

Hyderabad's real estate business was destroyed by the policies of the Congress government. The economy of Telangana has been destroyed. It is not proper for the Congress government to adopt a stubborn attitude without thinking of its consequences. The BJP is opposing this attitude of the government. We are preparing an action plan against HYDRRAA demolitions under the leadership of Telangana BJP president G. Kishan Reddy. The BJP is going to fight for the poor. It will fight till the government comes down

— Bandi Sanjay Kumar, Union Minister

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India would have given larger bailout package: **Rajnath**

INDIA, US
 TO BOOST COLLABORATION IN CRITICAL MINERAL SUPPLY CHAINS

Satyam Sundaram: Classic portrayal **OF LOVE**

DON'T MISS...

Defunct fountains reducing ...

If you have seen the iconic movie 'Nikaah', starring Salma Agha and Raj Babbar, which was released in 1982, then you must have seen beautiful fountains in the backdrop of one of the scenes of the movie. Yes, this beautiful scene was shot at Osmania University (OU) main building. But, now those beautiful fountains are defunct, reducing the beauty quotient at Osmania University (OU) campus. For students who studied here in the past, studying at present and to thousands who through the university in the mornings and evenings for a stroll, the ...

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Kharge vows not to die till PM ...

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge vowed to fight for the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, asserting that he would remain active in politics until Prime Minister Narendra Modi is ousted from power. Kharge's remarks came amid criticism of the BJP-led government at the Centre for its handling of the Union territory, particularly regarding the delay of elections. "We will fight to restore statehood. We are not going to leave it. I am 83 years ...

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Govt considering foreign investment...

The government is considering setting up a foreign investment regulatory mechanism for post-investment review and monitoring in the country, according to sources. At present, the consideration is at the discussion level only, they added. "It has been observed that all countries do oversight on the FDI (foreign direct investment), which is coming into their country. People suggest that in India also, there should be an oversight mechanism. It's a kind of oversight on money, which is coming up in the...

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Indian shooters win two gold...

Indian shooters began their ISSF Junior World Championship (Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun) campaign in Peru on a good note, winning team gold in men's and women's 10m air pistol events, though a potential top-podium finish was lost in the individual category after a marksman was docked two points for reporting late for the final. The junior men's trio of Umesh Choudhary, Pradyumn Singh and Mukesh Nelavalli topped the men's team competition in 10m air ...

-SPORTS

Govt likely to slow down HYDRRAA's demolition drive



Builders are doing business in the name of poor: Bhatti

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Alleging that builders are doing business in the name of the poor in the state, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka said that steps are being taken to rehabilitate the people displaced by the Musi clean-up programme. He said the government's responsibility is to protect the assets and lives of the people and as part of it will protect the lakes to preserve them for future generations. The Telugu community of San Francisco in the US organised a meeting on Sunday. Attending the meeting, Bhatti said that illegal buildings are being demolished in Hyderabad. Hundreds of ponds and other water bodies have disappeared in Hyderabad, he said. He said his government's idea is to stop the ponds from being encroached

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PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress government may slow down the speed of HYDRRAA demolitions. One can understand this from the statements of IT Minister D. Sridhar Babu and Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender.

Protests began against HYDRRAA after the demolition of illegal structures started affecting commoners. The people are now angry with HYDRRAA as although officials said that they will not trouble commoners, they are demolishing the houses of the poor without issuing any warning.

HYDRRAA did not demolish houses on Saturday and Sunday although officials have been saying that they are conducting surveys for demolitions. This means that the government has applied the brakes on HYDRRAA moves. However, IT Minister D. Sridhar Babu said on Sunday that the government will focus on the Musi River Development Project to make it a growth corridor.

Meanwhile, Danam Nagender said on Sunday that he had asked HYDRRAA in the beginning not to touch slums and that it is not right to demolish the houses of the poor. There are many illegal buildings like I-MAX and Jalavihar that can be demolished. He said that he will write a letter to the CM regarding this.

Although people hailed HYDRRAA in the beginning for demolishing buildings like N-Convention, protests started when HYDRRAA

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Everybody thought HYDRRAA will go after bigwigs'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar said that everybody expected in the beginning that HYDRRAA would demolish the illegal buildings of bigwigs, however, HYDRRAA is now demolishing only the houses

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Govt will build more hospitals, strengthen healthcare facilities: CM



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said that we will continue to build more hospitals, strengthen healthcare systems and create a society where women's health and welfare receive the utmost attention. Megha Engineering & Infrastructures Ltd (MEIL) and the

Sudha Reddy Foundations organised the 'Pink Power Run 2024' at the Gachibowli Stadium on Sunday to raise awareness about the growing incidence of breast cancer in India. During the event, the CM said, "I am proud to say that Telangana is committed to improving healthcare

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'Even your BJP friends can't save you'

BRS leader KTR warns CM Revanth

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS Working President KT Rama Rao warned Chief Minister Revanth Reddy that even his BJP friends in New Delhi will find it difficult to protect him. "Revanth might have thought that I would stop talking about his illegal acts if a legal notice is sent through his (CM's) brother-in-law Sudini Srujan Reddy," KTR said. He said the BRS will not remain silent if the CM distributes nectar to his brother-in-law and poison to the poor.

Posting on X regarding this on Sunday, KTR said, "If you send a legal notice through your brother-in-law, do you think I will stop

in the Adarsh scam. Resignation is inevitable." In another post on X, KTR said, "Millions of people are dying of

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Rythu Deeksha to highlight govt's 'false promises', asserts BJP



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The BJP said that the aim of its 24-hour Rythu Deeksha at the Indira Park Dharna Chowk being held on Monday (September 30) is to exert

pressure on the Congress government and to make it fulfil the promises it had given to farmers. Speaking to the media on Sunday at the state BJP office here along with Malkajgiri MP Eatala Rajender,

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BRS inciting Musi oustees, alleges Sridhar

Says govt wants to see the Musi development as growth engine



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Pointing out that the BRS is inciting Musi oustees, IT Minister D. Sridhar Babu said the Congress government wants to develop the Musi River into an 'economic growth engine' and a 'development centre'.

However, the BRS is trying to make people speak against the Chief Minister and the government by giving them money. The BRS is encouraging anarchy, Sridhar said.

Addressing the media at the CLP Media Hall on Sunday along with government whip Adhuri Laxmana Kumar, Sridhar said that some opportunist politicians are trying to

incite the people. "The Congress is trying to develop Hyderabad as a global city. As part of it, the government is trying to develop the Musi River area. Knowingly or unknowingly, people constructed houses in the Musi River area. The Congress will not throw the poor on to the streets. Already officials have clarified

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Will fight for victims in Courts: Harish

TIRUMALA SRIVARI LADDU ROW

SC to hear case today



PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Supreme Court will hear on September 30 a batch of petitions seeking a court-monitored investigation into allegations made by the TDP-led Andhra Pradesh government regarding the use of adulter-

ated ghee in the preparation of laddus at the Tirumala Tirupati Temple during the previous YSRCP regime. The matter is scheduled before a bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan.

To summarise, the controversy stems from a lab report made public by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, which revealed that samples of ghee supplied to the Tirupati temple for laddu preparation during the previous YSRCP government were found to contain foreign fats, including beef fat and fish oil. So far, five petitions have been filed seeking relief, including a court-monitored probe into the allegations and greater accountability in Hindu temples managed by government bodies.

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Push to Metro Rail Second Phase

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy reviewed the progress of preparing Metro Rail Phase Two DPRs (Detailed Project Reports) with senior officers of the MA & UD department a few days ago.

Hyderabad Airport Metro Limited (HAML) MD NVS Reddy made a detailed presentation, explaining the alignment, salient features, station locations etc of the metro's second phase corridors.

The MD informed the CM that DPRs for all the corridors are being given final touches and that HAML is awaiting the traffic study report of the Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP) being prepared for the Hyderabad Metropolitan Area by the HMDA.

He also said that as decided in an earlier review meeting held by the CM, the Airport Metro alignment is

DPRs getting final touches



The CM approved the broad contours of Metro Phase II corridors as under:
 Corridor IV: Nagole - RGIA (Airport Corridor)-36.6 km;
 Corridor V: Raidurg - Kokapet Neopolis-11.6 km; Corridor VI: 13.4 km; Corridor VIII: LB Nagar - Hayat Nagar-7.1 km; Corridor IX: RGIA - Fourth City (Skill University)-40 km; Total-116.2 km.

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RS 23.91 LAKH NETTED ON SUNDAY

Yadadri temple recording impressive revenue

PNS ■ YADAGIRIGUTTA

Yadadri Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple recorded an impressive revenue of Rs 23.91 Lakh on Sunday. The temple administration also noted that the annadanam (free meal service) programme received donations of Rs 41,283, allowing many devotees to partake in the service. Other key sources of revenue included Suvarna Pushparchana with Rs 55,548 and Yadarishi Nilayam generating Rs 89,258.

In addition, vehicle entry fees to the hill brought in Rs 3,50,000, demonstrating the increasing number of visitors travelling on their own means. Other services such as vratham, vehicle pujas, and break darshan also saw good participation, contributing Rs 37,600, Rs 10,600 and Rs 1,98,000 respectively.

The prasadam sales proved to be one of the highest revenue generators, accumulating Rs 10,95,150, with devo-

tees purchasing sacred offerings in large quantities. Furthermore, Shivalayam at the temple contributed Rs 8,800 to the day's revenue.

The temple authorities expressed satisfaction with the day's proceedings and acknowledged the continuous support from devotees, which helps maintain the various services offered at the temple.

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They also stressed the importance of these offerings, stating that they play a crucial role in the spiritual and financial upkeep of the temple.

As the number of devotees visiting Yadagirigutta continues to grow, the authorities are planning further improvements to the facilities and services, ensuring a seamless and devotional experience for all visitors.



Suryapet MLA G Jagadish Reddy addressing people at his party camp office on Sunday

Jagadish vows to stand by people amid criticism of Cong governance

PNS ■ SURYAPET

Former minister and Suryapet MLA G Jagadish Reddy delivered a passionate address at his party's MLA camp office on Sunday, promising unwavering support for the people and vowing to fight against injustice. He declared, "Even if it costs my life, I will not allow injustice to happen to the people," urging the community to unite in their struggles.

During the meeting, Reddy emphasised the importance of solidarity, assuring residents, "There is no need for fear; let us fight together. Do not lose hope; we will stand by you." He asserted that the BRS is the only political entity genuinely advocating for the rights of the people. "If this government thinks it can toy with people's lives, we will not sit idle," he warned.

Reddy sharply criticised the Congress, claiming it has prioritised chaos over development. "While KCR is focused on building new projects, the Congress is busy creating disruptions and demolitions," he stated. He warned that as long as the Congress continues to prioritise political interests, public unrest would be inevitable. "It is not good for society to make people weep," he added.

Jagdish escalated his criticism of the Congress government, claiming that the State and joint Nalgonda district administrations have been disorganised for the past nine months. He accused the government of regressing the State and failing to implement new policies or effectively manage existing ones. "The current administration has failed to provide essential services such as water for education, health-care, and irrigation projects, severely impacting the lives of our people," he stated.

He also criticised the current government's inaction regarding breaches in the Nagarjuna Sagar canal, contrasting it with his own tenure when such issues were resolved swiftly. "Even after 20 days, there has been no resolution to these breaches, demonstrating the current government's inefficiency," he noted.

Concluding his remarks, Reddy called for the immediate implementation of the farm loan waiver and the Rythu Bharosa scheme to support farmers.

He urged the government to take proactive steps to ensure the welfare of the agricultural community, emphasising the need for accountability and responsive governance.

Transport sector facing crisis amid rising costs and unresolved issues

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

The Telangana transport sector is grappling with a severe crisis, according to Syed Sadiq, State vice-president of the Telangana Lorry Owners Association and manager of Star Transport Company in Shadnagar constituency, Rangareddy district. He voiced concern over the mounting challenges the sector has faced over the last two months due to persistent rains in the Telugu states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, coupled with unresolved issues affecting lorry operators.

An emergency meeting, organised by the Lorry Owners Association at Kothapally, Peddapally, sought to address these challenges. Several association leaders, including president Anji Reddy, general secretary Durga Prasad, and vice-presidents Nawaz Ghori, Mohammad Fayaz and Mohammad Shabir, were in attendance.

Speaking to the media, Syed Sadiq outlined a range of problems plaguing the transport industry, exacerbated by the recent heavy rains. He highlighted the financial burden on lorry owners, citing increased operational difficulties and unresolved policy issues. An unanimous resolution was



Members of the Lorry Owners Association at an emergency meeting in Kothapally on Sunday

passed during the meeting, calling for the immediate waiving of various taxes imposed on lorries.

Sadiq pointed to the rising diesel prices, despite promises of reduction, as a major factor crippling the sector. He urged the government to take swift action to lower fuel prices and provide relief to lorry operators. The association also pressed for the immediate implementation of the long-pending single permit system to streamline operations.

Another key concern raised was the substantial amounts collected in fitness and green taxes over the last 15 years. The association resolved to push for a reduction in these taxes, which they believe are placing

undue pressure on transporters. Sadiq emphasised that the government should extend the same support to the transport sector as it does to farmers affected by natural calamities. He argued that the government should take responsibility for repairing lorries damaged during the recent floods.

Furthermore, the association demanded that local lorries be given priority in the transportation of grain procured from farmers by the government. They also called for the State government to reconsider the recent central government directive on the cancellation of old vehicles, currently under review by the Supreme Court.

Posted to his alma mater as headmaster

PNS ■ VALIGONDA

Achieving a rare feat, a teacher was appointed headmaster to the Sri Venkateswara ZP High School at Valigonda, in Bhongir district, of which he was a student.

The government has also saddled him with the additional responsibility of the office of the Valigonda mandal educational officer.

He was identified as Sanku Bhaskar, who pursued his primary education in Mallepalli government primary school and later pursued his high school education in Sri Venkateswara ZP High School at Valigonda. Afterwards he moved to Hyderabad to pursue higher education and obtained a degree in science and later graduated in B Ed.

During the teacher transfers carried out last year, he was posted headmaster.

State govt not focusing on developmental activities: MLA

PNS ■ MEDCHAL-MALKAJIGIRI

Malkajigiri MLA Marri Rajasekhar Shekhar Reddy, visited East Anand Bagh, Vinayak Nagar and Moulali divisions under the jurisdiction of the constituency on Sunday. Rajasekhar Shekhar Reddy assured the people of Shankaraiah Colony, Simhadri Nagar NMDC Colony, Sivananda Nagar and other colonies who were worried about the HYDRAA authorities' merciless attitude and people are terrified that it would demolish their houses.

Speaking to the media, he said, "It does not make sense to demolish houses in the name of HYDRAA when they had built the houses before 30 years and paying all kinds of taxes for municipal permissions and registrations." He assured that he will stand on the side of the people and fight to any extent. He said that this problem is not the problem of any individual but of the entire people of Malkajigiri. Congress government is doing unnecessary programmes by leaving development activities, he added.



Minister flags off 33 electric buses

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

Minister for Transport Ponnampalapati Prabhakar has said that the Congress government provides "Praja Palana". He hinted at filling 3000 posts in the TG RTC soon.

He flagged off 33 electric buses at Karimnagar bus station here on Sunday. Speaking after inauguration of the buses, he said that several women undertook free travel on the RTC buses.

Further, he said that RTC

would buy more buses through Mahila Sakti and Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas.

Besides filling 3000 posts, the RTC would pay attention to extending PRC to the RTC employees and filling of posts in the RTC on compassionate grounds.

Further, he said that the TGRTC entering into an MoU with the JBM group to procure electric buses. The Government's idea is to run electric buses in Hyderabad and other districts.



To check the pollution in Hyderabad city, plans are under way to phase out all diesel buses within the Regional Ring Road, he said

adding that the Congress government soon after coming to power has been introducing revolutionary measures to develop the RTC.

Birth anniversary of Bhagat Singh celebrated

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

The district committee of SFI celebrated 117th birth anniversary of noted revolutionary Bhagat Singh here on Sunday paying him glowing tributes.

The SFI district committee celebrated the occasion garlanding Bhagat Singh's portrait at various places in the district. At a young age of 23 years, Bhagat Singh kissed the noose with a smile on his face to liberate the country from the British rule.



House of accused in sexual assault on minor case torched

PNS ■ SIDDIPEET

The relatives along with some of the villagers have set fire to the house of the accused in Guruvannapeta village of Komaravelli mandal of Siddipet district in the minor sexual assault case. They also damaged vehicles -- a car and a JCB -- parked in front of the house, reports reaching here said on Sunday.

It may be recalled that a girl studying class seven in Guruvannapeta village was sexually assaulted, taking advantage of her loneliness, by a youth of the village when the inmates were away.

When the girl became indisposed, her parents consulted a private hospital where doctors confirmed that the girl was sexually assaulted.

Soon the matter was leaked in the village, the relatives set fire to the house of the accused in the village and caused damage to the vehicles parked in front of the house.

On learning about it, the police rushed to the village and dispersed the protestors. A case was registered against the accused.

Villagers and several associations in the village have been demanding the police to ensure that the accused received the capital punishment.

National Lok Adalats solve pending cases in all courts

PNS ■ NALGONDA/YADADRI BHUVANAGIRI

The District Legal Services Authorities (DLSA) of both Nalgonda and Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri districts, under the directions of the National Legal Services Authority and the State Legal Services Authority, successfully conducted the National Lok Adalat in all court complexes across their respective districts on Sunday.

In Nalgonda, the Lok Adalat was presided over by the District Judge and Chairperson of DLSA, M Nagaraju, who resolved a significant number of cases. A total of 16,830 cases (including pending and pre-litigation cases) were settled. These cases included civil disputes (71), criminal cases (4,530), motor vehicle accident insurance claims (120), bank disputes (24), cybercrime cases (38), Transco cases (318), and traffic challan violations. Notably, compensation amounting of Rs 7.95 crore was awarded in motor accident claims, Rs 20.26 lakh in bank loan disputes and Rs 3.35 lakh was recovered in cybercrime cases.

The event witnessed the participation of Secretary of DLSA, B Deepthi, various judicial officers and



District Principal Judge and Chairman of the District Legal Services Authority, A Jayaraju, participating in the National Lok Adalat in Bhuvanagiri, Yadadri district on Sunday

members of the Bar Association, including its president and vice-president, alongside legal professionals and litigants.

Similarly, in Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri, the National Lok Adalat, inaugurated by District Principal Judge and Chairperson of DLSA, A Jayaraju, also saw the resolution of numerous cases.

A total of 11,066 cases were settled across the district, including criminal cases (3,459), civil disputes (17), pre-litigation bank cases (73), and traffic challans (7,517). While addressing the gathering, Jayaraju highlighted the role of the Legal

Services Authorities in ensuring access to justice, promoting amicable settlements and fostering a cooperative environment in society.

Participating dignitaries in Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri included Senior Civil Judge and Secretary of DLSA, V Madhavilatha, Principal Junior Civil Judge, D Nageshwar Rao, along with representatives from the Bar Association, police department and other stakeholders. The event emphasised the importance of settlement as a preferred method of resolving disputes, contributing to social and economic stability.

Kamareddy needs another police station

PNS ■ KAMAREDDY

Kamareddy town, which recently became the district headquarters, has been expanding in all directions with the development of new housing colonies. Yet the police personnel to maintain the law and order in the town is inadequate.

Kamareddy is one of the important junctions on bus routes to Sircilla, Siddipet, Medak and Nizamabad districts. The business activity

and educational amenities are on the rise. The town is developing in all other spheres. Consequently, the number of people settling in Kamareddy is increasing.

According to 2011 census, the population of Kamareddy was 1,04,267. The town has 49 wards. The town has only one police station established to cater to the law and order needs of the 2011 population.

With Kamareddy upgraded to district headquarters subsequently, another police station

is needed to be set up, but there are no signs of establishing second police station. Meanwhile, the traffic has increased in the town. The people of the town have been demanding the establishment of Mahila police station. The town developed up to a radius of four or five km. The crime rate has also increased. The accident cases have increased. The number of commuters to the town has increased manifold with the town locating close to national highway and

the railway line. The town has no traffic police station. Five members of the existing police station have been deputed on traffic duty. They are limited to imposing fines of violators of the traffic. Hundreds of vehicles frequent the town. The number of accidents is on the rise. The movement of traffic is haphazard in New bus stand, Nizam Sagar X roads, Indira Chowk, Old Bus stand, JPS Road in the town. The proposal to set up a traffic

police station in the town was limited to papers.

The proposals to set up a traffic police station has been sent four years ago. When the former CM KCR visited here, he orally directed the superior police officials to take steps to set up a traffic police station in the town. But, it was not set up so far. Therefore, in view of the increased population, there is a need to set up another police station and also a traffic police station in Kamareddy.

ACROSS THE STATES



Terrorist killed in J-K, fresh encounter in Rajouri

A terrorist, suspected to be affiliated with the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) outfit, was killed in a remote village of Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, officials said on Sunday. Also, a fresh encounter broke out in the Thanamandi area of Rajouri district on Sunday evening when security forces launched a cordon and search operation after getting information about the presence of two terrorists, the officials said.



Cops recover TV from Naxal dump in Chhattisgarh

In a possible first, police on Sunday recovered a television set from a Maoist dump in Sukma district in Chhattisgarh, a senior official said. The television, made by electronics firm BPL, was recovered in the morning in a forested hill near Danteshpuram village under Bheji police station limits when security forces were on an anti-Naxalite operation.



33 more arrested for felling of trees in Mathura

Thirty three persons allegedly involved in the felling of more than 450 trees at Dalmia Farms here were arrested, police said on Sunday. Acting on a tip-off, they were arrested from Guru Kripa Kutir on Saturday where they were hiding.

Everybody thought HYDRAA..

of the poor. Addressing the gathering after inaugurating the Seva Pakwada photo exhibition on Sunday at the Barkatpura BJP office, Sanjay asked the Congress government to explain how far it is right to demolish the houses of the poor constructed using bank loans and the income from their small jobs. Who will support these poor people after they lose their houses and how will they live without houses, he asked.

HAD PAKISTAN MAINTAINED FRIENDLY TIES

India would have given larger bailout package: Rajnath

PNS ■ SRINAGAR

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said India would have given a larger bailout package to Pakistan than sought by Islamabad from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had the neighbouring nation maintained friendly relations with New Delhi.



Addressing an election rally in Gurez assembly segment of Bandipora district, Singh referred to the prime minister's development package for Jammu and Kashmir announced in 2014-15 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Modi ji in 2014-15 announced a special package for development of Jammu and Kashmir which has now reached Rs 90,000 crore. The amount is much bigger than what Pakistan was seeking from the IMF (as bailout package)," the senior BJP leader said.

Singh referred to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's famous statement that "we can change friends but we cannot change the neighbours". "I said, my Pakistani friends, why have strained relations, we are neighbours. If we had good relations, we would have given more money than the IMF," he added.

Singh said the Centre gives money to Jammu and Kashmir for development while Pakistan has been misusing financial aid for a long time. "It seeks money from other countries to run a terrorism factory on its soil," he added. The defence minister said

Kashmir will again become a paradise on earth when Vajpayee's dream of restoring "Insaniyat, Jamhooriyat and Kashmiriyat" in the valley is achieved. Singh said Pakistan, which has used terrorism as a tool against India, has been isolated at the international forums with some of its trusted allies also stepping back.

"Whenever we have investigated terrorism, we have found Pakistani involvement. Our successive governments have tried to make Pakistan understand that they should stop terror camps but to no avail. Pakistan is frustrated after revocation of Article 370 and is making attempts to revive terror. They do not want democracy to take roots here. (But) India is strong enough that it can take on Pakistan on its soil. If anyone in Pakistan carries out an attack on India, we can crossover and respond," he added.



PM Modi dedicates Bidkin industrial area to nation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday dedicated the Bidkin Industrial Area (BIA) in Maharashtra to the nation with a view to boost domestic manufacturing, an official statement said.

The prime minister joined the event virtually, while the ceremony in Pune was attended by Maharashtra Governor C. P. Radhakrishnan and chief minister Eknath Shinde, among others.

The Bidkin Industrial Area, a project spanning 7,855 acres, has been developed under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP) as part of the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor. "Situating 20 km south of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar,

Maharashtra, this industrial hub holds immense potential to catalyse economic growth in the Marathwada region," the commerce and industry ministry said.

The Union government approved the project with a total cost of Rs 6,414 crore, to be developed in three phases.

"Phase A, covering 2,511 acres, has been prioritised with an investment of Rs 2,427 crore," it said.

The Maharashtra Industrial Township Limited (MITL), a special purpose vehicle formed with a 51:49 partnership between Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) and National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT), has driven this project.

Mufti doesn't feel sad when Indian soldier is martyred: BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Sunday slammed PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti for cancelling her poll campaign over the killing of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, saying she does not feel sad when an Indian soldier is martyred on the country's border.

The BJP's reaction came a day after Mufti announced that she was going to cancel her poll campaign on Sunday "in solidarity with the martyrs of Lebanon & Gaza, especially Hassan Nasrallah".

"Mehbooba Mufti doesn't feel sad when an Indian soldier is martyred on the border. But if any Nasrallah dies in Lebanon, she feels very sad. What kind of message does she want to send out," former Union Minister and BJP national spokesperson Syed Shah Nawaz Hussain told PTI video when asked for comment.

Hussain, however, said that India also wants peace in the world and Prime Minister



Narendra Modi is appealing that the war should end.

At the UN General Assembly, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar also appealed for peace, he added. "But Mehbooba Mufti does not mourn for the people of the country. If something happens abroad, she is very sad about it," the BJP leader charged.

Suspending her election campaigns, the PDP chief earlier posted on X, "Cancelling my campaign tomorrow in solidarity with the martyrs of Lebanon & Gaza especially Hassan Nasrallah. We stand with the people of Palestine & Lebanon in this hour of immense grief & exemplary resistance."

Kharge vows not to die till PM Modi 'removed' from power



PNS ■ JASROTA (JAMMU)

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge vowed to fight for the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, asserting that he would remain active in politics until Prime Minister Narendra Modi is ousted from power.

Kharge's remarks came amid criticism of the BJP-led government at the Centre for its handling of the Union territory, particularly regarding the delay

of elections. "We will fight to restore statehood. We are not going to leave it. I am 83 years old, I am not going to die so early. I will stay alive until PM Modi is removed from power. I will listen to you. I will fight for you," Kharge told a public rally here after he was provided medical assistance at the rally venue. The Congress chief earlier complained of dizziness while speaking and had to be provided medical help.

"He was addressing a public rally in Jasrota when he felt uneasy and dizzy. His colleagues helped him into a chair," Congress general secretary Gulam Ahmed Mir told PTI.

Kharge had flown to Jasrota to address a rally to garner support for his party candidates in the assembly polls.

Jammu and Kashmir Congress vice president Ravindra Sharma said Kharge felt dizzy and was taken to a room, where doctors were called for a check-up. They will advise whether he can attend the second rally at Udhampur or not, he said.

Later, Kharge's second rally at Udhampur was cancelled. He will return to Delhi.

At the Jasrota rally, Kharge continued, "I wanted to talk. But due to dizziness, I have sat down. Please pardon me. They (BJP) are trying to terrorise us."

'Rahul is leading oppn, will lead country too'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress general secretary Sachin Pilot on Sunday said he sees Rahul Gandhi as a leader who will lead the country in future and the entire opposition will stand unitedly behind him when the next Lok Sabha elections happen.

In an interview with PTI, Pilot said Gandhi, following the historic Bharat Jodo Yatra and a good result for the Congress, has taken the Centre to task with the BJP-led government "failing on all fronts".

Asked about the impact of Gandhi assuming the charge of Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Pilot said, "Rahul Gandhi has led from the front as the Leader of the Opposition (in the Lok Sabha). He is asking pertinent questions for which the government has no answers."

BRS inciting Musi oustees..

Continued from page 1

that only illegal buildings will be demolished. We will do justice to the poor. We will give double-bedroom houses and Indiramma houses to the displaced. The admin will protect them," Sridhar said.

He said the government wants to clean up Musi. The government is trying to bring Godavari water into the Musi River. The government will construct bridges, green spaces, and walk to work employment facilities in the Musi River area, he said.

He said the government is going to develop the Musi area on the PPP model and for that they are conducting a socio-economic survey with 35 teams.

Sridhar said the government has been taking suggestions from civil societies, NGOs and others on how to provide alternative employment. Anganwadis will be established and self-help groups will be set up, he said.

He said the government has a plan and will appoint a high-level committee and that the displaced will be provided with all facilities.

He said that for the development of the Musi the government is preparing a blueprint and the government will invite global companies to execute the work. The aim of developing the Musi area includes providing clean water to the people of Vikarabad and Nalgonda districts.

Rythu Deeksha..

Continued from page 1

Eatala Rajender said that all BJP MPs, MLAs and all state BJP leaders would participate in the Deeksha.

He said the Congress government had given assurances to farmers like the loan waiver scheme, Rythu Bharosa, Rythu Bima and Rs 500 bonus but the government is not implementing any of these things.

Eatala said that the government has not yet implemented the loan waiver scheme completely. There is no information about how many farmers benefited from the loan waiver scheme although the government has been stating that it waived loans worth Rs 17,000 crore. "Revanth Reddy has become a nickname for deceit. Lies are his life. So we are protesting to bend the necks of the government. We are staging a 24-hour Rythu Deeksha on Monday at Indira Park. We request farmers to participate in the protest in large numbers," Eatala said.

Continued from page 1

One of the petitions has been submitted by Suresh Khanderao Chavhanke, Editor of Sudarshan News TV, who is calling for an investigation by a committee headed by a retired Supreme Court judge or a retired High Court Chief Justice.

A second petition has been filed by Surjit Singh Yadav, President of Hindu Sena, requesting a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the alleged use of adul-

SC to hear case today

terated ghee in the laddus. The third petition, filed by senior BJP leader Subramanian Swamy, seeks an investigation by a court-monitored committee or a retired judge along with domain experts into the allegations of adulteration. Reddy also seeks a directive to the respondent authorities for a report detailing the forensics of the lab report and the source of the ghee used in that report,

submitted by Rajiya Sabha MP and former TTD Chairman YV Subba Reddy, requests an independent investigation by a court-monitored committee or a retired judge along with domain experts into the allegations of adulteration. Reddy also seeks a directive to the respondent authorities for a report detailing the forensics of the lab report and the source of the ghee used in that report,

along with all additional details regarding sampling and procurement. The fifth petition has been filed by historian Dr. Vikram Sampath and spiritual speaker Dushyanth Sridhar, calling for the divestment of government and bureaucratic control over temples. The duo seeks to establish accountability in Hindu temples managed by government bodies.

The petitions submitted by Subramanian Swamy, YV Subba Reddy, and Vikram Sampath are set to be listed on Monday.

Even your BJP friends..

Continued from page 1

hunger while you spent Rs 1,500,000,000,000 crore on the Musi, Mr Cheap Minister. The city weeps, hearts are broken, huts are destroyed, daughters cry and families curse you. One mother wonders whether she can give her dream cottages to her children. A man cries asking where to go with an aged mother. The mother who committed suicide was worried that the house given as dowry to her daughter would be demol-

ished. A husband poured petrol on himself saying that his wife is pregnant. Where is Revanth Reddy (Sannasi), who provoked farmers with 20 cars in connection with the construction of a reservoir to provide water to 30,000 acres? You proved that you will do anything for your needs. People of this great city, don't get discouraged. Don't rush and sacrifice your lives. There are legal provisions and then BRS to support you."

Govt will build more hospitals..

Continued from page 1

for women. We believe that the health of women is the foundation for the wellbeing of families and communities." He said that the participants' presence shows solidarity with women across the state who face medical problems. The Chairperson of the SR Foundation, Sudha Reddy, said that the Pink Power Run is not just a race. It is a platform to share the inspiring stories of

cancer survivors, to motivate others, and to build a supportive community. "Together, we can break mental barriers, dispel myths, and empower individuals to take charge of their health," she added. "I wholeheartedly thank everyone for participating in this event aimed at raising awareness about breast cancer and offering hope to all those affected. Every step taken today brings us closer to a world free of cancer," Sudha Reddy said.

Builders are doing..

Continued from page 1

on and that the government wants to inject fresh water into the Musi River. The government intends to ensure that the people living in the Musi's catchment areas have a good environment, Bhatti said. He said the government plans to make the Musi River healthy so that families can live in its catchment area. Bhatti said that it is not good for anyone to live near the polluted Musi River.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Saving Sunita Williams

Relying on her mental fortitude, Sunita has not only survived the ordeal but plays a crucial role in her rescue

It is heartening to hear that Sunita Williams will be back home soon. Elon Musk's SpaceX has launched a Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral, Florida to rescue two astronauts stranded in the International Space Station (ISS). The mission aims to retrieve American astronauts Butch Wilmore and Sunita Williams, who have been stranded on the International Space Station for months due to issues with Boeing's Starliner spacecraft. Originally planned for an eight-day stay, the astronauts' mission was extended far beyond after technical problems with the Starliner. As every Indian waits for her rescue the image of Kalpana Chawla flashes in the mind who lost her life in a space mission. She was one of the seven crew members who died in the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster when the spacecraft disintegrated during its re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere on February 1, 2003. The vast, unexplored frontier of space offers countless wonders, but it also brings unique challenges. The present snag is no fault of the astronauts but a lapse on the part of NASA and Boeing company which allowed the mission to proceed despite several alarms and glitches.



Sunita Williams, a veteran of two spaceflights and a woman who has spent over 300 days in space, embarked on her latest mission with the confidence and expertise that comes from years of training and commitment. However, space is as unpredictable as it is vast. A critical error occurred during her mission, which disabled vital components of the spacecraft, leaving her stranded in the ISS. The malfunction wasn't just a minor glitch—it was a cascade of failures. Yet, if there was one person equipped to face such adversity, it was Sunita Williams. Her resilience, mental fortitude, and the ability to maintain calm in even the most extreme conditions became the defining elements in her survival. Williams is no stranger to adversity. The daughter of Indian and Slovenian immigrants, she broke barriers early in her career by rising to prominence in a male-dominated field. Her indomitable spirit and work ethic have always stood out. She has done spacewalk, she holds the record for the longest single spaceflight by a woman, spending 195 days in space until 2017. Over her career, Williams has accumulated more than 322 days in space, marking her as one of the most experienced female astronauts in history. Sunita Williams approached this life-threatening situation with a mix of grit, hope, and resourcefulness. She immediately got involved in troubleshooting, all the while keeping her own morale high through mental exercises and meditation. Let's hope and pray that the rescue mission succeeds and Sunita along with colleague Butch Wilmore reaches home safely and is united with her family. This mission is also a lesson and learning for NASA and its contractors to ensure zero tolerance for any glitches and snags in their operations.

failures. Yet, if there was one person equipped to face such adversity, it was Sunita Williams. Her resilience, mental fortitude, and the ability to maintain calm in even the most extreme conditions became the defining elements in her survival. Williams is no stranger to adversity. The daughter of Indian and Slovenian immigrants, she broke barriers early in her career by rising to prominence in a male-dominated field. Her indomitable spirit and work ethic have always stood out. She has done spacewalk, she holds the record for the longest single spaceflight by a woman, spending 195 days in space until 2017. Over her career, Williams has accumulated more than 322 days in space, marking her as one of the most experienced female astronauts in history. Sunita Williams approached this life-threatening situation with a mix of grit, hope, and resourcefulness. She immediately got involved in troubleshooting, all the while keeping her own morale high through mental exercises and meditation. Let's hope and pray that the rescue mission succeeds and Sunita along with colleague Butch Wilmore reaches home safely and is united with her family. This mission is also a lesson and learning for NASA and its contractors to ensure zero tolerance for any glitches and snags in their operations.

PICTALK



Artists perform 'Mahishasur Mardini' act ahead of Durga Puja festival, in Nadia district

Transforming India through 'Make in India'



PIUSH GOYAL

The 'Make in India' initiative has completed 10 years of transformative impact. PM Modi's vision has ignited a revival in manufacturing and spurred job creation

On September 25, the country observed 10 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's game-changing 'Make in India' initiative that is transforming India's industrial landscape by encouraging job-creating investments and giving many ordinary citizens the confidence to become wealth creators. It's been a remarkable 10-year journey, which gave renewed vigour to industrial sectors turning these into engines of growth, meeting domestic demand as well as contributing to exports. The exciting journey began at a difficult time when domestic investors were despondent because of the policy paralysis and poor governance by the indecisive Congress government.

The economy was down, confidence was shattered, headlines were dominated by a regular dose of corruption scandals, inflation was soaring, interest rates were high and the rupee had an uncertain outlook. To end the feeling of doom and gloom, the Indian voters decisively voted for PM Modi. Our Prime Minister came with a vision for India. He wanted to ensure that India became a global superpower. He wanted India to provide jobs and opportunities to our youth, recognising that manufacturing was critical to India's success story. That is when the PM launched the 'Make in India' initiative. Ten years has been a remarkable journey, but it would not have been possible for the multidimensional and transformative changes done by the Modi government. Initiatives include GST, the Bankruptcy Code and a multitude of other reforms. To improve the ease of doing business, as many as 42,000 compliance requirements were done away with, and 3,700 provisions that provided for criminal penalties for minor offences were removed from various statutes to protect small businesses from harassment.

India sharply improved its rank in the World Bank's Doing Business Report from 142nd in 2014 to 63rd in 2019. The government's Startup India initiative



has encouraged many job seekers to become job creators with the help of Startup India initiative. This has helped the number of recognised startups increase to 1,40,803 in June this year, bringing in investments, and creating more than 15 lakh jobs.

These startups are driving the innovation ecosystem in the country, working on solutions to pressing issues in areas such as sanitation, space navigation, reducing food wastage, improving access to healthcare, and empowering women. The development of 11 Industrial Corridors is another focus area of the Government. 20 industrial smart cities are being developed under the program, which would help make these corridors the backbone of India's manufacturing growth. Four of these smart cities have already become magnets of investment with infrastructure and clearances available for manufacturing units to be set up. Potential investment of Rs 1.7 lakh crore is already committed which will provide direct employment to 80,000 persons and indirect to many more. The Government's PLI schemes focus on critical sectors such as electronics, pharmaceuticals, automobiles, textiles and medical devices to create the eco-systems in these sectors for sustained growth



MANY COUNTRIES ARE KEEN TO SIGN TRADE DEALS WITH INDIA. THE WORLD IS NOW LOOKING AT INDIA AS A MANUFACTURING DESTINATION. AND THE KEY REASON FOR THIS INTEREST IS INDIA'S COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE AND ROBUST ECONOMIC FUNDAMENTALS

and ensure their global competitiveness. PLI schemes have resulted in Rs 1.32 lakh crore in investment and a significant boost in manufacturing output of around 11 lakh crore. More than 8.5 lakh jobs have been created directly and indirectly through this initiative.

The Prime Minister's initiatives on infrastructure have been another shot in the arm of Indian manufacturing, apart from generating demand for goods and services, infrastructure development is a major facilitator of industrial activity. Today, India has a huge, and growing, network of expressways and highways. New, world-class railway stations are being built, while new freight corridors are coming up. India is increasingly being seen as a very attractive destination for investment. The country provides the 4D advantage - The decisive leadership of PM Modi; the Demographic dividend of our youthful, talented, skilled Indians; the Demand that 140 crore Indians generate in the economy; and Democracy that ensures the safety and security of investors, and the rule of law which will never allow discrimination against one or the other. The 4-D is a very, very compelling case to attract manufacturers to India. Domestic and international investors today find a golden

opportunity to grow their business. There is a flurry of activity in the investor community. A series of delegations is visiting India, hungry for opportunities to invest and participate in the Indian growth story. Foreign governments and global CEOs are keenly eyeing opportunities in India. Many countries are keen to sign trade deals with India.

The world is now looking at India as a manufacturing destination. And the key reason for this interest is India's competitive advantage and robust economic fundamentals. Today, inflation is under control, economic growth is strong and the Modi government is following strict fiscal discipline. This is all the more commendable in the current global situation marred by conflict and uncertainty. The initiatives of PM Modi have helped India rise from the unenviable situation of being regarded as one of the "Fragile Five" in the world in 2014, to being one of the Top Five in the world. In effect, PM Modi's initiatives like Make in India have contributed to making the last 10 years a transformational decade - a quantum jump over the lost decade of Congress rule.

(The writer is Minister of Commerce and Industry; views expressed are personal)

Breaking life into small steps for lasting fulfillment

Happiness is actually the most important project of life. True contentment comes from savouring each step, no matter how small

Happiness is the most important project of life. It should be broken up into smaller activities to attain the eventual goal. The only time that we probably understand this is in our childhood. As a child, I had intuitively learned the art of allocating the hours of the day for various activities, like waking up, getting ready and spending time in school, having lunch on return, completing homework, going out to play, returning for dinner, and going to bed. We lived in the present from one hour to the next. I was a satisfied and happy person as I could complete the 'Project Day'. We did not have the need or the time to look too far into the future. As we outgrew childhood, we forgot the lessons learned.

I joined college. Like others, I too started making grand resolutions on the first day of the year. My resolution could be as mundane as losing the 15 kgs within the first three months, which had taken me a year to gain. It could also be an important resolution to secure 90 per cent marks in my semester examinations, a substantial



improvement over the 60 per cent in the previous one. Each resolution would fly out of the window within the first few months. I had forgotten to take small steps to reach the end destination. Things did not improve even after I started working. I found a new toy - a 'To Do List'. A diary would be earmarked for this most important ritual.

I would start with one such list and continue adding till I had inked the second or third page with only a few activities completed. I would give up, and start all over again. The previous year's diary was promptly destroyed lest anyone glanced into it and called my bluff. This continued for a few years till I discovered the computer. I could delete these pending activities at will, with

no one any wiser to my shenanigans. I was fooling only myself. I quit my railway job to join a government company working in the execution of construction projects. I was exposed to software-based project management tools for the first time. I reluctantly spent weeks with the consultant to develop an activity-based project breakdown structure. He educated us about the importance of breaking each activity into smaller sub-activities. We were reluctant to accept that more activities to monitor would result in successful and timely completion. He was not satisfied with the first draft of less than 100 activities. He was a tough taskmaster. We marched on, to our ever-increasing despair, and his impatience, till we

called it quits after we had reached 1000 odd activities. It was a revelation to me. I now appreciated the time that my wife spent planning the daily household chores. The exercise in project management also brought into stark focus all the wrong I was doing while making my New Year resolutions and the To-Do Lists, and more importantly, living my life.

I now understand why we remain unhappy most of the time. We forget to derive joy out of each step that we take, however small it may be. The young of today are far more mature. Hina Khan, a young actor, recently diagnosed with cancer, is a courageous woman fighting all that life has to throw at her. Her thoughts are the most inspiring words I have read in some time, "First normalise the challenges of your lives then set goals for yourself and try to live up to them all along the way. No matter how hard. Never back down. Never give up."

(The author is an electrical engineer with the Indian Railways and conducts classes in creative writing; views are personal)



SANJAY CHANDRA

QUAD STRENGTHENS INDIA'S ROLE

Madam — China's aggressive posture has consistently threatened peace in the Indo-Pacific region. India, has faced quite a few challenges from the latter. It is a matter of pride that New Delhi is looked upon by other countries to be their firm partner on global platforms to tackle Beijing's economic and military prowess. Specifically, the Asia-Pacific region was described as Indo-Pacific to denote India's increasingly active involvement in the region. The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) is one international forum that glues the four friendly nations—the United States, Japan, Australia and India—together. All these nations are keen to usher in a free and open Indo-Pacific region, diminishing the influence of a marauding Beijing. The four have been able to sustain a momentum that no country can ignore. In the fourth in-person Quad summit at US' Wilmington, leaders of the four countries underlined the importance of shared democratic values that have kept them together. Issues of health, security, climate change, capacity building and technology occupied the leaders' attention. More importantly, India is emerging as a 'leader' of the four, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi has proposed to host the next year's summit in New Delhi in 2025. It can only grow stronger from here.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

TOP COURT REJECTS GUJARAT PLEA

Madam — The Supreme Court has dismissed a plea filed by the Gujarat government seeking a review of the court's verdict, which contained certain observations against the State while quashing the remission granted to 11 men convicted of raping Bilkis Bano and murdering seven of her family during the 2002 riots. Having carefully gone through the review petitions, the order under challenge and the papers annexed therewith, the judges were satisfied

Durga Puja has transformed



This is in response to the article titled "A symphony of tradition and transformation" (September 29). In the mid-1980s, Durga Puja used to get celebrated with utmost devotion according to rituals with dominance of Bhakti encompassing both the organisers and public. Only on Saptami morning, we used to get awakened by the rhythmic beats of Dhak, all puja rituals used to

commence with rendition of Sanskrit mantras and people used to start flocking to the pandals. But in last 4 decades all things associated with Durga Puja have undergone a sea change! Far from commencing the Puja on Saptami morning, many pandals and idols now open up for public "consumption" right from the Mahalaya itself thereby "promoting" 4-day Puja to a "modern" 10-day extravaganza! After all majority of these "glamorous" Puja committees do not care to actually offer homage to it through rituals mantras holy hymns or flowers! Durga Puja of today is nothing but a fashion show of sorts with exhibition of flexing muscles - be it monetary might or trophies garnered!

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

that there is no error apparent on the face of the record or any merit in the review petitions, warranting reconsideration of the order impugned. The review petitions are, accordingly, dismissed and it is a landmark decision. The Gujarat government in its plea had said the apex court's observation in the January 8 judgement, holding the State guilty of "usurpation of power" and abuse of discretion" for complying with an order of another top court bench, was an "error apparent on the face of the record" primarily on three grounds.

CK Subramani | Kerala

TOURISM EDUCATION EMPOWERMENT

Madam — Tourism plays a pivotal role in the global economy acting as a bridge between cultures and fostering economic growth in various regions. It contributes approximately 10 per cent to the world's GDP and generates millions of employment opportunities, especially in rural and less developed areas.

By integrating tourism studies into academic curricula, institutions can equip students with essential skills in areas such as sustainable tourism practices, travel management and hospitality management.

This education not only prepares students for diverse career opportunities but also fosters a deeper understanding of how to balance tourism's economic benefits with environmental sustainability and cultural preservation. Promoting tourism education in colleges cultivates a new generation ready to take the bull by the horns, driving innovation while advocating for responsible tourism practices that balance economic growth with social and environmental accountability. Moreover, it supports regional development by teaching students how to effectively market and manage local attractions thereby preserving cultural heritage while boosting local economies.

Tanisha Gupta | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

HARNESSING INNER POTENTIAL

The human mind is still an enigma. It has enormous potential and is a reservoir of energy



RAVI VALLURI

His alcoholism became a quotidian habit. Dharmendra was making a last-ditch effort as he boarded a flight from Jaipur to the Art of Living Ashram in Bangalore. Fortuitously, Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar had given him an appointment at 4 PM that evening. Stinking of liquor, and reeking of stale cigarettes, with an unsteady gait he landed at Bangalore airport. He needed a physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional, parachute. Only a 'Master' through grace could provide such a life support system. For some time, my friend was trying to seek redemption from the lethal disease of alcoholism. My inventory list was prepared: join a rehab, attend Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, and undertake the Happiness Programme of the Art of Living.

Gurudev advanced the appointment to 11 AM., and after one glance asked my friend to get admitted to the Ayurveda Hospital in the Ashram for a complete detoxification of body, mind, and soul, and after a 15-day rehab to undergo the Happiness Programme. The Guru had scripted a change in the life of Dharmendra, it was for his mind to grab the opportunity. But the monkey mind invented an excuse and Dharmendra left the Ayurveda Hospital and once again indulged in brinkmanship.

He could not draw the redlines or flag the issues confronting his mind and succumbed to temptation. While the brain is an organ that serves as the centre of the nervous system, the mind is the faculty of consciousness and thoughts. It is an individual's intellect, memory or attention span and will, whose potential needs to be enhanced or live in the past. Such individuals are unable to break the patterns and barriers of their comfort zone. Their prana levels



are exceedingly low and the pendulum of their mind's swings to the past. The moot question is how we use this enormous energy. If we look at the brighter aspects of life, such mental imagery works miraculously. Over some time the mind feels blessed, gains in abundance and becomes grateful. This is what Masters refers to as the

Law of Attraction

The Law of Attraction remains an illusion if it is not in conjunction with the Law of Gratitude. Both these laws operate in tandem and will fuel inner potential to harness growth leading to robust minds. Low and the pendulum of their minds swings to the past. They carry the burden of the past and attempt a course correction without any professional help (Guru) displaying false bravado in their imaginary worlds. They invariably try to also change the behavioural patterns of those close to them, essentially to market their point of view. Such minds invariably resort to shortcuts in life, trying to please everyone without any success. Ignoring the larger picture, this is a cunning and selfish mind, which does not trust anyone: basically, short of confidence and haunted by fear. The human mind is an enigma. It has enormous potential and is a reservoir of energy. The moot question is how we use this enormous energy. If we look at the brighter aspects of life, such mental imagery works miraculously. Over some time the mind feels blessed, gains in abundance and becomes grateful. Positive thoughts beget positivity and have a spiralling effect. The jigsaw puzzle of life gets sorted out. This is what Masters refer to as the Law of Attraction. The Law of Attraction remains an illusion if it is not in conjunction with the Law of Gratitude. Both these laws operate in tandem.

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)

Can India become a manufacturing hub?



UTTAM GUPTA

Growth is driven by strong domestic demand, export potential, government infrastructure efforts, private sector investment, and initiatives like 'Make in India'



According to a Study Report by IDBI Capital, India is set to add US\$ 1 trillion to its gross domestic product (GDP) every 18 months over the next six years. It goes on to say that "with this momentum, the country is on track to become a US\$ 10 trillion economy positioning itself as the world's third-largest economy by 2030". Currently, India has a GDP of US\$ 4 trillion. The report has also highlighted that "India's accelerated growth will be driven primarily by the manufacturing sector, which is projected to contribute 32 per cent to the incremental Gross Value Added (GVA)". It adds "India will overtake the top five economies in manufacturing IIP (Index of Industrial Production) viz. US, China, Germany, South Korea and Japan..."

Manufacturing essentially involves the production of a wide spectrum of consumer products, industrial machinery and so on. It is the most important component of Industrial activity at a broader level which also includes Construction (primarily building infrastructure); Logistics (transportation and storage of goods); Aerospace (aircraft and spacecraft etc) and maintenance and services required to support industrial activities. The contribution of the Industrial sector to India's GDP is around 30 per cent of which manufacturing alone is 17 per cent. The share of Agriculture and allied activities in GDP is around 18 per cent. The remaining 52 per cent comes from the Services sector (SS).

The SS encompasses 'intangible' services such as education, health, entertainment, hospitality and tourism, banking, insurance and so on. While, all three sectors play a crucial role in growth, creating jobs and increasing incomes, manufacturing can provide a more sustainable basis for providing jobs and surety of income. This is in sharp contrast to agriculture which is fundamentally a seasonal activity and economic fortunes are largely tied to how monsoon pans out. Manufacturing can also provide a good buffer for absorbing the excess workforce from agriculture with positive spin-offs even for the latter in terms of higher productivity and income. Within the manufacturing sector, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) occupy a pivotal position. The



WHILE, ALL THREE SECTORS PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN GROWTH, CREATING JOBS AND INCREASING INCOMES, MANUFACTURING CAN PROVIDE A MORE SUSTAINABLE BASIS FOR PROVIDING JOBS AND SURETY OF INCOME

MSMEs are ancillary units engaged in the production, manufacturing and processing of goods and commodities (mostly intermediate goods) which are supplied to large enterprises or master units. These units operate on a small scale and are further categorized into micro, small and medium enterprises depending on the 'investment' and 'turnover' threshold. According to the Ministry of Statistics & Program Implementation, the share of MSME manufacturing output in all India Manufacturing output is around 36 per cent. The share of export of MSME-specified products in all India exports has oscillated between 44 - 50 per cent during the last couple of years. As for employment, according to a report released by the McKinsey Global Institute (MGI), MSMEs in India contribute 62 per cent to the total. Yet, in the past, manufacturing hasn't been given the desired push. Its low contribution of 17 per cent in GDP and even lower share of total employment at about 10 per cent says it all.

Now, India aiming at the generation of 32 per cent of the incremental GVA from manufacturing shows its determination to put in the effort during the next six years or so, which is nearly double what it has done cumulatively to date. At this pace, by 2030, the share of manufacturing in GDP will have reached 26 per cent $(4x0.17+6x0.32)/10$.

Is it doable?

The factors that can make it happen are robust domestic demand; strong export potential; heavy lifting by the Central Government (full support to States) by building infrastructure; increasing investment by the private sector; key initiatives such as "Make in India" playing a pivotal role in bolstering the country's manufacturing capabilities underpinned by the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes; India taking up a lead role in recalibrating global supply chains to position the country

as a global manufacturing hub; giving a boost to the micro small and medium enterprises (MSME) and so on. Nearly 70 per cent of India's GDP is driven by domestic consumption; Stimulating demand holds the key to putting manufacturing on an 'accelerated' and 'sustained' growth trajectory. For this, not only people's income should grow, but it should also be evenly and widely distributed. What do the facts speak? According to an Oxfam report, 'Inequality Kills', the collective wealth of India's 100 richest people in 2021 hit a record high of US\$ 775 billion or over 25 per cent of India's GDP. This shows the extreme inequalities in the distribution of income and wealth. There are other pointers to confirm that this is indeed so. According to an analysis of the financials of India's largest companies - those comprising the BSE 500 index - over five years, the profits of corporations included in this index more than doubled from Rs 480,000 crore during 2017-18 to Rs 1000,000 crore during 2021-22, whereas their revenue growth was only 47 per cent.

This means that payments to factors of production other than the owners of capital such as to employees/workers, etc., have been kept under a tight leash, resulting in a disproportionate boost to profits. The aggregate dividend paid by these firms increased from Rs 176,000 crore during 2017-18 to Rs 302,000 crore during 2021-22, which is an increase of 72 per cent. In those five years, cumulatively, they paid 34 per cent of aggregate net profit as dividends. This is an unusually high payout ratio - even higher than 30 per cent paid by the world's largest companies in America's S&P 500.

The products made in India need to be priced low if they are to be competitive. But, there are three major reasons as to why prices are downward inflexible. First, several big businesses operating in metals

such as copper, zinc, aluminium or hydrocarbons like oil and gas, enjoy a natural monopoly enabling them to set high prices. Firms in the chemical, petrochemicals, pharmaceutical and agrochemicals sectors also charge more courtesy, high tariffs on imports and licensing and registration requirements. Second, you have the impact of high taxation particularly when it comes to petroleum products. These are taxed under the pre-GST regime leading to the high incidence of 80 per cent of the ex-refinery price of petrol (Delhi). Ditto in the case of diesel. Increasing the cost of the movement of goods raises the cost of almost every manufactured item. Third, how can one be oblivious of the exorbitant power tariff set in double digits in many states? The power distribution companies or discoms (mostly owned and controlled by the States) are forced to charge high rates on supplies to industries as they have to make up for the under-recoveries incurred on supplies to farmers and households, either free or at a heavily subsidized price.

Finally, industries are operating in highly interesting environments. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has kept the policy rate (the interest rate at which it lends money to banks) unchanged at a high of 6.5 per cent along with a 'withdrawal of accommodation' stance (a jargon for tight liquidity) for nearly 20 months. This leads to high cost loans to all industries across the board. The MSMEs are more vulnerable to all the above cost-push factors. To add salt to the injury, they get delayed payment for their dues from large firms. Unless the above fault lines are addressed, Initiatives under "Make in India" won't yield the desired result and India becoming a manufacturing hub of the world will remain a distant dream.

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

India's education system must prioritise learning over infrastructure

Despite schools being filled with students, foundational skills like basic literacy and numeracy continue to lag

Since gaining independence, India has made significant strides in the field of education, especially in terms of infrastructure and expanding access to schools. Classrooms now accommodate children from all walks of life, and government initiatives have succeeded in bringing millions of students into the education system.



ASHU KAPOOR

However, despite these achievements, a critical component remains neglected—the quality of learning. Infrastructure may be flourishing, but the foundational skills that students require for future success often lag behind. To understand this, imagine a farmer who diligently sows seeds in well-tilled soil, only to find the harvest insufficient because the seeds weren't suit-

ed to the soil. In the same way, India's educational progress in infrastructure is commendable, but the students' foundational skills—the seeds of education—are still not producing the robust results we hope for. Year after year, surveys like the National Status of Education Report (ASER) and the National Achievement Survey (NAS) reveal a startling reality: a large proportion of students struggle with essential

skills like basic literacy and numeracy. These are the building blocks of education, without which the entire edifice remains shaky. Students are spending years in school, but many are not learning at the expected level. The alarming gap between schooling and actual learning points to a crucial flaw in the system. If foundational skills are not nurtured early on, the benefits of educational progress will remain elusive, much like the farmer's poor harvest.

The introduction of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 brings a renewed sense of hope. It promises transformative change and a shift towards a system that values not just access to education but the quality of learning. Together with the National Curriculum Framework for Foundational and School Education, NEP 2020 emphasizes the need to measure educational progress through well-designed assessments and to tailor interventions accordingly. The goal is clear: to raise a generation of learners who are not only equipped with knowledge but also the critical thinking skills required to thrive in the modern world. Research consistently shows that assessments play a transformative role in improving education. Their primary goal is not to rank students or schools but to provide insights into where learners stand on their educational journey. By identifying what students know and can do at individual, school, and

system levels, assessments offer a roadmap for educators to develop targeted interventions that can address specific learning gaps.

In the quest to transform learning, large-scale assessments like ASER and NAS will be pivotal. ASER, a household-based survey, provides insights into basic literacy and numeracy skills, while NAS offers a broader view of students' achievement of curricular outcomes. Recently, the State Educational Achievement Survey (SEAS) was conducted by NCERT to provide state-level insights into educational progress. Simply generating report cards on students' performance is not enough. The data must be used to inform policy decisions and to implement specific

interventions aimed at improving learning outcomes. If not, students will continue to face the same challenges year after year, with little improvement. Large-scale assessments should be seen as the first step in a larger strategy to address educational inequities.

While NAS offers a broad overview of the education system, state-level assessment surveys (SAS) have the potential to zoom in on specific issues at the school level. NEP 2020 recognizes the importance of these surveys and recommends that each state conduct its own census-based assessment to drive continuous improvement. By focusing on local contexts, SAS can provide valuable insights into the unique challenges faced by

individual states, enabling more targeted interventions. However, the effectiveness of SAS depends on how well states define their objectives. To make SAS truly impactful, states need to align their assessment frameworks with clear objectives. A well-designed assessment should consider the needs of the educational system at the state level, and the data collected should be used to support and improve schools, rather than ranking them. India's states would do well to ensure that all stakeholders in the education system—teachers, school administrators, and district-level educators—are trained in data use and analysis. The road ahead is challenging, but the promise of census-based state assessments is

transformative. By monitoring student progress and providing data-driven insights, SAS can reshape India's educational landscape. When combined with national-level assessments like NAS, SAS has the power to create a more responsive, equitable education system. With a strategic approach and strong governance, India can ensure that every student has the opportunity to thrive.

The writer is a Research Fellow at Australian Council for Educational Research (India) and a former Senior Academic Consultant at NCERT and Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India. Views are personal. Inputs by Dr Priyanka Sharma, Director ACER (India)

'QUEEN OF NEGATIVE ROLES' WITH A HEART FOR WELFARE

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Regardless of the character or the story, an antagonist does play a major role to make the story intriguing. In this world of villains and vamps, Jaya Bhattacharya is a sassy demeanour, not just on-screen but also off-screen with her quick-witted aura. While films like *Devdas*, *Ek Vivaah Aisa Bhi* or *Mimi* have seen her in diverse characters, her television shows have highlighted her prowess in bringing out something new and fresh in her negative roles.

A much-celebrated actress and a sweetheart by nature, *The Pioneer* brings her onboard for an exclusive chat and here she begins, "My journey has been wonderful with a little bit of ups and downs, down the hill; not the canyons, not the Everest. But yes, see, that is also very important to keep everybody in check and focused. If everything is always hunky dory, we would never appreciate the ups. I appreciate whatever, wherever and however I have reached, taken my little dip and with my own perseverance and willpower"

Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi was the first show that one saw her playing a negative character, Payal. And guess what? She had herself never envisioned playing a negative character. Well, who even would? "That is certainly not my nature, I was very timid before I had played the character," she harks back on. Just as they say, 'As you get the power, things change' and that's what had happened with her too. "*Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi* was supposed to be the fire starter and was supposed to be a cameo. Thankfully, it clicked and I played that character for 8 years." Isn't that amazing, like literally! "For that, the preparations I did was just being the puppet of my director's hands to suggest what we could do. A lot of help actually came in from my learning of dance and music. Dance automatically got my eyebrows up and things worked out well. My dialogues has always been commanded by the music I learned. Most Bengalis speak in a little tune. Even when I'm speaking now, it all goes in music. So whenever I give a *gali* also, it always is musical (we laugh out loud). It was quite fun actually. Doing this show, my on screen image, that strong negative image came very handy. Not just professionally but also personally, I got to start doing animal welfare work. I also got a lot of films. I got *Devdas*, *Hindustan Ki Kasam* and *Lajja*."

Now here she is, she's seen playing the character of Urmila in her latest show *Chhathi Maiyaa Ki Bitiya* in Sun Neo. In this, we see her character bringing in different dimensions and that was what made her say a 'yes' to the project. "She is a negative person, by far. She gives a masala also. But then there is also the aspect where she's very sweet, around her stepson. It gives a lot of places for me to play around. I had also done *Thapki Pyaar Ki* with the same production house. So it was like coming back to the same family. Also because it is on a new channel. Then *Imlie* was shutting so why not?" The meaty role that she's got to play in this latest show was a 'no-brainer'. "I am aware that wherever I will go, I'll get good footage."

With negative characters, there's always a sense of fear about playing it. However, the *Delhi Crime* fame says, "I was put into this bracket because of my character I played *Kyunki*. I became such a huge success that I was labelled that I am going to be a negative character only. And sadly, whoever or whichever character I was



being offered after that for many years, were all similar characters. They had already had it in mind that they are not going to be deviating from that path. They are not going to be experimenting with anything else. I kept on doing it for some time. Obviously, we are required to be working. So we actors do some projects to make money, we do some projects to fulfill the requirements of our soul, experiment on our acting skills and give something different to the audience to watch and appreciate also."

But then came a time when, "I felt very restricted and I started questioning my ability because I was not allowed to come out of the box. I stopped doing work for about 7 years. I was working behind the camera. I was working with Siddharth Nagar, my Rakhi brother. Since 1993, he's been a producer. So, I was writing. I was doing the costumes. I was doing the art decor. I was hanging every very thing almost. I also produced a show for Doordarshan, but there was a back stabbing so I myself went ahead and closed the showdown. My motto has never been only to mint money. Giving something good and a good thought is also very important according to me. I take it very seriously that whatever story, be it for theatre, film, anything, there is a moral attached to it and that should be conveyed to the audience."

After the 7 years of hiatus, she landed another antagonist, a different negative role in the show *Ganga*, where she played a strict widow, a strong woman because she was looking after all the other widow ladies and children who are widowed. "I had a variety. The whole panorama of that particular character of the series was so very brilliant and I'm grateful that I got that particular character. The journey goes on and I get very many roles to play. I did *Delhi Crime* season 1. I am going to be doing *Delhi Crime* season 3. I'm super excited about it," says the *Jigyasa* star, who further highlights, "It's important to bring diversity everytime on-screen. It's always a challenge when you are allowed to explore something, then you make the best use of it."

But then came a point when reports started claiming her to be 'penniless' and 'pleading for work in order to earn some money'. Recalling of those times, she shares with us, "When the post came out that I was penniless, bankrupt, I was not. I certainly was not. Indeed, Yes, There have been times where I have been penniless. During the lockdown, my bank account was 0 and I was laughing. That was the point where I asked my father to allow me to use his savings that he had received in pensions in the form of pensions, which he never touched. I asked my father to allow me to utilise that money to share rations with needy people. I am that stronger person and I come from that lineage. That is what I did when I was penniless, actually. During that time, not only was I helping out human beings, I also went to the area to distribute rations, even at the red light areas to people who had retired, the needy's at the railway stations and more. There were various other organisations who made a fool out of me also."

Not that she's stopped the cause in any way because she runs the NGO Thank You Earth for the last 5 years now that takes in injured and ill animals. However, getting the right amount of funds have been a task.

"I don't want to keep asking people to help me with funds. I'm just grateful that I keep getting work because I wish to have a huge parcel of land where I can make my own 24/7 hospital. I would like to make a proper animal friendly hotel, along with our hospital which will work free of cost for the needy."



Bohemian designs elevating your minimalist aesthetics

A mixture of bohemian and minimalist designs can result in a harmoniously balanced space, despite their apparent differences. The simplicity of minimalism offers a great contrast to the intricate details and rustic colors of Bohemian decor.

By merging the simplicity of minimalism with the warmth and vibrancy of Boho elements, you can create a balanced space that exudes tranquility and personality. Through a combination of carefully choosing diverse accessories and layering natural elements, this blend of styles creates a distinct and welcoming home atmosphere that embodies both tranquility and innovation.

Bohemian design can beautifully complement a minimalist aesthetic in several ways:

- **Adding texture and depth:** Bohemian elements like vintage rugs, macrame wall hangings and woven baskets bring texture and visual interest to a minimalist space.

- **Introducing natural elements:** Bohemian style often incorporates natural elements like plants, branches, and stones, which can add warmth and coziness to a minimalist space.

- **Creating a cozy atmosphere:** Lighting, such as candles and lanterns, can create a warm and inviting ambiance in a minimalist space.

- **Incorporating statement pieces:** Bohemian decor often features unique, eye-catching pieces like colourful artwork, vintage furniture, or eclectic accessories, which can add per-

sonality to a minimalist space.

- **Embracing imperfection:** Bohemian style celebrates imperfection and uniqueness, which can help balance out the clean lines and simplicity of a minimalist aesthetic. It celebrates individuality and self-expression, allowing people to add personality to their space.

- **Need for visual interest:** Bohemian decor adds depth, texture and visual interest to a minimalist space, preventing it from feeling too sterile or empty.

- **Interest in sustainability:** Bohemian style often incorporates vintage, repurposed, or second-hand items, aligning with the growing interest in sustainable living.

- **Desire for a sense of adventure:** Bohemian design can evoke a sense of travel, exploration and adventure, adding a layer of excitement to a minimalist space.

- **Reaction against mass-produced decor:** Bohemian style rejects mass-produced, generic decor, allowing people to create a truly one-of-a-kind space.

- **Seeking a sense of community:** Bohemian design often incorporates elements from different cultures and traditions, fostering a sense of connection and community.

- **Embracing imperfection:** Bohemian style celebrates imperfection and uniqueness, allowing people to embrace the beauty of imperfection in their homes.

(The author, Tushar Joshi, is the founder of Utkarsh Vastukaran.)

RAISE YOUR GLASS AND EXPECTATIONS!

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On the inauguration evening of Diageo's X Series, the party scene has transitioned from whisky-on-the-rocks to cocktails-on-the-wildside, with everyone—from Gen Z to seasoned millennials seeking a fresher sip of life. The rise of the "cocktail culture" has become the new status symbol, with the latest concoctions focusing on boldness, experimentation and just plain fun.

Imagine a berry festival happening in your mouth. The combination of house vanilla and Italian lemon adds a touch of sophistication, but let's be honest—you're here for that raspberry zing that keeps you sipping for more. It's sweet, it's tart; it's like the quirky rom-com of cocktails.

The Unexpected Devil; this one's like inviting a mild-mannered librarian to your party and discovering she moonlights as a salsa dancer. A cilantro garnish just sits there, smirking, knowing full well that this drink packs a punch.

With activated charcoal and jaggery joining forces, it's got a goth look with a golden soul. The lime and grapefruit lift it from being too broody, and with a sprinkle of salt, you'll feel like a moody artist sipping on liquid creativity. It's mysterious yet oddly comforting, just like every late-night existential conversation.

Who needs tomato juice when you can spice things up with some rasam? This is that's come back from an ashram with a fresh twist. A bit desi, a bit daring, and definitely not for the faint-hearted. Sip it slowly, lest you end up doing yoga on the table.

Back to Cuba, Ginger and honey have teamed up to take your taste buds on a nostalgic ride to the golden days of rum cocktails. It's like sitting with a charming old friend who still knows how to party.

What-a-Delightful-Melon! A watermelon in a party mood, this drink is sunshine in a glass. Basically, it's a beach vacation for your senses, even if you're stuck at a crowded bar.

Now about the ambiance, it was nothing short of a sensory spectacle.



Imagine stepping into an art installation that decided cocktails were its muse. Four vibrant booths stood proudly, each wrapped in one of the four primary colours: blue, green, red and yellow. It wasn't just a colour-coded dream, though; each hue had its spirited dedication. If you were hoping

for subtlety, you were in the wrong place. Neon lights bathed everything in an electric glow, turning guests into shadows, silhouettes, and abstract shapes. And just in case you thought this couldn't get more theatrical, a juggler appeared out of nowhere, tossing neon-lit balls in the air like he'd been born to boggle minds at fancy cocktail gatherings.

The entire evening had this mysterious yet slightly absurd vibe, which was only amplified by the inauguration of the Grand X Series. Who knew what we were inaugurating so grandly? Neon lights punctuated the darkness like party punctuation, and suddenly, every cocktail station seemed like an invitation to an exclusive club for the mildly curious and slightly unhinged.

But the best part? Picture this: You hit a bell for a drink (more like smashing the bell in sheer curiosity) and a mysterious hand appears from behind a velvet curtain, holding your cocktail like an offering. You couldn't see the face, and it was all a bit reminiscent of being in some shady alley, except this dark alley offered refreshments, garnished with an elegant orchid petal no less. Honestly, it was like *Alice in Wonderland* meets a speakeasy, complete with neon lights and a sprinkle of "What on earth is happening?"

And so, there we were, sipping mystery drinks from phantom hands, as the juggler spun light into the darkness. If that's not a night well spent, then I don't know what is.

what's brewing?



Shazia bakal



Manju Aggarwal, founder of Amohaa events, organised a movie screening of Jr NTR's latest film *Devara* at Ameerpet in Hyderabad.



Pradeep and Munmun



Ravita



Mamta Jain



Sangeeta Kosuru



Payal Jain



The 2024 International School Sports Organisation (ISSO) National Games Basketball Tournament commenced with great enthusiasm at CHIREC International Schools Serilingampally Campus. The event which will end on October 2, showcases the talents of over 60 teams from across the nation, competing for the championship title. The tournament was inaugurated by Norman Issac, World Technical Delegate and former Commissioner of FIBA.



Actress Seerat Kapoor, along with actor Manas, launched India's first intelligent CUV-MG Windsor EV at the MG showroom in Secunderabad.



KAI India hosted a remarkable solo Odissi dance performance by acclaimed Japanese artist Chigusa Kamamasu at Triveni Kala Sangam. This enchanting event was part of the Japan Month celebrations, aimed at promoting cultural exchange and deepening ties between India and Japan through the rich traditions of Odissi dance. The evening attracted a diverse audience eager to witness Chigusa's unique artistry, which beautifully blended her Japanese background with the elegance and spirituality of Indian classical dance. The evening was graced by Chief Guest Amitabh Kant, an IAS officer, India's G20 Sherpa and former CEO of Niti Aayog, along with Gurumata Sharon Lowen and other guests. The event not only celebrated the beauty of Odissi but also deepened the understanding of the cultural ties that connect India and Japan.



The two-day 11th International Annual Conference of The Fertility Preservation Society of India, Fertiprotect 2024, a global event dedicated to addressing cutting-edge advancements in fertility preservation, was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Dr B. Bhaskar Rao, Chairman & Managing Director, KIMS Group of Hospitals at Taj Vivanta. The conference brought together the world's leading experts in reproductive medicine, in particular fertility preservation, oncology and embryology.



Indian actress and TV show host, Suma Kanakala, marked her presence at the opening of V Nourish Yourhealth's clinical nutrition center in collaboration with Nuegut by DesiNutri. The event was also attended by IRS Commissioner of GST Mr. Chandrashekar Reddy and CEO of Nutrihub at IIMR, Dayakar Rao.



The Mass Communication department of Loyola Academy in Hyderabad, concluded its two-day photography festival, Lenzcape 2024. With a theme of Reminiscence: A Sense of Nostalgia, with a sub-theme on Fashion Photography, the event provided students with an invaluable platform to showcase their skills, learn from industry experts and engage in creative discussions. The event was inaugurated by Principal Fr. Dr. N.B. Babu SJ, alongside Vice Principal of Arts and Science Fr. Prabhu SJ and Dean of Arts Dr. Swaralipi.



Building on its glorious legacy of thirteen successful seasons, IFP (Formerly India Film Project), Creativity X Culture, is gearing up to return with its eagerly awaited fourteenth edition on October 12 and 13.



11-year-old Kalasha Naidu, from Andhra Pradesh, has been awarded the Asia Icon 2024 award from Colombo Governor Senthil during the Asia Icon Awards ceremony held in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Maithripala Sirisena, Former President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, personally attended this event.

FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



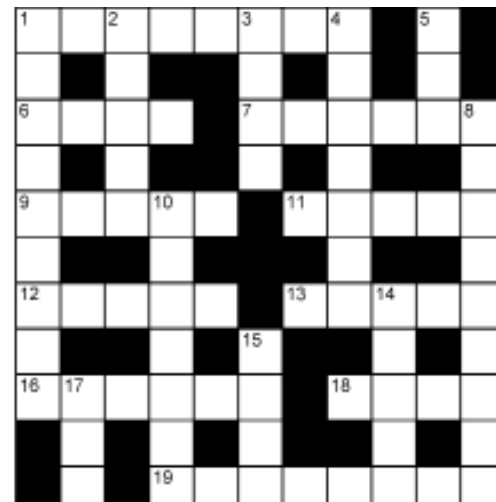
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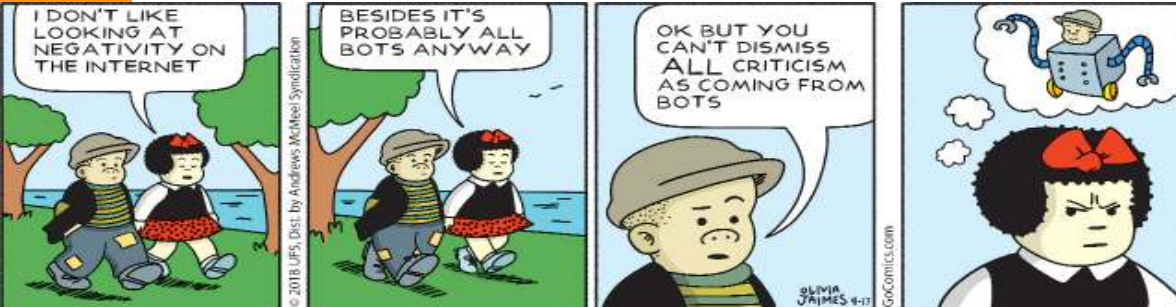
SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



NANCY



SUDOKU



Yesterday's solution
 6 9 3 8 2 1 7 5 4
 7 2 8 4 3 5 1 6 9
 1 4 5 7 9 6 3 8 2
 2 1 9 6 4 3 8 7 5
 5 7 6 9 1 8 2 4 3
 8 3 4 2 5 7 6 9 1
 3 8 1 5 6 4 9 2 7
 4 6 2 3 7 9 5 1 8
 9 5 7 1 8 2 4 3 6

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

ACROSS

- 1 Worth lots of money
- 6 A short letter
- 7 Tasting very sour
- 9 Vapour from boiling water
- 11 Pain caused by a muscle tightening suddenly
- 12 From Ireland
- 13 A kind of snake
- 16 Athens is the capital of this country
- 18 Become weary
- 19 People in the army

DOWN

- 1 Disappearing
- 2 A measure of liquid

SOLUTION



GINGER MEGGS



Satyam Sundaram: Classic portrayal of love

SURESH KAVIRAYANI
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Director C. Prem Kumar, who previously made the hit Tamil film 96, an emotional love story that took place in a single night, has returned nearly six years later with *Satyam Sundaram*, starring Karthi and Aravind Swamy in the lead roles. Similar to his earlier work, the story of this film also unfolds over one night. Produced by Suriya and Jyothika, the promotional videos of this movie were intriguing. This is the dubbed version of *Meiyazhagan*, with the Tamil version which was released on September 27 and the Telugu version a day later.

STORY

Sathyam (Aravind Swamy) is settled in Vizag with his parents, wife (Divyadarshini) and daughter. His native place is Uddandarayunipalem, but during his teenage years, his father lost their house due to fraud committed by relatives, forcing the family to move to Vizag. Despite being settled, Sathyam cherishes memories of his native village, the people and his old house. When Sathyam receives a wedding invitation from his cousin's sister, he reluctantly decides to

attend, planning only to gift his sister and return immediately. However, at the wedding, a mysterious person (Karthi) encounters him, calling him "bava" and showering him with affection. Sathyam is baffled he doesn't recognise this man nor knows his name. Who is this mysterious person and how does he change Sathyam's perspective? The crux of the story lies in Sathyam's journey of finally recognising him.

ANALYSIS

C Prem Kumar's earlier film 96 was an emotional love story centered around a 22-year reunion of the '96 batch students, creating a sense of nostalgia for the audience and achieving great success. In *Satyam Sundaram*, Prem Kumar brings the audience back to their roots, this time focusing on the emotions shared between two men. After watching the film, audiences will feel nostalgia akin to 96. The story revolves around a family that left their village due to the betrayal of relatives. Rather than fight or blame, they shifted to Vizag. Sathyam, though now settled in Vizag, remains haunted by memories of his native village. When he attends a wedding there, a mysterious person warmly welcomes him. Initially, Sathyam intends to catch the last bus back but ends up staying longer due to the affection shown by this stranger. The story turns emotional



Cast: Karthi, Aravind Swamy, Sri Divya, Devadarshini, Raj Kiran, Jayaprakash and others
Music: Govind Vasantha
Cinematography: Mahendran Jayaraj
Producers: Jyothika-Suriya
Writer and Director: C Prem Kumar
Rating: 3.5/5

as Sathyam tries, yet struggles, to discover this person's identity.

The film begins by showing why Sathyam left the village during his teenage years and some of his lingering memories. Unlike a typical commercial film with songs, dances, or action drama, *Satyam*

Sundaram is a deeply emotional narrative about two individuals. The wedding scenes, how people talk, eat and behave are portrayed realistically and these scenes will resonate with anyone who has experienced similar family gatherings. Despite its nearly three-hour runtime, the film

doesn't feel long; it moves at an engrossing pace. Full credit goes to the director for his storytelling, with scenes that are both authentic and emotionally touching. The moment where Sathyam gifts his sister is particularly poignant.

In the second half, the story shifts to Karthi's house, introducing several humorous yet emotional moments. The cycle episode stands out as a highlight, marking the beginning of Sathyam's quest to discover Karthi's name. Creating emotionally rich scenes between two male characters is challenging, but Prem Kumar manages to do so skillfully, keeping the audience intrigued throughout. In fact, the audience is left anxiously waiting to hear Karthi's name, which is cleverly kept a suspense until the end.

One thing is certain: while many Telugu filmmakers often rely on typical commercial elements, Tamil filmmakers like Prem Kumar are bringing innovative storytelling, as seen in *Satyam Sundaram*. There are no songs, forced action sequences, or double entendres just a story that feels real and relatable. It evokes nostalgia, much like reading a cherished novel, and is enriched by stellar performances from the cast.

PERFORMANCE

The lead actors, Aravind Swamy and Karthi, deliver excellent performances.

Aravind Swamy, returning to the screen after a long time, impresses as Sathyam. His expressions in scenes like when Karthi asks him to bless his family members and during the climax when he speaks to Karthi on the phone, are superb. Karthi, a versatile actor known for his work in commercial films, reaches new heights in this role. He fits perfectly into his character and has dubbed his Telugu lines convincingly. Sri Divya is adequate as Karthi's wife, and Devadarshini portrays Sathyam's wife well. The supporting cast also delivers commendable performances. Mahendran Jayaraj's cinematography captures every scene beautifully, while Govind Vasantha's background score breathes life into the film. Most of the technicians from Prem Kumar's film 96 have returned for this one, contributing significantly to its success.

VERDICT

In conclusion, *Satyam Sundaram* is a must-watch film, with full credit going to director Prem Kumar and lead actors Aravind Swamy and Karthi. It's an emotional tale that takes viewers back to their past. The film doesn't feel like a dubbed version, as every Telugu detail, from village names to characters, has been thoughtfully localised. Though the pace of narration may be a bit slow for some, it's worth watching for its rare, heartwarming storytelling.



Free health check-up for all MAA members: Vishnu Manchu

A free health check-up camp was organized on Sunday for all members of the Movie Artists Association (MAA) by President Vishnu Manchu and Vice President Madala Ravi. It was set up in collaboration with GVK Health Hub, and a large number of MAA members participated in this free check-up drive. "Thanks to Dr. Sastry and GVK Health Hub for conducting this free health camp for all MAA members. We are grateful for providing this expensive check-up at no cost. I hope this initiative continues in the future," said MAA President Manchu Vishnu.

Vishnu Manchu has always prioritised the

health of MAA members and health cards have also been issued for their well-being, with a request that everyone makes use of them, said Madala Ravi, Vice President of MAA. He added that this is the fourth comprehensive medical camp for MAA members. "We have also provided free health insurance cards to all MAA members for inpatient treatments in all hospitals," Ravi said.

"Artists often experience high stress, so we are conducting a special master check-up for them. Adequate sleep and attention to spiritual health are also essential," said Dr. Sastry of GVK Health Hub.

Ravi Teja's nephew Madhav impresses with *Mr Idiot* trailer

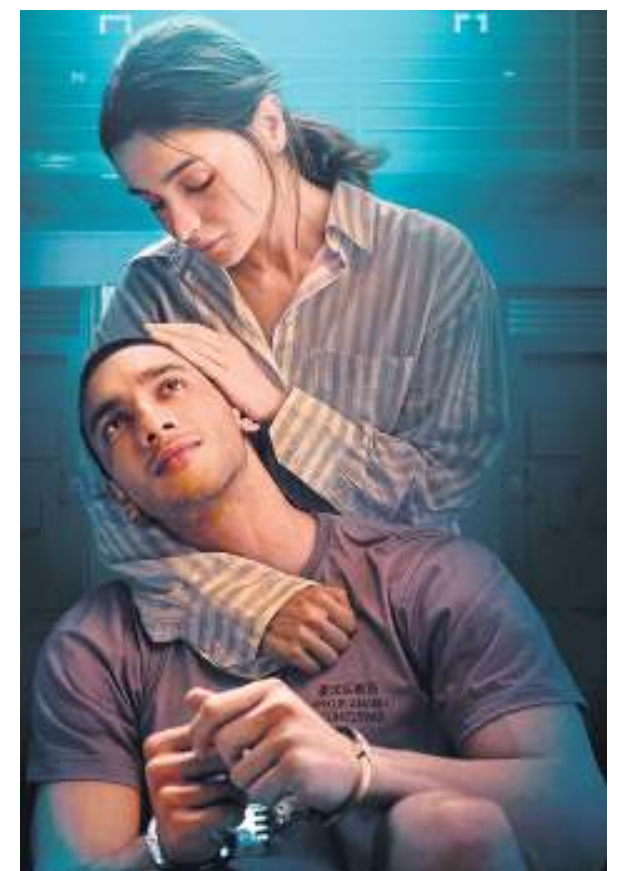
Actor Ravi Teja rose to stardom with the film *Idiot*, directed by Puri Jagannadh. Now, his nephew (his younger brother Raghu's son), Madhav, is set to make his debut as a lead actor with the film *Mr Idiot*. Gowri Ronanki, who previously made her debut as a director with *Pelli Sandadd*, is directing *Mr Idiot*. Simran Sharma plays the female lead and JJR Ravichand is producing the film. Prasanth Varma, the director of *Hanuman* fame, attended the trailer launch as the chief guest.

Lead actor Madhav thanked director Prasanth Varma for attending the trailer launch of his film. "I'm speaking in front of the media for the first time. The movie has been delayed a bit because I wanted to ensure the final output met high standards. We released the trailer and I hope you all like it," said Madhav. He also expressed gratitude to producer Ravichand and his uncle Ravi

Teja for their constant support, adding that they are planning to release the film in November. Anup Rubens is providing the music.

Director Gowri Ronanki stated that the film would be a musical hit. "From the beginning, I told music director Anup that the film needed great music, and he understood our story and delivered excellent compositions," she said.

Prasanth Varma, who attended as the chief guest, said that Ravi Teja has been a guiding force for many in the industry. "I felt it was my responsibility to support Madhav when I was invited to this event. Hearing the title *Mr Idiot* reminded me of the days when I watched Ravi Teja's film *Idiot*," said Prasanth Varma. He praised Madhav after seeing the trailer and his performance in it. "He has acted with a lot of energy and aspires to reach Ravi Teja's level," said Prasanth Varma.



JIGRA GOES TELUGU; RAM CHARAN RELEASES TELUGU TRAILER

Besides Tamil, Malayalam and Kannada films, Hindi films are now also releasing in Telugu. Alia Bhatt, familiar to Telugu audiences through *RRR*, is set to release her upcoming film *Jigra*, also in Telugu. Not only is she the lead actress, but also one of the producers, alongside Karan Johar. Asian Suresh Entertainment is handling the Telugu version's release. Vedang Raina plays Alia's brother in the film, directed by Vasun Bala. Notably, popular actor Rana Daggubati is involved in the Telugu version.

Last week saw the release of the Hindi trailer, and now Ram Charan has unveiled the Telugu trailer on his social media, wishing the team all the best.

"I'm proud to collaborate with the renowned Dharmaproductions in bringing this film to the Telugu audience. *Jigra* is more than just an action-packed film, it's a story rooted in family and the lengths we go to protect the ones we love. With exceptional performances from Alia Bhatt and Vedang Raina, *Jigra* is sure to deliver a breathtaking film experience that goes beyond language and cultural barriers, appealing to audiences from all walks of life," said Rana Daggubati.

Ram Charan's folk-tastic entry in *Game Changer*

The entry of actor Ram Charan in his upcoming movie *Game Changer* will be a grand affair. His introduction in the film is marked by the song *Raa Macha Macha* (titled *Dam Tu Dikha Jaa* in Hindi), featuring 1,000 folk dancers performing various traditional dance forms of India. The song, choreographed by Ganesh Acharya, is a tribute to India's diverse cultural heritage, showcasing an array of folk dances from different regions of the country. The song features unique and visually captivating forms like Gussadi from Adilabad, Chau from West Bengal, Ghumra from

Odisha's Matilkala, Goravara Kunita from Karnataka and many more. Nakash Aziz has lent his vocals to all three language versions of the track. Telugu, Tamil, and Hindi with lyrics written by Anantha Sriram.

Thaman S adds, "This is something never been seen before. Our idea was to capture all the diverse cultures and make this song the most visually expansive in recent times. The way to achieve this was to bring in 1,000 dancers and feature them alongside Ram Charan." The film is directed by Shankar and produced by Dil Raju.



Nani Best Actor for *Dasara*, SRK for *Jawan* at IIFA

The International Indian Film Academy Awards (IIFA) event was held in Abu Dhabi and presented the prestigious awards to the talented individuals in Indian cinema, covering the Hindi, Telugu, Kannada, Tamil and Malayalam industries. This year at IIFA, the Telugu cinema icon and megastar Chiranjeevi was honoured with the Outstanding Achievement Award. The megastar a few days back got his name into the Guinness World Records and now he has been honored at IIFA.

Bollywood actress Shabana Azmi and renowned lyricist Javed Akhtar presented the award to the megastar at this event. "This award is not just recognition of my work but a testament to the love and encouragement I have received from my fans. I am forever indebted to them," he said, amidst the thunderous applause and a standing ovation. Interestingly, the event was hosted by Tollywood actors Rana Daggubati and Teja Sajja.

Nani, who has received an award for his

performance in *Dasara* at every awards function, won the Best Actor Award for the same role at IIFA as well. Legendary comedian Brahmanandam received the Best Supporting Actor Award for his performance in *Ranga Marthanda*. The Best Director Award went to Anil Ravipudi for *Bhagavanth Kesari*. The film stars Nandamuri Balakrishna, Kajal Aggarwal and Sreeleela and was a successful film. The other actress who was at the center of attention was Samantha Ruth Prabhu. She

won the Woman of the Year in Indian Cinema Award at the 2024 IIFA Utsavam. Many South stars attended the event, including Nasser, Brahmanandam, Priyadarshan, Priyamani, Jayaraman, Sarathkumar, Radhika and Varalaxmi. The three-day IIFA Festival celebrates the best of Indian cinema, and Chiranjeevi's award is a fitting tribute to his remarkable contribution to the world of entertainment. Meanwhile, actress Keerthy Suresh was

honoured with the Best Actress Award for *Dasara*. Mani Ratnam helmed *Ponniyin Selvan: II* made it big at the awards by being honoured with four awards, Best Actor (Tamil): Vikram, Best Actress (Tamil): Aishwarya Rai, Best Director (Tamil): Mani Ratnam and Best Music Direction (Tamil): AR Rahman. Meanwhile, *Animal* swept most of the awards. In a night filled with glamour and celebration, *Animal* emerged as the undisputed champion at the IIFA Awards

2024, capturing hearts and accolades alike. With a total of five prestigious awards, including Best Picture and two significant acting honors, the film has proven to be a monumental success. The film was awarded Best Picture and actors Anil Kapoor and Bobby Deol received the Best Supporting Role (Male) and Performance in a Negative Role awards, respectively. Siddharth Singh and Garima Wahal also received the Best Lyrics Award for the film *Animal*.



