a big vision and asserted that technology upgradation

should be to empower the poor. Speaking after launching via video link three PARAM Rudra supercomputers, developed indigenously under National Supercomputing Mission, Modi asserted that today's India is carving new opportunities in the infinite sky of possibilities.

Modi said his government has taken steps to ensure research in technology benefits the common

"We started the national supercomputing mission in 2015 and now quantum computing technology has taken a lead which will help improve IT, manufacturing, MSMEs and

startups," he said. Modi said his government is

approved.

"Mission Gaganyan preparations have begun and by 2035 we

giving priority to science, tech-

nology and research.

will have our own space station," he said, adding that the first phase of the project has been Science for self-reliance is our

mission," Modi said.

The three supercomputers, built at a cost of Rs 130 crore, have been deployed in Pune,

Delhi and Kolkata to facilitate pioneering scientific research,

Launches 3 supercomputers

Modi said. Modi also inaugurated the Rs 850 crore High-Performance Computing system tailored for weather and climate research, and described the day as one of a "very big achievement" in science and technology sector.

"There is no sector which does not rely on technology and computing capability," Modi said. "In this revolution, our share should not be in bits and bytes but in terabytes and petabytes. Therefore, this achievement proves that we are moving in the right direction at the right pace," he said.

The significance of science is

not only in invention and development, but also in fulfilling aspirations of the last person, Modi said.

BJP leaders provoking people of Jharkhand: CM

PNS RANCHI

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Thursday accused BJP leaders of "provoking people of the state in the name of caste and religion".

He claimed that BJP leaders who are being seen in the state at present would not be seen after the assembly elections in the state due later this year.

Soren was addressing a government function in Ranchi where he waived Rs 400 crore of farm loans of around 1.77 lakh farmers in the state. Earlier, the government had waived farm loans of up to Rs 50,000 of around 4.73 lakh farmers.

"Earlier, the government waived farm loans of up to Rs 50,000. Then, it decided to waive farm loans of up to Rs 2 lakh," Soren said.

Accusing the BJP govern-

ment at the Centre of "ruining

Jharkhand's 'Jal, Jungle and Jamin' (water, forest and land) for over 20 years", he alleged that leaders of the saffron party are "hovering" across the state as election is roundthe-corner.

"As election is round-thecorner, they (BJP leaders) are hovering across Jharkhand. Many faces, which you would not have seen earlier, are being seen now. They will be seen only for once and thereafter they will disappear," Soren

"They are spreading communal tension and provoking people in the name of caste and religion. Beware of them," he alleged.

Govt hikes..

Continued from page 1

without arms at Rs 954 a day (Rs 24,804 per month). The minimum wage rate for highly skilled and watch & ward with arms will be Rs 1,035 a day (Rs 26,910 per month). The new wage rates will take effect from Öctober 1, 2024. Last revision was

done in April 2024. The minimum wage rates are categorized based on skill levels-unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled, and highly skilled-as well as by geographical area - A, B, and C. In a significant move to support workers, particularly those in the unorganized sector, the Central Government has announced an increase in minimum wage rates by revising the Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA), the labour ministry statement said.

Workers engaged in various sectors, including building construction, loading and unloading, watch and ward, sweeping, cleaning, housekeeping, mining, and agriculture within central sphere establishments, will benefit from the revised wage rates.

'Stop working like political party'

PNS BENGALURU

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday said the Indian Road Congress (IRC), a 90year-old organisation that gives guidance when it comes to technical aspects of infrastructure building of our country, may be a knowledge engine, but it is functioning like a political

Gadkari was addressing a special plenary session, 'Advances in Management' at the international seminar of the Indian Road Congress.

"Sometimes I feel you (IRC) are working like a political party. You are a professional organisation. You should have a permanent office with laboratories and appoint people who are interested in research and technology full-time and take advantage of their knowledge and experience," he suggested.

The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways said if IRC is interested, he will facilitate land and a grant. "But you should be an independent, impartial and fair organisation. I am confident all state governments, including Karnataka,





"Sometimes I feel you (IRC) are working like a political party. You are a professional organisation. You should have a permanent office with laboratories and appoint people who are interested in research and technology fulltime and take advantage of their knowledge and experience," he suggested

will also contribute towards this," he added.

Gadkari said if quality work is to be done, then it is very important to be independent of the government framework. "In the government's way of doing things, the boss is always

correct, whether he is making good or bad decisions," he added. He also said quality alternatives to the existing technology are needed as India is facing a lot of problems with bridges, particularly in the coastal areas.

He also said projects are often stalled due to time-consuming processes and that this must be solved at the earliest and at every level.

"Álso, once the DPR is accepted, it is treated like a Bible. No one is ready for any variation and because of that, a lot of mistakes we have committed and that is today a big problem," the union minister said.

Gadkari said one of the good examples that the visiting experts can refer to in India is the Worli Sea Link Road.

"Even after 26 years, expansion joints are perfect. Everywhere else there is a problem. Dwarka express highway is supposed to be a premium project, but the expansion joint was not perfect," he said.

CASE AGAINST K'TAKA CM

Lokayukta police seeking legal clarification

PNS BENGALURU

The Lokayukta police are seeking 'legal clarification' to register an FIR against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) site allotment case, sources said on Thursday.

A special court here on Wednesday ordered a Lokayukta police probe against Siddaramaiah in the MUDA case, setting the stage for registering an FIR against

The order of the special court Judge, Santhosh Gajanan Bhat, came a day after a single judge bench of the High Court upheld the sanction granted by the Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot to conduct an investigation against Siddaramaiah on the allegations of illegalities in the allotment of 14 sites to his wife B M Parvathi by MUDA.



"We have not yet registered a case. Some legal clarification is being sought, as the special court has passed the order under the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) while it should have perhaps passed the order following procedure under Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Samhita (BNSS)," a source in the Lokayukta police

said.
"We have to lawfully register a case under BNSS but the court order is under CrPC, so the clarification is being sought," the officer added.

Rs 508.95 crore sanctioned...

Continued from page 1

regions. 37 different projects, aims to energize agricultural pump sets by setting up Distribution Transformers (DTRs) along with High Tension (HT) and Low Tension (LT) lines in districts like Nalgonda, The Chairman and MD of Suryapet, Mahbubnagar,

TGSPDCL will install over 13,318 DTRs and lay nearly 3,497 km of HT lines and 5,098 km of LT-AB cables. The project is expected to benefit around 58,825 agricultural pump sets, significantly agricultural productivity."

improving irrigation in these

Administration and Panchayat Raj departments since 2014. Sources said that this lapse, highlighted during a recent meeting, has resulted in the State Finance Commission's inability to upload necessary data as the respective departments had failed to furnish it.

TG didn't submit..

The Finance Commission underscored the apparent contradiction between recognition and compliance. The Devolution Index provides a detailed analysis of the extent of devolution of functions, finances and functionaries by each state. While the state has devolved 17 out of 18 functions to ULBs, it has only devolved 10 out of 29 functions to RLBs, showing a substantial gap in empowering gram panchayats.

This partial devolution affects local governance and the functioning of panchayat bodies, especially in rural areas where these functions are critical for development.

CM sets six-month...

Continued from page 1

The Chief Minister directed that all three departments - Irrigation, Power and Revenue - should hold joint meetings to formulate action plans based on their decisions. He emphasized the importance of engineers being present on the ground rather than in offices and ordered IAS officers and engineers to conduct field visits to speed up incomplete works. Revanth acknowledged the critical role played by engineers in the irrigation sector during Telangana's statehood movement. He called upon the engineers to remember that their job is not an ordinary one, but one intertwined with the sentiments of four crore people in Telangana.

On Thursday, the Chief Minister handed over appointment letters to 687 newly recruited Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs) at the Jal Soudha.

Cabinet expansion... Continued from page 1

Women MLAs Parnika Reddy, Yashashwini Reddy, Matta Ragamayi are available if the party wants to give a cabinet berth to women. The party has to think about district quota, caste quota and religion quota while finalising names for the six cabinet berths and so it is taking time. According to sources, the high command may give the green signal to the CM after the completion of this exercise

and it may be done by Dasara. If the party wants to face the by-polls as mentioned by Station Ghanpur MLA Kadiyam Srihari, then the cabinet expansion may take more time.

Digital health cards for TG..

Continued from page 1

where patients must repeatedly undergo medical tests due to lack of centralized medical records. "Patients are forced to undergo the same medical tests each time they visit the hospital. This is due to the absence of health cards that can store medical records. The government is addressing this by developing a digital health profile for every individual in the state," he said.

The Chief Minister said that the four crore people of TG would have their health profiles digitized, which would store records of past treatments, ensuring better continuity of care.

"A separate health profile should be created for each individual. The health profiles of the four crore people of the state would be digitized," he announced, stressing the significance of this initiative for the future of healthcare in Telangana. Revanth reiterated the gov-

ernment's commitment to pri-oritizing health and education, focusing on providing medical care at the lowest possible cost. "Medical care should be provided to the poor at the low-est possible cost," he said, affirming that the government would continue to ensure healthcare accessibility for all its citizens.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Trouble for Siddaramaiah

Karnataka CM faces fresh political and legal challenge as alleged land scam during his previous tenure gains traction

✓ arnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is facing the heat as a special court has directed the Mysuru Lokayukta police to investigate his connection with an alleged MUDA scam. This follows the Karnataka High Court's dismissal of Siddaramaiah's petition challenging the Governor's approval for the investigation. Siddaramaiah finds himself embroiled in a controversy as a probe into an alleged land scam during his previous tenure (2013-2018) gains momentum. The allegations revolve around irregularities in the denotification of prime land in Bengaluru, where government-owned land was allegedly released for private development, bypassing legal procedures. This development has not only triggered a political storm but also raised questions about the stability of his government, which is already navigating internal challenges. The case, brought to light through opposition parties and activists, accuses Siddaramaiah of misusing his position to facilitate the denotification of land in favour of private individuals. It is claimed



that these actions led to substantial financial losses to the state exchequer. The denotification process is typically reserved for cases where the government no longer requires the land for public purposes. However, the opposition alleges that the decision-making was influenced by vested interests.

The probe, aims to examine Siddaramaiah's role and whether he acted within the framework of the law. While the investigation is in its preliminary stages, the political ramifications are already visible. With the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) demanding a thorough investigation and even his resignation, the pressure on Siddaramaiah is mounting. In response to the accu-

sations, Siddaramaiah has strongly denied any wrongdoing, calling the probe a politically motivated attempt to tarnish his image and destabilise his government. Siddaramaiah's defence rests on his claim that the land denotification was carried out in compliance with legal procedures and was vetted by relevant authorities. He also pointed out that similar cases have been registered against several politicians across party lines, suggesting that this is a standard political practice to harass the CM's of the Opposition parties and not unique to his administration. If the investigation gathers pace and incriminating evidence surfaces, it could weaken his authority, both within his party and in the eyes of the public. The BJP, as the principal opposition in Karnataka, is likely to leverage the land scam to question Siddaramaiah's integrity and leadership. Their demand for accountability could lead to prolonged political uncertainty, especially if the case moves into the courts or if there are calls for judicial oversight. Further, any perception of corruption, especially in a state like Karnataka where electoral battles are fiercely fought, could erode Siddaramaiah's public image. His government, which came to power on promises of transparency and development, may find itself in a difficult position defending its track record if this case gains momentum and more evidence surfaces.



n artist gives finishing touches to a clay idol of Goddess at artisans' village Kumartuli, in Kolkata

Exploring the depths of the human mind



As AI draws comparisons to human cognition, the mystery of the mind grows more complex, raising crucial questions about its unused potential



he human mind is a unique organic entity whose lengths of reach and visions of the range are still to be fully mapped. Many believe that an average mind works at less than 30 per cent of its potential. Putting this in the context of artificial intelligence, the matter becomes even more complex. There is a theory doing the rounds in the field of artificial intelligence that suggests that entities of artificial intelligence have the potential of organic functioning, just like the human The evidence for this is fairly

mixed. Some conclusions may emerge over time. The crucial question concerning artificial intelligence however does include its possibilities and potential for organic evolution and growth. As observed, sooner or later, answers will emerge. Even otherwise, the human mind is a suo motu logic of its existence. Attempts to map it, are indeed one of the exciting aspects of human endeavour. Notwithstanding some breakthroughs in mapping the brain, there are areas of brain function that need a closer look both more to the point one does physically and operationally. Interestingly, notwithstanding all this, there is a common reference to the 'second childhood' of human beings, where often, there may be latent people, upon reaching a certain

age, start behaving with childlike traits. It is difficult to explain this process, but it is fairly obvious to notice.

Similarly, the jury is out on the age by which, the basic orientation of the brain fully takes place. One also needs to know when it matures enough to develop a relationship between the 'conscious' brain and the 'subconscious'

Notwithstanding the diverse interpretations of the above narrative, it is obvious that at some stage the basic foundations of the mind seemingly get concretised. One such example is the influence of early childhood experiences on a growing human being. There are stages of childhood emerging into early adult-

All this becomes integral to the individual's ways of thinking and behaving. Popularly, this is known to affect the orientations of a growing individual on matters of finance, gender or for that matter even values.

The list can be extended but not know, exhaustively, of all the influences which go into the making of an operationally adult human mind. Very influences on a human mind

MANY AREAS OF

THOUGHT, REFLECTION, ANALYSIS, AND RESEARCH MAY CONTAIN INDICATIONS OF UNDERSTANDING THE DYNAMICS OF THE MIND. IT MAY BE A CHALLENGE, BUT A CHALLENGE

BE EVADED

selves until a much later point in adulthood.

All in all, many ambiguities remain, and so do many contradictions that stay alive so far as the working of the mind is concerned. Above all, it is generally believed that hormonal changes affect the working of the mind. Both men and women reportedly pass through menopause in their later life. Many are of the view that menopausal effects are more identifiable amongst the women than the men. An issue, however, remains to be fully answered: what are the factors that influence the

working of the mind? Yet another element that influences behaviour is the fall out of a mental shock. It can have many approximations of derailing the thought process of the individual, and indeed, impacting many values. Put simply, many areas of thought, reflection, analysis, and research may contain indications of understanding the dynamics of the mind. It may be a challenge, but a challenge that cannot be

Further, there are also some transgenerational aspects to it. Say, how two parents deal with each other, or singly and collectively deal with a child

that may not manifest them- is an important factor for the child's growth. This can carry on across generations. Physiologically, the passing of some genes is known to happen across generations.

This is not only in terms of physical characteristics but also certain diseases that may have affected one of the grandparents in a given generation and resurfaced again two generations later in the physical system of a descendant. The mapping of this process, as of today, needs much additional work to be done.

This also contains a whole research agenda of human physiology, physical anthropology, medicines and more. Such a subject matter would deserve an integrated approach of not just, anthropology, psychology, genetic sciences and more, but a whole setup of support disciplines with appropriate interdisciplinary framework.

This will give insights into the physiology of the human being and the composition of the brain and mind. It is a challenging task, but it is a task that cannot be avoided.

(The writer is a well-known management consultant of international repute. The views expressed are

World tourism day: Uniting people, fostering peace



Whether visiting cultural landmarks, enjoying local cuisine, or simply interacting with people, tourism fosters global unity and peace

very year on September 27, the world celebrates World Tourism Day, a reminder of the crucial role that tourism plays in fostering cultural exchange, boosting economies, and promoting peace. As borders open and people explore new destinations, tourism serves as a bridge, uniting diverse cultures and breaking down barriers between nations.

In 2024, as we celebrate World Tourism Day, the theme focuses on the far-reaching benefits of travel beyond leisure, recognising how tourism helps us understand the world, its people, and its many cultures in deeper and more meaningful ways.

Tourism is not merely about sightseeing; it's about experiencing the essence of a place, its history, and its culture. As Bulat Nurmukhanov, Deputy Chairman of the Moscow City Tourism Committee, emphasises, "Tourism is primarily a way to immerse oneself in new cultures and experience history." Through tourism, individuals are given the chance to see the world through different lenses, fostering greater acceptance and understanding of other peo-

ple and their ways of life. This broader understanding is why cities like Moscow have prioritised cultural tourism as a key driver for their economic and social growth. The Moscow tourism strategy emphasises the importance of museums, exhibitions, and cultural events, which help travelers connect with the history and artistic traditions of the region. This approach reflects a global shift in tourism, where travelers seek deeper, more authentic experiences that expand their worldviews.

Tourism has always played a unique role in creating connections between people from different backgrounds. It allows us to learn from one another, building bridges of understanding and respect. contributes to the global On World Tourism Day, this economy.

Sustainable tourism focuses highlighted, as we reflect on how it fosters harmony in an increasingly interconnected world.

Roseate Hotels & Resorts, points out, "Tourism is about the connections we forge and the cultural experiences we offer." Kapoor stresses the importance of offering travelers more than just a stay, but a chance to explore different cultures and traditions. In a world where differences can sometimes divide, tourism brings people together, promoting peace and mutual

respect. For hotels and resorts, the focus is now on providing culturally aware experiences, from diverse culinary offerings to personalised services that reflect the traditions and customs of visitors. This kind of attention to cultural diversity enriches the overall travel experience, making it more inclusive and meaningful. Beyond cultural connections, tourism is a major economic

driver for many countries. It

generates millions of jobs,

supports local businesses, and

on minimising the environmental footprint of travel while maximising the positive social and economic impact As Kush Kapoor CEO of on host communities. From eco-friendly hotels to tours that support local artisans, tourism can be a powerful tool for inclusive development and environmental protec-

Perhaps the most significant impact of tourism is its role in promoting global peace and understanding. By encouraging interactions between people of different cultures, tourism helps to break down prejudices and build mutual espect. As we celebrate World Tourism Day, it's important to remember that each journey is not just a trip to a new place but an opportunity to engage with the world in a way that promotes peace and harmony. When people experience the customs, values, and tradiconcept? tions of other cultures, they begin to appreciate the similarities and shared humanity

that unite us all. (The author is a travel writer, views expressed are personal)

GOVERNOR SPARKS CONTROVERSY

Madam — Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi, in an unprecedented move on the evening of June 29 last year, unilaterally removed Tamil Nadu Minister V Senthilbalaji from the Council of Ministers. But he hastily backtracked from his decision late at night because he too knew that his act was not only ille-

gal but also unconstitutional. Some people say that Ravi has always been in the habit of being in controversies. But I believe that R N Ravi is a Governor later, first he is the order follower of the ruling Home Ministry. The ideology of the Home Ministry is clearly visible in every decision and every

speech of him. For example, just two days ago, while giving a lecture, he said that 'secularism is a European concept, that is why it was not a part of the Indian Constitution earlier, later, an 'insecure Prime Minister' got it added to the Constitution during the Emergency'.

For example, in one of his sentences, he first hinted at the concept of a Hindutva nation and secondly, he also criticised former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Some critics are demanding the immediate removal of R N Ravi from the post of Governor, whereas I believe that this is an ideological war which has been started by the central Government through the Governor, hence it would be better to answer this verbal war with thoughts only. Ravi should be asked, and then he will also say that the entire Constitution of India is external and is a copy of Europe, especially Britain, hence the entire Constitution should be abolished? Is our Constitution, on the basis of which we are proudly waving the flag of being the largest democracy today, also a European

Has the Governor forgotten that he has taken oath of this Constitution? Secularism is an integral part of our Constitution. It is our biggest duty to keep

religion separate from politics. Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur ented players, of course, are indispensable

Ukraine appreciates India's efforts

EDITO



he meeting of Ukrainian President Zelensky with the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of his US visit for the Quad is taken with the overwhelming gesture from the Ukrainian counterparts. Ukraine has been visited by almost all the Quad leaders in

person, and India particularly is playing a spe-

NDIA'S HOCKEY DOMINANCE CONTINUES

Madam—Indian hockey is on a high as exemplified by the way Manpreet Singh's men dominated the Men's Asian trophy at China's Hulunbuir. Notwithstanding the fact that India was the favourites to lift the title, the boys had to perform on the day, and they did. Although India fought hard to overcome an unexpected resistance from China in the final, the same team it had blanked in the league match, there was little doubt that it was the best team on dis-

play throughout the tourney. The 2020 Tokyo Olympics bronze medal, 2023 Hangzhou Asian Games gold medal, bronze at the recent Paris Olympics, and now Asian gold: India has had an excellent run on the astroturf for a couple of years, after a long, long period. The best part of the present Indian hockey team is the unity and spirit with which they come across the field come what may. Coach Craig Fulton's disinclination towards unnecessary and unwarranted chopping of players, in contrast to a few former coaches, has played its role. The tal-

cial role in establishing peace within Ukraine with its humanitarian assistance, negotiating stability deals and peace settlement mediation between Ukraine and Russia. The Indian efforts for peace initiation is so far are still moving ahead in the back channel diplomatic level. For which Ukraine is thankful for the clear support of India towards Ukrainian integrity and sovereignty. India's efforts in this regards is particularly welcoming that, we take care of every nation near or far from us; stuck in the political or economic or geopolitical turmoil, India's assistance will be helpful to ensure peace and tranquillity in the war hit country. Also such moves will also help India to meet its commitment of becoming Vishwa Shanti Guru or World's Peace Leader in the time to come. This peace collaboration between India and Ukraine will take Indian diplomatic skills to the next level. Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

to Indian hockey. At the same time, it is felt that India should not rest on its laurels; 2026 World Cup in Belgium and the Netherlands should be another platform to showcase their undoubted brilliance. Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

ENCOUNTERS RAISE CONCERNS

Madam —The recent reports of police encounters resulting in the deaths of alleged criminals raise a critical question about our justice system and accountability, such as how can we allow a system where police act as judge, jury, and executioner? Does law enforcement cross the line from justice to vigilantism? The tragic killings in Badlapur, Unnao, and Chennai reveal a disturbing trend. We need to consider how we can assure accountability that seems to reward extrajudicial actions. It is imperative for supreme courts to intervene and uphold the principles of justice in

Anshu Bharti | Begusarai

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FIRST COLUMN

SHARPENING THE QUAD VISION

Quad summit focused on maintaining peace in the Indo-Pacific region as its top priority



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

rime Minister Modi's high-profile visit to the US this week reiterated the salience of US-India bilateral, underscored by several key decisions with a clear focus on the future of this 21st century partnership. This visit by the Indian PM, coming after his trips to Russia and Ukraine, points towards a multi-pronged approach, where India is willing to have diplomatic engagements at the highest level, keeping its national interests sacrosanct.

That PM Modi and President Biden have found a mutual friendship framework, despite the Indian PM having held a political roadshow of sorts with his predecessor in the Oval Office, is a signal to the large world, that the US-India bilateral has bipartisan support. The Quas leaders' summit, Modi's rockstar concert-style engagement with the Indian diaspora and his meeting with top CEOs from the technology sector in the US, all point towards an escape velocity having been achieved by the US and India, with no scope of a look back.

China was the invisible elephant in the room, at the Quad leaders' summit. The statement from the Quad summit without naming an aggressive, maritime international law violator, China, mentioned "As four leading maritime democracies in the Indo-Pacific, we unequivocally stand for the maintenance of peace and stability across this dynamic region, as an indispensable element of global security and prosperity.

We strongly oppose any destabilising or unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo by force or coercion. We condemn recent illicit missile launches in the region that violate UN Security Council resolutions. We express serious concern over recent dangerous and aggres-



sive actions in the maritime domain. We seek a region where no country dominates and no country is dominated—one where all countries are free from coercion, and can exercise their agency to determine their futures. We are united in our commitment to upholding a stable and open international system, with its strong support for human rights, the principle of freedom, rule of law, democratic values, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and peaceful settlement of disputes and prohibition on the threat or use of force in accordance with international law, including the UN Charter. Respect for the leadership of regional institutions, including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), is and will remain at the centre of the Quad's efforts." While Quad is not a defence partnership like NATO, the presence of a global superpower, China with its coercive maneuverers in the entire Indian Ocean region, bore heavily on the leaders during the summit in Delaware. Delhi, Delaware (President Biden's hometown), Syndey, and Tokyo are keenly watching the international waters, and violations by China have been reported. The leaders announced "Today we are announcing a new regional Maritime Initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific (MAITRI), to enable our partners in the region to maximise tools provided through IPMDA and other Quad partner initiatives, to monitor and secure their waters, enforce their laws, and deter unlawful behavior. We look forward to India hosting the inaugural MAITRI workshop in 2025. In addition, Quad partners intend to layer new technology and data into IPMDA over the coming year, to continue to deliver cutting edge capability and information to the region." China would continue to be a key concern for Quad leaders, and would perhaps serve as the super glue closely packing these four countries, with major interest in the Indo-Pacific region in a tighter embrace.

The next Quad leaders' summit is likely to be hosted by Delhi, where a new US president is likely to be the key guest of honour. Given that ex-President Trump had encouraged the Quad grouping and President Biden has elevated it to leaders summit, it is safe to assume that QUAD is here

(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

Dissanayake's rise amidst Sri Lanka's political uncertainty



As the nation transitions under Dissanayake's leadership, questions loom about his ability to navigate the complex web of rivalries that define Sri Lanka's volatile democracy

Colombo recounted an experience he had in Parliament after a crucial debate, where he observed two politicians discussing serious issues. After the discussion, the editor remarked to one of the leaders, "Look, you always attack him in Parliament, but behind the scenes, you are so close and listen to him carefully." This leader was none other than Anura Kumara Dissanayake, the newly elected ninth Executive President of Sri Lanka and leader of the Marxist-Leninist Party Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna. The person he was listening to was his predecessor, former President Ranil Wickremesinghe, a neoliberal democrat. In response to the editor's comment, Dissanayake stated, "Whatever we say in Parliament, listening to him for five minutes behind the scenes is where we can learn a lot about politics." Wickremesinghe embodies the craft of political manoeuvring, while Dissanayake represents an idealism that has sought to reshape politics through violent revolution, a pursuit that has, lamentably, cost over 60,000 young lives. But later, he engineered a shift among a few key party members to adopt a middle ground to attract liberal democrats through the NPP alliance. So far, it has been a suc-

cessful story.
The friendship between these two leaders grew for a reason: Wickremesinghe was facing serious internal rifts within his party, the United National Party, where his junior, Sajith Premadasa, was rebelling against him. The history of this party is filled with tales of internal conflicts and bitter betrayals that continue to haunt its prosperity. Nevertheless, Wickremesinghe demonstrated resilience, showing that no matter who declared a power struggle against him, he could adeptly play the game of politics. This Machiavellian politician, well-versed in power dynamics, understands that he would never engage in a battle when it could be won through deception. The painful reality, however, is the consequences of these internal conflicts within political parties as the country enters a new era dominated by "political coalitions." In my opinion, this is not a healthy exercise for a robust democracy.

The erosion of political parties backbone of political ideologies, inevitably paves the way for unprecedented crises and precarious social outcomes. However, few realise that the friendship between Wickremesinghe, a man from Colombo's elite and a wellestablished political family, played [knowingly or unknowingly] a vital role in President Dissanayake's victory. The longstanding enmity between Wickremesinghe and Premadasa was undoubtedly a significant factor in Dissanayake's success, even though many predicted that no candidate would secure the over 50 per cent of votes required to

The results reflect the polarised political divisions in Sri Lanka, where minoritydominated areas remarkably rejected Dissanayake, presenting a significant challenge for the forthcoming general elections, as his political alliance will need to secure over 113 seats out of 225 to establish its power in Parliament.

Erik Solheim, former Norwegian minister and climate change advisor to Sri Lanka, who has been actively involved in Sri Lankan politics since the LTTE era as



THE RESULTS REFLECT THE **POLARISED** POLITICAL **DIVISIONS IN SRI** LANKA, WHERE MINORITY-DOMINATED REMARKABLY REJECTED DISSANAYAKE,

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a mediator in peace talks, commented on the significance of this election, stating, "The weakness of the election winner is that his coalition has very little experience running a complicated state like Sri Lanka. They may struggle to achieve a majority in Parliament and implement their many promises in a challenging economic environment."

Despite the worldwide congratulatory messages pouring in for the new leader, I find these insights particularly useful for forecasting the future trajectory of electoral outcomes and the challenges that the island nation is likely to face. The caretaker government, appointed for just two months until 14 November, faces low expectations and should refrain from making new appointments, wisely retaining some senior ministry secretaries from the previous administration.

If the President fails to secure a majority in the House, he will need to form a coalition, but if that proves impossible, the opposition may take control of Parliament, leading to chaotic infighting—an alarming scenario for an inexperienced President unprepared for Sri Lanka's complex political landscape. This situation accentuates significant uncertainties ahead. Historical trends suggest that a President's party or coalition often secures a majority in subsequent elections; however, the recent election results, where the winning candidate failed to garner over 50 per cent of the vote amidst three main contenders, complicate this.

The strong support for Sajith Wickremesinghe in Tamil-dominated provinces indicates a serious challenge for the newly elected President and his coalition as they approach the upcoming par-

liamentary elections. However, what is remarkable about this election is that it was exceptionally peaceful, with no violence reported, allowing for a refreshing power transition. The commendable role played by the Elections Commission in Sri Lanka cannot be overstated.

This calmness is particularly sur-

prising in a country where people previously took to the streets, violently ousting the Prime Minister and President after experiencing a devastating economic crisis. Many find it hard to believe. Nonetheless, this should not be seen as the calm before the storm, as the country's economy remains precarious. No leader can fulfil all the promises made during the election campaign. The responsibility now lies with the leader and his team to convince the public, fostering understanding and collaboration to overcome the challenges ahead. This is where the reality of the much-discussed "new renaissance" will be tested against the ground realities. The nation-state and its historical trajectory will provide important lessons in understanding what the future may hold. What does it mean for a nation's history to be an intricate weave of choices and consequences rather than a mere succession of events? This perspective compels us to reflect on the profound implications of individual and collective decisions on the essence of a nation. The dismissal of "what ifs" simplifies a complex reality rich with potential paths, urging us to explore the interplay between certainty and possibili-

In the post-independence landscape, missed opportunities for reconciliation and economic transformation reveal a dissonance between political aspirations and societal realities. The notion of a 'false renaissance' recurs throughout pivotal moments: the 1948 declaration of Independence, the 1956 Sinhala Only Act, the 1972 establishment of a republic, the 1977 shift to an open economy, the election of the first female executive president in 1994, the conclusion of the civil war in 2009, and the election of an apolitical leader (Gotabaya Rajapaksa) to overhaul the social structure in 2019—all serve as warnings against complacency born from superficial progress that obscures unresolved tensions and deep-rooted systemic

Therefore, sensationalising the new leader's humble family background and expressing anger towards the "self-proclaimed elites" and their alleged corruption may not provide the sustainable answers that the nation desperately seeks. Instead, it is the collective will and the leader's capacity to engage with those who oppose him that will be essential for embarking on this new journey. While propaganda may orchestrate a false renaissance, the shimmering illusions of progress starkly contrast with the gritty ground reality, exposing a profound philosophical enigma: the allure of superficial advancement often obscures the underlying fractures of society. This compels us to confront the uncomfortable truths of our existence that we habitually choose to ignore in our quest for meaning and coherence.

This challenge now lies before the new leadership. Behold an essential, paradoxical truth: within this tranquil interlude lies the profound anticipation of the storm to

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

Agri-tech 2.0: Digital innovations paving the path to sustainable farming

By boosting productivity, promoting sustainability and reducing environmental impact, these technologies offer a pathway for sustainable future

PARLIAMENT

s the global population heads toward an estimated 10 billion by 2050, the agricultural sector faces mounting pressure to significantly increase food production. For India, with its vast and diverse agricultural land-scape, this presents a critical challenge. Traditional farming methods alone will not be enough to meet the needs of a growing population while also addressing the threats posed by climate change, dwindling natural resources and the imperative for sustainable practices. In this context, agri-tech, the convergence of technology and agriculture, offers a transformative pathway forward. By integrating cutting-edge digital technologies into farming,



ability, and resilience. This article explores how these emerging technologies are reshaping the agricultural sector in India, positioning it to meet the demands of the future.

Agriculture at a Crossroads For decades, agriculture has been the backbone of India's economy, employing over 50 per cent of the workforce and

now facing unprecedented strain. The growing population, along with environmental challenges such as erratic weather patterns, water scarcity, and soil degradation, has placed the industry at a critical juncture. The traditional methods of farming are no longer sufficient to meet the increasing demand for food while preserving the environ-ment. This is where agri-tech comes into play, providing innovative solutions that can transform Indian agriculture by improving efficiency and promoting sustainable prac-

Precision Agriculture: Data-**Driven Farming:** One of the most promising advancements in agri-tech is precision agri-India has the potential to contributing significantly to culture, which leverages techenhance productivity, sustain-GDP. However, the sector is nologies such as GPS, IoT sen-

sors, and drones to optimise farming operations. By gathering and analysing real-time data on factors like soil health, weather conditions, and crop growth, precision agriculture enables farmers to make informed decisions. This approach helps in the efficient use of water, fertilisers, and pesticides, minimising waste and environmental harm while maximising crop yields. In India, the adoption of pre-

cision agriculture is accelerating. According to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), these techniques have the potential to increase yields by 15-25 per cent while reducing input costs by 10-15 per cent. The precision agriculture market in India is expected to grow significantly, from USD 57.6 mil-



lion in 2020 to USD 124.2 million by 2025. Government initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) for water conservation and the Soil Health Card Scheme for better fertiliser management are further driving this growth. AI and Machine Learning:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) are also playing a crucial role in modernising Indian agricul-

ture. By analysing vast blockchain provides verifiable amounts of data from satellite imagery, weather forecasts, and historical crop performance, AI algorithms can predict potential problems like pest outbreaks and suggest the best times for planting. Al-powered platforms are already being used to predict pest infestations and optimise pesticide use, potentially reducing the need for harmful chemicals by up to 30 per cent.

Ensuring Transparency: Blockchain technology is emerging as a revolutionary tool in agricultural supply chains. By offering a decentralised ledger for recording transactions, blockchain ensures transparency, reduces fraud, and promotes fair trade practices. For farmers, suppliers, and consumers alike,

information about the origin and journey of food products, ensuring adherence to sustainability standards. The blockchain market in India's agriculture and food supply chain is expected to grow at a CAGR of 47.8 per cent, reaching USD 289 million by 2027. **IoT and Smart Farming:** The Internet of Things (IoT) is revolutionising how farmers monitor and manage their crops. IoT devices, such as soil moisture sensors and weather stations, provide real-time data on environmental conditions, allowing for better decisionmaking in the field. For example, smart irrigation systems can adjust water usage based on real-time data, saving water and improving crop health. The IoT in agriculture market

in India is projected to reach USD 634.5 million by 2027, growing at a CAGR of 12.5 per

Use of Drones: Equipped with high-resolution cameras and sensors, drones provide farmers with detailed aerial imagery of their fields. This helps in identifying issues such as nutrient deficiencies, pest infestations, and water stress. Farmers can then take targeted actions, reducing waste and environmental damage. The use of drones in Indian agriculture is expected to grow substantially, with the market anticipated to reach USD 108 million by 2025.

(The writer is chief growth officer with Arahas Technologies; views are personal)

IN BRIEF



Anant Ambani, BP CEO open Jio-bp's EV-charging station

nant Mukesh Ambani, Director, Reliance Industries
Limited (RIL) and Murray Auchincloss, CEO, bp, on
Thursday inaugurated the 500th Jio-bp pulse EVcharging station of Jio-bp. Jio-bp is a fuels and mobility joint
venture between RIL and global energy giant BP. "The commissioning of the EV-charging station enables access for guests at the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre, Jio World Plaza and Jio World Convention Centre in Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC), Mumbai, marking the installation of the 500th Jio-bp pulse charging point in India," a company statement said. Jio-bp has expanded its network of EVcharging stations at a rapid pace, growing from 1,300 to 5,000 in just a year. With 95 per cent of its EV-charging network comprising fast charging stations -- the highest in the industry -- the company is poised to deliver high speed electrons with unmatched industry-leading uptime of 96 per cent, establishing itself as the country's most reliable charging network, it said.



Rupee drops 6 paise to close at 83.64 against US dollar

he rupee depreciated by 6 paise to settle at 83.64 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, dragged by sustained foreign fund outflows. However, a decline in global crude prices and a firm trend in domestic equities restricted the rupee losses, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange, the local unit opened slightly weak at 83.66 against the American currency. During the session, it dropped 13 paise to touch 83.71 However, the local unit recovered some lost ground to settle at 83.64, a decline of 6 paise against its previous close. On Tuesday, the rupee closed at 83.58 against the American currency. On the domestic equity markets front, the Sensex climbed 666.25 points to settle at an all-time high of 85,836.12, while Nifty rallied 211.90 points to hit a record



Fixed price process for voluntary delisting: Sebi

arkets regulator Sebi has notified rules allowing companies to delist shares through a fixed price mechanism as an alternative to the reverse book building process, a move aimed at facilitating ease of doing business for listed firms. Under the Reverse Book Building (RBB) process, a firm planning to delist its shares from the stock exchange needs to initiate the process by making a public announcement. The rules mandated a minimum floor price for the delisting offer. Further, shareholders of the company place offers to sell their securities back to the promoters or large shareholders under the process. In its notification on Wednesday, Sebi introduced the fixed price process as an alternative to the RBB process for delisting of companies whose shares are frequently traded. The fixed price offered by an acquirer would be at least 15 per cent premium over the floor price. Additionally, the regulator has provided modification of the counter-offer mechanism in case of delisting through the RBB process.

India set to achieve 6.5-7 pc **GDP** growth: FinMin report

PNS NEW DELHI

India is set to achieve 6.5-7 per cent GDP growth in the current financial year as indicated by the movements in high-frequency indicators till August, a finance ministry report said on Thursday.

The recent developments analysed indicate strong foundations of macroeconomic stability in India with steady growth, investment, employment and inflation trends, a strong and stable financial sector and a resilient external account, including a comfortable foreign exchange reserve position.

"A challenge on the macroeconomic front is of navigating the continuing uncertainty in global economic prospects. We will likely encounter a cycle of policy rate cuts globally amid fears of a recession in advanced economies and continuing geopolitical conflicts," the Monthly Economic Review for August said.

On balance, the report said, the GDP growth of 6.7 per cent in Q1 FY25 and the movements in high-frequen-cy indicators till August fit

well with the real GDP growth projection of 6.5-7 recent developper cent for ments analysed indicate FY25, provided strong foundations of macroeconomic stability in E'conomic India with steady growth, Survey 2023ment and inflation

For the remaining part of the financial year, it said, a reasonable expectation is that public expenditure will pick up, providing added growth

and investment impetus. In the farm sector, higher kharif acreage is already visible. Adequately replenished reservoir levels will poten-

upcoming Rabi crops as well. The skewed spa-

tially give a fil-

to the

tial distribution of rain may have an impact on farm output in a few regions. However, in the absence of any serious adverse climate shocks, rural incomes and

and food inflation will be

There are also incipient signs of strains in certain sectors. For instance, the automobile dealers' body FADA has pointed to moderating sales of passenger vehi-cles and a build-up of inven-

tory, it added.
Data from Nielsen IQ indicated that the growth of fast-moving consumer goods sales in urban areas slowed in Q1

While these may turn out to be transient with the onset of the festival season, they warrant monitoring. Further, capital spending by Indian states has declined in the current financial year. Stock markets around the

world are booming, reinforced by recent policy announcements in a few countries, it said.

"Consequently, the risk of an eventual correction has If the risk materialises, the

spillover effect may be felt globally as well," it said. Amidst these concerns, it

said, low oil prices are a bright spot for the economy.

Govt to launch skill voucher system very soon, says top official

PNS NEW DELHI

The government will soon launch a skill voucher system, Secretary in the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Atul Kumar Tiwari said on Thursday,

asserting that the Centre is actively seeking industry partnerships to upgrade 1,000 industrial training institutes nationwide. The ambi-

tious plan, he shared, aims to transform 200 industrial training institutes (ITIs) into hub institutions, with 800 more serving as spoke facilities as part of a major initiative to enhance the country's skill development

At Ficci's Global Skills Summit 2024, Tiwari announced that the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship would soon launch a skill voucher system.

However, the Secretary did not divulge further details on

can align and partner with us to improve 200 hub ITIs and 800 spoke ITIs," Tiwari stated, adding, "We will launch the skills voucher system very soon as well". Secretary

"We would like to work on

a system whereby industries



highlighted two fundam e n t a l changes reshaping India's skill development approach.

National Credit Framework, introduced under the National Education Policy, has integrated skilling and education in terms of credits. Besides, regulations now mandate that up to 50 per cent of degree course content to be skillbased or vocational educationbased. Efforts are also underway to incorporate skilling into mainstream education. The curriculum for classes 6 to 12 has been revised, and skilling and application-based

learning have found their place, Tiwari explained.

Govt mulling increasing ethanol price, sugar MSP

PNS NEW DELHI

The government is considering increasing the ethanol price for 2024-25 season as well as minimum selling price of sugar, Food Minister Pralhad Joshi said on Thursday. Joshi said the proposal on hiking the ethanol price is under consideration of the government. The petroleum ministry is looking into the

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of an event here, the minister also mentioned that the government is "considering a proposal to increase the minimum selling price of sugar", which remains unchanged at Rs 31 per kg, a rate established in February

He also said the sugar production looks good for the 2024-25 season (October-September) on account of

Sensex jumps 666 pts to record high

Nifty closes above 26,200 on global stocks rally

PNS MUMBAI

Benchmark Sensex rallied 666 points to close at a fresh record high on Thursday following buying in auto and banking shares amid gains in global markets. The BSE Sensex jumped 666.25 points or 0.78 per cent

to settle at a record high of 85,836.12 amid monthly expiry in the derivatives segment. As many as 28 Sensex stocks advanced and two declined. During the day, it reached a record intra-day peak of

85,930.43, surging 760.56

points or 0.89 per cent. The benchmark is just 69.57 points

away from the 86,000-peak. Rallying for the sixth day in a row, the NSE Nifty climbed 211.90 points or 0.81 per cent to close at a record high of 26,216.05. During the day, it soared 246.75 points or 0.94



lifetime peak of 26,250.90. From the 30 Sensex firms, Maruti jumpeu neu., cent. Tata Motors, Bajaj Maruti jumped nearly 5 per Finserv, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Steel, JSW Steel, UltraTech Cement, Bajaj Finance and Nestle were the other big gainers.

were the laggards.

"China's recent economic stimulus announcement has greatly enhanced investor confidence, resulting in significant positive momentum in global markets, especially within Asian indices. Moreover, the market is maintaining an optimistic outlook in r

stable US economic data," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services said.

Concurrently, the Indian market is reaching new highs, anticipating a strong recovery in corporate earnings for the H2FY25, fuelled by expected government expenditure, Nair

The BSE smallcap gauge declined 0.39 per cent while midcap index ended flat, marginally down 0.01 per cent.

Among the indices, auto jumped 2.23 per cent, metal (2.08 per cent), commodities (1.32 per cent), FMCG (0.84 per cent), consumer discretionary

(0.75 per cent) and services (0.64 per cent).

Industrials, telecommunication and utilities were the laggards.

As many as 257 stocks hit their 52-week high levels while 46 firms declined to their 52-

Gold prices hit record Rs 78,000 mark on strong global cues

PNS NEW DELHI

Gold prices on Thursday jumped by Rs 400 to breach a record Rs 78,000 per 10 gram level in the national capital on sustained buying by jewellers as well as strong trends in global markets. Maintaining its record-

breaking run for the second day, gold spurted by Rs 400 to a fresh lifetime high of Rs 78,250 per 10 grams, according to the All India Sarafa Association. The precious metal had closed at Rs 77,850 per 10 grams on Wednesday.

Silver also soared by Rs 1,000 to Rs 94,000 per kg on robust demand from industrial units and coin makers amid strong overseas trend. The metal had finished at Rs 93,000 per kg in the previous session.

Pre-Budget meetings to begin from Oct 10

PNS NEW DELHI

The finance ministry will commence from October 10 its pre-Budget meetings with review of six ministries and departments, including new & renewable energy and skill development & entrepreneurship.

The meetings, which will continue through November 11, are being held to firm up budgetary allocations for 2025-26 and finalise the revised estimates for the current fiscal year.

On the last day, Ministry of Railway and Department of Health and Family Welfare will be discussed.

expected to focus on reforms to further accelerate growth and implement measures to boost job creation and economic demand.

The Union Budget 2025-26 is

"Pre-budget meetings chaired

by Secretary (Expenditure) shall commence in the second week of October 2024. Financial Advisers shall ensure that necessary details...are properly entered in UBIS (Union Budget Information System) before/latest by October 7, 2024," the Budget circular 2025-26 issued by Department of Economic Affairs said.

It will be the second Budget of the Modi 3.0 government and 8th straight Budget for Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, a rare distinction in the Indian polity. The Budget Estimates for 2025-26 will be provisionally finalised after completion of pre-Budget meetings, it said.

During pre-Budget meetings,

requirement of funds for all categories of expenditures along with receipts of ministries/departments and expenditure estimates on net basis are discussed.

Inflated natural rubber prices to impact profitability of tyre makers: CRISIL

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Inflated natural rubber prices which are way above the trend in the past decade could impact the profitability of tyre manufacturers, according to CRISIL Market Intelligence & Analytics.

Tyre makers are headed for a rough patch as the price of natural rubber has surged more than 33 per cent onyear in just the first five months of this fiscal amid strong demand and crunched supply, which could strain profitability, CRISIL said in a statement.

The domestic prices of natural rubber closed in August at Rs 238 per kg on average, way above the trend in the past decade, it added. CRISIL Market Intelligence and Analytics, Director-Research Pushan Sharma said between fiscals 2011 and 2023, global rubber production grew 35 per cent while demand expanded 40 per cent resulting in a supply crunch thereby resulting in higher prices. "With further rise in demand and restricted supply, the prices of natural rubber are expected to remain elevated, impacting the margins of tyre manufacturers well beyond fiscal 2025," CRIŚIL Market Intelligence and Analytics, Associate Director-Research Mohit Adnani said.

UŜD 15,000"

GOVT RETAINS BORROWING TARGET

To raise Rs 6.61 lakh cr to fund revenue gap

PNS NEW DELHI

The Centre has retained its borrowing target for the current financial year and plans to raise Rs 6.61 lakh crore through auction of dated securities during October-March period of 2024-25 to fund the revenue gap to boost economic growth.

"Out of Gross Market borrowing of Rs 14.01 lakh crore budgeted for 2024-25, Rs 6.61 lakh crore (47.2 per cent) is planned to be borrowed in H2 through issuance of dated securities, including Rs 20,000 crore of Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs)," the finance ministry said in a statement on Thursday.

GREATER WARANGAL MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Tender Notice No. EE-INGWNC/CTN13/e-proc/2024, Dt: 24-09-200
Tenders are invited from Registered Contractors/Agencies for the works listed on online tend
platform "tender:telangena.gov/in" for (30) works under General Funds for Rs. \$82.39 Lakhs. ABSTRACT OF WORKS:

Reserved for ST (2 No.of works) Reserved for Waddera (1 No.of work) : Rs.31.50 Lakhs : Rs.5.50 Lakhs

General (33 No. ofworks): Rs.491.39 Lakhs; Total (39 Nos. ofwork): Rs.582.39 Lakhs SCHEDULE OF TENDER PROCESS Starting date for downloading: 01-10-2004 from 10.30 am onwards; Last date for downloading 08-10-2024-up to 3.00 P.M; Opening of Bids (Technical): 08-10-2024 at 4.00 P.M

Contact Details: Executive Engineer, Nakkalagutta Circle, GWMC. Cel No. 8378/79761, email: ea3gwmc@gmail.com. Further details can be seen on "e" procurement market place @ https://tender.telangana.gev.in Downloading of works starts from 01-10-2024, R.O.No. 4627-PPICLIADVT71/2824-25, Dt. 26-09-2829

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
KARIMNAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
R.No.E1IMCKIEDIUPHC/2024-25
Expression of interest is invited in sealed covers from experienced (in similar type of

works) consultants for preparation of DPR's for Water Supply. Under Ground Drainage System, Roads, Drains, UPHC's and other various developmental works in Karimnaga Municipal Corporation Under any grants, They can apply for RFP Document by submitting the Demand Draft of Rs: 3000/- draw in favor of Commissioner, Karimnagar Municipal Corporation.

ast date for the issuing of schedule: Dt: 27-09-2024, Time: 3.00 PM.

Last date for submission of scaled expression of interest: Dt. 03-10-2024, Time: 3.00 PM Conditions: (1) Conditions of EOI should be accepted. (2) Experience consultants in similar nature of works shall only be considered. (3) Consultant should be empanalled in any dept in any state. (4) The DPR should prepare in stipulated period and should get approved by the department. (5) The DPR's shall be prepared as per the guidelines an norms and all the information as per the check list raised by the department. (6) The firm should have minimum Rs.5.00 Crores turnover in any financial year in last five financial years. (7) The rate quoted by the consultants shall be in percentage (%) of total estimated cost. (8) Commissioner, Karimnagar Municipal Corporation has all powers to coept or reject the sealed tenders as per Schedule.

Any other details contact in engineering section Karimnagar Municipal Corporation in Workinghours. Contact Mobile No: Municipal Engineer (8074949143)

ernment, more sensitive, and a clever R.O.Nr. 4811-PPICLADVTH3504-25, Dt. 25-09-2004 Karlmnagar Municipal Corporation, Karlmnagar Dist government to do that".

India needs to do more to boost manufacturing: Rajan PNS NEW DELHI places. And the best way to check is to schemes for 14 sectors, ease of foreign Explaining further, he said, "Let us

India has done well in areas like infrastructure in the last 10 years, but it also needs to do more in other sectors to boost local manufacturing and job creation, former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan said on Thursday.

Ín an interview with PTI, Rajan further said the government's focus on production, whether it is goods or services is a good thing, but it is also important to do it the right way.

Responding to a question on the Modi government's flagship initiative 'Make in India', he said, "I would say the intention is good. I think in some areas, we have done a lot, as I said, in infrastructure...we have done a lot that

has been very useful". The Modi government's flagship initiative 'Make in India' was launched 10

years ago on September 25, 2014. "But we need to check the other

ask critics, what do you think? What has happened? Has it happened the way you want it? Should we do more? You get feedback, and then you work along," Rajan said. The eminent economist also pitched

for more ease of doing business, especially with regard to government policies and less fear of raids by inspectors or tax authorities, etc.

Observing that there is a package which propels economic growth, he said, "If we focus on that, I think that would strengthen the concept of Make in India".

Rajan, who is currently a professor of finance at US-based Chicago Booth, also opined that the government should ask businessmen about difficulties faced by them, and not just follow the World Bank's ease of doing business checklist. The former RBI governor also emphasised that the govern-



ment need not dismiss criticism of its policy by saying that there is some vested interest or some hidden agenda.

Under the 'Make in India' initiatives a series of measures have been taken by the government to boost local manufacturing and exports.

These initiatives include the rollout of production-linked incentive (PLI)

direct investment (FDI) norms, reduction of compliance burden, single window approval system, and the national logistics policy. Asked whether 7 per cent economic growth is enough for India to

achieve the third largest economy status in this decade and become a developed nation by 2047, Rajan said, "If we grow at 7 per cent, then we will be past Germany and Japan in 2-3 years. That is not something which is out of the realm of possibility, it will happen".

Currently, the size of Germany's economy is about USD 4.5 trillion and Japan about USD 4.2 trillion. The size of India's economy is USD 3.7 trillion at present.

Rajan said: "What is more worrisome, however, is when we say a developed nation. Now, what does it mean to be developed now? That is also a

ter," Rajan said. The eminent economist also wondered that from where are "we going to generate that growth to become a

say being developed is having a per

capita GDP in today's dollars of about

"If you see that, then you put a 7 per

cent growth rate, and you find it is not

enough to become USD 15,000 per

capita GDP by 2047 we need to do bet-

developed nation by 2047" Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set an ambitious target of making India

a developed nation by 2047. On a question of whether the preeconomic reforms, Rajan said coalition

sent coalition government can push politics may force more consensus which "would require more agile gov-

Hyderabade Ethepioneer Dad

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Friday September 27, 2024

Avneet Kaur's jet-setting travels from London to Greece

SHIKHA DUGGAL shikhaduggalwork@gmail.com

ctress Avneet Kaur chose the world's top summer vacation spots as her ideal personal getaway. From London to Paris, the Amalfi Coast to Germany, she had ticked it all! Let's not forget, her gram posts got us all craving a vacation. So let's take you through

her latest voyage. "Oh, I was travelling with my pals over the summer from London, Paris, Amsterdam, Greece, Italy, Portofino, the Amalfi Coast, to Germany. One of the longest and most enjoyable trips I have ever had! I had always wanted to travel to Greece and now I found myself there. Travelling and experiencing what's happening outside our country is extremely important. Indeed, I would not wish to revisit the southern region of Italy. That definitely wasn't my feel," one of the busiest actresses of the hour today expresses.

Getting her to come on board for our travelogue was also one of our goals, we wanted to give our readers some homework so they could learn how their favourite actress made her overseas vacation an unforgettable experience. Oo lalala! "Every country was unique. London is my home away from home because I travel there so often. In Paris, I was all business when it came to fashion! In addition, I was

travelling between several climates because I had suddenly left hot Italy for cold Germany. It's summertime after all, so I purposefully picked out ensembles with lots of colour pops. I practically wore everything in style throughout this trip: maxi skirts, pastel col-ors, flowery jewellery. All of this eventually pales in comparison to my fascination with luxury bags! If I claim not to be infatuated with Dior and Chanel, I will be lying. I made sure that even my swimsuits looked stylish when I got clicked," shared the Tiku Weds Sheru fame.

All of the places she had on her list were very different and excited her. She

states, for instance, "We tried everything lemon because the people at Mykonos were very welcoming and the other place we went after that was really famous for lemons. I developed a deep affection for Italian culture. I took part in their celebrations and dancing. Despite the fact that I was unable to locate any hidden spots there, I can tell my fans that Positano was the one destination on the trip that truly impressed me. I went to this incredibly awesome "cave party." I will always be reminded of this encounter."

Later in the chat, the Alladdin star recalls the journey she had with her folks and says, 'We liked to pick hotels in the main areas. We reserved rooms at Mykonos' greatest and most popular hotel! It was the epitome of luxury. But not at all like our richly cultural India. Every region of our nation begs for a different narrative. While I travel the world, my own country holds the greatest personal significance for me. I also adore historical fiction! Rajasthan is the place to go for this." In this exclusive conversation, Avneet had

tion in the country if she's feeling a lot more stressful in her life. She underlines that India's hill stations are already making great progress, so it's not always necessary to go outside. She could also want to try something like a spa day. In the midst of a jungle, she requests a massage! Plans that are interesting, as we must state. Conversely, she said, "I always travel by train from London to Paris; there's a particular train that runs there. It's something I recently learned about; I had no idea it ran underground. That has always seemed to stifle me a little. There's also the difference between swimming in the ocean and in a pool. This is no light undertaking! I reserve a yatch party each time I go on vacation. I generally use a floater when I jump into the ocean, but I didn't have one in Greece, which was an additional terrifying experience for me. Once I was at ease,

favourite internet sensation at a hilly loca-

a lot more to say to us besides her recent tour. and risky at the same time. I was living my ZNMD moment!"

Because you're probably going to see your Yes, she also shared a recollection from her early years. Mussorie is where she had the best childhood vacation memories. It is unforgettable because Kullu Manali was the closest hill station to her while her family was in Punjab. "I have it all recorded on an album. Then, I found that I was now experiencing nostalgia from shooting in the North. And I have an endless wish list. I want to consider going skydiving, camping under the northern lights, having never seen Switzerland, or seeing the locations of *Twilight* or the *Game of Thrones*. Hehe." She informed us by the end of the interview about her habit of returning postcards from each nation she visited. She continues going back to see Notting Hill in London because she is so in love with it. After that, her mother insists on getting her fridge magnets from every country; presently, there isn't any room on her fridge for more magnets.





Redefining urban living with rooftop amenities

apid urbanisation is stimulating the real estate market. The IBEF projects that India's urban population would grow to 542.70 million by 2025 and 675.50 million by 2035. This expansion, combined with the desire for modern living standards, has made rooftop facilities a popular trend and a wise investment for purchasers and builders. Buildings in densely populated cities with limited space only provide minimal housing and parking. However, this is changing as people want access to facilities often found in suburban townships.

In bustling city centers where highrise and mid-rise buildings offer unmatched convenience and facilities, people often crave fresh air and outdoor tranquility, especially when navigating through traffic to reach public parks becomes daunting. To address this dilemma, rooftop amenities have surged in popularity. They offer easy access to outdoor spaces right within the building, making them a practical and appealing alternative.

ARCHITECTS' RESPONSE

Architects are also responding by integrating rooftop amenities into building designs, transforming these once utilitarian spaces into attractive lifestyle enhancers. Global trends and the economic push for uniqueness are enriching urban landscapes, making rooftop amenities a key selling point. This blend of tradition and modernity is evident in Indian architecture, where western minimalism's clean lines and functionality are embraced, especially in commercial and upscale residential projects. rmore, addressing c cerns and growing emphasis on wellness, open-air gyms, yoga decks and sustainable designs, reflects broader global influences on Indian architectural practices.

ROOFTOP TYPES

Various types of rooftop facilities in a building improve the living experience through modern design and construction techniques. This includes:

Rooftop pool: Pools are universally appealing, found in resorts and multifamily communities worldwide. While not always heavily utilised, they remain a significant draw for any housing development. Well-designed pool areas serve as central community hubs and popular gathering spots and if the pools are facing towards the edges, they make fantastic infinity pools with a view of the cityscapes.

Lounge space: Rooftop lounges are always popular and when welldesigned, they significantly enhance the space. Sleek, comfortable seating complemented by lighting, shade and privacy elements creates an ideal environment for relaxation and enjoyment. Adding vibrant furnishings and stylish accents makes it both inviting and distinctive. And creating seating zones around a fire pit fosters a welcoming atmosphere for people to unwind and socialize, maximissing year-round use and enhancing the overall appeal.

Green space: Lush green spaces offer a serene getaway, bridging urban life with nature. They provide shade, enhance air quality and are perfect for families to unwind outdoors. Rooftop gardens, especially, offer panoramic views and natural insulation help cut down on energy use and utility bills.

Fitness area: Staying in shape is made easier with a gym that offers a rooftop track for walking or jogging, allowing individuals to exercise. The facility also includes dedicated spaces for yoga sessions, exercise classes, or individual workouts, providing the added benefit of an outdoor-like environment.

Rooftop amenities aren't just a perk for buyers—they're a strategic advantage for builders and real estate agents. These features enhance the appeal of properties by offering desirable living standards, often resulting in swift sales right from the start. In urban areas, where outdoor space is scarce, well planned rooftop spaces boost the overall luxury appeal of the project, which can lead to higher property values over time. Rooftop amenities should also be constructed with safety in mind as well. Such eye-catching features help properties distinguish themselves in a competitive market, even attracting tenants faster and minimising vacancy periods.

However, maintenance and construction costs can pose significant challenges for both homeowners and builders. The architectural complexity and upkeep demands can strain budgets and affect financial planning in the long term. As urbanisation is driving increased investment in luxury properties featuring rooftop amenities, expected to be a lasting trend. As new urban trends emerge and densely packed buildings fill up, there is a growing inclination towards investing in vibrant, spacious environments.

> (The author, Priyatham Kumar, is the founder of Homes247.)

LOVE, SITARA: Dysfunction never felt so right!

TEJAL SINHA tejal.sinha30@gmail.com

ove, Sitara is a new romantic drama with elements of family life revolving around the life of Sitara, played by actress Sobhita Dhulipala. In this direct-to-OTT release, she portrays the role of an interior designer. Directed by Vandana Kataria, the film is ready to be released soon.

'Harr happy family ek jaisi hoti hai, lekin har unhappy family ek dusrae se bilkul alag hoti hai'. This voiceover by Sobhita can be heard, which leads to the beginning of this slice-of-life drama.

The titular character Sitara (played by Sobhita Dhulipala) is an interior designer who is an independent woman who doesn't really believe much in the concept of marriage. However, eventually she desires to get married to Arjun (played by Rajeev Siddhartha), a passionate chef on the brink of international success, with whom, like any other modern relationship, there were breakups and patch-ups. Now they are finally getting married. Yeyyyyy!!!! She meets her BFF Anjali (played by Tamara D' Souza) and gives her the news, which turns out to be shockingly surprising news.

Love, Sitara, If you think is only about romance, well yes, it is, but let's not forget the fact that the comedy and humour that the story

DIRECTED BY: Vandana Kataria **PRODUCED BY:** Ronnie Screwvala's **RSVP Movies** CAST: Sobhita Dhulipala, Rajeev Siddhartha, Sonali Kulkarni, Sanjay Bhutani, B Jayashree, Virginia Rodrigues, Tamara D'Souza and WRITTEN BY: Sonia Bahl, Abbas Dalal,

> Hussain Dalal and Vandana **STREAMING ON: ZEE5 RATING:** 3.5/5

brings in are just top-notch. The story kickstarts with how Sitara turns her own mind about getting married. But as the story progresses, there's not one but back-to-back twists that make Love, Sitara a must-watch 'family-terner'. The emotional aspect of this film sets it apart from other recent films. It goes beyond that as it strives to clarify how previous pains and family pressures impact love and decision-making. The chemistry between Sitara and Arjun is beyond your regular lead stars as it makes you feel much more relatable, especially in the current times.

Love, Sitara is one of those well-executed pro-



jects, which makes it difficult for you to find anything negative. But yes, there are a few scenes that get pretty much predictable, especially in the first half. However, these are minor quibbles in an otherwise engaging series.

PERFORMANCES

what happens.)

Sobhita, as the titular character Sitara, is as amazing as she's always been. All of those who have loved her in Made in Heaven and The Night Manager for that matter cannot stop but fall in love with her yet again. Well, not that she's played a similar character, but the different shades that she brings to her character are fantastic. Her physique, nuanced expressions and body language bring a rare authenticity to the character, making her journey and struggles deeply

compelling. What we personally love the most is also her wedding looks, be it in the golden saree paired with vibrant red blouse, paired with gajra and bindi, or her engagement look, where she opts for an orange lehenga.

Rajeev Siddhartha as Arjun is beyond just a green flag. He is a complete green forest, as they say. He inhabits the role with natural ease, making us dream of a guy as who he is. His character, Arjun, is very clear with what he wants to do in life, though he gets no support from his father. Be it as an ideal would-be son-in-law, best friend's fiance, or Sitara's fiance, he is a whole bunch of sweethearts who anyone would regret breaking his heart. (Ooppppssss! A small hint of

B Javashree as Amumma is a darling, yaa! I mean, just being the queen of the house, the savage Amumma is a love. Her dialogues and her expressions tickle your funny bones to the extent that you have tears rolling down

your eyes. She certainly wins your heart every time she speaks.

The rest of the cast, be it Sonali Kulkarni as Hema Chechi, Virginia as Latha, Sanjay Bhutani as Govind, Tamara as Anjali, or Rijul Ray as Sitara's very good old friend, all have their own importance and significantly contribute to the story. Well, here's a brownie point for you all, dear readers: Every character brings in their own twists and spice to the story.

While the story is beyond a doubt quite engaging, let's not forget for the fact that the cinematography plays an even greater role, taking the viewers through the breathtaking views of Kerala. The camera shots become a character in themselves. The screenplay by Sonia Bahl, along with the other two writers, Abbas Dalal and Hussain Dalal, really touches the characters and makes the audience feel for them in their problems. Talking of the music, be it the fun *Ungliyon* Pe or a song that's bombarded with emotions. Hai Dil Darya amalgamates well with the particular scenes.

Love, Sitara is a must-watch, especially for lovers of deep films. Watching Sobhita in multiple shades of emotions and phases is outstanding. Whether you want a romantic story or a family saga, Love, Sitara is a perfect package of everything that you seek.

what's brewing?



Telangana State Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, along with Speaker of Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly Ayyanna Patrudu and Congress leader Jana Reddy, launched the Go Vascular department by Go Hospitals, along with Telangana's first Al-Assisted Laser technology for Varicose Vein and Hypro Diagnostics, a mobile diagnostic bus.





The Hyderabad Race Club is gearing up for an extraordinary event at this year's Race2win.com Deccan Derby 2024 on October 2. For the first time ever, the world of fashion will meet the thrilling sport of horse racing, as Race2win.com proudly presents an exclusive fashion walk on the

race track. This unique celebration will feature a stunning festive collection by India's celebrated designer duo, Shivan and Narresh, adding glamour and style to the prestigious racing





Anushka Sen created history as she becomes the first Indian artist to perform live on stage at Times Square, New York City. The multi aceted actor marks her debut as a singer in the West, collaborating with the UN Young eader for SDGs 'AY Young' on his Battery Tour which aims to power 1000 concerts with clean energy.



Hyderabadis transported their taste buds to the enchanting valleys of Kashmir as Chef Aparmita Sapru brought the rich, storied flavours of this majestic region straight to Feast at Sheraton Hyderabad Hotel. Each dish was a masterpiece, designed to celebrate Kashmir's legendary culinary traditions and evoke its timeless charm.



The Smart City Living Lab, in collaboration with Silicon Labs announced the successful conclusion of the Wi-SUN Challenge. This exciting competition brought together innovators, startups and academic institutions to create cutting-edge, IoT-enabled solutions for smart cities, utilities and healthcare using Wi-SUN RF mesh technology.



Amazon India announced that it has signed an MoU with the Ministry of Labour and Employment (Ministry) to utilise the National Career Service (NCS) portal of the Ministry for facilitating posting of available work opportunities at Amazon and its staffing agencies. This will enable job seekers across India to view such working opportunities and also help Amazon India and its staffing agencies to post job openings and source candidates from the NCS portal.



Apollo Cradle & Childrens Hospitals concluded its 3rd edition of the annual conference, Optimising Fetal Outcomes in Hyderabad. The event featured speakers from CIMAR (Kochi) BN Clinic (Kolkata), PSG Medical College (Coimbatore), Wadia Maternity and Central Railway Hospital (Mumbai) and the Apollo Cradle Fetal Medicine Department, led by Dr. Amitha



Angad Bedi, along with his wife Neha Dhupia and the entire Bedi family, honoured the legacy of Bishan Singh Bedi, by announcing the revamp of Bishan Singh Bedi Cricket Coaching Trust (BBCCT). The evening commemorated the legendary cricketer and his enduring legacy.



Hyatt Hyderabad Gachibowli unveils the latest addition to the culinary offerings at Mrs. Mage, its beloved open-air poolside restaurant. It now introduces a new menu featuring a range of Chinese and Schezwan dishes adding an exciting twist to its already diverse offerings. This new selection continues the restaurant's tradition of delivering bold, vibrant flavours, inspired by it's global culinary adventures.

The Organic World (TOW), part of the Bengalurubased Nimida Group and India's leading Responsible Retailer announced the expansion of its store network to Hyderabad at Pragati Nagar. This development represents a significant step in TOW's strategic pan-India growth plan, marking the brand's first venture outside its home city of Bengaluru.

ARCHIE











CALVIN AND HOBBES





CROSSWORD



JUNIOR CROSSWORD 702

GARFIELD





I SAT AROUND AND PLAYED IDEO GAMES AND WATCHED TV.

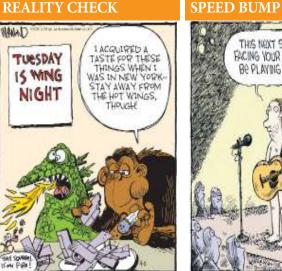
NOW NANCY, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO DO THAT

FOREVER.



TWO DAYS EARLIER:





THIS NEXT SONG IS ABOUT FACING YOUR FRARS, WHICH I'LL BE PLAYING ON THE UKULCILE.

- ACROSS 1 An archer fires these 3 Seize
- 7 The body's covering
- 8 Wanting food 10 Rich
- 13 Not straight
 - 12 Needlework 14 Jealousy 15 A blood vessel
- 16 Best 17 The world's most eaten
- grain 18 Utters 19 A fire-breathing monster

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ** * ** ***

26847935 7 4 5 2 3 9 8 1 6 3 9 8 6 5 1 7 4 2 6 3 4 5 1 8 2 9 7 8 1 7 9 2 6 4 5 3 2 5 9 3 7 4 6 8 1

971463528 583792164 462185379 Rules Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9)

- exactly once. • The sum of all numbers in
- any row or column must equal 45.

- 2 Spoiled 4 Scraps of cloth 5 Purchasing
- DOWN 1 Too



6 A soft thing to sit on or

put on a couch

sells flowers

9 A type of shop that

11 High, steep rock-faces

GINGER MEGGS

CLASS, HOW WAS YOUR SPRING BREAK?







tollywood



CAN DEVARA BREAK ₹100 CRORE BARRIER ON DAY 1?

NEARLY TEN LAKH TICKETS HAVE BEEN SOLD ONLY FOR THE TELUGU VERSION SO FAR, WITH OVERSEAS PRE-BOOKINGS CROSSING THE \$2.5 MILLION MARK

The Jr NTR and Janhvi Kapoor starrer film Devara is poised to create history on its opening day, according to the bookings. Many multiplexes in Hyderabad and Secunderabad are screening this film as many times as possible, with almost all shows running houseful. Koratala Siva is the director, while Kalyan Ram Nandamuri and Sudhakar Mikkilineni are the producers. Bollywood actor Saif Ali Khan plays the villain, with Anirudh Ravichander providing the music.

The film has done a pre-release business of nearly Rs 215 crore, the highest for Jr NTR's career. Nizam area rights alone sold for Rs 42 crore and in Andhra, it's Rs 50 crore. With ceded rights fetching Rs 23 crore, Telangana and Andhra distribution rights sold for a whopping Rs 115 crore. Interestingly, both the Andhra Pradesh and Telangana governments granted permission for extra shows and released a G.O. to hike ticket prices.

Jr NTR is currently in the USA promoting

Jr NTR is currently in the USA promoting the film overseas. The overseas rights sold for Rs 30 crore, the highest for Jr NTR. Pre-bookings overseas have already crossed \$2.5 million, and it seems Jr NTR is about to create a sensation on the film's opening day.

In India, advance bookings are show-

In India, advance bookings are showing huge numbers for the first day. Some expect that the film could easily surpass Rs 100 crore gross on its first day worldwide, based on prebookings alone. Nearly ten lakh tickets have been sold just for the Telugu version of the film.

Jr NTR is returning to a solo film after six years, with his last being *Aravind Sametha*. He followed it with the multi-starrer *RRR*, alongside Ram Charan, directed by SS Rajamouli. If *Devara* crosses Rs 100 crore gross on its opening day, Jr NTR will become the second actor after Prabhas to achieve this feat.



Ajay's fierce look unveiled for *Pottel*

wuva Chandraa Krishna and Ananya Nagalla take the lead in the film *Pottel*, a rustic action entertainer directed by Sahit Mothkhuri in his third directorial venture. Ajay plays a powerful role and on the occasion of his birthday on Thursday, the makers revealed a new poster showcasing him in a ferocious avatar. His salt-andpepper look, combined with an intense gaze, heightens the character's ferocity.

Produced by Nishank Reddy Kudithi and Suresh Kumar Sadige, the film is set for a theatrical release during the Dasara festival. The teaser and other promotional content have generated positive buzz around the film. According to the makers, *Pottel* will deliver a strong message about the importance of education. The

EXCLUSIVE

IS EESHA REBBA DATING? LATEST SCOOP!

ctress Eesha Rebba, known for juggling web series and films, is currently working on an untitled project helmed by director Sanjeev AR. Starring alongside Tharun Bhascker in this rural drama, the shoot is taking place in and around Rajahmundry. But here's the real scoop—according to insiders, Eesha is rumous red to be in a relationship with a director-turned-actor!

Eesha, who first grabbed the spotlight with her debut in *Anthaku Mundu Aa Tharuvatha*, directed by Indraganti Mohana Krishna, has

seen her share of media buzz linking her to prominent directors. Her filmography includes hits like *Ami Tumi, Aravinda Sametha* and *Raagala 24 Gantallo*, and more recently, her acclaimed role in the web series *Daya*.

Now, whispers from Film Nagar suggest the actress is getting serious with her mystery beau, who's been through a divorce and is now ready to take the plunge again. With her last film, *Mama Mascheendra*, failing to make waves at the box office, all eyes are on Eesha's personal life. Could this be the plot twist her fans didn't see coming?



FNCC donates ₹25 lakh to AP CM

The Telugu film industry continues to extend a helping hand to flood victims in Andhra Pradesh. Many film personalities have made generous donations to the AP Chief Minister's Fund, while film bodies like the Producers Council and Film Chamber of Commerce have also pitched in. The Film Nagar Cultural Club (FNCC) has joined the relief efforts, donating Rs 25 lakhs to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. FNCC president G Adiseshagiri Rao, secretary Mohan Mullapudi, and joint secretary Peddi Raju met the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu to present the cheque.

Naidu to present the cheque.

The recent floods in the Telugu states have been devastating and it's heartening to see organizations like the Film Nagar Cultural Club (FNCC) stepping up to help. According to Adiseshagiri Rao, president of FNCC, the organisation has always been at the forefront of relief programs during the natural calamities.

secretary of the Filr

an Mullapudi.



Nagar Cultural Club (FNCC), announced that the organisation has made donations to both the Andhra Pradesh and Telangana state governments to support flood relief efforts. Expressing gratitude, he acknowledged the steadfast support of both state governments towards the FNCC, appreciating their collaborative spirit.

Wait is over! Paruchuri brothers confirm *Mr. Celebrity's* release on Oct 4



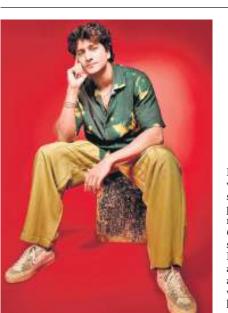
Judarshan Paruchuri, grandson of renowned writers Paruchuri Brothers, is set to make his debut as a lead actor in the upcoming film *Mr. Celebrity*. Directed by debutant Chandina Ravi Kishore, the movie is slated for release on October 4. The film's producers, N Panduranga Rao and Chinna Reddaiah, are confident about the project's success. Paruchuri Brothers, proud grandparents, announced the release date and extended their best wishes to Sudarshan for a successful debut.

"Our grandson Sudarshan is making his debut with *Mr. Celebrity*, which is slated for release on October 4. Despite being his first film, director Ravi Kishore has crafted it impressively, and it's sure to captivate everyone," said Paruchuri Gopalakrishna.

Meanwhile, Paruchuri Venkateswara Rao said, "Our grandson Sudarshan is making his debut with *Mr. Celebrity*, which is slated for release on October 4. Despite being his first film, director Ravi Kishore has crafted it impressively, and it's sure to captivate everyone."

everyone."

The film stars Varalaxmi Sarathkumar and Sri Deeksha as the leading ladies of *Mr. Calabrity*.



Next Kannadiga to conquer Bollywood

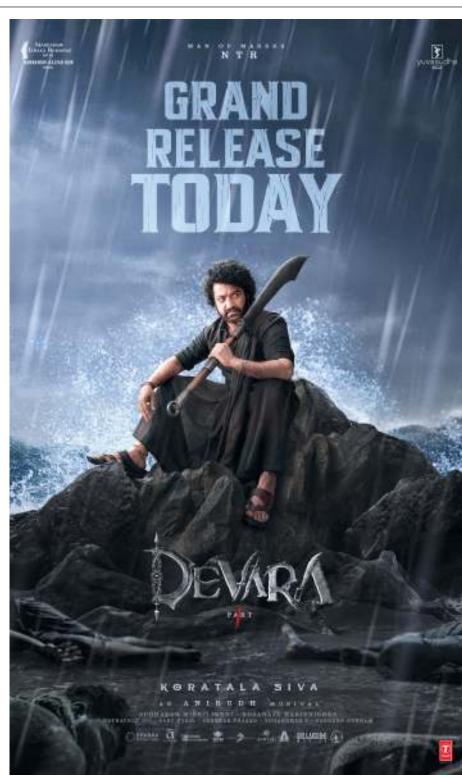
Lankesh, the son of renowned filmmaker Indrajith Lankesh, is making waves in the film industry with speculation about his next big project. The young actor, who made his debut this year with Gowri, has been turning heads since being spotted outside Dharma Productions' office. His appearance has sparked rumours about his possible collaboration with the prestigious production house, known for launching new talent and backing major

Though no official statement has been made, the buzz around Samarjit's potential Dharma project has left fans eager for an announcement. Having already showcased his acting prowess in *Gowri*, Samarjit is seen as one of the most promising newcomers in the Kannada film industry, with aspirations to make a pan-Indian impact. His connection to a major Bollywood production could catapult him into the national spotlight, following in

the footsteps of several South

Indian actors who have made

As the son of Indrajith Lankesh, Samarjit comes from a strong cinematic lineage, and his entry into the Dharma camp would mark a significant milestone in his budding career. Whether or not the rumours prove true, his presence in Mumbai and the speculation around his next project only serve to amplify the growing excitement about his future in Indian cinema. Fans and industry insiders alike are keeping a close eye on his next move.



INDIA LIKELY TO MAINTAIN SUPREMACY OVER BANGLADESH

ndia would want their big guns Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma to fire when the mighty hosts aim for a clean sweep against a beleaguered Bangladesh in the second and final Test starting here on Friday.

The all-round show of Ravichandran Ashwin, Shubman Gill's sublime hundred, Ravindra Jadeja's quality batting and Rishabh Pant's roaring comeback allowed India to script a comfortable victory in Chennai despite being put under pressure by the Bangladesh pacers on day one. The way India bounced back in the game reaffirmed their supremacy in Test cricket, especially at home where they are on course for a record extending 18th consecutive series win. Having made a successful return in white-ball cricket, it was time for Pant to show that it is the Test arena where he can make the maximum impact.

It seems he has even added one more dimension to his game: curbing his aggressive instinct

making him even more dangerous.

However, both Rohit and Virat's bats remained silent in series-opener

Bangladesh pacers — Hasan Mahmud and Taskin Ahmed — bowled probing lines on a supportive track and were rewarded. With a long Test season ahead of them, the two premier batters must be itching to get back among the runs. Playing his first Test at home since March 2023, Kohli did not look at his sharpest and

expansive cover drives at the start of his innings. **CHANGE COMBINATIONS:**

one can trust him to not go for

Green Park wicket has traditionally been a low and slow track that assists spinners. While it is expected to offer some assistance to the fast bowlers initially, the basic nature of the pitch, prepared with black soil brought from Unnao, is not expected to change much.

The wicket will become slower as the game progresses. It means, India can field three spinners instead of three



pacers. If that is indeed the case, Akash Deep could make way for Kuldeep Yadav.

performed exceptionally over the last 18 months. If India think they need more cushion with the bat, then In the last Test played at Green Park in 2021, India had fielded Axar Patel might just pip home three spinners — Ashwin,

Iadeja and Axar — in a game that ended in a thrilling draw with New Zealand.

Interestingly, the 2021 contest and the one before that in 2016 (also against New Zealand) lasted five days.

other the Bangladesh, who failed to apply themselves with the bat in the series opener, are expected to make changes to their playing eleven. They struggled against a high-quality Indian pace attack in their first essay in Chennai and then could not handle Ashwin

and Co while chasing an improbable target.

The team management has given contrasting statements on Shakib Al Hasan's availability. While a selector had said that he is doubtful due to a finger injury he suffered while batting in Chennai, chief Chandika coach Hathurusinghe said he is

eligible for selection. Bangladesh can bring left-arm spinner Taijul Islam in place of lanky pacer Nahid Rana. They also have an option in off-

spinner Nayeem Hasan.

A SPLENDID DOUBLE AWAITS JADEJA: In 73 Tests, Ravindra Iadeia has taken 299 wickets and scored 3122 runs. He needs to add just one more scalp to his kitty to become the second-fastest player in Test history to complete the double of 300 wickets and 3000 runs. England great Ian Botham had achieved the feat in 72 matches.

CONDITIONS CHALLENG-**ING:** The muggy weather will

players. The humidity has been very high in the city in the last few days. The Indian team made Thursday's practice optional, saying it needs to save players from searing heat.

The match may see interruptions on first and third day with weather forecast predicting rain.

India have not lost a Test to Bangladesh till date and the visitors will need a special effort to reverse that statistic. TEAMS (FROM):

India: Rohit Sharma (C) Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, KL Rahul, Sarfaraz Khan, Rishabh Pant (WK), Dhruv Jurel (WK), R Ashwin, R Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohd. Siraj, Akash Deep, Jasprit Bumrah, Yash Dayal.

Bangladesh: Najmul Hossain Shanto (C), Mahmudul Hasan Joy, Zakir Hasan, Shadman Islam, Mominul Haque, Mushfiqur Rahim (wk), Shakib Al Hasan, Litton Kumer Das, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Taijul Islam, Nayeem Hasan, Nahid Rana, Hasan Mahmud, Taskin Ahmed, Sved Khaled Ahmed, Jaker Ali Anik.



Shakib retires from T20Is, says Kanpur Test will be his last if no farewell at home

PTI ■ KANPUR

 $B_{\text{Shakib}}^{\text{angladesh}} \quad \begin{array}{ll} \text{all-rounder} \\ \text{Hasan} \quad \text{on} \end{array}$ all-rounder Thursday announced his from T20 Internationals with immediate effect and also said that the second Test against India will be his last if his country's board doesn't give him a farewell match against South Africa at home.

for Bangladesh will be in the Champions Trophy which is likely to be held in UAE and Pakistan.

The 37-year-old great, who featured in 129 T20Is for Bangladesh will, however, continue to play in franchise

"I have played my last T20 match in T20 World Cup. We have discussed this with the selectors. Looking at the 2026 World Cup, this is the right time for me to move out. Hopefully, BCB will find some great players and we will perform well," said Shakib on the eve of the second and final Test against India here.

Shakib, who has played 70 Tests, scoring 4600 runs and taking 242 wickets might just play his last Test in the North Indian industrial town in case the cricket board can't assure him of his security after being accused of murder although he wasn't even in the country at that time.

"I have expressed my desire to play my last Test in Mirpur to BCB. They agreed with me. They are trying to organise everything so that I can go to Bangladesh. If that won't happen, the match against India in Kanpur would be my last in Test cricket," he added. Shakib was named as an

accused in a murder case back home during the political unrest that led to the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. He was a member of Parliament from her party, the Awami League.

the while made Shakib announcement interacting with Bangladeshi media but spoke in English following a request from the Indian journalists.

In an unexpected events, Shakib was named in an FIR in a murder case related to the civil protests in Bangladesh last August.

The case pertains to the death garment worker Mohammed Rubel, whose father, Rafiqul Islam, filed the complaint on August 7.
The 37-year-old Shakib

indicated that he may not travel back home after the current series in India, if he can't be promised safety.

"Going back to Bangladesh is not a problem but leaving is. My close friends and family members have concerns (about my safety), I hope things are better, well and there should be is a solution to it."

In January, Shakib had won an uncontested election to become a member of parliament for the then-ruling Awami League party. He was criticised for not speaking up for the student community

during the protests.

Many Bangladeshis reportedly raised slogan against Shakib when he played in Pakistan. resident Even non Bangladeshis hurled abuses during a private T20 league, the video of which became viral on social media.

"I have 8 games to go in ODIs, and the Champions Trophy will be my last."

PTI NEW DELHI

Former Australian captain Lisa Sthalekar said India have the all-round depth to grab an elusive ICC title during the upcoming women's T20

World Cup.
The global showpiece will be held in the UAE from October 3 and India's best effort in the event remains a final berth in 2020, where they lost to Australia.

"I can see Australia in the semifinals as they are aiming to win their fourth (title) in a row. England too had a strong pre-tournament build-up. India's chances are also very high and I expect them to be in the semifinals, if not in the finals," Sthalekar told a select group of journalists at the ABC — International Development's five-day cricket commentary

and mojo programme at the Australian High Commission. The former Australian skipper validated her argument citing good options through India's line-up.

hero Kuldeep, who has

"India has got power, depth, decent bowlers and if their 4-7 number batters can score at a good strike rate, they will be in a good position. They need a good start from the openers.
"Jemimah Rodriguez did well in the West Indies (in the CPL)

recently. It will be fascinating to see how she performs in the WC," she said. Delving further deep into the chances of the Harmanpreer Kaur-led side, Sthalekar said India have the wherewithal to beat Australia, their nemesis in

global events over the years For example, in the 2020 T20 WC, Poonam Yadav took four wickets in the first game and



India is capable to make a strong impression in women's T20 WC: Sthalekar

dislodged Australian middleorder. India won that match by 17 runs.

"If any top order Indian batter scores a century or bowlers have a good day, they can take the game away," said the veteran who was the first woman to score 1,000 runs and take 100 wickets in ODIs. Expressing delight over ICC's

decision of having equal prize money in men's and women's WCs, the 45-year- old said it will have a bigger impact on

the game. "From a prize perspective, I think it's really good. But what I am more pleased about than just the winner getting the same prize as their

counterpart is how much money teams are getting for just participating in the World "So, it ensures that it's not just

the strong nations getting stronger and wealthier, but there is an effort at growing the global game," she said.

She used Scotland to leverage her point.

"Scotland coming in for the first time will earn money, probably more money than their national contract. The headline is equal prize money and that was primarily the intention.

But when you look a little bit deeper, they would like to have a bigger impact on the game." After her playing days, Sthalekar has established herself as a respected voice of the game over the last decade. The Indian-origin Aussie

described the effort she put in to reach the higher rungs of her job as a commentator.

Not everyone has to be a Richie Benaud or a Danny Morrison. But we all have different skills and strengths that we bring to the commentary box. That's why you have diverse personalities (doing commentary)," she said. Sthalekar

commentating during the IPL as her biggest career moment. "You have to have goals in your career and IPL (commentary) was my 10-year goal as a commentator. But I got a call to be in the IPL commentary team within six months.

"I remember my first IPL game as a commentator at the Eden Gardens in 2015. Some 70000 screaming fans were there and I had to do an interview with Gautam Gambhir," she said.

Pujara was backbone of Indian batting on last two Aus tours, he will a big miss this time: Vihari



PTI NEW DELHI

Hanuma Vihari, part of India's back to back series wins in Australia, reckons the services of veteran batter Cheteshwar Pujara will be be dearly missed when the team aims for a hat-trick Down Under later this year.

The five Test series begins in Perth from November 22. Out of favour Pujara was the leading run-getter in the 2018-19 series with 521 off 1258 balls and was once again the backbone of Indian batting three years later when he accumulated 271 runs off 928 balls.

Across the two teams, the 103-Test veteran by far faced the number of balls to wear out the opposition attack comprising Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell As another Border-Gavaskar Trophy is on the horizon, Vihari wondered who can

play Pujara's role this time around.
"Pujara will a big miss. He was the backbone of the batting line-up in the last two series for Team India. He took blows, he batted time, he stayed there for a long time, he saw the new ball, he got runs. He made the job easier for the other batters coming in," Vihari told PTI in an

interaction arranged by JioCinema. "So that kind of role...Who will play is a question mark for me. Currently I would say we have an attacking mode of a batting line up (the top six). All like to play their shots. Virat is the only one I feel in that batting line up who can be like a glue to the other batters.

"He can stay on and bat the most number of overs and you know batting in Australia is all about time. If you see off the new ball, it gets a little easier with the older played the last of his 16 Tests in July 2022. In the absence of Pujara, he also sees a significant role for K L Rahul at number six. He feels Risabh Pant is best suited at number five. Rohit Sharma, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill and Virat Kohli form the top four.

"That's where KL Rahul's role also will be important because he is someone who's got the experience in playing in SENA countries and he can bat long. He has done well in SENA countries. I feel they are looking at KL Rahul at number 6 as well. "By playing Rahul ahead of Sarfaraz in the current series (against Bangladesh), they are looking at a bigger picture. They want experience in number 6 when we tour Australia.

"Because in Australia playing at 6 you need to have good technique whether it's facing the second new ball or batting after an early collapse," he said.

Vihari also thinks playing Australia in their own backyard will be the biggest thus far for Jaiswal, who has done well at home but is yet to prove himself in overseas conditions.

"It's his biggest test. But he's a very confident guy. Overall facing Australia in Australia, the mental preparation is key. This time we are playing five Test matches in Australia compared to four earlier.

"So it's even more mentally draining Down Under because everything is against you. The media is against you, the people are against you and you are away from home facing Australian attack in Australia," added Vihari, who stitched a match saving stand with R Ashwin in the Sydney Test on the previous tour.



India U20 face stern Iran test in AFC Qualifiers

PTI ■ VIENTIANE (LAOS)

Tndia will be looking to iron out the rough edges before facing Iran in their next Group G game of the AFC U20 Asian Cup 2025 qualifiers here on Friday. India put up a good show to register a 4-1 victory against Mongolia in their first Group G match but there is still a lot of work to be done.

The last match was a big motivation for our team. I've always maintained that winning the first match of a tournament is crucial, and the boys stuck their heads in and played extremely well against Mongolia," said Ranjan Chaudhuri in a release.

But we cannot rejoice in the victory just yet. We must begin immediately preparations for the next game. We missed a lot of chances against Mongolia, and that is something we cannot afford against Iran.

They are an extremely good side, but we have made our plans according to their game

as well. Anything can happen on the day, and with a little luck, our boys can get a good result. The most important thing for us is to play our game well, and come out of the match with our heads held high, with a smile," he said. While India registered a 4-1

win against Mongolia, Iran trampled hosts Laos 8-0, a result that puts them firmly on top of Group G. However, Iran head coach Hossein Abdi was wary of India's potential threat. "India have quality players, many of whom I've seen at the U-17 level in Thailand last year. They play a fast game, have shown a good understanding of football. I think the game has progressed very fast in India recently, and we will see further advances in the future," he said.

"We will give it our best against them, but the most important thing at this level is that the players are safe. It's all about building good human relations and doing well for the country," said Abdi.

Man United stunned 1-1 by Dutch club Twente in revamped Europa League

AP MANCHESTER

Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag questioned his players' killer instinct after they were held to a 1-1 draw by his old club FC Twente in the revamped

Europa League. Sam Lammers capitalised on a mistake by Christian Eriksen in the second half at Old Trafford and raced away to fire an equalizer for the Dutch

underdog.
"You saw that was the game of their life. They fought for every yard and we didn't," Ten Hag said. "99% is not enough, You team on course for victory. have to give 100%. You have United has won just three of

kill the game. You have to finish it off."

Eriksen had put United ahead with a stunning first-half strike but was caught in possession by Lammers, whose goal secured an unexpected point for the visitors.

Ten Hag had spoken before the game of his affection for the team he supported as a boy in the Netherlands and represented as a player. He said it was "not nice to have to hurt something you love."

Instead it was United fans left in pain, despite Eriksen seemingly putting the home

games competitions this season and Wednesday's draw came after a 0-0 draw at Crystal Palace in the Premier League on Saturday.

Eriksen swept United ahead in the 35th with a first-time shot into the top corner. Connecting with a loose ball iust inside the box, the playmaker didn't break stride as he whipped his effort past past Twente goalkeeper Lars Unnerstall with power and precision.

With one fist clenched, he ran to the corner to celebrate in front of the home fans. But it was Twente's supporters his near post.



left cheering the loudest after Lammers' goal in the 68th when beating Andre Onana at

"There's a lot of football (still to play) when you (are) one up and the game takes more than 90 minutes," Ten Hag said.

"And you have to fight until the end and score the second goal." Like the Champions League, the second-tier Europa League has a new format and 36 teams instead of 32. It features a league system in which each team plays eight games against different opponents through January, replacing the old group stage.

In a clash between the Turkish and Greek champions, Galatasaray beat PAOK 3-1. Victor Osimhen, who moved from Napoli to Galatasaray earlier in September, made his presence felt.

Nigeria striker's goalbound header

deflected by defender Abdul Rahman Baba into his own net early in the second half. Konstantelias Giannis equalized on a rebound before Osimhen set up Yunus Akgün

to net the winner. Mauro Icardi added a stoppage-time goal. Lazio cruised past Dynamo Kyiv 3-0. Boulaye Dia struck twice and Fisayo Dele-Bashiru

added one. Both teams ended the game with 10 men. Real Sociedad, struggling in La

Liga, got a goal from Ander Barrenetxea at Nice but the home team salvaged a 1-1 draw thanks to Pablo Rosario's goal late in the first half. Another team struggling

with Danish Superliga's leader Midtjylland. Darío Osorio put the hosts ahead late in the first half before substitute Max Moerstedt leveled it in the final minute. In Brussels, Anderlecht struck twice in the span of five minutes in the second half on the way to a 2-1 victory over

Hoffenheim took home a point

from Denmark in a 1-1 draw

domestically,

Dolberg added the second from the spot. Slavia Prague scored in each half for a 2-0 win at Bulgaria's

Ferencváros. Yari Verschaeren

scored on the hour and Kasper

Ludogorets