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

## Modi

## GOVT TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN START-UP ECOSYSTEM: GOYAL



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



### QUOTE OF THE DAY

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

**- Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Minister, Telangana**

P4

### DON'T MISS...

#### 5 assurances fulfilled in 100...

Eluru MP Putta Mahesh Kumar has claimed that he has fulfilled five assurances, out of the six assurances, he has made to the people in his 100 days tenure as Lok Sabha member from Eluru. Addressing a press conference here on Monday, the MP said that he had made six assurances to the people during the election campaign of which five had been fulfilled so far. Highlighting the five promises which have been fulfilled so far, the MP said: "Because of my efforts, the tobacco farmers in the district, who raised Virginia variety, have got..."

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#### Climate change risks grow faster...

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

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#### 'India well-poised to benefit from...

India is well-poised to take advantage of new jobs that emerge from advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI), according to Meta India Vice President Sandhya Devanathan. In an interview to PTI, Devanathan weighed in on raging debate around AI and its impact on jobs, saying she is of the firm belief that AI would not lead to new opportunities for India. "I think that India is potentially well-poised to take advantage of new jobs that could come up with AI," she said. Devanathan said that the nature of jobs may change...

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#### Skipper Harmanpreet twin strike in 4-1...

Skipper Harmanpreet Singh's sublime form resulted in twin strikes as defending champions India entered the final of the Hero Asian Champions Trophy with a clinical 4-1 win against South Korea in the semi-final here on Monday. India scored through Uttam Singh (13th minute), skipper Harmanpreet Singh (19th, 45th) and Jarmarpreet Singh (32nd), while Korea's lone goal came from through Yang Jihun (33rd)'s penalty corner conversion. India will take on hosts China in Tuesday's final...

-SPORTS

## Amaravati in safe zone: Narayana

**Says Capital has no threat from Krishna floods**

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Municipal and Urban Development Minister Ponguru Narayana has assured that Amaravati remains entirely safe and unaffected by the recent floods. He criticised the previous YSRCP government for allegedly spreading false claims that Amaravati was inundated due to the Krishna River's floods. He urged the public to disregard such misinformation.

Addressing the media at the CRDA headquarters in Vijayawada on Monday, Minister Narayana highlighted that the YSRCP government had not only questioned Amaravati's suitability as the capital but also petitioned the World Bank to withhold funds.

Despite the Krishna River's record flood of 11.43 lakh cusecs, the minister affirmed that Amaravati's design phase, plans for canals and reservoirs to manage floodwaters were proposed. Gravity canals have been designed to align with the flow of Kondaveeti Vagu and Pala Vagu. Tenders will soon be issued to complete these canals before the next monsoon. The project includes a 23.6 km stretch of Kondaveeti Vagu from Anantavaram to Undavalli, a 16.7 km stretch of Pala Vagu from Dondapadu to Krishnayapalem, and an 8 km stretch of Vaikuntapuram gravity canals.

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- Minister Narayana accuses the previous YSRCP government of spreading misinformation about flood damage.
- Canals and reservoirs designed to handle floods; tenders for their completion to be issued soon.
- The Minister says IIT Hyderabad and Chennai confirmed no issues with iconic buildings; construction to continue.
- Rs 175 cr to be deposited as a one-year lease for farmers who gave land for the capital.
- Deadline for taxes in V'wada extended for residents' convenience.



## AP big player in green energy

CM woos investors at REINVEST 2024 in Gandhinagar

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu took centre stage at the 4th Global Renewable Energy Investment Meet (REINVEST 2024), inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. During the event, CM Naidu highlighted the vast potential of clean energy in shaping India's future.

At the Chief Ministerial Plenary, he pledged Andhra Pradesh's commitment to generating 72.60 GW of renewable energy by 2030, aligning with India's goal of 500 GW by the same year. He emphasised that this drive would create jobs, protect the environment, and position Andhra Pradesh as a leader in green energy.

Promoting Andhra Pradesh as a major player in the sector, Naidu underscored the state's strategic advantages, including its long coastline, industrial base, excellent transport infrastructure, and potential in solar, wind, pumped storage, and green hydrogen. He invited global investors to capitalise on the state's investor-friendly policies, which offer tax incentives, subsidies, and simplified regulations, supported by a skilled workforce. "I want to create one of the best ecosystems for green energy in India," he said.

CM Naidu stressed the need for adopting global best practices in renewable energy, focusing on research, policy support, and removing barriers to emerging technologies.

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- **ENERGY COMMITMENT:** CM Chandrababu Naidu says AP will generate 72.60 GW of renewable energy by 2030, in line with India's target of 500 GW.
- **GLOBAL UNIVERSITY PLAN:** Naidu announces plans to create a Global University for Clean Energy and Circular Economy to promote research, knowledge sharing, and innovation in renewable energy.
- **RENEWABLE ENERGY TARGETS:** Andhra Pradesh's targets include 40 GW of solar, 20 GW of wind, 12 GW of pumped storage, and various other initiatives such as 25 GW battery storage and 500 public EV charging stations.

- **PROGRESS IN RENEWABLE INSTALLATIONS:** AP has installed renewable capacities, including 4,335 MW solar and 4,083 MW wind, with further projects underway in districts like Prakasam and Sri Sathya Sai.
- **'ROOFTOP SOLAR' AND SOLAR VILLAGES:** The government aims to install 'rooftop solar' in 1 million homes by 2026-27, and solarise 26 model villages and government buildings up to 150 MW by 2025-26.
- **PUMPED STORAGE PROJECTS:** Andhra Pradesh is leading in promoting pumped storage projects at 39 locations with a potential of 43.89 GW to manage grid imbalances and support variable renewable energy.

#### AP Cabinet meet tomorrow



PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, is scheduled to meet on September 18 at the State Secretariat in Velagapudi, Amaravati. Chief Secretary Neerabh Kumar Prasad has issued an urgent circular regarding the Council of Ministers' meeting, which will take place on Wednesday.

According to sources, the Cabinet will address key issues, including the recent floods in Vijayawada that submerged over a lakh houses, leaving many residents homeless.

Discussions will focus on breaches in the Budameru canal and a permanent solution under 'Operation Budameru', along with flood relief for affected people and farmers, and central assistance for flood damage.

Continued on Page 2



#### Govt cancels reverse tendering, restores conventional process

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The State government has cancelled the reverse tendering process introduced by the previous YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) government in August 2020. A government order (G.O.Ms.No.40) was issued on Sunday to officially restore the conventional tendering system that existed before 2020. In the order, Water Resources Department Special Chief Secretary G Sai Prasad explained that the Board of Chief Engineers (BoCEs), along with the Engineer-in-Chief (Administration and Irrigation Wings), recommended returning to the previous system instead of continuing with reverse tendering.

The existing online e-procurement system, which had been modified for the reverse tendering process, will now be reverted to support the traditional tendering system for all government

departments and corporations. According to the order, during the implementation of reverse tendering, several issues were identified, leading the Board of Chief Engineers to review and submit their recommendations. After considering these recommendations, the government has annulled the previous order (G.O.Ms.No.67) that established the reverse tendering process in August 2019.

All government departments and corporations have been instructed to adopt the conventional tendering process for assigning work.

The Andhra Pradesh State Cabinet, in a meeting on August 28, decided to cancel the reverse tendering process, citing concerns over 'breach of secrecy'. The Cabinet resolved to reintroduce the earlier tendering policy and ensure compliance with Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) guidelines in the process.

#### 3 Irrig ENC posts lie vacant, functioning hit

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Water Resources Department (WRD) of Andhra Pradesh, responsible for irrigation, drinking water supply, industrial water needs, and flood management, is currently grappling with a severe shortage of engineers. This shortage affects the department's ability to function effectively, particularly during natural calamities, such as the recent floods in the Krishna River and Budameru Rivulet.

Three key posts of Engineer-in-Chief (ENC) - for the



Administrative Wing, Irrigation, and Commissioner of Tenders - have remained vacant for years. In the interim, senior engineers at the rank of Chief Engineer (CE) have been assigned additional responsibilities. The post of ENC (Irrigation), for instance, has been

vacant for six years. As a result, retired ENC Mamidi Venkateswara Rao, now an advisor to the department, has been given the additional charge of this post following the retirement of C Narayana Reddy, who also held the position as an in-charge.

Additionally, senior Superintending Engineers (SEs) handle top-priority CE posts in the Technical, Projects, Tenders, and Design wings. Out of a total of 19 Chief Engineer positions, 14 are vacant, leaving only three regular CEs.

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#### FESTIVAL FERVOUR



Muslims take out a huge rally to mark Milad-un-Nabi in Vijayawada on Monday. Pic by Ch. Vijaya Bhaskar

#### Future of 75,000 students at risk due to YSRCP's policies: Nara Lokesh

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Minister for IT and Education Nara Lokesh has claimed that the flawed policies of the previous YSRCP administration are jeopardising the education of over 75,000 students.

In response to accusations from former chief minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, Lokesh suggested that Reddy's comments revealed a lack of understanding of the education system.

2

## 'One nation, one election' is BJP's 'gimmick': Oppn

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The opposition on Monday slammed the government over the 'one nation, one election' issue, saying it was not possible under the present Constitution and just a "gimmick" of the ruling BJP which keeps "releasing hot air balloons" to test waters.

The Congress, the TMC and the CPI rejected the idea, saying it was not pragmatic.

The opposition parties' assertion came after reports said the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government would implement 'one nation, one election' during its current tenure.

Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram said it is not possible under the present Constitution and requires at least five constitutional amendments.

Replying to a question on reports



**One nation, one election' is not possible under the present Constitution. It requires at least five constitutional amendments.**

**Mr Modi does not have the majority to put those constitutional amendments in either in the Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha.**

**It is not possible. The INDIA bloc is totally opposed to 'one nation, one election.'**

**The Congress also said the idea of 'one nation, one election' was not pragmatic and wondered how long the government would survive by "releasing hot air balloons."**

that the BJP-led NDA government would implement 'one nation, one election' within its current tenure, he said Prime Minister Narendra Modi does not have the numbers to place those constitutional amendments

either in the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha.

Addressing reporters in Chandigarh, Chidambaram said, "One nation, one election" is not possible under the present Constitution.

It requires at least five constitutional amendments."

"Mr Modi does not have the majority to put those constitutional amendments in either in the Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha," the former

Union minister said.

He asserted that there were greater constitutional obstacles to 'one nation, one election.' "It is not possible. The INDIA bloc is totally opposed to 'one nation, one election.'" The Congress also said the idea of 'one nation, one election' was not pragmatic and wondered how long the government would survive by "releasing hot air balloons" to test the waters.

Asked about the reports on 'one nation, one election' being implemented during the government's current tenure, Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete said, "You quoted government sources, here I am the official spokesperson of the Congress party laying threadbare the many failures of the Modi government. How long is this government going to survive by leaking selective information?"

Continued on Page 2

## 'Political influence behind my arrest'

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

A Mumbai-based model cum actress, who was allegedly illegally arrested by the Andhra Pradesh police leading to the suspension of three senior IPS officers, on Monday said besides law enforcement officials, there was political influence behind her detention in February this year.

Speaking to NDTV, the actress said a false case was foisted on her to threaten her to withdraw a complaint she lodged against a top corporate honcho in Mumbai and that she was kept in prison in AP for 42 days before being released on bail.

"I believe there is a lot of political manipulation, money and power involved (in the arrest). Without that level of money and power involved,

this level of orchestration I would say would not have happened...I do believe that a higher level of political influence and money and power are involved," she said.

The actress was arrested in February this year based on a complaint by K Vidyasagar, who is said to be YSR



Congress Party leader, without following proper guidelines and registering an FIR, the AP government which issued orders suspending the three officials said on Sunday.

Former intelligence chief P Sitharama Anjaneyulu, then Vijayawada Police Commissioner Kranti Rana Tata and Vishal Gunni, then Deputy Commissioner of Police (Vijayawada) were suspended for their alleged role in the arrest of the model.

Continued on Page 2

# Efforts continue to remove boats stuck at barrage

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Efforts to remove the heavy iron sand boats stuck at the Prakasam Barrage in the river Krishna entered their seventh day on Monday without success. Visakhapatnam-based contractor Bekem Infra has been leading the operation, deploying engineers and implementing a new strategy to lift the stranded boats.



The latest plan involves connecting two of the large boats with iron girders to lift them out of the water. This process began on Monday and is making steady progress. A team of experts, led by boat excavation specialist Abbulu from Kakinada, was brought in three days ago to assist in the efforts. However, despite their best efforts, they have been unable to free the three boats trapped at the barrage gates.

Two additional boats, each with a 50-ton capacity, were brought in and connected using iron girders, arranged to pull a weight of approximately 300 tons. Cranes are now being used in a renewed effort to lift the boats

and experts have revised their approach. Meanwhile, Bekem Infra's engineers managed to lift a large boat that was stuck at gate number 67, securing it between two other boats with iron chains and ropes. The plan is to move the boats towards the river bund by steering two

boats at a time. Over the past six days, four different strategies have been attempted, all without success.

Bekem Infra has now devised a fifth plan in the hope of finally lifting the boats from the river Krishna and completing the operation.

## 3 Irrig ENC...

Continued from Page 1

Of the 56 SE posts, covering Projects, Vigilance, Tenders, Designs, and Quality, along with key circles of the WRD, 40 are currently vacant, with just 15 regular SEs working.

The department also has 274 Executive Engineer (EE) posts, but more than 125 are vacant. Senior Deputy Executive Engineers (DEEs) have been appointed as in-charges to fill the gap. Furthermore, 182 of the 943 DEE positions remain unfilled, further hampering the department's operations.

The lack of regular appointments and promotions within the department has sparked criticism, particularly in the wake of recent failures to issue timely flood warnings. The absence of key officials to anticipate flooding led to significant losses during the floods. The Engineers' Association has raised concerns with the government regarding the lack of promotions and the absence of regular engineers in crucial posts, which has caused inefficiencies. Some senior engineers allege that delays in promotions under the previous government worsened the situation.

Legal complications have also contributed to the delay in promotions, with several court cases still pending. The association stresses that unless promotions at all levels - ENC, CE, SE, and EE - are addressed, the department will continue to struggle.

## 'Political influence...

In her complaint, she accused the AP police officials of threatening her with dire consequences during the previous government if she did not withdraw a case she earlier filed against a top executive of a corporate house in Mumbai. The actress further said in order to shield the businessman against whom she filed a case in Mumbai, the AP police filed a false case and arrested her. Based on her complaint with AP police the state government had recently suspended two officials.

The three officials were among those 16 IPS officers who were issued a memo on August 14 directing them to mark their 'attendance' in the DGP's office twice a day, without assigning any post.

## Endowments Department staff demand suspension of Kakinada DC Vijayaraju

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh Endowments Institutions Employees' Welfare Association has called for the suspension and investigation of Vijayaraju, whom they allege is the key figure behind corruption in the Endowments Department.

Addressing a press conference at the State Endowments Department office in Gollapudi on Monday, association's State representative, Koganti Ravi Kumar, accused certain officials, including Kakinada DC Vijayaraju, of misappropriating donations offered by devotees. He claimed that these actions contradict the vision of Chief Minister Chandrababu



Naidu, who aims to develop temples across the State.

## 'Dhanurmasa Pravachanams' Consent letters invited from 'Tiruppavai Parayanadars'

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTDP) has invited consent letters from eminent Tiruppavai Pravachanadars with excellence in Sri Vaishnava philosophy to represent Dhanurmasa Pravachanams across the country from 2024 December 16 to January 13 of 2025.

TTD has appealed to Tiruppavai Parayanadars who rendered service from 2015-2023 also to send their consent letters. It is well known that the

Dharmic projects wing of TTD conducts the Tiruppavai pravachanams during the holy Dhanurmasam every year. All the eligible Parayanadars should send their consent letters by 5 pm of October 15 to OSD, Alwar Diya Prabanda Project, SVETA Bhavan, Tirupati-517502 in the model consent letter uploaded on the ttd official website www.tirumala.org. For more details contact TTDDharmic Projects office during working hours on working days on 9676120226 and 8978734947.

the finance department, Ravi Kumar alleged that Vijayaraju managed to reclaim his post with the assistance of former Endowments Minister Velampalli Srinivas Rao during the previous YSRCP government.

The association has submitted complaints, with supporting evidence, to Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, and other senior officials, urging immediate action against the officer. They have also called upon the ACB to file a chargesheet, noting that six years have passed since the initial raid, and demanded swift action against the allegedly corrupt official.

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

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

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

Shyam Prasad actively took part in the festivities, the Laddu auction, which reached bids as high as Rs 15 lakhs. After a night of joyful celebration, including dancing at the Ganesha pandal, Shyam collapsed while returning home after participating in the auction.

## 'One nation, one election' is...

Continued from Page 1

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

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

"It is absolutely not pragmatic to do this but the government has to have a conversation. So these sources-based information, that is what this government has survived on, leak sources-based information, run (it) in news channels, do reportage through WhatsApp, this nonsense must stop but that is what continues and that has continued in the last 100 days," Shrinata said.

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

"One nation, one election" is just another gimmick from the anti-democratic BJP," TMC Parliamentary Party leader in Rajya Sabha Derek O'Brien said. Communist Party of India (CPI) general secretary D Raja also said his party does not support the 'one nation, one election' proposal.

"Our party, the CPI, is not in favour of 'one nation one election'. In fact, I met the for-

mer president who was heading the committee," he said.

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

The Union government cannot snatch all powers from the state governments, he said, adding this issue was discussed in the Constituent Assembly and things are very clear. Raja said the 'one nation, one election' cannot be implemented in the country. The government should ensure a level-playing field, he added.

"One nation, one election" was one of the key promises made by the BJP in its manifesto for the Lok Sabha elections.

A high-level panel headed by former president Ram Nath Kovind in March recommended simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha and state assemblies as the first step, followed by synchronised local body polls within 100 days. Separately, the Law Commission is likely to recommend holding simultaneous polls for all three tiers of government -- Lok Sabha, state assemblies and local bodies such as municipalities and panchayats -- starting with 2029 and a provision for a unity government in cases of a hung House or no-confidence motions.

The Kovind panel has not specified any period for rolling out simultaneous polls. It has proposed the creation of an 'implementation group' to look into the execution of the panel's recommendations.



## Future of 75,000...

Continued from Page 1

"The decisions made by the previous YSRCP government have been detrimental to students in over 1,000 government schools. The future of more than 75,000 students has been compromised as the previous administration altered the CBSE examination policy without increasing the recruitment of trained teachers or improving infrastructure," Lokesh criticised. Lokesh vowed to reform the 6th class examination and ensure that students are prepared for the CBSE exams.

Pointing out the decline in student numbers in government schools, Lokesh questioned Jagan Reddy about why student enrolment had decreased if government schools were modernised,

# Jagan urges TDP coalition to stop weakening govt schools

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

YSRCP chief and former chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has called upon the TDP coalition government to immediately halt actions that are weakening government schools, stressing the significance of education in eradicating poverty.

Taking to the social media platform X, Jagan Mohan Reddy criticised the TDP for reversing key educational reforms aimed at offering quality education to the underprivileged.

He accused the TDP of taking regressive steps, particularly by scrapping the CBSE syllabus in government schools, thereby lowering the standard of education for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

He noted the irony in the TDP's approach, pointing out that while they ensure the best education for their children in private schools, they neglect the needs of children in government schools. He questioned whether the



TDP intends to keep students in government schools at a lower level permanently.

Reddy highlighted that during his tenure, the YSRCP government introduced several reforms to improve government schools, such as the 'Nadu-Nedu' initiative, the introduction of English medium instruction, CBSE affiliation, and interactive learning methods.

These reforms were designed to raise the standard of education in government schools and offer students opportunities similar to those in private institutions. However, he criticised the TDP coalition for systematic

undoing these efforts, alleging that they are deliberately pushing students towards private schools owned by TDP leaders.

He also defended government school teachers, stating they are highly qualified, having passed competitive exams and undergone extensive training.

He condemned the TDP government's attempts to demoralise these teachers and called for recognition of their abilities and contributions to education.

Jagan Mohan Reddy reiterated the crucial role education plays in eradicating poverty and urged the TDP coalition government to stop weakening government schools. Instead, he urged them to continue the reforms initiated by the previous YSRCP government, warning that denying government school students access to world-class education would not only harm their futures but also tarnish the TDP's legacy as opponents of the poor.

## Buggana slams govt for public discontent, Budget delay

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Former minister Buggana Rajendranath has criticised the three-month-old TDP coalition government, highlighting the widespread public dissatisfaction normally seen after several years of governance, which he claimed has already emerged within a few months. He condemned the government for its failure to present a budget despite being in power for three months while continuing to blame the previous YSRCP government for its shortcomings.

Speaking to the media at the Somajiguda Press Club in Hyderabad on Monday, the former finance minister mocked the coalition's "Super Six" promises, stating that people are still waiting for the promised financial assistance of Rs. 15,000 and Rs. 18,000, which have not been delivered. He noted that these unmet promises are being heard



across the state, causing growing frustration among the public.

Buggana also raised concerns about the current government's increasing debts, citing loans of Rs. 2,000 crore on June 11, Rs 5,000 crore on July 2, Rs 2,000 crore on July 16, Rs 3,000 crore on July 30, Rs 3,000 crore on August 27, and Rs 4,000 crore on September 3, 2024. He pointed out the inconsistency in how the previous YSRCP government's borrowing was heavily scruti-

nised, while the coalition government's significant loans have not received the same level of questioning. He also mentioned that the focus has shifted towards promoting former Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, creating the impression that Naidu is responsible for any progress in the State, while ignoring the financial mismanagement of the current government.

He praised the efforts of the YSRCP government from 2019 to 2024, particularly on the Polavaram project, which was initiated by Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy in 2005. He criticised the TDP government for delaying the project from 2014 to 2019, despite the YSRCP securing Rs. 12,911 crore in funding and working hard to push the project forward. He also mentioned that Rs. 17,144 crore was proposed in June 2023 for Phase 1 rehabilitation in areas affected by the project's height of 41.15 metres. Buggana

accused the previous TDP government of making flawed agreements with the central government, focusing only on the irrigation components and neglecting crucial aspects like rehabilitation and resettlement. He criticised the TDP for underestimating the project's funding, agreeing to only Rs. 20,000 crore when Rs. 55,000 crore was required.

Buggana took the opportunity to highlight YSRCP's achievements, including securing national project status for Polavaram in 2014 under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act. He argued that, despite the current coalition government claiming credit for these accomplishments, it had done little to move the project forward. He challenged the coalition to name any significant achievements during their four months in office, calling their tenure a failure in delivering real benefits to the public.

## Amaravati in safe zone...

Continued from Page 1

The minister explained that these three canals are being developed based on flood patterns observed in the Krishna River over the past century. Additionally, the construction of six reservoirs is underway. These include a 0.4 TMC reservoir at Nirukonda, 0.1 TMC at Krishnayapalem, 0.01 TMC at Sakhamuru, 0.3 TMC at Lam outside the Seed Capital, 0.2 TMC at Peda Parimi, and 0.3 TMC at Vaikuntapuram. The canals and reservoirs are expected to handle substantial rainfall effectively.

If necessary, there are plans to pump excess water into the Krishna River, with lifts to be installed at Undavalli (12,350

cusecs), Buckingham Canal (4,000 cusecs), and Vaikuntapuram (5,650 cusecs). The minister assured that even a severe flood would not pose a problem for Amaravati, and the bund will be redesigned to withstand up to 15 lakh cusecs of water from the Krishna River.

Additionally, the minister reported that IIT Hyderabad and IIT Chennai have confirmed that the Ironic buildings, Secretariat Towers, High Court building, and 3,600 flats for officials are unaffected. Their report recommended continuing construction. Tenders for upcoming works will be invited in the next two months. He also noted that the raft foundation of the iconic

buildings is robust. Rain-related delays have hindered jungle clearance in Amaravati, but this will be completed soon.

Minister Narayana announced that Rs 175 crore would be deposited shortly as a one-year lease payment to farmers who provided land for the capital.

Farmers who initially withheld their land are now offering it, and the minister will personally visit their homes to accept the documents.

Finally, the minister stated that the deadline for various taxes due to the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation on September 30 will be extended to offer residents more flexibility.

## AP Cabinet...

Continued from Page 1

Additionally, the Cabinet is expected to review the State's liquor policy, set for release on October 1, under which high-quality liquor will be sold at lower prices compared to the previous government's rates.

Chief Minister Naidu had earlier stated that his government would not be responsible for selling liquor, unlike the previous administration, and that private entities would manage sales.

Another important topic on the agenda is the promise of free travel for women on RTC buses, one of the commitments under the 'Super Six' initiatives, along with other matters.

# AP big player in green...

Continued from Page 1

He announced plans to establish a Global University for Clean Energy and Circular Economy to foster knowledge-sharing and innovation.

He outlined Andhra Pradesh's renewable energy targets, which include 40 GW of solar power, 20 GW of wind energy, 12 GW of pumped storage, 25 GW of battery energy storage, 1 million tonnes per annum of green hydrogen and its derivatives, 2,500 KLPD of biofuels, and 500 public charging stations for electric vehicles.

The Chief Minister also provided an update on the state's progress in renewable energy. Andhra Pradesh has so far installed 4,335 MW of solar, 4,083 MW of wind, 106 MW of small hydro, 443 MW of bioenergy, and 36 MW of waste-to-energy capacity. Solar parks with a combined capacity of 4,000 MW have been established in Ananthapuram, Kurnool, and Kadapa districts. An additional 2,700 MW of solar power is set to come up in Prakasam and Sri Sathya Sai districts.

Naidu mentioned the state's implementation of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, with plans to install rooftop solar systems in 1 million households by 2026-27. The state also aims to develop 26 model solar villages and solarise government buildings to a capacity of 150 MW by 2025-26 with the support of NTPC Vidyt Vyapar Nigam Ltd (NVVN).

As part of the PM KUSUM scheme, Andhra Pradesh has solarised agricultural feeders with a total capacity of 3,725 MW and installed 31,275 off-grid solar pumps. Naidu highlighted the state's leadership in promoting pumped storage projects across 39 locations, with an estimated potential of 43.89 GW, aimed at balancing the variable renewable energy (VRE) output and minimising grid imbalances.

"We've seen Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), but now I am introducing P4 - Public, Private, People's Partnership - to involve the public as partners in renewable energy," he added.

Explaining the incentives under the draft ICE policy 2024, Naidu said the gov-

ernment is prioritising renewable energy projects with various initiatives, policies, and incentives to accelerate growth in the sector.

"The government will provide key incentives for wind projects and turbine manufacturers, waive transmission and wheeling charges for renewable energy infrastructure, and offer capital and interest subsidies to foster innovation and strengthen the energy grid. In addition, production incentives for renewable energy equipment manufacturers, along with subsidies on power costs and electricity duty, will help reduce expenses and promote renewable energy manufacturing," he said.

"The next revolution will be the Green Energy Revolution," he remarked.

During the event, Special Chief Secretary for Energy K Vijayanand received an award on behalf of Andhra Pradesh for setting up solar parks in Anantapur, from Union Minister Pralhad Joshi. Several dignitaries, including state and central ministers and senior officials, attended the meet.

# NTR CP, Durga temple EO inspect steps for Dasara

15 lakh devotees expected to turn up for the festival

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

In view of the upcoming Dasara Sarannavaratri festivities at the Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam, Indrakeeladri, scheduled to be held from October 3 to 12, NTR District Police Commissioner SV Rajasekhar Babu and Temple Executive Officer (EO) KS Rama Rao inspected infrastructure facilities besides security arrangements on Monday. The authorities expect that around 15 lakh devotees will be visiting the temple during the nine-day festivities.



Police Commissioner SV Rajasekhar Babu, Durga Temple EO Rama Rao and other officials inspecting the arrangements for the Dasara Sarannavaratri festivities on Monday

The temple authorities have already begun queue line arrangements from the Vinayaka Temple to Durga temple hilltop. Besides, works on bathing ghats, ticket counters, tansuring centres, holding areas, Annadanam and other facilities are progressing at a brisk pace. Earlier, they held a meeting with Minister for Endowment Anam Ramanarayana Reddy.

During the recent floods, a landslide hit the Ghat Road blocking vehicular traffic from the downtown of the temple to uphill. The temple authorities immediately started removing the debris. Also, they are constructing a retaining wall to prevent further landslides.

Police Commissioner Ramakrishna, EO Rama Rao and other officials inspected the construction of the retaining wall. Also, the Commissioner spoke to the temple officials regarding various arrangements for the festivities. They discussed traffic diversion, parking and other important matters.

Durga Temple Executive Engineers KVS Koteswara Rao and L Rama Devi, ADCP G Ramakrishna and other officials were present.

# Union Minister Ram Mohan inaugurates Vizag-Durg Vande Bharat Express

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Union Minister for Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu inaugurated the Visakhapatnam-Durg (Raipur) Vande Bharat Express on Monday at Visakhapatnam Railway Station. The much-awaited train service will begin regular operations on September 20, enhancing connectivity between Visakhapatnam and Raipur.



Speaking at the event, Rammohan Naidu stated, "This is the fourth Vande Bharat train to pass through Visakhapatnam, marking another significant step in the rapid development of the country's railways."

The minister highlighted the success of the Vande Bharat trains already operating in the region, including the Visakhapatnam-Secunderabad Vande Bharat, which runs at full capacity. "With three Vande Bharat trains already serving Visakhapatnam, the new Visakhapatnam-Raipur Vande Bharat will further strengthen the link between the three states. It is also the first Vande Bharat Express to operate entirely through tribal areas, with a stop at Parvathipuram," he explained.

Rammohan Naidu further elaborated on the train's strategic importance, noting that it will make stops in three state capitals across India. He praised the Indian Railways' efforts to modernize, stating, "The Indian Railways, with its 1.4 million employees, is continuously upgrading its services to provide a better travel experience."

The minister also announced plans for Visakhapatnam's railway infrastructure. "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we will soon conduct the Bhoomi Puja for the new railway zone in Visakhapatnam," he revealed, hinting at further developmental projects in the region.

The introduction of the Visakha-Raipur Vande Bharat Express is expected to significantly boost regional connectivity and provide greater convenience for passengers traveling between Visakhapatnam and Raipur.

Visakhapatnam MP M Sriharath, Rajya Sabha Member Golla Babu Rao, TDP State President Palla Srinivasa Rao, TDP Visakhapatnam District President Gandhi Babji, Mayor Golagani Hari Venkata Kumari, District Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad, and Divisional Railway Manager Saurabh Prasad were also among the dignitaries who waved the flag and officially launched the train from platform-1.

## 'PM Modi, an inspiration for youth'



PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

State Executive Member of the AP BJP Mahila Morcha, Yellala Manjula, has said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's life is an inspiration for youth.

In a press release here on Monday, Manjula said that Modi, who is going to celebrate his birthday on Tuesday, is the epitome of efficiency, perseverance, development planning, and corruption-free governance. She recalled Modi's efforts in elevating India on the global stage.

# Central Tribal University of AP taking shape

PSU Mecon Ltd. is tasked with completing major building works by March 31, 2025

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

The construction of Central Tribal University of Andhra Pradesh (CTUAP) in Marrivalasa - Chinamedapalli villages, Vizianagaram district, is gaining momentum. Despite initial pressures to shift the location to Relli village, the Andhra Pradesh government's decision to proceed with the original site has been widely welcomed. "The decision to continue construction at Marrivalasa was the most practical move, given the complexity of securing fresh approvals for Relli village," said a government official involved in the project.



Central Tribal University is currently functioning on the old AU campus of Vizianagaram

Local authorities are working closely to accelerate progress, with District Collector BR Ambedkar ensuring basic civic amenities are provided at the construction site. PSU Mecon Limited is tasked with completing major

building works by March 31, 2025. "The State government's decision has brought much-needed clarity to the project. With Rs 25 crore already

released by the Central government, out of a total Rs 300 crore for the first phase, we are optimistic that we will meet our targets," said Prof TVKattimani, Vice-Chancellor of the university. Prof Kattimani added, "This institution, located near tribal areas, will be a major centre for research and education that serves the needs of local tribal communities."

The university, currently operating from the old Andhra University campus in Vizianagaram, will move to the permanent campus once construction is completed. This will be the first Central Tribal University in South India, a significant milestone for higher education in the region.

Prof Kattimani expressed his gratitude to Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and public representatives for their roles in pushing the project forward. "Their commitment to tribal education has helped remove several roadblocks. We are confident that with their continued support, this university will soon become a beacon of learning and research for the entire region."

In a parallel development, the State government has proposed the Relli village site for a training centre for the elite anti-Naxal force, the Greyhounds. This training institution will be a key feature in the government's strategy to bolster security in tribal regions.



CPI State secretary Ramakrishna addressing the media at Dasari Bhavan in Vijayawada on Monday

## Clarify stance on privatisation of medical education: CPI to CM

Chandrababu had promised to cancel GOs 107, 108 once in power

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

CPI State secretary K Ramakrishna has voiced serious concerns over the Andhra Pradesh government's alleged move to privatise medical education. He urged Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu to clarify the government's stance, particularly in the light of a letter reportedly sent to the National Medical Council (NMC), which indicated the State's difficulty in filling medical seats.

Ramakrishna, along with party State secretariat members Jalli Wilson, G Eswaraiah and Akkineni Vanaja, addressed the media at Dasari Bhavan in Vijayawada on Monday. Ramakrishna interpreted this as a sign that the government is looking to shift control of medical education to private entities, raising alarms over its management capabilities. He also highlighted past assurances made by Chandrababu and Minister Nara Lokesh while they were in Opposition, particularly regarding Government Orders (G.O.s) 107 and 108, which had privatised 50 per cent of MBBS seats. Despite

promises to cancel these orders once in power, no such action has been taken, said Ramakrishna. He emphasised the Communist parties' and student unions' opposition to these G.O.s.

Ramakrishna criticised the State government for not addressing key issues in the medical education sector, such as infrastructure development, faculty shortages, and the construction of necessary buildings. He condemned the government's proposal to implement a Gujarat Model of medical education, where a majority of colleges are privately run, stating that this reflects a clear intention to privatise the State's medical colleges.

Besides, he expressed concern over the State government's potential backtracking on its commitment to prevent the privatisation of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. Ramakrishna accused the government of halting coal supply and production at the plant, which he sees as a step toward privatisation. He demanded that both Chief Minister Chandrababu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan comment on this issue.

## GVMC cracks down on streetlight vandalism

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Brings down average number of damaged lights from 1,100-1,200 daily to 700

The Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) has intensified efforts to curb the rising incidents of streetlight vandalism in the city.



After identifying 89 hotspots, the civic body, in collaboration with the police, has stepped up patrols and surveillance, bringing down the average number of damaged lights from 1,100 to 1,200 daily to around 700. "We suspect that miscreants are targeting these lights to facilitate their illicit operations," said GVMC Commissioner P Sampath Kumar. "By increasing patrols and monitoring, we are seeing some improvement."

The GVMC conducted a thorough investigation. By focusing on identified problematic areas, vandalism incidents have seen a noticeable decline. Residents have expressed concerns over the lack of functioning streetlights, especially along the national highway passing through the city. "Streetlights play a crucial role in ensuring the safety of residents. We need the GVMC to fix these problems urgently,"

commented a local resident. The city has around 1.18 lakh streetlights connected to the central control and monitoring system (CCMS). "We monitor non-functioning streetlights from the city operations centre. Working with the police, we identified troubled areas and implemented measures to mitigate damage," said Kumar.

The maintenance agency responsible for repairing lights had been neglecting their duties, but the GVMC has ensured they have enough materials and resources to expedite repairs. GVMC's solar street lights have faced challenges due to the coastal environment, with many rusting due to coastal air. "This is another area we are working on to resolve," said Kumar.

## '100-bed hospital will be inaugurated soon'

PNS ■ BHIMAVARAM

Nimmala Ramanaidu inspects construction works of government hospital in Palakollu

Minister for Water Resources Development Nimmala Ramanaidu has directed the officials concerned to expedite the works of a 100-bed government hospital in Palakollu. He announced that the hospital will be inaugurated soon.



The Minister, accompanied by the officials, inspected on Monday the construction works of the 100-bed government hospital, NTR Kalakshetram, Ramagundam Park, Shebunichervu, burial ground and Settibalija Kalyanmandapam in Palakollu. He told the officials to complete the work before the deadline.

During the five-year YSRCP regime, all these works were halted and maintenance of various projects was neglected.

Minister Ramanaidu said that in 1998, the then Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu upgraded the GGH to a 50-bed hospital. In 2019, Chandrababu approved the upgrade of the Palakollu GGH as a 100-bed hospital and allocated Rs 12.60 crore funds from the NABARD. The construction of the hospital was to be completed in one year. But it was not completed

even after five years because of the indifference of the YSRCP regime, he alleged.

"The construction works of various development projects in Palakollu, including the 100-bed hospital, have been expedited now. The progress of the works is reviewed from time to time and the officials are given necessary orders and advice. The hospital will be inaugurated soon and it will emerge as a boon to the people of surrounding areas," Minister Ramanaidu said.

The Minister said the TIDCO houses will be completed at the earliest and handed over to the beneficiaries, adding that 7,164 TIDCO houses were allocated to Palakollu and 95 per cent of construction works have been completed. The YSRCP government had taken Rs 160-crore loan on the 7,164 TIDCO houses here and then diverted the funds for other purposes.

Ramanaidu said, adding that a meeting will be held with the officials to review the progress of the works. "We are striving to hold housewarming ceremonies as early as possible," the Minister announced.

Former chairman of Legislative Council Angara Rammohan, AP Medical Corporation EE BV Giri, DE M Srinivas Reddy, Municipal Commissioner B Vijay Sarathi, GGH Superintendent Dr O Ravi Kumar and other officials accompanied the Minister.

# AU set to launch dual degree programmes to enhance employability

PNS | Visakhapatnam

## Concern over lack of job-ready skills among graduates

In an effort to address the unemployment of graduates, Andhra University (AU) is introducing dual degree programmes at the postgraduate (PG) level, starting next academic year. This initiative aligns with the Central government's New Education Policy (NEP) 2020, emphasising broader skill sets and enhanced employability through simultaneous pursuit of two degrees. Industry experts have expressed concern over the

lack of job-ready skills among graduates, calling for significant educational reforms. Several national institutions have already adopted the dual degree system.

Starting next year, AU students will have the opportunity to enroll in two PG programmes concurrently. For instance, a student pursuing an MA in Politics could simultaneously complete an (link unavailable) degree. This initiative aims to provide students with diverse qualifications, increasing their chances of

securing employment in a competitive job market.

"We are working on securing approvals from the Executive Council and the Academic Council," said an AU official. "Once finalised, the programme will be launched. Our goal is to equip students with the necessary tools for immediate post-graduation employment."

AU officials are designing a



comprehensive curriculum for the dual degree course, ensuring it caters to a diverse student body. Efforts are underway to align course structures, subjects, and examination processes to accommodate this new format. Upon successful completion of both programmes, students will receive certificates for each of their major subjects.

The dual degree system is

not entirely new at AU, having been implemented at the AU College of Engineering. Here, students can opt for a major and a minor subject. Currently, third-year engineering students are eligible to earn a minor degree by taking four additional subjects alongside their regular coursework.

The introduction of dual degrees is expected to significantly improve graduates' job prospects. Earning two degrees allows students to pursue a wider range of careers depending on current market

demands. This system not only addresses unemployment concerns but also fosters knowledge in multiple areas.

Professor G. Sasibhushan Rao, Vice-Chancellor in-charge of Andhra University, stated: "We are already offering a major and minor degree system for engineering students... From next year, with the introduction of the dual degree system for PG courses, students will have the opportunity to complete two major subjects at the same time."

# 5 assurances fulfilled in 100 days: Eluru MP Putta

PNS ■ ELURU

Eluru MP Putta Mahesh Kumar has claimed that he has fulfilled five assurances, out of the six assurances, he has made to the people in his 100 days tenure as Lok Sabha member of Eluru.

Addressing a press conference here on Monday, the MP said that he had made six assurances to the people during the election campaign of which five had been fulfilled so far.

Highlighting the five promises which have been fulfilled so far, the MP said: "Because of my efforts, the tobacco farmers in the district, who raised Virginia variety, have got a benefit of Rs 110 crore, the Central government has released Rs 12,500 crore for the construction of Polavaram project, a halt was provided to the Vande Bharat express train in Eluru, 566 appointment let-



ters were given to the selected candidate during the job mela here and the Centre has imposed a 20 per cent basic customs at the rate of 27.5 per cent on crude palm oil imports which will benefit the oil palm farmers."

The 6th and the last promise, the completion of the Chintalapati Lift Scheme

would also be fulfilled soon, the MP pledged. The MP said that he had spoken to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on imposing tax on Basmati rice and palm oil. He made it clear that he had also discussed various issues with the members of the NITI Aayog through video conference.

The MP reiterated that skill

census would be carried out in the district, and a research centre and an incubator centre for oil palm farmers would also be set up in the district. The oil palm farmers felicitated the MP on the occasion. Chintalapati MLA S Roshan Kumar appreciated the MP for fulfilling assurances and conveyed his wishes.

## VMC officials told to finish sanitation works

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) Commissioner HM Dhyanchandra has instructed VMC officials to complete sanitation maintenance works in flood-affected areas and restore hygienic atmosphere. The VMC officials should complete these works on a war-footing and drain stagnated water in various colonies in the city, he said.

On Monday, the Commissioner conducted a field visit in KV Kandrika, UDA Colony, Rajivnagar, Payakapuram, Nunna-Mustabad Road and other areas. He found garbage piled up on the road in several areas and directed the concerned Sanitary Inspector to clear it immediately. Also, he instructed Additional Medical Health Officer Ramakoteswara Rao to supervise the works.



## 14 hurt in blast at cracker unit

PNS ■ AMALAPURAM

As many as 14 persons were injured, five of them critically, when a blast took place in the firecrackers-making unit at Ravulacheruvu, near here, in Konaseema district on Monday.

Police said that when firecrackers were being manufactured in a house, a massive explosion took place in which 14 people, including firecracker unit workers and some neighbours, suffered injuries. They were admitted to the Government General Hospital where the condition of five of the injured was said to be critical. The critically injured per-

sons were later shifted to the KIMS hospital for better treatment.

The owner of the firecrackers unit Guvvala Nageswara Rao and two of his family members were among the injured. The two-storied building, in which the firecrackers were being manufactured in huge quantities, collapsed under the impact of the blast.

Police said eight workers of the firecracker unit suffered injuries in the blast and they were extricated from the rubble. Two houses located adjacent to the two-storied building were also damaged in the blast. Neighbours told the

media that a huge quantity of explosive substance was stocked in the building to make crackers for the ensuing Deepavali festival. A proclamer was used to remove the debris and search to find out if anyone was trapped in the rubble.

Konaseema SP Krishna Rao and Amalapuram MLA A Ananda Rao visited the area. The residents told the media that they insisted the firecracker unit owner Guvvala Nageswara Rao not run the firecracker-making unit in the residential area but did not heed their demand since he had the patronage of political leaders and officials.

## Excise official accused of extorting Rs 10 L monthly from bar managers

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

An officer in the Excise Department is accused of demanding Rs 10 lakh monthly from bar managers across the city, leveraging his position and political connections to maintain control. According to multiple sources, the officer has been operating in collusion with a syndicate, using his influence to manipulate media coverage and intimidate lower-level Excise officials. This has enabled him to create a climate of fear and silence dissent among bar owners.

Several bar managers have come forward with allegations of extortion. "We're being pushed to the brink," said one manager, who requested anonymity. "The officer's demands are impossible to ignore, but we're tired of being extorted." Despite their frustration, many bar managers fear retaliation from the officer due to his powerful connections. "We were warned not

to challenge him," revealed another manager. "His political ties make him untouchable."

Visakhapatnam is home to 128 bars and restaurants and 139 liquor shops, all of which receive their supplies from the depot in Anandapuram. With liquor shop prices significantly lower than those in bars, many lower-income and middle-class customers prefer purchasing from the shops. This has reportedly led to a decline in bar sales, prompting bar managers to approach the excise officer for assistance. In response, it is alleged that the officer promised to shorten liquor shop hours by one or more hours—closing them at 9 or 9.30 pm—and extend bar operating hours beyond the legal limit. However, these favours come at a steep price, with the officer reportedly demanding Rs 5 lakh monthly for his department and an additional Rs 5 lakh for media management.

## 'Swachhata Hi Seva' from today

PNS ■ BHIMAVARAM

The 'Swachhata Hi Seva' programmes will be held in West Godavari district from September 17 to October 1.

Disclosing this here on Monday, West Godavari district Collector Chadalavada Nagarani said that to mark the Gandhi Jayanthi, the Swachhata Hi Seva programmes would be organised from September 17 to October 1 and October 2 would be celebrated as 'Swachha Diwas'.

The Collector said that the 'Swachhata Hi Seva' service programmes are being organised under the slogan 'Swabhav Swachhata-Sanskar Swachhata' in the district. As part of the Swachhata Hi Seva programmes, the opening ceremony would be held on September 17 and many programmes would be organized from September 18 to October 1. As part of 'Swachhatahi Bhagidari', planting of a sapling in the name of mother, awareness programmes on local sanitation programs will be organized under the auspices of



MEPMA, DWCR and Swachhata organisations.

Collector Nagarani said that awareness would be created on electricity and water saving, prevention of plastic, chlorination of drinking water and leading a healthy life. She said that cultural programmes, setting up selfie points in the village and at parks, painting solid waste buildings, taking cleanliness pledges in all educational institutions, organising competitions in the wards, rallies, formation of human chain would be organised on

the day.

"A workshop will be organized by experts for school students on making useful items from plastic waste and making environmentally friendly items. An exhibition of the items made by the students will also be organized on Gandhi Jayanti Day and cash prizes will be given to those who make attractive items," the Collector stated.

She said that as part of the Swachhata Lakshmi-Swachhata program, bleaching would be taken up at places where there is water stagnation. The solid wastes would be removed, and parks, drainage, roads, educational institutions, and commercial complexes would be cleaned, she said, adding that beautification of public places will be organized.

The officials were instructed to ensure that the programs would be held in three types in all mandal centres, municipalities and within the constituency. The public representatives of the areas should also participate, the Collector told the officials.

## BRS Govt issued only 49,000 ration cards: Ponguleti

Cong Govt to issue smart ration & health cards from Oct

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

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

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



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

from the opposition too.

He said that there are 90 lakh ration cards in the state and the government will bifurcate them and issue smart cards.

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

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

## Engineers' Day celebrated at VR Siddhartha Engineering College



Minister Kondapalli Srinivas inspecting a drone during an exhibition organised on the occasion of Engineers' Day at VR Siddhartha Engineering College at Kanuru on Monday.

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

VR Siddhartha Engineering College, a deemed to be university, commemorated the 163rd birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya with a grand celebration marking Engineers' Day. The event, held at the college at Kanuru in Krishna district on Monday, was attended by distinguished guests, faculty, and students.

Minister for MSME, SERP, NRI Empowerment and Relations, Kondapalli Srinivas, delivered the keynote address highlighting Sir Visvesvaraya's monumental contributions to society through his engineering and technological expertise. Srinivas emphasised the crucial role of engineers in driving national progress across various sectors. He urged students to engage deeply with technology, harness its potential, and address societal challenges.

The Minister also encouraged students, especially women, to embrace entrepreneurship as a pathway to bridging dreams with reality and fostering a culture of innovation. He assured that the government will support young entrepreneurs.

Siddhartha Academy Vice-President Malineni Rajayya, VR Siddhartha Engineering College Vice-Chancellor Prof P Venkateswara Rao, Principal Prof AV Ratna Prasad, Registrar Dr M Ravichand and others graced the occasion.

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

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

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

According to Gachibowli Inspector Anjaneyulu, the deceased had been identified as

Shruti. After completing the nursing course, she worked in Yashodha Hospital and then she joined the hospital in Narsingi.

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

She had come from Jadcherla to witness Ganesh festivities in the city along with three friends

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

## Will support industries in Vijayawada: Union Minister

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Minister of State for Heavy Industries and Steel, Bhopathiraju Srinivasa Varma, has assured that the government will extend support to small and large industries in Vijayawada that suffered significant losses due to the recent floods. He emphasised that the NDA government is committed to providing assistance to these industries in every possible way.

Speaking at the 'Varadhi' programme held at the party's State office in Vijayawada on Monday, Varma acknowledged the challenges faced by industrialists in the region and promised that the Union government will offer financial support to help them recover from the flood damage.

In addition to addressing the flood-related concerns, Varma also mentioned his intention to



Union Minister Bhopathiraju Srinivasa Varma participating in the Varadhi programme held at the BJP State office in Vijayawada on Monday.

take up the issue of MBBS students currently studying in China, who are involved in legal matters, with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar. He assured the parents of these students that efforts will be made to bring them back.

BJP State general secretary G Seetharamanjaneya Chowdary, official spokesperson Sudhesh Rambhotla, and leaders Reddy Pavani and Kilaru Dilip were also present at the event.

## CM should question Centre over financial aid: CPM

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

CPM State secretariat member Ch Babu Rao has demanded that Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu question the Central government over the lack of financial assistance for the flood-affected areas. He asked Chandrababu to work with former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy to speak out on the matter.

Babu Rao made these remarks while inaugurating a food centre for flood victims at Kundavari Kandrika (NSC Bose Nagar) on Monday, where he personally supervised and served food.

Babu Rao criticised the State government for its delayed response to the flood crisis caused by the overflowing Budameru Rivulet and River Krishna, which has left victims stranded on the streets for over 16 days. He emphasised the need for the government to immediately release financial assistance to those affected by the floods.

He highlighted that CPM has been running food centres in flood-affected areas of Vijayawada for the past 12 days, serving food to around 1.20 lakh people. He accused the State government and Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) of failing to restore normalcy, with many victims still unable to clean their homes and water stagnation persisting in several areas.

Babu Rao urged both Chandrababu and Jagan Mohan Reddy to work together to pressure the Central government for the necessary funds instead of engaging in political blame games. He insisted that if the Central government fails to respond, both leaders should intensify their efforts to secure aid.

CPM leaders K Durga Rao, A Venkateswara Rao, Jhansi, Peer Saheb, Venkata Reddy, Pitchamma, Savitri, and Suresh were also present at the event.

## Tension as 2 groups clash during Ganesh immersion rally

PNS ■ BHIMAVARAM

Tension prevailed at Ellicharla village in Narasapuram mandal in WG district when a clash took place between two groups which led to pelting stones. Tension prevailed in the village with the clashing youths hurling stones. A police constable Rajesh suffered an injury in the incident.

Police said that when the Ganesh immersion process was taken out, a group of people belonging to a particular community, insisted on playing a Telugu film song for

which the other group objected. A heated argument took place between the youths belonging to the two groups on the issue which led to pelting stones. Tension prevailed in the village with the clashing youths hurling stones. A police constable Rajesh suffered an injury in the incident.

Narasapuram Circle Inspector Durga Prasad and SI Vasu rushed to the village. Additional forces were sent to the village bringing the situation under control.



## 31 injured in bee attack

PNS ■ AMALAPURAM

In a freak incident, 31 participants of the Ganesh immersion procession were injured as bees attacked and stung them at Magatapalli village in Mamidikururu mandal in Konaseema district on Monday.

Sources said that when

the Ganesh immersion procession was going on, a swarm of bees attacked the participants and stung them. The participants of the procession panicked and ran helter-skelter to escape from the bees.

The injured people were admitted to the GGHs in Razole and Amalapuram.

## 23 kg of ganja seized, 3 held

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

The police seized 23 kg of ganja while being transported illegally in an SUV at Alathur crossroad in Buchchinaidu Kandriga mandal on Monday.

CI Thimmaiah told the media that on a tip-off that a huge quantity of ganja was being transported illegally, a police team led by CI Thimmaiah and SI Viswanth

conducted a checking of vehicles at Alathur crossroads.

They stopped vehicles and checked them. They found 23 KGs ganja in the SUV. The police seized the ganja, the SUV, Rs 50,000 cash and three mobile phones. The arrested drug peddlers Sk. Mehaboob Basha belongs to Annamayya district. Kshatriya belongs to Odisha state and Balangir belongs to Delhi.



ACROSS THE STATES



Two sisters swept way in Ganga while trying to save brother

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



Grenade attack on Manipur minister's residence

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



Man held for stalking, following minor girls in Delhi Cantt

A man has been arrested for allegedly stalking a woman and her daughters in the Delhi Cantonment area, police said on Monday. The complainant alleged that at 8:30 pm on August 23, she was walking towards Gopinath market with her mother and two daughters. Her daughters were 100-150 metres ahead of her, when a car started following them continuously for almost 15 minutes, Deputy Commissioner of Police (southwest) Rohit Meena said. The complainant alerted her daughters and also posted about the matter on social media. She also filed a complaint at Delhi Cantt police station the next day, he said. An FIR was registered under 78(1) BNS and 12 POCSO Act and further investigation was taken up, the DCP said. A team was formed to nab the offender. The team analysed CCTV track of the alleged car for more than 115 kilometres covering from Delhi Cantonment to Pari Chowk in Noida and then back to Delhi. However, complete footage trail could not be checked as no CCTV were present in UP beyond Pari Chowk, the police said.

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

PNS ■ GANDHINAGAR

India is unique in terms of diversity, scale, capacity, potential as well as performance and the world feels the country is the best bet for the 21st century, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday. When the history of the 21st century will be written, the chapter of India's solar revolution will be written in golden letters, the PM said in his address at the 4th edition of Global Renewable Energy Investors Meet and Expo (RE-INVEST 2024) in Gandhinagar. He also said his government in the first 100 days of its third term had tried to address every sector and factor for rapid progress of the country. "India is preparing the base for development for the next 1000 years and the focus is not just to reach the top but to sustain the rank. In the first 100 days, you can witness our priorities, speed and scale," he said. India knows its energy requirements to become a developed nation by 2047 and since the country does not have its own oil and gas resources and is not energy independent, it has decided to build its future on the

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

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

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



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

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

'Cong to get chairship of several key committees'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In all, the Congress is set to have the chairship of four department-related standing committees -- three in the Lok Sabha and one in the Rajya Sabha. The Congress will chair the Department Related Standing Committee on External Affairs; Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing; Rural Development and Panchayati Raj in the Lok Sabha; and Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports in the Rajya Sabha, a source said. Significantly, the Congress will chair the crucial committee on

external affairs after a gap of five years. Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor headed the panel on external affairs between September 2014 and May 2019. The Congress last held the chairship of two department-related standing committees in the Rajya Sabha and one in the Lok Sabha. While Jairam Ramesh headed the committee on Science and Technology, Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Abhishek Singhvi chaired the panel on Commerce.



'Fight between Gandhi-Abdullah families and BJP'

PNS ■ KISHTWAR

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said there is a clear fight between the Congress-National Conference alliance and the BJP -- one wanting to bring back Article 370, and the other committed to stopping it. He said voting in favour of BJP candidate Shugan Parihar is not only for development and progress but also to pay tribute to martyrs, including her father. "This election in Jammu and Kashmir is clearly between two forces. On one side are the National Conference (NC) and the Congress, and on the other side is the BJP. It is a contest



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

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

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

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

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram on Monday asserted that the Haryana Congress was not a divided house and would fight the October 5 state assembly elections unitedly. Addressing the media here, the former union minister lashed out at the BJP government over several issues including agriculture, economy, and state debt. He also said that the Congress will come out with its poll manifesto this week. Polling for the 90 assembly seats in Haryana will be held on October 5 and votes will be

counted on October 8. On reports of infighting in the Haryana Congress, Chidambaram said, "I do not think Haryana PPCC is a divided house. There are leaders of high stature. Naturally, the leaders will ask for greater influence in the selection of candidates but once the candidates have been selected, I am sure that all of them will campaign together and win the election. "There is no dissidence in the Congress party. There are several leaders in a state unit and we respect all of them. Naturally, there will be a healthy competition among the leaders," he said.

100 DAYS OF MODI 3.0

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With Modi 3.0 completing 100 days, the Congress on Monday claimed that Narendra Modi in his third term had proven to be a "weak" prime minister who was dependent on crutches and setting new records for U-turns. Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete said the past 100 days had weighed heavily on the nation's farmers, youth, women, infrastructure, Railways, and overall peace. These hundred days have proven that Modi has neither a solution nor a vision for the country's problems, she said at a press conference at the AICC headquarters. Modi's "habit" of turning a blind eye to issues and running away from challenges continues to persist, she claimed. "Each moment of the government in these 100 days has been marked by instability, indecision and immaturity. There have been multiple



attempts to inflate a punctured balloon but the thorn pricked by the public in the Lok Sabha elections has not given Narendra Modi any chance to rise again," she said. "Do you remember the tall claims made during the election campaign that Narendra Modi was planning for the first 100 days? Where is that plan now? Because from day one,

Modi has proven to be a weak prime minister, dependent on crutches, setting new records for U-turns," Shrinete said and cited alleged U-turns on issues of lateral entry in civil services, broadcast bill, Waqf bill, indexation and NPS. Posing questions to the prime minister, Shrinete asked if he had any plan or vision for the next five years.



NGT fines Jharkhand Rs 50,000 for not assisting panel on Ganga

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal has imposed a fine of Rs 50,000 on Jharkhand for failing to assist it on proceedings regarding the prevention and control of the Ganga's pollution in the state. The green body has constituted a special bench to deal with the Ganga's pollution across each state and district through which the river and its tributaries flow. Last November, the tribunal sought specific information on Ganga pollution from the

chief secretaries of West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. In an order passed on September 6, a bench of National Green Tribunal Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava said, "Counsel for the state of Jharkhand appearing virtually submits that he does not have the file. He is unable to assist the tribunal. No competent authority from Jharkhand is virtually present to assist the tribunal. Hence, we have no option but to adjourn the matter today."

"In the circumstances mentioned above, we impose the cost of Rs 50,000 upon the state of Jharkhand for not rendering assistance," the bench, also comprising Judicial Member Justice Sudhir Agarwal and Expert Member A Senthil Vel, said. In February, the tribunal fined the state Rs 25,000 after observing the "unfortunate" scenario where, despite repeated opportunities, district magistrates -- who head of the district Ganga protection committees -- did not submit their reports.

Bihar CM has turned deaf, mute over law and order: Tejashwi

PNS ■ MUZAFFARPUR (BIHAR)

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav on Monday attacked Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar over "deteriorating" law and order situation in the state, asserting that he has turned "deaf and mute" over the issue. Yadav also alleged that there is "rampant" corruption in the state government departments. "The law and order situation has completely collapsed in the state. The Nitish Kumar government has miserably failed to bring the situation under control... They (NDA leaders)

are patronising criminals in the state. The CM has become deaf and mute... he is simply maintaining a stoic silence over the issue," the former deputy chief minister told reporters here. "Corruption is rampant in each and every department in the state. The ongoing land survey is an example in which people are being extorted by officials. The entire process should be simplified," the RJD leader said. The Bihar revenue and land reforms department had recently started conducting the survey across the state, with the aim of streamlining land records.



Climate change risks grow faster for wealthy: Study

Says poorest remain at highest risk

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Economic risks for the wealthy due to climate change is growing at the fastest rates because of impacts to global supply chains and goods and services, even as the highest risks remain with the poorest around the world, according to a new study. Across countries, lower-income consumers are known to face higher economic risks in a changing cli-



mate because of a low capacity to adapt.

However, researchers explained that inequality in consumption between varied income groups within a country is grounded in how easily one is able to substitute goods to adapt to the effects of climate change, including shocks to supply chains. The team from the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), Germany found that low-income consumers are more vulnerable to supply shocks as they spend a greater share of their budget on hard-to-substitute necessary goods.

On the other hand, high-income consumers spent larger shares of their budget on easier-to-substitute goods so that they suffer smaller reductions of consumption, the researchers said. "While current risk levels are lowest for high-income consumers, climate-driven risk increases may be largest. This may reduce adaptation advantages of higher-income consumers and thus result in substantial macroeconomic risks," the authors wrote in the study published in the journal Nature Sustainability.

Himachal bags award for hydropower capacity

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Himachal Pradesh has been awarded the "Highest Achiever State in Overall Hydropower Capacity" at the Global Renewable Energy Investors Meet and Expo held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, according to a statement. "This recognition validates our efforts to make Himachal Pradesh a Green Energy State by March 31, 2026," state Chief Minister Sukhvir Singh Sukhu said in the statement issued here on Monday. The award was presented by Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy, Pralhad Joshi.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Damage control

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

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



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

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

### PICTALK



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

## A cup of garam chai: The essence of India

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

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



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

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

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

resides in its egalitarian nature. From the opulent palace kitchens to the humble street-side vendor offering steaming cups of chai in traditional clay cups known as kulaks, tea is savoured across all levels of society. It represents a delightful indulgence, a tiny joy amidst the chaos of everyday life. For countless individuals, the day remains uninitiated until that initial sip of tea is savoured. In a nation as vast and varied as India, finding something that brings us all together is uncommon; however, it is precisely this connection that tea fosters through collective rituals and appreciation. The next time you enjoy your tea, keep in mind: that it's more than just a beverage. It embodies the essence of tradition and ritual, a vibrant celebration of all that distinguishes India. Served with hot parathas or a delectable slice of cake, tea weaves through the vibrant cultural fabric of the nation, connecting us, sip by sip. *(The writer is a motivator and a freelance writer; views are personal)*



RACHNA LAKHPATRI

## Debunking conspiracy theories with AI

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



SANTHOSH MATHEW

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

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

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



ple, was a breeding ground for conspiracy theories. False claims that the virus was engineered as a bioweapon, or that 5G technology spread the disease, circulated rapidly. These beliefs not only stoked fear but also fueled vaccine resistance, leading to a slower public health response. As artificial intelligence continues to revolutionize our world, it's also becoming a powerful tool for both the spread of and the fight against conspiracy theories. AI itself has become a subject of suspicion, with some fearing it as a means of mass surveillance or control.

But AI is also being deployed to combat misinformation. Researchers have recently begun experimenting with AI chatbots, like GPT-4, to engage with conspiracy theorists directly. In a controlled study, participants were invited to express their beliefs in specific conspiracy theories. The AI then engaged them in a three-round dialogue, offering counterarguments and evidence to debunk their claims. Remarkably, these conversations led to a 20% reduction in participants' belief in their chosen conspiracy theory, and the effect lasted for at least two months.

While these results are promising, they only scratch the surface of a much larger issue. Conspiracy theories persist because they provide simple, emotionally charged explanations



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

for complex global events. In times of uncertainty, people naturally seek out answers that make sense of their fears. Whether it's the belief that the U.S. government orchestrated the 9/11 attacks or that NASA faked the Moon landing to win the space race, these theories offer a false sense of order in a disorderly world. Social media algorithms amplify these ideas, often pushing the most extreme narratives into the spotlight, further fueling distrust and division.

Even AI, with its potential to debunk misinformation, cannot overcome the deep-seated fear and scepticism that drive people to embrace conspiracy theories in the first place. The rise of AI has sparked its own set of conspiracies, with some claiming that it's part of a grand plot for world domination or that it's being used to control the masses. As much as AI can engage and educate, its ability to change hearts and minds is limited when faced with the sheer emotional power of fear and distrust. And it's not just AI or social media that keeps conspiracy theories alive. Historical events like the 9/11 attacks, the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the AIDS epidemic have all been used to fuel false narratives. One long-standing theory claims that HIV was a man-made biological weapon designed to target specific

populations, particularly African Americans and Latinos. Despite decades of scientific research disproving such claims, these ideas continue to find an audience among those who mistrust government and scientific authorities. At the heart of every conspiracy theory lies a fundamental distrust of authority. As Roman historian Tacitus once observed, when governments or those in power lose the trust of the people, manipulation and suspicion take root.

And in today's hyper-connected world, these suspicions spread with unprecedented speed. Yet, there is hope. While AI alone cannot solve the problem of misinformation, it can be a valuable tool in the broader effort to rebuild trust and foster dialogue. The challenge is not just to debunk falsehoods but to address the deeper emotional and psychological needs that drive people to believe in them in the first place. It requires a concerted effort from governments, media, educators, and individuals to promote transparency, critical thinking, and open communication. As the world becomes more connected, the stakes grow higher. Misinformation, once confined to fringe groups, now has the power to shape global events. *(The writer is an associate professor, views are personal)*

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### KEJRIWAL TO RESIGN

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

Gopalaswamy J | Chennai

#### NEED FOR MORE EXPRESS TRAINS

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

#### A politician and a gentleman



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

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

#### PRISONER NO 626710

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

Sujit De | Kolkata

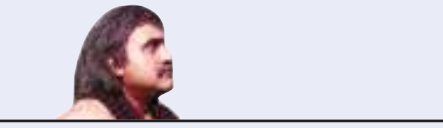
Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

P Victor Selvaraj | Tirunelveli



## FIRST COLUMN KARMIC CYCLES AND VEDIC WISDOM

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



ASHWINI GURUJI

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



mantras and rituals, the present education system is to be blamed for this as it is completely based on what the colonial masters chose for us, they were fearful of the power of the Vedas and hence destroyed the gurukul system and ensured that we were taught redundant sciences and tweaked history to their advantage the purpose was so that the coming generations lose faith in their culture and follow the colonial masters blindly. The result that they wanted is visible today. For the younger generations who might be thinking by now that this article reeks of Hindutva and is a fairy tale based on fiction, I would like to point out certain facts of history. In the ancient world, the main cultures flourishing around 4000 years back were the Egyptians, the Mesopotamians, the Romans, the Mayans etc. and of course our very own culture. None of the present day religions or schools of thought were present, except the Hindu religion and the Vedic thought. All the cultures are prevalent believed in the other world and travelling of the soul to other dimensions. The pyramids are aligned in the north-south direction and the shafts in them are pointing towards the three main stars of the Orion belt which the scientists of today say could be the birthplace of stars and human origin. The technology to move such heavy stones to build pyramids is still not available to mankind. As a matter of fact, scientists are to date baffled by them, they were further baffled when they found high doses of radioactivity in the bones indicating an atomic explosion of the human remains at Mohenjo Daro. 4000 years back when these civilisations were flourishing, at that time the third guy or the diaper yug was in process, if we just try to go back further to the treta yug and read about the the various weapons used in the Ramayana war, we would realise that our ancestors knew the way the creation functions and the secrets of the lokas and the world of energy. The hindu culture is the only culture that predates all the other cultures and is still the largest practised religion, its mantras and practices are not mumbo jumbo but they are a gift of a highly advanced civilisation to the present day humans. That's why it has survived till date.

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

# Social business promises inclusive development



UTTAM CHAKROBARTY

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

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

Of late, this alternative paradigm for development is getting a boost in the country. Social business is a powerful model designed to tackle pressing social problems - poverty, inequality, healthcare and education - while operating in a financially sustainable way. Unlike traditional businesses, which prioritize profit maximization for shareholders, social businesses are driven by a mission to solve societal issues, and any profits generated are reinvested into the business to scale its impact. This innovative approach to entrepreneurship is particularly relevant in India, where the scope for addressing societal gaps through market-driven solutions is immense. The Genesis of Social Business

Over the past decade, India has witnessed a surge in interest in social entrepreneurship. Fueled by rising awareness of social issues, a growing youth population, and the rise of impact investment funds, the country is now home to a plethora of social businesses across sectors. Organizations like SELCO, which provides affordable solar lighting to low-income households, and Araku Coffee, which empowers tribal farmers through sustainable agriculture practices, exemplify how businesses can be a force for good. India's unique landscape of socio-economic diversity also presents a fertile ground for social innovation. Entrepreneurs are finding creative ways to solve challenges related to agriculture, healthcare, sanitation, education, and financial inclusion. For example, Amul, India's dairy cooperative giant, operates on principles that align closely with social business, ensuring fair wages for farmers while providing quality products to consumers. Similarly, Goonj, a non-profit working in rural India, converts urban waste into useful products, addressing both poverty and waste management. An Alternative Path

India, with a population of over 1.4 billion, faces an array of socio-economic challenges. Although the country has made significant progress in areas like technology and infrastructure, millions continue to struggle with basic needs like clean water, healthcare, education, and employment opportunities. Traditional government interventions and charity-driven models, while vital, often fail to create sustainable and scalable solutions. This is where the social business model comes in—bridging the gap between business and social responsibility. Facets of Social Business India's healthcare sector, while rapidly growing, remains highly unequal. Millions of people, particularly in rural areas, lack access to quality medical services. Social businesses like Narayana Health, founded by Dr. Devi Shetty, are addressing this issue by providing low-cost, high-quality



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

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

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

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

**Measuring Social Impact:** Unlike traditional businesses, where success is measured purely in terms of financial performance, social businesses must demonstrate their social impact. However, measuring impact can be complex, and there is no standardized framework for doing so. Many social businesses struggle to strike a balance between maximizing their impact and ensuring that they remain financially viable. India's booming tech industry has become a key driver of social innovation. The proliferation of smartphones and internet connectivity has enabled social businesses to reach remote and underserved populations more effectively. From fintech solutions that provide micro-loans to rural entrepreneurs, to edtech platforms offering quality education at scale, technology is unlocking new opportunities for social businesses to deepen their impact. One notable example is the Jan Dhan-

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

### The Way Forward

As India continues its journey toward becoming an inclusive, equitable, and sustainable society, social businesses will play an increasingly important role. With the rise of a new generation of socially conscious entrepreneurs, supported by impact investors and technology, the potential for social business to drive change is greater than ever. The COVID-19 accelerated the momentum for social entrepreneurship in India, with many seeing social businesses as a key pillar in the country's post-pandemic recovery. However, for the social business movement to truly take off, greater support from the government, investors, and civil society is essential.

Policy makers must create an enabling environment through targeted incentives and streamlined regulations. Meanwhile, impact investors need to provide more patient capital to allow social enterprises to grow sustainably. Precisely, social business represents a powerful tool for driving inclusive development in India. By addressing social problems through innovative, financially viable solutions, social businesses can empower individuals, uplift communities, and contribute to a more equitable and prosperous society. As India continues to evolve, the role of social business will only grow in importance, offering hope for a future where economic growth and social progress go hand in hand.

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

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

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

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



PANKAJ ARORA

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

**IN BRIEF**



**HSBC India launches global education payments**

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



**Reliance board to meet for preferential issue**

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



**Rupee rises 4 paise against US dollar**

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

**Govt to further strengthen start-up ecosystem: Goyal**

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

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

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

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

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

The Startup India initiative



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

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

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

within the new startup company".

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

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

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

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

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



**Odisha to emerge as Tata Steel's largest investment destination**

**PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR**

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

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

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

"The phase-II expansion of

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

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

**HMSI recalls 300-350 cc bikes to replace faulty parts**

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Finance Minister to launch NPS Vatsalya Scheme**

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will launch the NPS Vatsalya scheme on Wednesday in line with the announcement made in the Union Budget 2024-25.

The finance minister will also launch an online platform for subscribing to NPS Vatsalya, release a scheme brochure, and distribute Permanent Retirement Account Number (PRAN) cards to minor subscribers. As part of the launch here, NPS Vatsalya events



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

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

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

**Indoor amusement centres expanding: JLL**

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

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

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

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



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

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

lion sq ft by 2028, the consultant said.

JLL noted that these centres are emerging as a key driver of footfall and consumer engagement.

"It is seen that Indoor Amusement Centers are

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

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

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

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

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

of equity shares worth Rs 3,000 crore by parent Bajaj Finance. In the equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 97.84 points or 0.12 per cent to settle at a new record peak of 82,988.78. During the day, it jumped 293.4 points or 0.35 per cent to hit a fresh lifetime intraday high of 83,184.34. The NSE Nifty went up by 27.25 points or 0.11 per cent to settle at 25,383.75. During the day, the benchmark gained 89.2 points or 0.35 per cent to hit a new intra-day record peak of 25,445.70.

**Eol floated for coal gasification tech project**

**PNS ■ KOLKATA**

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

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



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

**PNS ■ MUMBAI**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

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

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

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

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

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



opportunities for us as a country," she said.

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

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

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

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

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

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





## Shogun, Baby Reindeer and Hacks win big at Emmys

The 76th annual Emmy Awards were presented on Sunday at the Peacock Theater in downtown Los Angeles. *Shogun* achieved the highest number of wins in a season with 18, setting a new record. *Shogun* was awarded as the best drama series, with Hiroyuki Sanada and Anna Sawai also winning awards for their performances. The show *Hacks* was named the best comedy series, while *Baby Reindeer* and *The Bear* each took home four awards.

Ebon Moss-Bachrach, Jeremy Allen White and Liza Colón-Zayas were among the initial recipients who received recognition for their performances in the comedy show *The Bear*. Celebrities such as Billy Crystal, Viola Davis, Selena Gomez, Steve Martin, Maya Rudolph and Martin Sheen presented Emmys to fellow stars. Last week saw the victory of various actors and shows, with Rudolph being among the winners. Rudolph received her sixth Emmy Award last weekend at the Creative Arts Emmys for her voice acting in *Big Mouth*. Jamie Lee Curtis snagged a supporting actress Emmy for her role in *The Bear* last weekend.



## Pankaj Kapur unfolds on his absence from direction

Pankaj Kapur, a seasoned actor, stepped into the role of director for the 2011 film *Mausam*, featuring his son Shahid Kapoor and Sonam Kapoor. He recently discussed his decision to not direct any more movies after that. *Mausam* took place amid various sociopolitical events. While the audience had high hopes for the film, its performance at the box office was a mixed bag. During an interview, Kapur discussed his decision and cited various influencing factors.



The actor stated that he had not completely dismissed the idea of directing again. He is adamant that it will only occur if the appropriate narrative drives him. Currently, he is satisfied with simply appearing on screen and showcasing his acting skills. He said, "*Mausam* is the only film I wrote and directed. Having

said that, I do have scripts, but I cannot go from door-to-door selling them. I do not have that temperament. My temperament is more of an actor." "I mean, I don't mind if somebody comes to me and says do you have a script? Can I hear something? I'm ready to narrate it and if the person says yes, I like what you have written, I am ready to go ahead and direct the film. It's not that I don't like directing, I love directing, but I cannot struggle to make a film. So, after *Mausam*, I decided to be more of an actor, and when an opportunity arises, I will direct," Kapur concluded.

Pankaj Kapur is gearing up for the release of his next film, *Bhinny Aur Family*, which is set to release on September 20. The film also stars Varun Dhawan's niece, Anjani Dhawan.

## NEW MATTHEW PERRY DOCUMENTARY TO EXPOSE SHOCKING REVELATIONS!

*Friends* star Matthew Perry brought endless laughs and moments of happiness to many people, thanks to his memorable portrayal of the fictional character Chandler Bing. His passing in October last year caused a sense of hope and speculation. An autopsy later found that his death was connected to a significant amount of ketamine in his bloodstream.



In August 2024, charges were laid against five individuals involved in the actor's deadly drug overdose, two of whom were doctors. This infamous group consisted of Jasveen Sangha, known as "The Ketamine Queen" of North Hollywood, along with Dr. Salvador Plascencia, Dr. Mark Chavez,

addiction in his memoir, *Friends, Lovers and the Big Terrible Thing*. However, as doctors participated in the elaborate plan to take advantage of the actor, Perry's situation highlighted the widespread presence of a secretive Hollywood drug ring, potentially destroying numerous lives.

Today, a new documentary called *TMZ Investigates Matthew Perry and the Secret Celebrity Drug Ring* once again shed light on the illicit activities that are overlooked by many. Renowned stars such as Kelly Osbourne will openly discuss tactics used by doctors to manipulate addicts, leading them deeper into addiction for personal gain within the industry.

Erik Fleming, and Perry's longtime live-in assistant Kenneth Iwamasa. The malicious network formed by the group of five ultimately led to the Hollywood star's death. Perry openly discussed his history of substance abuse and described his struggles with

## RAAJ SHAANDILYAA DISMISSES ANY RELATION OF VVKWWV WITH SEX TAPE

Raj Shaandilyaa, the director, clarifies that his new movie *Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video* with Rajkumar Rao and Triptii Dimri is not related to the Hollywood film *Sex Tape*. The movie director, most famous for the *Dream Girl* series starring Ayushmann Khurrana, admitted to not having watched the 2014 film with Jason Segel and Cameron Diaz.

Vicky Vidya tracks the main married characters as they desperately look for a CD containing a video of their wedding night, while *Sex Tape* centers on a married couple who create a sex tape to add excitement to their relationship, only to discover the next day that it is missing. Shaandilyaa mentioned that he discovered the existence of a movie named *Sex Tape* following the release of the trailer for *Vicky Vidya*, a film set in the 1990s. Someone asked me on Twitter, 'Is this film like *Sex Tape*?' I'm like, 'There's no sex in our film'. I was told by one of our writers that

in that film their video goes viral on the Internet. The video in our film is made by the couple and they lose the CD because of their negligence. The characters and story are different. Our film has nothing to do with *Sex Tape*. I've not even seen *Sex Tape*. I didn't get inspired by it, rather I got inspired by life and the people around me," said the director.

He is already in the process of working on the next installment of *Vicky Vidya...*, which will take place during the early days of the Internet.

"Where this film ends, we've got a sequel, which will be set 10-15 years later, when the advent of the Internet has happened. We've written the story. We will shoot this film after I make another film," he added.



## STANDALONE

In a photographic tribute to the legendary singer Bharat Ratna M.S. Subbulakshmi on the occasion of her 108th birth anniversary, versatile actress Vidya Balan has come together with costume designer Anu Parathasarathy to recreate the iconic styles of the Nightingale of India.

## FUN

### ARCHIE

VERONICA, YOUR BOYFRIEND'S GETTING HIS GRUBBY CLOTHES ON OUR EXPENSIVE SOFA! I'LL FIXIT PADDY!

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

A THROW FOR YOUR BOYFRIEND!

### CALVIN AND HOBBS

HEY, MOM, CAN WE GO OUT FOR HAMBURGERS TONIGHT?

NOT TONIGHT, DEAR.

AH, MOM! WHY NOT?

BECAUSE I'M ALREADY FIXING SOMETHING FOR DINNER.

YEAH, I KNOW.

### GARFIELD

IS THERE ANYTHING BETTER THAN FINE DINING...

AND FASCINATING CONVERSATION?

HUH? IS THERE?

HOW SHOULD I KNOW?

### NANCY

JIGGLING IT A LITTLE HELPS!

LIKE THIS?

### GINGER MEGGS

YOUNG MASTER MEGGS, YOUR GRADES ARE UP THIS SEMESTER!

TO WHAT DO WE OWE THIS BIZARRE ANOMALY?

AN UNFAIR SENTENCE FROM A BRUTAL DISCIPLINARIAN.

### REALITY CHECK

SAVES AND MAKES SWEETS SALAD PREPPING COMDIMENTS

STUFF YOU WILL CRASH INTO THE BACK OF YOUR PRIDE UNTIL IT EXPIRES

### SPEED BUMP

NO, YOU TELL HIM IT'S WRONG.

GOD IS MY CO-PIRATE

### CROSSWORD

### SUDOKU

Yesterday's solution

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

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

### ACROSS

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

### DOWN

- A special holiday for a couple just married

SOLUTION

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



PNS|HYDERABAD

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

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

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

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

He added, "This collection is different from our usual offerings. We have moved beyond the dramatic sculpting and shaping we're known for and focused more on the intricacies of embroidery, the fits and the colour story. It's more subtle, yet more refined."

Among the luminaries present at the launch was Deepika Reddy, founder of Alinari, one of Hyderabad's leading multi-designer stores. A key figure in Hyderabad's fashion landscape, Deepika has long been a champion of Indian design. Her admiration for Gaurav Gupta's work was evident as she reflected on the designer's unique impact on Indian fashion.

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

When asked what sets Gaurav Gupta apart from his contemporaries, Deepika said, "He has a very strong point of view. There's always something original in his collections. He's carved out his own unique aesthetic and because of that, he has created his own market. His work speaks to those who are experimental, individualistic and unafraid to stand out."

Adding a touch of glamour to the event was Krithi Shetty, the rising star of South Indian cinema. Draped in one of Gaurav's stunning ensembles, Krithi embodied the fresh, youthful energy of the collection. Her effortless grace and charm lit up the evening, making her the perfect muse for Gaurav Gupta's vision. "Krithi is cute and so pretty," Gaurav gushed, expressing his admiration. "She's a rising star, not just in the South but across the country. She's the ideal fit for the brand and her presence here adds a layer of excitement to the evening."

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

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

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



## Korolova's beats brighten Hyderabad's sunsets

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## REVIVING KANI WEAVING

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

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



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

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

# SKIPPER HARMANPREET TWIN STRIKE IN 4-1 VICTORY OVER KOREA

PTI ■ HULUNBUIR (CHINA)

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

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

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

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

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

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



INDIA IN ACT FINAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

PTI ■ DUBLIN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He then missed from inside ten feet for birdie on both the eighth and the ninth as Hojgaard kickstarted his challenge with an outrageous chip-in for birdie on the tenth. A birdie on the 11th edged McIlroy two in front again, but that advantage was wiped out as Hojgaard birdied the 16th and McIlroy bogeyed the 15th. Hojgaard then dramatically holed out from a greenside bunker on the 17th and, although McIlroy drew level with a birdie on the 16th, he charged his birdie putt on the 17th past the hole and missed the return.

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

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

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

PTI ■ CHENNAI

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

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

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

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

Ravindra Jadeja, Rishabh Pant and pacer Mohammed Siraj too



facel local bowlers and significant amount of throwdowns.

The practise pitch at the main square offered a decent amount of bounce.

India will have two more practice sessions scheduled before the series opener against Bangladesh, who are riding on the confidence of their series sweep in Pakistan.

Most players in the playing eleven select themselves. The Chennai surface usually favour the spinners and there is likelihood of India going into the game with three spinners and two pacers.

The spinners expected to feature are Ashwin, Jadeja and Kuldeep Yadav while Bumrah and Siraj will share workload in the pace department. Axar Patel, despite his impressive all-round returns across formats, may have to sit out.

On the batting front, Pant is expected to make his Test return after a gap of almost two years. Dhruv Jurel, who impressed his debut series against England, will be

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

"We have been working on mental strength for a long time. The last 3-4 overs are the most crucial. T20 cricket is not a small format; at the end of the day, you are playing 40 overs," Kaur told Star Sports.

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

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

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

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

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

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



added.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Olympic medallists Sakshi Malik and Aman Sehrawat, along with former world championship bronze-winner Geeta Phogat, had spearheaded the wrestlers' protest against ousted Wrestling Federation of India President Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who was accused of sexual harassment. She has, however, distanced herself from the latter two after they took the political plunge by joining Congress ahead of next month's Haryana assembly elections.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"This league is a very

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

SURESH KAVIRAYANI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## SIDDHARTH, ADITI'S ETERNAL LOVE BEGINS!

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

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

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

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

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

The couple made their engagement official in March.

## Jani Master faces serious troubles!

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

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

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



## AISHWARYA RAI BACHCHAN BAGS BEST ACTRESS AWARD FOR PS-2

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

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

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



## Prince and Naresh Agastya's KALILOCKS RELEASE DATE

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

ed by well-known storyteller K Raghavendra Reddy.

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

in the movie.

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



## Advay's debut film looks impressive

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

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

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

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

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

