www.dailypioneer.com

Published From: VIJAYAWADA HYDERABAD DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL RAIPUR CHANDIGARH BHUBANESWAR RANCHI DEHRADUN

Govt committed to plug loopholes, asserts Minister





Ritesh Rana on cloud



QUOTE OF THE DAY the pioneer The Lord Venkateswara Swamy temple at Tirumala is our most sacred temple. Every aspect of Tirumala was ruined by the Jagan government be it laddu or annaprasadam. It disgusts and pains me to say that animal fats were used in the preparation of the prasadam. The quality of the product was completely tarnished. Once we came to power, we immediately enforced the use of pure ghee.

N Chandrababu Naidu, AP CM

DC exhorts people to practice yoga...

West Godavari district Collector Chadalavada Nagarani has exhorted people to practice Yoga to keep good health. The Collector here on Wednesday inaugurated the 'Sankalpa Samadhi Yoga' programme. The Yoga programme is jointly organized by the Alluru Venkata Raghava Raju Charitable trust and Sakaratmak Foundation under the guidance of Guruji Dr Nanna. Speaking on the occasion, Collector Nagarani said that Yoga has physical and mental health benefits and everyone should increase awareness about the practice of Yoga...

India serves notice to Pak...

In a significant move, India has served a formal notice to Pakistan seeking a review of the 64-year-old Indus Water Treaty, citing "fundamental and unforeseen changes in the circumstances and impact of persistent cross border terrorism. The notice was issued to Pakistan on August 30 under Article XII(3) of the Indus Water Treaty (IWT), government sources said on Wednesday. India and Pakistan signed the IWT on September 19, 1960 after nine years of negotiations with a sole aim to manage..

Nearly 50% of public infrastructure...

Nearly 50 per cent of public infrastructure in India is unprepared for disaster management, according to a survey by CBRE. The survey findings were released at a joint Conference 2024' organised by CBRE and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) here. On Wednesday, real estate consultant CBRE said as per its survey on select large infrastructure assets on risk management parameters "nearly 50 per cent of the public infrastructure in India...

India look to spin a new story but...

Littered largely with lopsided contests, India's hopes of walking down that familiar path will hinge on sorting an uncharacteristic batting infirmity against spin when they face Bangladesh in a two-Test series starting here from Thursday. Bangladesh who are fresh from a recent 2-0 drubbing of Pakistan, are no pushovers this time and this will add to India's list of concerns as they look to take that hold first step into a long season that features 10 Tests, including a possible berth in the World Test Championship Final.

Panel suggests 18 amendments

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Eighteen distinct amendments to the Constitution and other statutes would be required for the implementation of the Kovind committee's recommendations on simultaneous elections, according to the panel's report accepted by the Union Cabinet on Wednesday.

The changes suggested include the amendment to the provisions of the Constitution relating to preparation of the electoral roll by the Election Commission of India in consultation with the State Election Commission(s) for the elections to the local bodies (Article 325).

It would also require an amendment to a constitutional provision in order to have simultaneous elections for municipalities, panchayat along with general elections of the Lok Sabha and the state legislatures (Article 324A).

The panel further said that under Article 368(2) of the Constitution of India, ratification by not less than half of the states will be required to carry out amendments to the Constitution as these matters are related to state

Cabinet nod for Jamili polls

'We will seek to create a consensus over the next few months

80 per cent of the respondents have given their positive support: Centre

Moving ahead with its "one nation, one election" plan, the government on Wednesday accepted a high-level panel's recommendations for holding simultaneous *Jamili* polls for the Lok Sabha, state assemblies and local bodies in a phased manner after a countrywide consensus-building exercise. Asserting that several political par-

ties are already on board, the government said even those parties that are opposed to it may now feel pressure from within to present, the ECI is change their stand due to the widespread support responsible for the Lok

on the issue from the

people of the country.

Sabha and Assembly polls, while the local body elections for municipalities and Announcing the Cabinet's Union panchayats are managed by approval to the prothe state election posal, Information and Broadcasting Minister commissions. Ashwini Vaishnaw said an implementation group would be formed to take forward the recommendations of the panel headed by former president Ram Nath

Kovind and detailed discussions

would be held on various fora across

the country over the next few months. 'We will seek to create a consensus over the next few months.... Our government believes in creating a

"The opposition might start feeling internal pressure (about 'one nation, one election') as more than 80 per cent of the respondents who responded during the consultation process have given their positive support, especially the youth. They are very much in favour of this."

consensus on items which affect democracy and the nation in the long run. This is a subject, a topic that will strengthen our nation...," Vaishnaw said.

Responding to a question on the stand of opposition parties, the minister said, "The opposition might start feeling internal pressure (about 'one nation, one election') as more than 80 per cent of the respondents who responded during the consultation process have given their positive

support, especially the youth. They are very much in favour of this." Asked by reporters when the recommendations could be implemented and whether a bill would be brought in the upcoming winter session of Parliament, Vaishnaw evaded a direct reply but pointed out that Shah has said the government would implement it in its current tenure.

After the discussions are completed, implementation would follow in steps and it would be the government's endeavour to build a consensus over the next few months, he said. Once the consultation process is

over, the law ministry will draft a bill, place it before the cabinet and subsequently, take it to Parliament for simultaneous polls to come into effect, the minister added.

Sources in the government later said a singular bill or a set of bills will be brought before Parliament.

In its report submitted to the government in March, just before the general election was announced, the Kovind panel recommended implementing one nation, one election in two phases -- simultaneous polls for the Lok Sabha and state assemblies in the first phase and elections for local bodies like panchayats and municipal bodies within 100 days of the general election in the second phase. It also recommended a common electoral roll, which would need coordination between the Election Commission of India (ECI) and state election commissions.

At present, the ECI is responsible for the Lok Sabha and Assembly polls, while the local body elections for municipalities and panchayats are managed by the state election commissions.

The country had simultaneous elections between 1951 and 1967 but thereafter, polls started getting dispersed due to various reasons, includ-

- The government must develop a legally tenable mechanism to restore the cycle of simultaneous elections.
- In the first stage, elections for Lok Sabha and all state legislative assemblies can be held together.
- In the second step, the elections to municipalities and panchayats will be synchronised with Lok Sabha and state assemblies in such a way that elections to municipalities and panchayats are held within 100 days.
- For the purpose of synchronising Lok Sabha and assembly elections, the president shall notify the date of the first sitting of the Lok Sabha after a general election as the "appointed date".
- The tenure of all state assemblies formed via polls after the "appointed date" and before the expiry of the full term of the Lok Sabha, will be only for the period ending up to the subsequent parliamentary polls.
- Fresh elections could be held to constitute a new Lok Sabha in the event of a hung House or a no-confidence motion, or any such event.
- Where fresh elections are held for the House of the People (Lok Sabha), the tenure of the House will be "only for the unexpired (remaining) term of the immediately preceding full term of the House
- When fresh elections are held for state legislative assemblies, then such new assemblies -- unless sooner dissolved -- shall continue up to the end of the full term of

AP Cabinet approves new liquor policy

Bhogapuram Airport to be renamed as Alluri Sitaramaraju Airport



PNS VIJAYAWADA

A meeting of the Andhra Pradesh Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, has approved the new liquor policy. The Cabinet has decided to make quality liquor brands available to the people. It has also decided to fix the average price of liquor available at Rs 99, which was sold at Rs 120 by the previous government. The Cabinet also renamed Bhogapuram Airport as Alluri Sitaramaraju Airport.

The Cabinet meeting discussed the revival of the volunteer system. The volunteer system, which has to be renewed every year, was put on hold after August 2023 by the previous Jagan Mohan Reddy government. The ministers stated that even though the term of the volunteers ended in August 2023, they were not renewed. CM Chandrababu sought more information about the restoration of volunteers.

The Cabinet has cancelled the allocation of Rs 200 per month to volunteers and secretariats for purchase of daily newspapers. The Cabinet held a

detailed discussion on the irregularities in the purchase of Sakshi newspaper by paying Rs 200 to the volunteers, spending crores of rupees. The ministers brought to the notice of the CM that Rs 205 crore was spent from the government exchequer for the purchase of Sakshi newspaper within two years. The CM ordered an inquiry into the payments made against the rules. Another key decision taken by the Cabinet was to entrust the construction of the Polavaram diaphragm to Megha Engineering & Infrastructures Limited (MEIL). The Cabinet is of the opinion that the agency will be held responsible for any problems that arise due to allocating

work to a single agency.

It was also decided to start ST-elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) giving public health top priority. APAAR (Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry) cards will be given to students in line with Aadhaar cards. The government will also form a new corporation in the Ministry of Home Affairs with a corpus fund of Rs 10 crore.



Quality liquor to be sold at Rs 99

Out of 3,736 retail outlets, 10% allotted to toddy-tappers

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Minister for Housing and Information & Public Relations, Kolusu Parthasarathy, has said that quality liquor will be sold at Rs 99, which was sold by the previous YSRCP government at Rs 120. The Minister briefed the media persons that the Cabinet decided to adopt a private retail system for sale of liquor as part of an attempt to increase the management efficiency. Of the 3,736 retail outlets in the State, 10 per cent will be allotted to the toddy-tappers, the Minister stated. **Continued on Page 2**



in Tirupati *laddu* under YSRCP rule

PNS AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday alleged the previous YSRCP government had used substandard ingredients and animal fat in making the world renowned Tirupati laddu, a consecrated sweet. The sought after Tirupati laddu is given at Sri Venkateswara temple in Firupati, which is run by the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD). 'The Lord Venkateswara Swamy temple at Tirumala is our most sacred temple. Every aspect of Tirumala was ruined by the Jagan government be it laddu or annaprasadam. It disgusts and pains me to say that animal fats were used in the preparation of the prasadam. The quality of the product was completely tarnished. Once we came to power we immediately enforced the use of pure ghee". Claimed Naidu while addressing an NDA legislative party meeting here. However, the CM asserted, pure ghee was now being used and everything has been sanitised at the temple, leading to improved quality.

DASARA SARANNAVARATRI FESTIVITIES



Naidu directs MPs, MLAs to design own vision documents

Previous government misused funds and diverted Central grants

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Expressing deep concern that the State is now under Rs 10-lakh crore debt and that bills of over Rs 1 lakh crore are pending clearance, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, on Wednesday, said that the previous government totally misused the funds and diverted the Central grants.

Addressing the Legislative Party meeting of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) at CK Convention in Mangalagiri, the Chief Minister directed the MPs and MLAs of the alliance to design constituency-wise vision documents of their own. "When we assumed charge, the treasury was empty and there were no funds even to pay the salaries of the employees. Still we are moving ahead with confidence," Chandrababu told the MPs and MLAs.

Terming the Central assistance as

oxygen for a person who is on ventilator, Chandrababu said that the State can never move on the progressive path if there is no Central assistance. Maintaining that efforts are being made to create 20 lakh jobs in the coming five years, he admitted that this tremendous success is possible only with the joint efforts of all the three alliance partners. "I have never experienced this kind of colossal victory in my life. Those who were arrogant with the feeling that they had 151 seats now confined themselves to a mere 11 seats. This is democracy," Chandrababu remarked.

The Chief Minister made it clear that those who had committed crimes should be punished at any cost, maybe a bit late. Such persons who had committed crimes should be punished, he added.

Continued on Page 2

Parents can open pension a/c for children

Sitharaman launches NPS Vatsalya

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the NPS Vatsalya scheme on Wednesday, allowing parents to save for their children's future by investing in a pension account.

Vatsalya online or by visiting a bank 13 lakh crore. or post office. The minimum contribution to open Vatsalya account is Rs 1,000. Subscribers will have to that. The guidelines for withdraw-

Launching the scheme, years of age.

Sitharaman said NPS has generated very competitive returns and offers the option to people to save

while ensuring future income. NPS Vatsalya is an extension of the already existing NPS to children. In the last 10 years, NPS has 1.86 crore subscribers with an Asset Parents can subscribe to NPS Under Management (AUM) of Rs

Children below the age of 18 years can open NPS Vatsalya account, which will automatically contribute Rs 1,000 annually after get converted to regular NPS account on completion of 18 years al from NPS accounts are being of age. Pension will come from the account only upon attainment of 60

Dasara: Officials asked to take steps for smooth darshan

With the Dasara Sarannavaratri festivities set to take place from October 3 to 12 at the Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam, the first coordination meeting has been held to ensure smooth conduct of the cel-

PNS VIJAYAWADA

ebrations. The meeting was held at the Pingali Venkaiah Meeting Hall on the premises of the NTR district collectorate in Vijayawada on Wednesday. The meeting directed the officials to make extensive arrangements to facilitate a satisfying and comfortable darshan of goddess

Durga Devi for the devotees. The

meeting focused on key aspects

such as crowd management, secu-

rity, sanitation, and seamless serv-

ices for pilgrims. The meeting was attended by NTR District Collector Dr G Srijana, Police Commissioner SV Rajasekhar Babu, Vijayawada West MLA Yalamanchili Satyanarayana Chowdary alias Sujana Chowdary and Kanaka Durga Temple Executive Officer (EO) KS Rama Rao. The meeting focused on key issues such as hassle-free darshan. security, drinking water, food, and other amenities for the devotees. The authorities expected that

around 15 lakh devotees from across the State, besides other States would visit the temple during the festivities. Approximately, one lakh devotees will visit the temple every day. However, on the auspicious day of Moolanakshatram on October 9,



NTR Distinct Collector Dr Srijana, Police Commissioner Rajasekhar Babu, Vijayawada West MLA Sujana Chowdary and Durga Temple EO Rama Rao participating in the first coordination meeting on Dasara Sarannavaratri festivities at the collectorate in Vijayawada on Wednesday

around two to three lakh devotees will have darshan. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu also will offer silk robes to Durga Devi.

During the meeting, Collector Srijana said that the temple authorities have intensified the arrangements for the upcoming

Dasara festivities. Keeping the past experiences, the district administration is taking all necessary steps to provide darshan to all devotees. She asked all departmental officials and staff to work together to succeed in the festivities. With the support from donors, drinking

should be provided to all devotees,

Police Commissioner SV Rajasekhar Babu said that his department is taking the required steps to regulate traffic in and out of Vijayawada city. As many as 3,500 police personnel were drafted for the festivities for security and traffic regulations purposes, he said. A Command Control Room will be established on the premises of the Model Guest House to monitor the arrangements, crowd of festivities maintenance. A special officer will be deployed to each sector to complete arrangements before the commencement of the Dasara festivities, he said.

Continued on Page 2

WB never nixed Amaravati: Sifting the political aspects

YSR Congress Party, the **✓** World Bank never made a negative assessment of Amaravati as the capital; rather, the project got stalled due to the Jagan government's disinterest in pursuing the loan request.

The attacks on Amaravati as the capital of Andhra Pradesh continue to persist, even after a change in government. A recent controversy, fuelled by the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) and its supporters, revolves around claims that the World Bank found Amaravati unsuitable for building a capital city. These claims have been attributed to a supposed statement by Municipal Minister P. Narayana. In reality, the situation is far more nuanced, and the controversy stems from a minor slip of the tongue, which has been seized upon by political opponents to further a narrative against Amaravati.

During a press conference, Narayana emphasised how

fected during the unprecedented floods around Vijayawada, countering the narrative spread by the YSRCP that Amaravati was vulnerable to heavy rains and flooding. Narayana criticised the Opposition for their previous attempts to paint Amaravati in a negative light, even allegedly presenting a distorted view to the World Bank. In an unfortunate moment, however, Narayana appeared to misspeak, which was interpreted as if the World Bank itself had rejected Amaravati. This error has since been exploited to spread further disinformation about the city's suitability as the state capital.

The truth is, the World Bank never made any negative statement about Amaravati. In 2015, the then Telugu Desam Party government, under the leadership of Chandrababu Naidu, approached the World Bank for financial assistance under Amaravati Sustainable Infrastructure and Institutional

The truth is, the World Bank never made any negative statement about Amaravati. In 2015. the then Telugu Desam Party government, under the leadership of Chandrababu Naidu, approached the World Bank for financial assistance under Amaravati Sustainable Infrastructure and Institutional Development Project (ASIIDP) to the tune of \$300 million to develop infrastructure in Amaravati.

Development Project (ASI-IDP) to the tune of \$300 million to develop infrastructure in Amaravati. However, this initiative faced opposition from the YSRCP and several nongovernmental organisations (NGOs), some of which filed complaints with the World Bank. These complaints accused the TDP government of forcibly acquiring land from local farmers for the Amaravati

In response, the World Bank initiated an investigation into these allegations. An investigative panel toured Amaravati and found no substantial evidence to support the claims. However, the Opposition continued to raise objections and attempted to stall the project by sending additional complaints to the World Bank. The international financial institution, in turn, considered conducting a further review.

Amid these developments, elections were held in Andhra Pradesh, and YS Jagan Mohan Reddy of the YSRCP assumed power. From the start of his tenure, Jagan expressed his



Chief Editor Swatantra TV and author

opposition to the development of Amaravati as the state capital. Even when the Union Finance Ministry inquired whether the new government wished to proceed with the World Bank loan for Amaravati, the YSRCP-led administration remained silent. Initially, the state government indicated that Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy would review the project but no response came even after repeated reminders from the central government.

Finally, after months of inaction, the Union Finance Ministry notified the state government to make known its decision by July 15, 2019; failing which, the World Bank would be informed that Andhra Pradesh was no longer interested in pursuing the project. As no response was received, the World Bank was formally notified, and it officially withdrew its support for Amaravati. Contrary to politically motivated claims in certain quarters, even the World Bank's official statement in this regard reads: "On July 15, the Government of India (GoI) withdrew its request to the World Bank for financing the proposed Amaravati Sustainable Infrastructure and Institutional Development Project. The World Bank's

Board of Executive Directors

under preparation following the government's decision."

The World Bank's explanation is unambiguous: its withdrawal was a consequence of the state government's decision, not due to any inherent flaws in the project itself. This refutes the false claims that the bank had concerns about the viability of Amaravati as a capital city.

In an interesting twist, World Bank officials recently visited Amaravati to assess the current situation. This visit comes after Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a budgetary allocation of Rs 15,000 crore for Amaravati in the 2024-25 financial year. The central government intends to provide this assistance through multilateral agencies, including the World Bank. The bank's recent visit to Amaravati signals that they are once again engaging with the project.

Despite the facts being clear, has been informed that the efforts to malign Amaravati perers continue to propagate misinformation, suggesting that the World Bank had found Amaravati unsuitable for development. However, reality tells a different story. The World Bank's withdrawal was a political consequence of the state government's disinterest, not a technical verdict against Amaravati's viability.

As political dynamics continue to evolve in Andhra Pradesh, Amaravati's fate remains a contentious issue. However, the false narrative that the World Bank rejected Amaravati should be laid to rest. The evidence clearly shows that the decision to abandon World Bank funding was driven by the YSRCP government's reluctance to proceed, not by any assessment from international financial institutions. With fresh central funding on the horizon, Amaravati may yet have a future, provided political will aligns with developmental

Privatisation of medical colleges a big scam: Rajini

PNS ■ GUNTUR

Former minister Vidadala Rajini has condemned the TDP alliance government's decision on the privatisation of newly established medical colleges, calling it a 'big scam' involving large-scale corruption and conspiracy.

Speaking to the media in Guntur here on Wednesday, the former minister pointed out that the previous government, under former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, had strived to make medical education accessible to poor students by launching 17 medical colleges at once, with an investment of approximately Rs 8,500 crore. "He aimed to enhance medical education and super-specialty medical



Meanwhile, the TDP government is conspiring to privatise these medical colleges under the guise of 'PPPP's.

Rajini pointed out that the first medical college in the State was set up in 1923, before independence, and only 11 government colleges were built in the

next 100 years. Under the previous YSRCP government, work began on 17 new colleges at the same time, with five already operational by the 2023-24 academic year. She said that if Jagan had remained in power, five more colleges would have been opened in 2024-25, and the rest ready by

Rajini said that the newly opened medical colleges provided 750 MBBS seats last year, but this year, only 50 seats were available in Paderu College. She criticised the government's refusal to accept 50 seats offered by the National Medical Commission (NMC) for Pulivendula College and questioned why there was so much hatred toward Pulivendula. She stated that political vendetta was not justified.

Rajini expressed concern that the government's decision has crushed the hopes of students and their parents. She said the coalition government has been acting in a shameful manner out of the fear that YS Jagan might gain a good rep-

She demanded an immediate rollback of the decision to privatise the new medical colleges, urging the government not to destroy the aspirations of poor students. She questioned why the leaders of the TDP alliance, who had promised to fill all medical seats under the convener quota and repeal the previous government's orders within 100 days, are now remaining silent.

APCC chief seeks apology from BJP for calling Rahul 'terrorist'

BJP scared because Rahul Gandhi is winning hearts of people

PNS VIJAYAWADA

In response to the controversial comments against the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Congress MP, Rahul Gandhi, Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) chief YS Sharmila Reddy and party leaders staged a protest in front of the Mahatma Gandhi statue at the Head Post Office at One Town in Vijayawada on

Recently, Union Minister Ravneet Singh Bittu lashed out at Rahul Gandhi for the comments made during his visit to the USA. As per the directions from the All India Congress Committee (AICC), APCC organised a protest and sounded slogans against BJP and its leaders. Firstly, Sharmila paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi.

Addressing the protesters, Sharmila criticised BJP for its statements against Rahul.



Caption: APCC president YS Sharmila Reddy and other leaders staging a protest against BJP in Vijayawada on Wednesday Photo: Ch.Vijaya Bhaskar

front of Mahatma Gandhi's rorists are. BJP is a party that statue against the comments made against Rahul Gandhi. Is BJP scared of Rahul Gandhi today, as he is exposing that party not only in our country, but also abroad," she asked.

She said the Union Minister and several BJP leaders have called Rahul Gandhi a terror-

doesn't even respect the Constitution of India. The party is scared because Rahul Gandhi is winning the hearts of the people of India, she said.

Further, she demanded an apology from Union Minister of State Railway, Food Processing and Industries "Today, the Andhra Pradesh ist. However, the people of the Congress party protested in country know who the real ter-BJP leaders. She expressed

doubt that BJP is trying to kill Rahul Gandhi. She also alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amith Shah are behind all

Sharmila stated that the Congress played a crucial role in gaining independence and many leaders sacrificed their lives for the cause. The Congress worked a lot for the rights of people and treated all religions and casts equally. However, BJP is always speaking ill of the Congress party, she

"BJP called Rahul Gandhi a terrorist. But, his father Rajiv Gandhi and his grandmother Indira Gandhi were killed by terrorists. Doesn't BJP know this?," Sharmila said, adding that BJP is the Bharativa Jute Party.

Former Central Minister JD Sheelam, APCC leaders Mastan Vali, Naraharasetti Narasimha Rao, and others

Nara Lokesh fulfils promise of establishing corporation for ex-servicemen

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Minister for Education, IT and Electronics Nara Lokesh has said that the Telugu Desam Party has fulfilled the promises given during the Yuvagalam Padayatra, under which AP Cabinet decided to establish a corporation for the welfare of ex-servicemen. Minister Lokesh said that every promise given to the youth will be fulfilled even if it takes some time due to the 'financial destruction done by the previous government'.

The TDP leaders stated that the promises given by Lokesh during the Yuvagalam Padayatra were being fulfilled one by one. They recalled that the ex-servicemen submitted a petition to Lokesh to form a special corporation to solve their problems.

TODAY

ALMANAC Month & Paksham Krishna Paksha Sep 19 04:19 AM to Sep 20 12:40 AM Sep 20 12:40 AM to Sep 20 09:15 PM Tithi: Dwitiya: Tritiya: Nakshatram: Sep 18 11:00 AM to Sep 19 08:04 AM Sep 19 08:04 AM Revati: to Sep 20 05:15 AM Sep 20 05:15 AM to Sep 21 02:42 AM Ashwini 1:40 PM to 3:10 PM 6:08 AM to 7:38 AM Yamagandam: 11:08 PM to 12:34 AM Varjyam: 9:08 AM to 10:39 AM 03:08 AM to 04:32 AM Abhiiit Muhurtham: 11:45 AM to 12:33 PM VIJAYAWADA WEATHER Forecast: Partly Cloudy **Temp:** 35°° Humidity: 61% Sunrise: 5:56 AM Sunset: 6:06 PM Updated: September 18, 2024 5:00 PM

Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for students

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Scholarship https://www.scholarships.go v.in for the academic year 2024-25. Kritika Shukla, Director, Board of Intermediate Education, has said that the last date for receipt of applications is

the CSS Scholarship applies ly selected for the National Scholarship can renew their applications for the academic year 2024-25.

The last date for both fresh and renewed applications is October 31 and the last date for verification by the Institute Nodal Officer

Kritika Shukla added that (INO) is November 15. All DVEOS and RIOs in The Central Sector Scheme to all students who passed of Scholarship for college the Intermediate Public instructions to the principals and university students has Examination in 2024. The of junior colleges under all wide publicity in this regard and inform the students who come under 20 per cent (percentile) list so as to enable them to apply for the CSSS of MHRD scholarship online. The data of the students is made available in Jnana Bhumi portal.

Quality liquor to be...

Continued from Page 1

"The Chief Minister directed the Excise officials to see to it that quality liquor is available in the market at a very reasonthe allotment of retail outlets will be done in the most transparent way. For this, a lot-tery system will be adopted, he added.

Besides, the proposal to provide 33 per cent reservation for Backward Classes ing the Artificial Intelligence (AI) collateral security, Parthasarathy explained. University and a Skilling Academy in the

The GO, which provides payment of Rs 200 for village volunteers and secretariats, will be revoked as it results in causing Rs 102-crore loss to the State per annum. The Cabinet approved to name the Bhogapuram airport as the Alluri Seetharamaraju International Airport and to set up the Andhra Pradesh Ex-Servicemen Corporation with a corpus fund of Rs 3 crore.

'The meeting also decided to rename the Vision Document Vikasitha Andhra-2047 as the Swarnandhra@2047 and also release the Swarnandhra Vision Document on November 1," the Minister told media persons. Before releasing the Vision to be taken up will be carried out in a trans-Document, talks will be held with the parent way through bidding, he added. stakeholders from September 21 to October 5, he added.

released on June 12 and August 25 to fill 58 posts in the Chief Minister's Office already issued renaming the Rythu Bharosa (CMO) on temporary basis, Parthasarathy said. The Chief Minister advised the ified by the Cabinet.

Cabinet to initiate steps to strengthen the systems by utilising the technology and good practices that are available now.

The Ministry also okayed the proposal for the creation of preliminary corpus fund able price," Parthasarathy said, adding that of Rs 100 crore for 2024-25 financial year only to take the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) on the progressive path extending the benefits received under the Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme of the Centre to these MSMEs. With this, the (BCs) in legislative bodies got the Cabinet MSMEs will get the loan facility to the nod. The meeting also resolved establishexten of Rs 5 crore without providing any

The Council of Ministers cleared the oposal for establishing the second MSME Technology Centre-cum-Testing Facility at Amaravathi instead of at Mega Industrial Hub at Kopparthy in Kadapa district. The Cabinet approved the move to hand over 20 acres of land to this through the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) in Amaravathi.

The Cabinet approved the ratification orders of the Polavaram Chief Engineer to continue the present agency Megha Engineering & Infrastructures Limited (MEIL) for the construction of a new diaphragm wall works of the Polavaram project, which is considered to be the lifeline of Andhra Pradesh. The fresh works

The Chief Minister directed the Minister for Irrigation to take steps to fill all the The Cabinet gave its nod for the GOs reservoirs and minor irrigation tanks in Rayalaseema in this season itself. The GO Centres and Rythu Seva Centres was rat-

Parents can open... Continued from Page 1

NPS has generated 14 per cent, 9.1 per cent, and 8.8 per cent returns for investments in equity, corporate debt and G-Secs, respectively, Sitharaman said.

NPS Vatsalya announced in the FY25 Budget presented in July.

Many lenders, including ICICI Bank and Axis Bank, have joined hands with the PFRĎA to launch National Pension Scheme (NPS) -Vatsalya.

ICICI Bank inaugurated the scheme's commencement in Mumbai at its service centre by registering a few children's accounts under NPS Vatsalya.

V&E conducts surprise checks on oil traders

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Surprise checks were conducted at various places across the State by the Vigilance & Enforcement (V&E) Department, as per the instructions of the Director General (V&E). The checks follow information that unauthorised hoarding and trading of adulterated oils and sudden spike in prices of palmolein oil and other edible oils, under the

held checks at 92 premises and seized 14,293 litres of oil, 89,250 kg of groundnut seeds, and 298 bags of groundnut cake. The total seized items are worth Rs 1,75,65,129 and a fine of Rs 5,14,000 was levied. The officials booked 70 cases under the Legal Metrology Act, 16 cases under the Food safety pretext of rise in customs duty. Act, and a case under the The V&E officials conduct-Essential Commodities Act.

ed surprise checks simultaneously across the State. Twelve units comprising 43 teams

DG (V&E) Harish Kumar Gupta instructed the RVEOs of all units in the State to conduct surprise checks on edible oils millers, stockists, and retailers at the same time across the State, to verify and to take stringent

action on the erring traders. The DG V&E warned all illegal traders not to indulge in such activity which is causing hardships to the common people, and also stated that the surprise raids will continue in the State.

Dasara: Officials...

Continued from Page 1

MLA Sujana Chowdary said that this year, Dasara Sarannavaratri festivities should be conducted better than the previous years.

The Endowment Department and the Durga Temple authorities will design a website to receive suggestions from the devotees. Also, to avoid inconveniences to the devotees at the time of VIPs' darshan, special timeslot should be ensured to VIPs, VVIPs, senior citizens, and differently-abled people, he sug-

EO KS Rama Rao explained the arrangements to the officials. Also, he disclosed the daily Avatarams and the temple services to the devotees. Online ticket counters are set up at the Reception, Toll-gate, Om Turning, Punnami Ghat, VMC Office, Collectorate, State Guest House, Model Guest House, Head Water Works, bus stand and railway station, he said. Starting from the Vinayaka temple, three queue lines are arranged and from the Om Turning, the queue lines increase to five. This year, in addition to water packets, bottles will be supplied to the devotees on the queue lines, he said.

DCPs Gowthamii Sali, M Krishnamurthy Naidu, Additional DCPs G Ramakrishna, M Raja Rao, DRO V Srinivasa Rao, Vijayawada RDO Bh Bhavani Sankar, and others were present.

CM directs MPs, MLAs...

Continued from Page 1

He is of the opinion that former chief minister Jagan Mohan Reddy did a grave mistake by closing the Anna Canteens. Maintaining that the volunteer system ended even when YS Jagan was the chief minister, Chandrababu pointed out that he

failed to renew the system. "I will not leave those who had committed mistakes during the YSRCP rule. Inquiries are on," he said and told the MPs and MLAs to be cautious.

Chandrababu said that the new excise policy will be in force in October first week and called upon the MPs and MLAs to take closer to the people the great job being done by the TDPled NDA Government. Making it clear that the phase-one works of the Polavaram project will be completed in the next two years, the Chief Minister said that there is no fund crunch for the Amaravathi works.

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION DEPARTMENT No.02 to 25/ATO/2023-24

Tenders have been invited for the maintenance of 25 CPWS schemes, for the year 2024-25, in the limits of Krishna and NTR districts with an estimate of Rs 2414.27 Lakh. Tender documents will be made available from 11.00 am on 17-09-2024. For details, contact www.apeprocurement.gov.in or call Sdi- Superintending Engineer 9100121306, 9494949955. RON: 18M3CL/ADVIN110021-32, Dt. 18.08.2824 RWS & S Circle, Vijayawada, NTR Dist

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisem of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.



CM Naidu to launch new sand portal today

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu will launch the Andhra Pradesh Sand Management System Portal on Thursday, providing a permanent solution to sand issues. The Department of Mines and Minerals has designed a policy that is accessible and convenient for all the

people.

Mukesh Kumar Meena,

Mines and Principal Secretary, Mines and Minerals Department, in a release, said that a new portal was developed which will ease the free sand booking and transport issues. People will get sand free of cost and only charges like maintenance, GST, and scenery will be collected, in which the government will not have any sales revenue. He said that a transparent policy is being implemented. Consumers can book free sand at their village and ward secretariats between 10.30 am to 12 noon, and from 12 noon to 5 pm through the

Barrage removed

After several failed attempts, the

Visakhapatnam-based Bekem

Infra successfully extracted one

sand boat stuck at the Prakasam

Barrage in River Krishna on

Tuesday night. After retrieving

the boat weighed approximate-

ly 40 tonnes, it was kept at the

Punnami Ghat. As the challeng-

ing task of removing the boats

continued, authorities expressed

gratitude for the hard work and

commitment displayed by the

ing efforts to remove the second

boat as well. The third boat was

sunk in the waters. The WRD

The WRD officials are mak-

PNS VIJAYAWADA





portal. The required documents should be attached as mentioned in the portal. Daily bookings will be controlled based on available sand reserves and transport capacity.

Meena said that there will be constant vigil at various stages and the portal has been designed in such a way that no one from the officials to the transporters can make a mistake. The districtlevel committees headed by the Collector will control the arrangements for the respective districts. The portal will have district-wise details like supply

officials are trying to change the

direction of the second boat

from counterclockwise to clock-

wise. The officials said that it was

not possible to remove the boat

unless its direction was changed.

But, it has become a big task to

change the direction, they said.

away from an unknown place

upstream towards the Barrage

and hit the gate hard. The

Prakasam Barrage received the

highest flood, and the boats

drifted away towards it. The

counterweight of gate 69 broke

into two pieces, and it is being

repaired. For the past nine days,

the officials have been trying to

Earlier, four boats drifted

One boat stuck at Prakasam

points, transport charges and available sand, which will enable it to control prices of lorries and middlemen. The lorries are equipped with a GPS system. He said that only registered and verified vehicles will be used for transportation and at the time of booking, the lorry will be told when it should reach the loading point and when it will reach customer. The transport

on the kilometers. Meena said that people can complain on any issue through toll-free number 1800-599-4599 and email-id: dmgapsandcom-@yahoo.com. Appropriate action will be taken and information will be provided to the complainant from the District Collector's office. All necessary arrangements have been made to increase loading capacity in stockyards without shortage of sand. The district collectors have been directed to submit a detailed report to the government on the day-to-day activities, complaints registered and actions taken regarding free sand. Director of Mines Praveen

Kumar said that sand booking can be done in two ways -- normal booking and bulk booking. Owners of buildings less than 2,000 square feet will come under general booking, while others will come under bulk booking. Praveen Kumar charges will be applicable based explained that there are two types of bulk booking, one is done by government departments and the other by multi-

CPM seeks hike in flood victims' compensation

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The CPM State committee has demanded that the State government increase the compensation package for those affected by the recent floods. They said that the compensation currently announced by the government is inadequate to meet the needs of the flood victims. The CPM believed that the flood-affected people require more substantial financial support to recover and rebuild their lives after the extensive damages caused by

In a press release here on

Wednesday, party State secretary V Srinivasa Rao said lakhs of people lost everything. The compensation of Rs.25,000 for each family is not sufficient, he said, and he demanded Rs.50,000. The State government should support the victims by paying Rs.5 lakh for fully damaged houses and Rs.2 lakh for partially damaged houses, he added.

Further, he said to support small industries and other businesses, Rs.1 lakh in financial assistance would be required. In addition to this, provide insurance facilities to

Villagers forced to carry deceased on doli due to lack of roads

PNS ■ VIZIANAGARAM

Residents were compelled to carry the body of a deceased villager on a makeshift stretcher, or 'doli', due to the absence of proper transportation facilities in Diguvakondaparti (DK Parti) village of Gantyada mandal, Vizianagaram dis-

Raja Rao (35) succumbed to iaundice on Tuesday morning. Despite initial recovery and subsequent treatment, his condition deteriorated requiring urgent medical attention. However, the lack of a motorable road and a boat in the village posed significant challenges in transporting him to a hospital.

C Sitamma, the sarpanch of Diguvakondaparti panchayat, described the ordeal: "Raja Rao had been battling jaundice. After being discharged from the hospital, he relapsed, and we had no choice but to transport him on a doli. We first carried him to the foothill of Kondaparthi hill, and then to the Area Hospital in S Kota, where doctors recommended a transfer to the district hospital for further treatment." Despite the best efforts of his family and villagers, Raja Rao passed away after being admitted to the district hospital in Vizianagaram. Following his death, the villagers transported his body as far as they could by vehicle up to the Chilakalagedda bridge.



Seed-scattering programme launched to combat climate change

3,000 soil balls containing seeds from 35 diverse plant species scattered

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

In a pioneering effort to combat climate change and promote environmental conserva-Metropolitan Commissioner Viswanathan launched a seedscattering programme on Kailasagiri Hill. Organised by Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region Development Authority (VMRDA), this initiative aims to boost green cover in the city.

At the event, Commissioner Viswanathan emphasised the urgent need for action, stating, "Due to climate pollution, we are witnessing significant changes in the environment.

Global temperatures are rising at an unprecedented rate, causing frequent natural disasters. It is imperative that we take immediate action to protect our planet." He also highlighted the crucial role of biodiversity, saying, "We must recognise the value of biodiversity and understand the changes happening around us. Planting

a tree should be seen as a social

responsibility." The programme involved scattering 3,000 soil balls containing seeds from 35 diverse plant species, including banyan, neem, custard apple, and wild almond. Under Climate Green Visakhapatnam's supervision,

this endeavour promises to enhance the region's green spaces and biodiversity.

VMRDA Secretary Datla Keerthy, DFO Shanti Swaroop, Green Climate founder Ratnam, Range Officers Shyamala and Shivani, and Inspector Satyannarayana were among the key supporters of this initiative. Viswanathan revealed that VMRDA is working on comprehensive plans to promote city-wide greenery, aiming to transform Visakhapatnam into a Green transform

Visakhapatnam. "This is a priority, and we will take concrete steps to achieve it," he assured.

Declare recent floods as national calamity: Narayana

PNS VIJAYAWADA

CPI national secretary Dr K Narayana has demanded that the Union Government announce the recent floods in River Krishna and Budameru Rivulet as a national calamity. Also, he asked the State government to take up the modernisation works of Budameru on a

war-footing. Dr Narayana, along with party State secretariat member Akkineni Vanaja and other leaders, visited floodaffected Old Rajarajeswaripeta and other areas in Vijayawada on Wednesday. He distributed clothes, blankets, and other items to the victims.

Speaking on the occasion, Narayana said that Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu should mount pressure on Prime Minister Narendra Modi to announce the recent floods as a national calamity. He asked for Rs.10,000 crore as the National Calamity Special Fund, he said. Meanwhile, he appreciated

CM Naidu for staying in Vijayawada during the floods and monitoring the flood relief measures day and night. He demanded enhancement of the financial support to the flood victims. Also, he sought special assistance for the students affected by the floods. Narayana suggested that the government formulate a special wing along the lines of Hydra in Telangana to remove encroachments on the

Speaker holds review at Narsipatnam Area Hospital

engineering teams.

The Speaker of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Chintakayala Ayyanna Patrudu, has reaffirmed his commitment to the improvement of healthcare services at the Narsipatnam Area Hospital. Joined by District Collector Vijay Krishnan, Ayyanna Patrudu expressed a deeply emotional connection to the hospital, describing it as his "brainchild.'

In his address, the Speaker emphasised the significance of healthcare as a sacred responsibility. "Serving patients is a gift given by God to doctors. We must make the most of this opportunity." He outlined his Raises concern over patient referrals to private hospitals

former status. As part of his efforts, projects such as the LIPT (Laboratory Information Processing System), mobile blood bank, orthopaedic X-ray unit and a dialysis unit have been launched.

Ayyanna Patrudu highlighted a concerning trend in patient referrals to private hospitals, stating that over 6,000 pregnant women had been sent to private healthcare facilities over the past five years. This issue was a focal point of the discussion, as the Speaker questioned the hospital's superintendent, Dr Nilaveni, on the current state of maternity services. "In 2018, this vision for restoring the Narsipatnam NTR ies per month. What has Government Hospital to its changed," he asked. He also



raised concerns over the new MLA not forming a hospital oversight committee, despite being in office for three

The Speaker did not shy away from addressing service deficiencies. He called for data collected by the mobile blood bank over the last five years and voiced concerns over allegations of hospital staff soliciting payments from patients. He demanded that these issues be resolved, while also advocating for the establishment of fixed pricing for private ambuance services.

One of the critical topics discussed was the unused Ayush hospital, completed five years ago but left inactive. He pledged to equip the hospital with necessary medical tools and a new water plant.

Corporation for ex-servicemen: Union Minister praises AP

Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan has reaffirmed the government's diers and ex-soldiers who endure challenging conditions at the borders. Speaking about the Andhra Pradesh Cabinet's recent decision to establish a special corporation for ex-servicemen, Rammohan stated, "We are committed to supporting our soldiers and ex-soldiers, and I am pleased with the Cabinet's decision to set up this special corporation."

Rammohan emphasised the significance of the Jawan Mitra programme, introduced to support soldiers' families, and highlighted the launch of the



Jawan Declaration, which he noted as a pioneering initiative in the country. "The Jawan Declaration is a first-of-itskind initiative aimed at providing enhanced support to our jawans," Rammohan remarked.

During a special meeting with the ex-military association of Srikakulam district the other day, Rammohan assured

that a clear commitment had been made regarding the new corporation. "Our meeting with the ex-military association reinforced our promise to tion," he added.
State IT and Education

Minister Nara Lokesh also expressed his satisfaction with the Cabinet's decision, which was approved under the leadership of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu. Lokesh stated, "I am happy that the Cabinet has approved the formation of this special corporation for ex-servicemen, fulfilling a promise made during the youth padayatra. This decision demonstrates the NDA coalition government's special attention to our soldiers."

SRM signs MoU with Programming Hub

PNS VIJAYAWADA

SRM University-AP has signed an MoU with the EdTech Company, Programming Hub, to explore the possibility of integrating AI-powered mar-keting into the academic curriculum, facilitating a new age of empowered marketers. The MoU was signed by Siddhesh Joglekar, CÉO Programming Hub, and Dr R Premkumar, Registrar of SRM University-AP, in the presence of Prof Bharadhwaj Sivakumaran, Dean - Paari

The MoU between the two organisations will assimilate AI-powered marketing into the teaching pedagogy of the business programmes offered at Paari School of Business to

School of Business and the fac-

ulty of the school.

To explore possibility of integrating Al-powered marketing into academic curriculum

bridge the gap between academia and industry. The association will also ensure the launch of AI-powered marketing programmes at the Paari School of Business of SRM University-AP for prospective students in collaboration with the Programming Hub. The partnership will also launch a 120-hour part-time weekendonly world-class certification programme in AI and market-

ing.
On the occasion, Siddhesh Joglekar said, "With marketing becoming an all-encompassing and essential aspect of business, AI will be the catalyst that

supercharges the field of marketing, further boosting businesses into national and international domains. With AI as the key tool, marketing will be the intersection of various domains of science, technology, humanities, entrepreneurship and management."

Bharadhwaj Sivakumaran commented on this constructive collaboration, which will revolutionise the face of marketing in India. "By integrating AI-powered marketing with human-powered marketing, the pace of marketing will swiftly change, shifting students from skilled marketers to skilled decision makers. The AI-powered marketing programme will provide students with the ability to adapt and use AI in diverse ecosystems."

Flood relief measures minimal for huge loss: YSRCP

PNS VIJAYAWADA

YSRCP has come down heavily on the TDP coalition government for its flood relief measures, calling them insufficient to address the massive losses faced by the floodaffected people in Vijayawada and demanded to increase support for the families.

Speaking to the media at the party central office here on Wednesday, former MLA Malladi Vishnu and YSRCP Vijayawada East In-charge Devineni Avinash demanded that the TDP government increase the compensation for flood victims, provide more support for families who have lost everything, cancel electricity bills for those affected, and work with insurance companies to resolve pending claims for damaged vehicles.

They questioned the government's failure to act despite having information about the cyclone and impending floods and why the government did not take preventive measures and questioned who should be held responsible for this

Mayor urges collective efforts for cleanliness

Swachhta Hi Seva programmes will continue till October 2



PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Mayor Golagani Hari Venkata Kumari has stressed the importance of teamwork in maintaining city cleanliness, saying, "Cleanliness is a reflection of good hygiene." She made these remarks at the Swachhta Hi Seva 2024 event held at RK Beach. The event, jointly organised by the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) and the AP Tourism, aimed to promote cleanliness under the Swachh Bharat

The Mayor praised GVMC's

sanitation workers, particulary in the flood-affected areas of Ýijayawada. "Visakhapatnam has earned the distinction of being the fourth cleanest city in India, and this achievement is a result of the cooperation between citizens and the dedication of our sanitation workers," she said.

District Collector MN

Harendhira Prasad also emphasised everyday cleanliness and personal hygiene. "Avoiding the disposal of plastics and waste in public spaces can prevent flood damage and protect our marine life," he said. GVMC Commissioner

Dr P Sampath Kumar outlined ongoing efforts to improve sanitation, including awareness campaigns and identifying 83 unsanitary areas. The Swachhta Hi Seva 2024 programmes will continue until October 2, culminating with a Swachhta Divas event on Gandhi Jayanti.

Mayor Venkata Kumari urged citizens to eliminate single-use plastics. "With collective efforts, Visakhapatnam can rise to become the cleanest and most attractive city in India," she said. In a heartwarming gesture, the Mayor, Collector, and

Commissioner presented GVMC sanitation workers with two pairs of clothes each, acknowledging their tireless efforts during the Vijayawada

The event also featured the unveiling of the Swachhta Hi Seva 2024 poster, followed by a beach clean-up activity where officials shared the Swachh Bharat Mission pledge with attendees. Meanwhile, representatives from the Bank of India contributed to the city's cleanliness drive by donating Rs 7 lakh to the Mayor for purchasing waste removal vehicles.



DC exhorts people to practice yoga

PNS BHIMAVARAM

West Godavari district Chadalavada Nagarani has exhorted people to practice Yoga to keep good health. The Collector here on Wednesday inaugurated the 'Sankalpa Śamadhi Yoga' programme. The Yoga programme is jointly organized by the Alluru Venkata Raghava Raju Charitable trust and Sakaratmak Foundation under the guidance of Guruji Dr

Speaking on the occasion, Collector Nagarani said that Yoga has physical and mental health benefits and everyone should increase awareness about the practice of Yoga. She noted that Yoga is not only physical exercise but also



breathing exercises which can reduce stress and anxiety in people and bring them out of depression.

Practice Yoga regularly and enjoy a healthy and happy life. Prime Minister Narendra Modi gives a very special place to

Alluri Venkata Raghavaraju Charitable Trust suggested that everyone should take advantage of the Sankalpa Siddhi free yoga program held for 21 days," the Collector stat-

Collector Nagarani said that

(DTDC Babu) who is conducting this Sankalpa Siddhi pro-

MS Surgical Oncology and Trust Member Dr. Alluri Vamsikrishna, Dermatology MD and Trust Member Dr. Priyanka Verma were appreciated for organizing the Sankalpa Samadhi Yoga programme in Bhimavaram. While Dr. Nanna explained the uniqueness of Guruji Dr. Nanna Yoga, Alluri Venkata Raghava Raju Charitable Trust Chairman PVSSN Raju (DTDC Babu) explained the purpose of setting up the trust. Bhimavaram Municipal Commissioner Ramachandra Reddy was

among those who attended

YSRCP suffers major blow in **Prakasam as Balineni quits**

PNS ■ ONGOLE

The Opposition YSRCP suffered a major blow in its stronghold Prakasam district as senior leader and former Minister Balineni Srinivasa Reddy has quit the party.

Srinivasa Reddy wrote a letter to YSRCP chief and former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Wednesday in which he said that he was quitting the YSRCP and also resigning from the membership due to some reasons.

Politics are different and relations are different. Though I am a close person to the YSR family, I had prevented Jagan Mohan Reddy when his decisions were not correct. Ultimately, all should accept the verdict of the people," Balireddy Srinivasa Reddy said in his letter to Jagan Reddy.

Since he is a political leader, he accepts the people's verdict, he made it clear. It may be mentioned here that Balineni Srinivasa Reddy was in Prakasam district as he had been with the party since its inception.

According to political sources, Balineni Srinivasa Reddy has prepared ground to join the Jana Sena party in the presence of deputy Chief Minister K Pawan Kalyan.

Officials directed to expedite land acquisition for Ballari-Kadapa NH

Speaking on the occasion, the Collector stated

utmost priority to the construction of Ballari-

Kadapa-Vijayawada national highway, steps

acquisition process, carried out package wise in

the district, under this national highway works

that since the State government is giving

should be taken to speed up the land

these days, from adults to chil-

dren, all are facing various types of stress and in order to

protect themselves, all should

make Yoga a part of their life.

The District Collector con-

gratulated Alluri Venkata

Raghava Raju Charitable Trust

PNS ■ ONGOLE

Prakasam district Collector A Thameem Ansariya directed the officials concerned to expedite the process of land acquisition for the construction of Ballari-Kadapa-Vijayawada national high-

way.
The Collector held a meet-The Collector held a meeting with the revenue and other officials and reviewed the land acquisition process. She inquired with the officials the process of land acquisition which was taken upunder 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 packages for the national packages for the national highway. She reviewed the highway works mandal and village level.

Speaking on the occasion, the Collector stated that since the State government is giving utmost priority to the construction of Ballari-Kadapa-Vijayawada national highway, steps should be taken to speed up the land acquisition process, carried out package wise in the district, under this national highway works and to complete the land acquisition works as soon as possible.

the Tehsildars to take steps to resolve the cases pending in the court regarding the land acquisition for the construc-The Collector instructed tion of BKV National

soon as possible.

and to complete the land acquisition works as Highway and also to take steps to pay compensation to those who had given their lands. "Care should be taken

in resolving disputed land

issues. The case of payment of compensation for the lands, the actual claimants should be identified," She ordered the officials. DRO Srilatha, SDC Varakumar and district Forest Officer Srinivasa Rao

Forest Officer Srinivasa Rao were among those who attended the meeting. Later, Collector Thameem Ansariya inspected the girls hostel at Cheemakurthy. She interacted with the girl stu-dents and inquired on whether they were getting all facilities

all facilities.
She said that she had granted Rs 2 crore from the DMF fund to construct additional

As many as 213 girl students are staying at the hostel, the officials told the Collector. More girls are willing to join the hostel, the officials informed the Collector.

The Collector later inspected the damaged Karumanchi major canal at Cheemakurthi. The officials explained to the Collector that Karumanchi Major canal provides water to 16000 acres and Rs 2.62 crore required to modernize the canal and proposals for the same had been sent to the with the Superintendents of police of West Godavari, East Godavari, Konaseema, Kakinada and Krishna district districts here on Wednesday. Eluru Range IG GVG Ashok Kumar, Eluru district SP K Pratap Shiva Kishore, WG district SP Adnan Nayeem Ashmi, EG district SP Narasimha Rao, Krishna district SP R Ranga Rao, Kakinada district SP Vikranth Patel and Konaseema plaints but action will be initiated, if found involvement, after Vikranth Patel and Konaseema a detailed inquiry" he acknowldistrict SP Boddepalli Krishna edged. Rao attended the meeting. Later addressing a press conference, the State police

Chief made it clear that special focus had been laid to prevent the Ganja illegal transportation and sale, adding that an 'Anti Narcotic Task Force' wing will be set up especially to contain the Ganja menace in the State.

Director General of police

Dwaraka Tirumala Rao has

said that required steps were

taken to curb the Ganja menace

and cybercrimes in the State and stated that a detailed inquiry

should be conducted in the

DGP Dwaraka Tirumala Rao held a crime review meeting

with the Superintendents of

Kadambari Jethwani's case.

Commenting on the sensational Kadambari Jethwani case, the DGP said that a 'detailed investigation' is required in the case to move further. After completion of preliminary reports action was taken by some police officers. "It will take time to complete the detailed inquiry. The inquiry should be carried out following the State and Central guidelines. Action will not be taken against the police officers based on com-

Stating that there are only two cybercrime police stations in the State at Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam, the DGP said that since the cybercrimes are increasing, cybercrime police stations would be set up in every district.

DGP Dwaraka Tirumala Rao claimed the Maoist activities have come down considerably in the State.

Steps taken to curb ganja

menace, cybercrimes: DGP

The DGP said a fingerprint lab was set up in AP and it was

upgraded in AP in 2017 but unfortunately the fingerprint lab has not been functioning properly for the last some time, he regretted. He said that Rs 4.7 crore was released under the Police Canteen working capital. The issue of investigation charges of Station House Officers was taken to the notice of the government, he made it

"We are accountable to the people and committed to provide better services to them," he vowed. The DGP voiced concern at the sexual attacks on minor girls, adding that stringent steps are being taken to contain such heinous crimes.

The DGP informed that no adequate infrastructure was provided to the police personnel to discharge their duties efficiently, adding most of the police vehicles were in a bad shape and there is a need of providing new vehicles to them.

Another blow to YSRCP in Eluru dist as ZP chairperson quits

PNS ELURU

The Opposition YSRCP has suffered the third blow in Eluru district as the ZP chairperson quit the party and joined the TDP.

YSRCP leader and combined West Godavari district Zilla Parishad chairperson Ganta Padmasri joined the Telugu Desam party in the presence of IT Minister Nara

Nara Lokesh admitted her into the TDP by wrapping a party scarf. Earlier, Ganta Padmasri quit the YSRCP. Ganta Padmasri is the third

conducted checking of vehicles.

KGs of ganja being transported

in the car. The ganja was being

taken to Maharashtra from

Odisha through Andhra

Pradesh. The police seized 100 KGs of ganja, the car and arrest-

The police team found 100



senior YSRCP leader to quit the party as former deputy Chief Minister All Kalikrishna Srinivas and city Mayor Sk. Noorjahan had quit the

YSRCP and joined the TDP a few days ago. Adding woes to the YSRCP, district YSRCP legal cell president Ganta

Floods affected 25 villages, killed 7 people in Guntur dist: DC

District Collector Nagalakshmi has said that the recent floods created devastation in Guntur district by affecting 25 villages in 11 mandals and taking the lives of seven people.

Revenue department

Sisodia held a video conference with the Collector and reviewed the flood devasta-

Speaking on the occasion, District Collector Nagalakshmi said that 1,04,276 people were affected by the flood in the district and

the deceased were given an ex gratia of Rs.5 lakh each. Collector Nagalakshmi said that 180 buffaloes, 12 sheep, 12 goats, 2 bulls, 527 poultry and 87 calves died due to flood.

The Collector apprised to the Revenue Special Chief



inundated 9,780 houses, 34 pucca and kutcha houses were completely damaged while 83 pukka houses and 459 kachcha houses were partially damaged.

Collector Nagalakshmi explained that 340 huts and 209 cattle sheds were also

told RP Sisodia that the essential commodities were distributed to the flood-affected families and updates were made on the app. Joint Collector A Bhargava Teja and Assistant Collector Swapinal Pawan Jaggannath were present.

Anantha Lakshmi Gadde receives Best Teacher Award



PNS VIJAYAWADA

Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan's legacy, Ms.Anantha Lakshmi Gadde, a dedicated educationist was awarded the prestigious State-Level Best Teacher Award at the "State-Level Best Teacher Awards-2024" event organized by the Andhra Pradesh M.Ed Prosperity Association here on Wednesday.

The event took place at Y.V. Rao Siddhartha College of Education, all joining in the recognition of excellence in education and the role of M.Ed professionals. The event's distinguished chief guest, D Devananda Reddy, Director of State Government Examinations, delivered a powerful keynote address, urging educators to foster values of humanity through educa-

He emphasized that education should be more than a pathway to exams and employment, instead guiding students to a better, more compassionate life.

Professor B Haribabu, Registrar of Sri University shared insights into the opportunities awaiting M.Ed grad-uates, while Professor Swaroopa Rani of Acharya Nagarjuna University stressed the importance of prioritizing M.Ed candidates in government colleges, including DIET colleges, B.Ed programs, and administrative roles like MEOs and DEOs.

Dr. Shailaja from Krishna University and Dr. Seshashri, Principal of Y.V. Rao Siddhartha College of Education acknowledged the struggles which the M.Ed candidates face in the current educational climate.

BC Welfare Officer suspended in sexual harassment of girls

PNS ELURU

District Collector Vetri Selvi has suspended WC Welfare Officer Sheshi Kumar for dereliction of duty in the sexual harassment of girls of Dayanand Saraswati Asharam, located here.

District BC Welfare officer RV Nagarani told the media here on Wednesday that the Collector issued an order suspending B Shesi Kumar today. B Shesi Kumar was working as a Grade 2 welfare officer. A criminal case was registered with the two town police station against him for sexually assaulting minor

girls who were staying in the Šri Swamy Ďayanand Saraswati Ashram, located at Ameenapet here.

She said that the suspended officer allegedly sexually harassed Phanisri and Lavanya, who were staying in the Saraswati Ashram. The students registered their protest and lodged a complaint with the two police stations three days ago. A preliminary inquiry was conducted and basked and the report Seshi Kumar was suspended. A detailed inquiry is being conducted on the incident, Nagamani

100 kgs of cannabis seized; two peddlers arrested

PNS ■ PADERU

The police seized 100 KGs of ganja while being transported illegally in a car at Chintoor village in ASR district.

ASP Pankaj Kumar Meena told the media on Wednesday that on a tip off, a police team



Heavy rain likely in north coastal AP **PNS** ■ GUNTUR

Heavy rain is likely to occur at isolated places in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh on September 21 and 22, Meteorological Centre said on

Wednesday. In a daily weather report here, it said that thunderstorms accompanied with lightning are likely to occur in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh from September 20 to 22

and in South Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema on September 21 and 22.

Strong surface winds with speed ranging from 30-40 KMPH are likely to prevail at

isolated places in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh, South Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema during the next five days. Light to moderate rain or thundershowers is likely to occur at many places or at a few places or at one

or two places in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh, South Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema during the next seven days. The southwest mon

soon has been weak in Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema.

Rain occurred at one or two places in Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema during the last 24 hours, the report

Bankers agree to reschedule loans for flood victims

PNS VIJAYAWADA

J Nivas, Additional Secretary (Finance) to the State government, has announced that bankers in the flood-affected areas have agreed to reschedule various loans and offer a one-year moratorium to those impacted by the floods. He stated that this initiative is aimed at providing relief to individuals, business people, hoteliers, and small industry owners besides auto and twowheelers who have suffered losses due to the floods.

In a press release here on Wednesday, Additional Secretary (Finance) Nivas said that eligible individuals can

branches to take advantage of the loan rescheduling option. It would help ease their financial burden and give them time to recover from the effects of the disaster, he said. This move is part of broader efforts to support the recovery of floodaffected communities, he added. Further, he appealed to the victims of the flood-affected

areas to utilise this opportunity. It would help all people belonging to the 179 secretarity. ats. He said that people who are residing on the ground floor would get Rs.50,000 in consumption loans while it would be Rs.25,000 for the first-floor

Offer one-year moratorium



In a press release here on Wednesday, Additional Secretary (Finance) Nivas said that eligible individuals can approach their respective bank branches to take advantage of the loan rescheduling option. It would help ease their financial burden and give them time to recover

from the effects of the disaster, he said. This move is part of broader efforts to support the recovery of floodaffected communities, he added.

bankers would provide a threemonth moratorium. They can pay loans within 36 months, he

Meanwhile, Nivas said that people can get new loans that would meet their requirements. Similarly, two-wheelers, auto-rickshaw loans besides Small and Medium Industries and commercial loans are being sanctioned by the bankers. However, there would be no collateral requirement for these loans, he clarified. Existing loans for autorickshaws and two-wheelers payments of instalments were rescheduled for one year and there were no penal charges,

He said that bankers would provide moratoriums for crop loans for one year and a maximum repayment period of five years as per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines. Payment of instalments is rescheduled during the year

of natural calamity for one

Furthermore, he said bankers would implement several schemes for small business loans. They would sanction up to Rs.10 lakh under the PM Mudra scheme, up to Rs.80,000 under the PM Svandihi and Rs.1.50 lakh under the Lakhpati Didi scheme, he explained.

ACROSS THE STATES



Tiger kills woman in Pench buffer zone, forest staff attacked

65-year-old woman was killed by a tiger in the buffer zone of Pench Reserve in Maharashtra, an official said on Wednesday. The incident triggered an angry reaction in Jhinjhiriya village, leading to the attack on forest department personnel who had rushed to the spot on Tuesday evening after the woman was killed. Forest officials assured that the tiger on the prowl will be captured. The deceased, identified as Nita Kumbhare, was killed by a tiger on Tuesday evening, stated a release issued by Deputy Director of Pench Forest Reserve (Maharashtra) Prabhu Nath Shukla. When officers and staff of the forest department reached the spot they were attacked by the angry villagers, leaving some forest guards seriously injured, he stated. Senior police and forest officers held a meeting with villagers and pacified them, he added.



Police officer arrested in RG Kar hospital case suspended

he Kolkata Police on Wednesday suspended Tala police station's officer-in-charge Abhijit Mondal who I the CBI arrested in connection with the rape-murder of the doctors at the RG Kar hospital, officials said. Mondal was suspended as per the service rules of the West Bengal government, they said. As per the rules, a government employee, in custody for a period exceeding 48 hours under any law providing for preventive detention or as a result of a proceeding either on a criminal charge or otherwise, shall be deemed to have been suspended by an order of the appointing authority. Mondal was arrested on September 14 for allegedly tampering with evidence and delaying the registration of the FIR. He is at present in CBI



MP: Seven killed, ten hurt in truck and 3-wheeler collision

t least seven persons were killed and ten others injured in a collision between a dumper truck and a three-Awheeler goods vehicle in Jabalpur district on Wednesday evening, an official said. The deceased included four men and three women, said Jabalpur district collector Deepak Saxena. "The injured persons include six men and four women," he said, adding that the incident occurred on the Sihora-Majhgawan road. All the deceased and injured were residents of neighbouring Pratappur village.



Involvement of women in development crucial for country's progress: Murmu

PNS JAIPUR

President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday said that increased involvement of women in research and development is crucial for social and economic progress of the country as well as for enhancing the quality of life for women.

Addressing the 18th convocation of the Malaviya National Institute of Technology (MNIT) here, she also called upon the youth to shape the country on the strength of their education and determination.

"Out of the 20 gold medals that I have given today, 12 positions have been won by girls. This ratio of girls among medal winners is proof that if they are given equal opportunities, they can achieve relatively greater excellence," she said.

"Greater participation of women in the field of research and development is important not only for the country's social and economic development, but also for improving the quality of life of our daugh-

ters," she said. Murmu said the aim is to make India a developed nation



Impractical, 'cheap stunt'

Opposition slams simultaneous polls proposal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the Union Cabinet approved the recommendations of the Ram Nath Kovind panel on "one nation, one election" on Wednesday, opposition parties called the proposed move impractical and a "cheap stunt" by the ruling BJP.

The Union Cabinet accepted the high-level panel's recommendations for holding simultaneous polls for the Lok Sabha, state assemblies and local bodies in a phased man-

ner, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced.

Mallikarjun Kharge, president of the main opposition party Congress, said the proposal is not practical and alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) comes up with such things to divert attention from real issues when polls approach.

"It is not practical, it will not work. When elections come and they (BJP) do not get any issue to raise, they divert attention from real issues," Kharge

The Union Cabinet accepted the high-level panel's recommendations for holding simultaneous polls for the Lok Sabha, state assemblies and local bodies in a phased manner, **Information and Broadcasting Minister**

Ashwini Vaishnaw announced

told a press conference here. Trinamool Congress (TMC)

leader Derek O'Brien called it

a "cheap stunt" of the BJP and questioned why Maharashtra polls were not announced with those in Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir if the government wants simultaneous elections.

"One nation, one election is just another cheap stunt by the anti-democratic BIP. Why were the Maharashtra elections not announced along with the elections in Harvana and Jammu and Kashmir?" he asked.

"You cannot do three states in one go and you talk about one nation, one election, O'Brien said.

'TAKE HOME RATION' SCHEME

Nation 05

Govt committed to plug loopholes, asserts Min

Union minister Annapurna Devi on Wednesday said the government is committed to plug loopholes to ensure that the "Take Home Ration (THR)" scheme reaches the beneficia-

ries. The Centre is also focused on upgrading 10,000 'saksham anganwadis', implementing a two-factor authentication system to track the delivery of the scheme and improving nutrition outcomes nationwide, she said.

"To address various complaints and to ensure that the THR reaches beneficiaries, we have launched pilot projects in six districts of six states. In Ranchi, we will start it this month. Under the project, the beneficiary's photo will be captured and an OTP will be sent on his/her mobile. On authentication, THR will be delivered. If the pilot project becomes successful, it shall be replicated throughout the country," the Women and Child Development Minister

The THR scheme comes under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programme and focuses on health, nutrition and development of infants, pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls.

She was briefing the media here on the achievements of 100 days of the Narendra Modi-led government's third term.

Lashing out at the Jharkhand government, the minister alleged that the present JMM-led dispensation has failed to check "Bangladeshi infiltration" and "atrocities on women" in the

"This government prefers silence on atrocities on women... On Bangladeshi infiltration, too, it remains silent. The law and order has collapsed in the state, Annapurna Devi said.



BJP, allies welcome Cabinet's approval Union minister Ashwini

The ruling NDA on Wednesday welcomed the government's nod to a high-level committee's recommendations for simultaneous elections, with several BJP leaders lauding the decision as another example of Prime Minister Narendra Modi doing what he promises.

Vaishnaw told reporters that the Union Cabinet headed by Modi accepted the recommendations of the committee headed by former president Ram Nath Kovind, asserting that its implementation will boost development and save public money. With the government formally moving on one of its more ambitious agenda items for this term, it will be keenly watched as to how much progress the proposal makes in the face of stiff protest from opposition parties, which have enough numbers in Parliament to stall any constitutional amendment bill.

India's military preparedness must be of very high order: CDS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's military preparedness must be of very high order and it should be ready to confront short and intense conflicts as well as long duration wars, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan said on Wednesday amid the drag-ging border row with China in eastern Ladakh.

In an address at an event, Gen Chauhan also identified operational preparedness, modernisation of the armed indigenisation of military hardware as key pillars to boost national security.

"In the most violent decade since World War II, there is a growing propensity amongst



conflicts," he said.

"The growing uncertainty and insecurity is leading al security strategy and increase expenditure on defence," he noted, according to the defence ministry.

The Chief of Defence Staff was addressing a conclave for

foreign service attaches (FSAs) hosted by the Defence Intelligence Agency of headquarters Integrated Defence

"Our operational preparedness has to be of very high order," he said. "We got to be prepared for short and intense conflicts to a long duration kind of a war," he said.

Congress system is that CM is decided by elected MLAs: Kharge

PNS NEW DELHI

president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday made it clear that the party will name its chief ministerial pick in Haryana after the polls, asserting that the party's system has always been that the elected MLAs decide who will be the CM.

Ahead of the Haryana Assembly polls, the Congress on Wednesday announced seven guarantees, including ises of a legal guara tee for MSP and a caste survey, if voted to power.

The guarantees were launched at a press conference at the AICC headquarters in the presence of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Haryana

"We have not started any new system, the one who works gets it eventually, but the **MLAs who win the** elections decide it. So this is our system from

Congress chief Udai Bhan, former chief minister

with Hooda sitting

before," he said

beside him

Bhupinder Singh Hooda, and AICC senior observers for the Haryana polls Ashok Gehlot, Ajay Maken and Partap Singh Bajwa.

Asked whether the Congress will go into the polls with a CM face and will it be Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Kharge said, "In Congress party, after elections, the MLAs who are elected always decide who is to be made the Chief Minister. So this issue does not come up right now and we do the same everywhere." "We have not starte

new system, the one who works gets it eventually, but the MLAs who win the elections decide it. So this is our system from before," he said with Hooda sitting beside him.

Bullet lodged near heart for 16 years!

Man undergoes successful surgery

PNS NEW DELHI

A 45-year-old man, who lived with a bullet lodged dangerously close to his heart for 16 years, has finally undergone a

successful surgery to remove it at a private hospital. Shailender Singh, a resi-dent of Kanpur, was shot in 2008 and came to Max Super Speciality Hospital, Saket with chest pain and coughing up blood, according to the

hospital statement. Over the years, Singh had sought multiple opinions from specialists in Kanpur, but due to the bullet being lodged near the vital structures, including his heart and lungs, doctors advised against surgery, the state-

Singh received non-surgical treatment and remained symptom-free for years.

Elaborating on the case details, Dr. Shaiwal Khandelwal, Associate Director of Thoracic Surgery at Max Super Speciality Hospital, Saket, who removed both the bullet and the damaged section of Shailender Singh's lung, said, the patient remained asymptomatic until the last year when he developed left-sided chest pain and began coughing up blood (hemoptysis). The quantity and frequency of blood in his cough progressively

Current members may be retained in Atishi Cabinet, 2 new faces likely to join

PNS NEW DELHI

All the sitting ministers will be retained in the new Delhi Cabinet led by Atishi while two new members may join the government, AAP sources said on Wednesday, ruling out any "experiment" as elections are iust months away.

The sources said while incumbent Gopal Rai, Kailash Gehlot, Saurabh Bharadwaj and Imran Hussain will be retained, Karol Bagh MLA Vishesh Ravi or Kondli MLA Kuldeep Kumar could be among the new faces.

Atishi is likely to take oath as the chief minister of Delhi along with her ministers on September 21.



"Since the Assembly polls are approaching, not much experiment is expected in the selection of members of council of ministers and old faces will most certainly be retained

while two new ministers could join in," said a party leader.

Kejriwal on Tuesday ten-

dered his resignation to Delhi

Lt Governor V K Saxena and

Atishi, who was earlier chosen

as Leader of the AAP's legislature party in the Assembly, staked claim to form a new government. Vishesh Ravi or Kuldeep

Kumar could be inducted to fill the vacancy created by resignation of then Social Welfare minister Raaj Kumar Anand, AAP sources claimed. Anand resigned from the

Kejriwal government and quit Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in April this year.

Names of party MLAs Jarnail Singh, Durgesh Pathak, Somnath Bharti and Sanjeev Jha were doing the rounds in the party circles as the probables to fill the vacancy created due to the elevation of Atishi on the chief minister's post.

59% turnout in first phase of J-K assembly polls: CEO

PNS ■ JAMMU

A turnout of about 59 percent -- the highest in the past seven elections -- was recorded in the first phase of assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, Chief Electoral Officer P K Pole said, adding polling passed off peacefully

However, he said the figures are tentative and there might be a fractional increase after the final reports are received from the remote pockets and postal ballots.

The first phase of polls covered 24 seats across seven dis-

India serves notice to Pak demanding review of Indus Water Treaty

In a significant move, India has served mental and unforeseen changes in cira formal notice to Pakistan seeking a cumstances that require a reassessment

review of the 64-year-old Indus Water Treaty, citing "fundamental and unforeseen" changes in the circumstances and impact of persistent cross border terrorism.

The notice was issued to Pakistan on August 30 under Article XII(3) of the Indus Water Treaty (IWT), government sources said on Wednesday.

India and Pakistan signed the IWT on September 19, 1960 after nine years of negotiations with a sole aim to manage reasons for demanding the review.

India's notification highlights fundaof obligations under

various articles of the treaty, the sources said. Among various concerns, the important ones include change in population demographics, environmental issues and the need to accelerate development of clean energy

to meet India's emission targets, they said. India also cited the impact of persistent cross border terrorism as one of the

'India is turning to Digital Public Infrastructure to combat its mounting water challenges'

PNS NEW DELHI

India is turning to Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) to combat its mounting water challenges and the focus must be on integrating technology to revolutionize the country's water management systems, enhancing collaboration and cutting ineffi-

ciencies, said experts. In a session during the International WASH Conference at the 8th India Water Week 2024, top officials from the Ministry of Jal Shakti, alongside thought leaders from academia and philanthropy, emphasized that digital platforms could transform the sector.

The experts said the focus should be on integrating technology to revolutionize the country's water management systems, enhancing collaboration and cutting inefficiencies.

Ashok Kumar Meena, Officer on special Duty for the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, said, "Data is the engine for development", pushing for DPI-driven systems that prioritize people-centric solutions. He underscored the Jal Jeevan Mission's digital integration as a game-changer in monitoring water resources.

Nilaya Mitash, Principal **Operations Coordination Specialist** at the Asian Development Bank, echoed these sentiments and said that DPI has already revolutionized sectors like healthcare and education, adding it's time water management followed suit.

www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

-PAPER WITH PASSION-

The next gen chief minister

By naming Atishi as Delhi's new CM, Kejriwal seeks to appeal to women voters and refresh the party's leadership

n a surprising but strategic political manoeuvre, Atishi, the dynamic and well-regarded education reformist, has taken over as the youngest Chief Minister of Delhi. This shift marks a significant moment not only in Delhi's political history but also in the larger context of Indian politics. Arvind Kejriwal's decision to pass the baton to Atishi is being viewed as a calculated move, one that signals both a generational shift and a fresh approach to governance. Kejriwal's choice of Atishi is rooted in multiple factors, each with its own political and administrative logic. Atishi has been one of the brightest stars in the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) since its inception, known for her innovative ideas and hands-on approach to public administration, especially in the education sector. Her work as the education minister has drawn national attention, with Delhi's government schools undergoing a transformative makeover under her leadership. Kejriwal's decision to elevate her comes at a time when AAP is facing multiple challenges. From managing Delhi's



growing urban infrastructure needs to balancing the delicate relationship with the central government, the city requires fresh energy and innovative solutions. Atishi, with her administrative experience and public image as a reformer, presents a candidate who is capable of steering Delhi through these complex issues. Moreover, Kejriwal's move signals his willingness to let the younger generation of AAP leaders take charge. By elevating Atishi, he is not just preparing for Delhi's immediate future, but also laying the groundwork for the party's long-term vision, positioning AAP as a progressive and youth-centric force in Indian politics. Atishi's rise to the position of Chief Minister brings with

it a new wave of expectations. Her track record suggests that education and public welfare will remain key priorities. Delhi's residents can expect an expansion of the initiatives that have already borne fruit, such as the Mohalla Clinics, water and electricity schemes and the focus on improving healthcare and education. One of the most significant aspects of Atishi's leadership could be her ability to bring a new perspective to governance-one that is less confrontational and more collaborative. Atishi's rise to the highest political office in Delhi is a momentous event. But make no mistake, the real power still remains with Arvind Kejriwal. He is the one who would be making all the key decisions. But Atishi's rise in the party is for real. It does not matter that she would be the chief minister for only few months as Delhi elections are round the corner and her tenure would be a talking point with women voters. Besides, for Delhi, it signals a continuation of the reforms initiated over the past decade, with the added promise of new energy and ideas that could redefine the city's future. It would indeed be a test of Atishi's leadership quality as she will be under constant scrutiny, with both her supporters and detractors closely watching her every move. Her ability to navigate these pressures will be crucial in determining the success of this bold experiment by Kejriwal.



People perform 'pind daan' rituals at the bank of Falgu river on the first day of the Pitra Paksha, in Gaya

Showdown over Rahul's remarks in the US



Rahul Gandhi's recent trip to the US has reignited the debate over whether Indian leaders should criticise their government while abroad



ongress leader Rahul Gandhi's recent he United States has prooked a war of words between the ruling BJP and the main opposition Congress in India. Should the Indian leaders refrain from badmouthing the ruling BJP while abroad? Is there a red line, and has Rahul crossed it while he was in the US? The BJP claims yes, and the Congress says no. Gandhi has taken potshots at the Indian government and PM Modi. Congress claims that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also badmouthed the Congress not once but continuously since he took over in 2014 and visited over 80 countries.

The Congress cites many examples. Also, the BJP has misrepresented Rahul's statements.Rahul aims to engage the Diaspora through programs with the Diaspora, students, officials, and lawmakers in the US, demonstrating the strategic nature of his approach. Why does he want to woo the Diaspora? Modi also has never missed an opportunity to address the Diaspora in whichever country he visits. Rahul, too, wants to connect with the Indian American community. The influence of the Indian American community has increased.

A decade ago, there was one Indian-American in the House of Representatives; now, there are five and one senator. The US has

an Indian-origin Presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris, and a vicepresidential candidate, JD Vance, who has an Indian wife.Education, affluence and awareness of the influence in the past two decades are behind the rise of Indian Americans, whose population is one per cent, and their representation in US Congress is now one per cent.Rahul commented on the RSS, India's democracy, Modi's China policy, and religious freedom in India, among other things. On the RSS, Gandhi said that the BJP's parent organisation believes India is "one idea", but the Congress considers it a "diversity of ideas.

This criticism of the RSS, a critical ideological force behind the BJP, upset the BJP. In India, the BJP slammed Rahul's adverse comments and meeting with anti-India US Congresswoman Ilhan Omar. The BJP claims that it can be used for anti-India propaganda. Gandhi counters that she was part of the lawmaker's delegation, and how he could have declined to meet with the delegation. Rahul noted that Indian democracy has struggled for the past ten years but is improving. He also observed that 90% of

India's population, including OBCs, Dalits, and Adivasis, are

IN INDIA, THE

BJP SLAMMED RAHUL'S **ADVERSE** COMMENTS MEETING ANTI-INDIA **US CONGRESS** WOMAN ILHAN OMAR. THE BJP **CLAIMS THAT** USED FOR ANTI-INDIA PROPAGANDA

not able to take an active part in the democratic process. This has upset the BJP.While Rahul agreed with Modi's policies on Pakistan and Bangladesh, he felt Modi's China policy was flawed. Rahul pointed out," We've got Chinese troops occupying land the size of Delhi in Ladakh. I

think that's a disaster." The BJP fielded top leaders to refute Rahul's allegations, with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh leading the response. He rubbished Rahul's claim on China policy. He observed it was "extremely shameful" that the LOP is hurting the dignity of India by saying "misleading, baseless and factless things."Another controversial subject was the caste census. Rahul Gandhi supported the caste census and claimed that BJP was trying to end the reservation. Union Minister Amit Shah quickly responded that they would not allow anyone to abolish reservations or undermine the nation's security. Countering his remarks about the status of Sikhs in India, Senior Minister Hardeen Puri said. "I am a proud Sikh. I have been wearing a turban for over six decades and a kada for even longer..." The BJP takes Rahul's statements seriously, given that he is the LOP. His increased stature after leading the 'Bharat Jodo' yatra and the Leader of the Opposition cannot be wished away.

In the 2024 elections, much to the dismay of the BJP, Congress doubled its number. Second, after the 2024 polls, the opposition coalition INDIA was strengthened. The BJP had to form the government with the help of allies. Third, Rahul visited the US before Modi's scheduled visit on September 22. His trip was well received, which did not please the BJP. But Modi would have a grand welcome at the official and the community levels.

At the end of his visit, Rahul clarified, "The fight for democracy in India is an Indian fight. It has nothing to do with anybody else. It's our problem. And we'll take care of it. We will make sure that democracy is secure." This clarification prevented the idea that he was inviting a foreign power to resolve Indian problems. There is some merit in the BJP saying dirty linen should not be wasted abroad. On an earlier occasion, foreign minister S. Jaishankar said. "I don't think taking national politics out of the country is in the national interest."But this is good for both sides, and both should follow it.

(The writer is a popular columnist; views are personal)

Ozone: The earth's protective shield but also a threat



BIJU **Dharmapalan**

Ozone is a paradoxical element — it shields life from harmful UV radiation in atmosphere but is also a big pollutant on the ground

People often think of two different things when they hear the word "ozone": on the one hand, an essential shield in the atmosphere that protects life on Earth from the Sun's dangerous ultraviolet radiation; on the other, a pollutant that causes health problems and damage to the environment. Ozone is indeed a doubleedged sword because its effect on human life depends on where it is and how much of it there is.

The "good" ozone in the upper atmosphere is significant, but the "bad" ozone at ground level is very bad for people and the world. This dual nature needs immediate care, new ideas, and cooperation worldwide so that people can continue to live.Ozone creates the well-known ozone layer high in the stratosphere, between 10 and 30 miles (16-48 km) above the surface of the Earth. This protective layer absorbs the bulk of the Sun's harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation UV-C and UV-B. Ecosystems would almost certainly be unable to survive as they do now without this natural shield, which exposes life on Earth to haz-



ardous radiation levels. Although life depends on the ozone layer in the stratosphere, ground-level ozone, found in the troposphere, is a hazardous contaminant. This ozone, created by sunlight-induced chemical interactions between nitrogen oxides (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), is mainly caused by human activity, including certain chemicals, industrial processes, and automobile emissions. This ozone will affect crop productivity and ecosystem dynamics. In the mid-20th century, scientists discovered that chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) were causing the systematic depletion of the ozone layer. In response to the pressing need, a global accord, the

adopted in 1987 to gradually eliminate the manufacturing of chemicals that cause the depletion of the ozone layer. The main objective of this accord was to eliminate progressively chemicals that cause erosion of the ozone layer, notably chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), which are extensively used in refrigeration, aerosols, and other industrial uses.

India is also a signatory to this accord. Indian industries, especially those in the refrigeration, air-conditioning, and foam production sectors, were compelled to transition to ozone-friendly alternatives. The phasing out of CFCs initially led to the adoption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), but attention soon shifted toward more environmentally friendly solutions, such as natural refrigerants, hydrofluoroolefins (HFOs), with lower global warming potential.

Since the implementation of the Montreal Protocol, global emissions of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) have dramatically decreased. The ozone layer has shown signs of recovery, particularly over Montreal Protocol, was Antarctica, where the famous

"ozone hole" is gradually closing. This recovery is essential for shielding the planet from harmful UV radiation.

In addition, the phase-out of CFCs and other ODS has had a measurable impact on global temperature regulation. This is significant when considering the urgency of limiting temperature rise to avoid catastrophic climate impacts. The Protocol has become a symbol of what international cooperation can achieve if people unite and work together to protect the environment. The illegal production of CFCs and incomplete phaseouts in some regions could slow progress. While ozone protects life and poses risks, its dual nature demands vigilant global action. Striking the right balance between preserving the protective ozone layer and mitigating harmful ground-level ozone is essential for humanity's and the planet's health. We can ensure a safe future only through international cooperation and innovative solu-

(The writer is an adjunct faculty at the National Institute of Advanced Studies; views are personal)

MYANMAR: CHALLENGES FOR INDIA

Madam — Apropos of the well analysed article 'Myanmar Junta on the Blackfoot' (18th Sept), India faces multiple challenges in the existential crisis of the military junta in Myanmar for more than a decade. The worst crisis of refugee influx, the consequential fallout, unrest and instability in North Eastern states particularly Manipur and security threats from China along its North-eastern borders need top priority from security angle as diplomatic channels with the National League for Democracy or the Junta have not served our country's strategic interests. UNO does not appear and is no more an International Organisation capable of dealing with the crises in the countries having multiple stake holders.

All its permanent members in Security Council have substantial stakes in all the wars and coups presently. \The refugees crisis emanated from Myanmar is the most disturbing and destabilising factor for India. India is not party to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol. India has chosen not to sign the refugee conventions and protocol, and has historically cited national security interests and challenges to its sovereignty as key con-

India, along with the governments of other South Asian countries, asserts that migration is a matter of bilateral and not multilateral relations, which should not be governed by international agreements. Sometimes it appears that refugee influx in India is a deliberate outcome of military coup in neighbouring countries. Peace and political stability in Myanmar appears a distant possibility and multiple stake holders namely China, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Myanmar itself know the vulnerability of Indian borders and some strategic areas sandwiched between some of these countries. Therefore, for the time being till political normalcy is restored in Myanmar, military options should be prioritised over

diplomatic adventures. Vinod Johri | Delhi

Atishi is the new Delhi CM



he selection of Atishi Marlena Singh as Delhi's new chief minister does not come as a surprise. Infact, any name as chief minister would not have turned heads because it is amply evident that the man holding all the aces, is still Arvind Kejriwal. Make no mistake, Kejriwal may have just returned from prison, but the clever former bureaucrat intends to turn the politically tricky situation into a massive support of strength. Since the Delhi assembly elections

divert the excise policy corruption issue by pitchforking a party leader, with no real mass base, as the executive head of the state. However, Atishi's comparatively clean image,

are only a few months away, Kejriwal aims to

administrative experience and fighting spirit should come in handy for the AAP supremo who is sure to go the whole hog to retain power for the party in Delhi. That way, Kejriwal can intensely focus on the election campaign with little to answer on a "corrupt chief minister" holding on to his chair. Of course, the opposition will vociferously target the former chief minister who is perhaps the principal vote- getter for his party besides a handful of leaders like Manish Sisodiya. The chief minister's seat will beckon Kejriwal if the party wins, and Atishi shall be relegated to the list of those chief ministers who held the post of chief minister for a few months. Ganpathi Bhat | Akola

ONE HUNDRED DAYS OF MODI GOVT

Madam— For a government in power for the past 10 years now talking about its feats in 100 days is incorrect. It gives room for posing questions like why such actions were not done in the last 10 years and how just allocation of funds can be claimed as a feat and so on. If any assessment be made on the performance of the present government it should be for the period in power since 2014. Because nothing could be achieved in a short period of time like 100 days. In the case of the present government the claim on employment is not correct. Because it is only a matter of allocation of

funds and announcement of a project. The working and success of the project needs to be assessed only after its completion. It is also to be noted that it is only a project to improve the skill and not a project to provide employment. Farmers' basic woes are not addressed and they continue to feel let down and the consumers also feel the same with the growing food inflation. Healthcare continues to be a com-

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

TRAGEDIES AT GANESH VISARJAN

Madam — Ganesh immersion in the country turns tragic in several parts of India. Similar incidents have occurred throughout the country. While immersing an idol of Lord Ganesha, devotees got swept away by the river's powerful currents. Divers recovered his body afterwards but it was a sad end to a religious celebration. In another incident in Gujarat's Gandhinagar, eight people drowned while taking a dip in the Meshwo River. It is time for the people to exercise caution during religious events like Ganesh Visarjan. This tragic series of events serves as a reminder of the importance of safety precautions during religious ceremonies. It is crucial to take necessary measures to avoid such incidents in the future. Let us not take undue risks in the name of God and pay heavy price for that. Besides, there must be adequate security arrangements by the government to avoid such accidents

Nikhil CK Maniam | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

FIRST COLUMN

EMBRACING DIVINE SHELTER

God can help us succeed in life but we must seek his shelter by adhering to dharma



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

hat a wonderful prospect! Yes, it is possible, if we take shelter of God and remain in it. Because God is everything. (Lord Krishna in the Bhagavad-Geeta 7.19) For that, we have to be engaged in activities according to the instructions of God. And we will benefit in many ways. How else can one remain motivated to pursue the spiritual path? In this process, God is pleased but does not benefit personally in any way, because God is 'purna' (complete in all respects).

I will cite three examples and a few reasons to substantiate this. But I will begin with some of the benefits of taking shelter from God and remaining there. God's instructions promote 'dharma' (highest moral and religious principles). Because dharma is the bedrock upon which the Creation is based. God even incarnates when there is a decline in dharma. (4.7) Those, who follow dharma in their behavior are rewarded by God's Divine Authority.

This is done according to the 'Karmaphala Principle', which is: "What we sow we reap." If one pleases God by spiritual practices additionally, God gets personally involved in the life of His devotee. His very first act is to begin guiding. I am experiencing it. It is simple. I face a challenge /problem. I pray for guidance and help. God gives me intuitions. As the connection with God becomes stronger, God begins helping too. This is a quantum jump because God is omnipotent. Problems get solved and life can go on smoothly. (18.58) Sometimes, we face non-cooperation from others; God even changes the hearts of people. Further progress on the spiri-



tual path helps us to qualify for becoming 'nimitta' (instruments) of God, as Arjuna did in the Mahabharata. (11.33) God, as Karta, begins to micromanage the lives of His dear devotees. Reformations begin; because we must help ourselves. And credit for success must also come to us; God does not need it.

Only rarely did God intervene directly, as Lord Krishna did to protect Draupadi from getting humiliated; no one had come forward. Similarly, Lord Krishna had to protect His devotee and friend (4.3) Arjuna after he was about to enter the fire for not being able to kill Jayadratha before sunset, as vowed him.

Lord Krishna brought the sun back and Arjuna was able to kill Jayadratha before the sunset. In these two instances, though the Lord got credit, He did not gain anything, Draupadi and Arjuna gained.God has a plan for whoever takes His shelter. How did the Lord help Goswami Tulsidas? His wife opened his eyes when she told him, "You will attain success in life if you become devoted to Shri Rama instead of to me." Because Tulsidasji was at the threshold of becoming great by writing epics like Ramacharitmanasa. The conclusion is: get linked with God urgently.

There is so much to gain from God, who has plenty to give. Isn't God the owner of everything? God is self-sufficient. He creates without any help from anyone. God never gets attached to anyone. If He did, God would become dependent on others to do what He must

I am gaining everything desirable. I could not have imagined what God can and does for me. The quality of my life is steadily improving. Please get started on the spiritual journey; you will never look

(The writer is a spiritual guide; views expressed are personal)

Reclaim water bodies to ward off water crisis



India's lakes and wetlands, once lifeline for its cities, are vanishing at an alarming rate, driven by rampant corruption and unchecked construction



rban lakes and wetlands are an integral part of our ecosystem. They perform critical environmental, social, and economic functions as they are a source of drinking water, recharge groundwater and support biodiversity besides providing livelihoods. But the life of these indispensable water bodies is ebbing under the relentless onslaught of population, corrupt administrations, and construction mafia. A study by Wetlands International has shown that two out of every five wetlands in India have been lost in the last 30 years, and of the remaining water bodies 40% are unable to support aquatic life due to loss of water quality. But this plunder of water bodies of India did not happen overnight but over some time. Take the case of Bengaluru for instance.

In the late 18th century, a British expe dition tasked by Governor General PALE VERSION OF Cornwallis to find an alternative route between Madras and Srirangapatna stumbled upon Bengaluru which was full of lakes and water bodies.

The captain heading the expedition thereafter referred to it as the Land of Thousand Lakes in his reports. However, today Bengaluru is a pale version of its once illustrious past. In 1960 Bengaluru had 262 lakes but today only 10 of them

The city saw a shocking decline in its water bodies as exploitation and population grew in equal measure. Lakes and water bodies are disappearing at an alarming pace at the city level and state level as well. According to the Union Jal Shakti Ministry report, Karnataka lost an astounding 13,000 water bodies in just one year between 2021 and 2022.

This is the case with every city in India. Ahmedabad for instance had 137 lakes in 2001 but as per recent reports, construction has been seen on 65 of them now. The national capital Delhi too is being robbed of its water bodies. According to a Delhi government report, nearly half



BENGALURU HAD

ITS ONCE **ILLUSTRIOUS** PAST. IN 1960 262 LAKES BUT TODAY ONLY 10 OF THEM HOLD

(49.1%) of Delhi's official water bodies do not exist anymore they have either gone "missing" or have been encroached upon.

The entire nation more or less presents the same depressing scenario. But recently a state government sat up, took notice, and acted. The Telangana state government sat up, took notice, and acted. The Telangana state government sat up, took notice, and acted. The Telangana state government sat up, took notice, and acted. The Telangana state government sat up to the same state government sat up to the same depressing scenario. ment's Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) initiative to reclaim encroached land of water bodies in Hyderabad and surrounding areas has made national headlines. The HYDRAA team created in July this year and headed by an IPS officer was given a clear-cut mandate by the state chief minister Revanth BENGALURU IS A Reddy to free the city water bodes of illegal encroachments and

construction. The Full Tank Level (FTL) was kept as the parameter by HYDRAA and any construction or encroachment within 30 meters of FTL was made subject to demolition. The agency has been given a free hand and made immune to political pressures with zero tolerance being practiced even if the encroachment belongs to prominent politicians or businesspeople of the city. Notably, even the chief minister's brother was served notice for demolition.

This drive conducted diligently and without bowing to any pressure was able to remove 262 unauthorised encroachments built-in water bodies, government lands, urban canals and parks in 23 locations in the city have been removed and 111.72 acres of land have been reclaimed to date. The state government has issued further instructions making it compulsory to take also have an enabling role that is

HYDRAA NOC before commencing any construction near

The actions of HYDRAA have instilled a sense of confidence among the environmentalists not only in Telangana but also across India and are being seen as a case study in governance especially about safeguarding environmental assets such as water bodies. But as is expected with any groundbreaking initiative, the step taken by the Telangana government too has off late been soundly criticised for being inhuman due to the demolishing of houses of the poor and those who were paying loans for the same. Given this adverse feedback, the state government has issued clarifications prior permissions are taken to to the effect that occupied hous-

es will not be demolished. The HYDRAA initiative is an example and a clarion call for the rest of the nation to wake up rescue and reclaim its water bodies. This is crucial in light of reports released by the United Nations and Niti Ayog which state that water demand will reach twice the available supply, and 40 per cent of India's population will not have access to clean drinking water by 2030. To prevent a grim and parched future, the central government in collaboration with state government and local environmental groups must establish a Wetland Task Force for every

The state-specific task force must have a clear mandate to reclaim every water body in its jurisdiction by clearing out encroachments, demolishing illegal construction and preventing changes in land use. Apart from enforcement duty, the task force must

focused on replenishing and rejuvenating the wetlands and water bodies in its jurisdiction. For instance, the task force can encourage urban households and businesses to implement rainwa-ter harvesting practices on their premises. The water harvested can be channelled towards improving the groundwater table and recharging the aquifers. Additionally, the government can, through the task force regulate the borewells in the urban areas.

Indiscriminate and unregulated drilling for water in metropolitan areas has caused the drying up of the groundwater table. The task force team can save the city's water resources by ensuring that rill borewells

Furthermore, the task force team can install water meters to ensure that water extraction is done in a measured and quantified manner.Currently, there have been many instances where local leaders, with political affiliations "adopt" lakes and water bodies in the name of preserving them and slowly encroach the property. After that, in connivance with

builder mafia construction is done on the property which is then sold to unsuspecting citizens. The wetland task force can prevent this and play a pivotal role in ensuring that no individual or commercial company is entrusted with safeguarding the lakes and water bodies as this can result in manipulation.

Water bodies are India's lifelines. Reclaiming the lost ones and preserving the remaining can alone ensure a water secure future for our nation.

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

India's untapped ocean energy: A blueprint for powering the future

India's 8,000 km coastline holds the potential to generate a staggering 9.2 lakh TWh of clean energy annually

The 8000 km long Indian coastline has Indian coastline has the potential to generate 9.2 lakh Trillion Wats (TWh/annum) electricity, which is a manifold of what is generated as of date. This is at a time when India is struggling to meet its requirement of 4.5 Lakh MW power utilizing all sources of energy produc-

According to Ocean Energy Atlas prepared Hyderabad-based Indian National Centre for Ocean (INCOIS), organization under the Arabian Sea are the nation's Group Director and lead sci-



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

Akshayapatra of energy. The Exclusive Economic Zone lying within the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal has oceanic energy potential of 9.2 lakh TWh/annum.

Information Services This is the first time in the premier history of India the oceanic research and development energy potential has been assessed and an atlas of this Ministry of Earth Sciences, kind has been prepared," Dr the Bay of Bengal and T M Balakrishnan Nair,

A bouquet of offshore renewable, offshore solar, offshore wind, wave, tidal, ocean thermal energy conversion, and salinity gradient represent the hitherto untapped potential of renew-ables.India's Ocean Energy Atlas has been released following the International Renewable Energy Agency's finding that the G-20 countries collectively account for 81 per cent of total renewable energy and about 100 per cent of ocean energy. India's offshore wind energy

remains untapped even as countries like Denmark, Britain and China have made giant strides in this sector. Dr Nair says there is wide scope to set up renewable energy power stations to tap salini-

entist, INCOIS, told The ty gradients. Dr. T. Srinivasa Kumar, director, of INCOIS, said that the atlas would serve as a key resource for guiding policy and investment decisions in the energy sector.

An important element in this form of energy generation is that there would not be any kind of apprehension in the minds of the people about land acquisition, pollution and discharge of effluents. "This is the cleanest form of energy and many public and private sector enterprises have shown their interest in setting up renewable energy units," said M Ravichandran, secretary, ministry of earth sciences, Govt of India. INCOIS is playing a major

role in the country's blue



economy sector by providing information to fishers about potential fishing zones and sharp weather forecasts. Dr Srinivasa Kumar and his team have developed a stateof-the-art tsunami warning system with which they alert countries along the rim of the Indian Ocean. Since its inception in 1999, INCOIS has been contributing to India's blue economy through its flagship pro-

grams like Potential Fishing Zones (PFZ), Ocean State Forecasts (OSF) and Tsunami Early Warning Services (TEW). INCOIS has also been the national and regional warehouse for oceanographic data spanning in-situ platforms, satellite sensors, and model-simulated prod-

Taking advantage of the availability of such long-term scientific datasets, INCOIS has taken up the challenge of estimating the ocean energy potential from the Indian EEZ and prepared an Atlas for the first time in the country. The satellite data collected through hi-tech sensors about the regions where there are good catches are disseminated to fishers and this has made the job of fishermen

quite easy. All they have to do is rush to the areas identified as fishing zones by the INCOIS scientists. The Integrated Ocean Energy Atlas prepared by Team INCOIS is the first of its kind in the world.

Ocean energy assumes significance as scientific reports are galore about the fluctuations in solar power generation capabilities because of climate change. G M Pillai, director general, of the World Institute of Sustainable Energy (WISE), Pune, says that as of this date, solar power output is not encouraging because of changes in rain patterns. 'The Rajasthan deserts could have been the powerhouse of states like Rajasthan, Punjab, Gujarat but the solar power

potential has come down and the deserts are becoming evergreen garden," said Pillai. The thorium-based nuclear reactor is yet to take off and the picture from nuclear power reactors is dismal. There was a time when former directors of the Indira Gandhi Center for Atomic Research (IGCAR) at Kalpakkam had claimed that India was the world leader in Fast Breeder Reactor technology, it all ended up as chest beating. The only hope is integrated ocean energy. India has a vast coastline of nearly 8000 km and this could offer a permanent solution to our energy needs.

(The writer is a special correspondent with the Pioneer; views expressed are personal)

VIJAYAWADA | THURSDAY | SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

IN BRIEF



Number of Atal Pension Yojana subscribers touches 6.9 cr

bout 7 crore people have subscribed to the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) whose corpus has swelled to ARs 35,149 crore, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Wednesday. APY is a low-cost pension scheme that offers a guaranteed minimum pension of Rs 1,000-5,000 per month from the age of 60 years onwards (depending on the contributions by the subscribers). In case of death of the subscriber, the same pension will be provided to the spouse till he/she is alive. In the event of death of both the subscriber and the spouse, the entire corpus is given to the nominee. "Since its inception in 2015, 6.90 crore people have subscribed to the Atal Pension Yojana and a corpus worth Rs 35,149 crore has been accumulated," Sitharaman said at an event to launch the NPS Vatsalya scheme.



Govt raises refund cap for Sahara depositors to Rs 50,000

he government has raised the cap on refund amounts for small depositors of the Sahara Group Cooperative Societies to Rs 50,000, up from the previous limit of Rs 10,000, a senior cooperation ministry official said on Wednesday. The government has so far released Rs 370 crore to more than 4.29 lakh depositors of Sahara Group of Cooperative Societies through the CRCS-Sahara refund portal. "With an increase in the limit of refund amount to Rs 50,000. about Rs 1,000 crore payment will be made in the next 10 days," the official said. Last week, the cap on refund amount for small depositors was raised to Rs 50,000 each from Rs 10.000, the official said. The government is vetting the claims of depositors carefully before releasing the refund. Following a Supreme Court order, the CRCS-Sahara refund portal was launched on July 18, 2023, for submission of state cooperative societies for refund of their legitimate



Western Carriers IPO subscribed 13.88 times

he Rs 493-crore initial share sale of logistics company Western Carriers (India) Ltd got subscribed 13.88 times on Wednesday. The initial public offer received bids for 28,96,23,957 shares against 2,08,68,467 shares on offer, as per NSE data. The category for non-institutional investors garnered 20.92 times subscription while Retail Individual Investors (RIIs) subscribed to the offer 18.60 times. Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) fetched 14 per cent subscription. Last Thursday, Western Carriers (India) said it has mobilised Rs 148 crore from anchor investors. The Kolkata-based company's initial public offering (IPO) is available for subscription in the price range of Rs 163-172 per share. The IPO comprises a fresh issue of equity shares, aggregating up to Rs 400 crore and an offer-for-sale (OFS) of up to 54 lakh equity shares worth Rs 93 crore, at the upper end of the price band by promoter Rajendra Sethia. Proceeds from the fresh issue to the tune of Rs 163.5 crore will be used for debt payment and Rs 152 crore for funding capital expenditure

India stands out globally, will continue to grow at fast pace: FM

PNS NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said India is standing out globally in terms of economic growth and will continue to do so in the next few years.

Sitharaman said the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) for government employees approved by the Cabinet last month, balances the interests of government employees as well as taxpayers by not overburdening future generations with heavy pension bills.

"We are much better off than many other countries, even if they are advanced countries, today they are struggling to grow. We are standing out as an economy which is growing at the fastest rate in the last few years, this year and the next few years also for which we can ḋo prediction," Sitharaman said.

The Indian economy grew at 8.2 per cent in 2023-24. The Economic Survey 2023-24 tabled in Parliament in July projected the economy to clock

6.5-7 per cent growth this fis-

Sitharaman was speaking at the launch of NPS Vatsalya -- a pension scheme for children below the age of 18 years. The minimum contribution for the scheme is Rs 1,000 annually and pension would accrue

after 60 years of age.
Sitharaman further said that the NPS scheme has generated competitive returns since its

For the Government sector, NPS, on average, has given returns of 9.5 per cent Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) since its incep-

In the Non-Government sector, since inception, the permitted asset classes have delivered CAGR returns of 14 per cent for equity, 9.1 per cent for corporate debt and 8.8 per

With regard to the UPS for central government employees which will be effective from April 1, 2025, Sitharaman said it has the best elements of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) as well as the New Pension Scheme (NPS), and it provides an assured pension after retire-

Under UPS, government employees will receive a guar-anteed pension amounting to 50 per cent of their average basic pay drawn over the last 12 months before retirement. Additionally, the UPS

scheme includes inflation indexation based on the All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (AICPI-

State governments also have the option to adopt the Unified Pension Scheme.

"UPS balances the interests of government employees as well as taxpayers by not overburdening future generations with heavy pension bills," Sitharaman said.

Govt to launch Credit Guarantee Fund for farmers

The government on Wednesday said it will soon launch a Rs 1,000 crore credit guarantee fund to enhance lender confidence in pledge financing against electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipts for farmers and traders using WDRA-registered warehous-

Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra told

reporters here that the fund with a corpus of Rs 1,000 crore will address the anticipated credit risk of lenders.

"A credit guarantee scheme has been approved recently and will be launched

shortly," Chopra announced, highlighting the achievements in 100 days of the

Modi 3.0 government.
The pledge financing against electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (e-NWRs) was not gaining traction to a satisfactory level despite the government efforts to make it seamless with the recent introduction of the Kisan Upaj Nidhi portal, he said.

The Kisan Upaj Nidhi is a government initiative aimed at supporting farmers by providing financial assistance and facilitating easier access to cred-

The secretary said the pledge post-harvest financing was only Rs 3,962 crore in the total Rs 13 lakh crore credit in 2023-24. The lower pledge financing was due to "reluctance on the part of bankers anticipating a credit risk '

The new credit guarantee fund aims to address the cred-

it risk and ensure a pick up in loans against pledge of eNWRs to Rs 1,05,000 crore in the next 10 years from the current level.

Secretary further said his department has used the PM Gati Shakti to optimise the

routes taken by vehicles for carrying PDS foodgrains from FCI godowns to state godowns to fair price shops, thereby saving Rs 112 crore. "We have received reports from 13 states and there are savings to the tune of Rs 112 crore. With a small intervention we are able to make this kind of savings," he said, adding that the depart-ment is exploring the possibility to quantify the carbon emissions that were reduced and avail carbon credits.

India, EU agree to enhance cooperation fostering innovation and techsising that the European Union and India have developed a nology transfer, while pro-India and the European Union moting sustainable investstrong and innovative water ments. EU Ambassador to

SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT

(EU) have agreed to enhance cooperation in sustainable water management with focus on river basin management,

Benchmark equity indices

Sensex and Nifty ended lower

on Wednesday, after hitting fresh record high levels during

the morning trade, dragged by

IT stocks as investors preferred

to book profits ahead of the keenly-awaited US Fed's deci-

The 30-share BSE Sensex

dropped 131.43 points or 0.16

per cent to settle at 82,948.23.

During the day, it climbed 246.72 points or 0.29 per cent

to scale a new all-time intra-

41 points or 0.16 per cent to

close at 25,377.55. During the

day, it advanced 63.65 points

or 0.25 per cent to hit a fresh

intra-day lifetime high of

From the 30 Sensex firms,

Tata Consultancy Services and

HCL Technologies dropped

The NSE Nifty also declined

sion on interest rates.

PNS MUMBAI

Markets settle lower

India Ugo Astuto highlighted the success of the ongoing water projects in India, empha-

management partnership.
At the inauguration of the India-EU Water Forum on

Water Week, he praised its growing collaboration with India in water management and expressed interest in expanding this partnership to Africa. "We have developed a Wednesday during the India successful partnership in İndia.

EYES 60 PC REVENUE INCREASE IN 3-4 YEARS Govt plans to transform India dragged by IT stocks

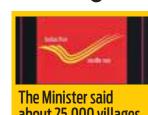
Post into logistics firm PNS NEW DELHI

The government is looking to transform India Post into a logistics company and increase the revenue of the department by 50-60 per cent in the next 3-4 years, Union Telecom Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said on Wednesday.

Speaking at a Public Affairs Forum of India event in the national capital, the minister said about 25,000 villages in the country that do not have nected by next year.

"Postal department is moving leaps and bounds. Today, our turnover is close to about Rs 12,000 crore per annum. I'm looking at possibly try-

ing to increase that by 50-60 per cent over the next 3-4 years," Scindia said. The postal department has



about 25,000 villages in the country that do not have mobile networks will be connected by next year

the potential to take services to the doorsteps of people in rural and remote areas, he said, adding that he will be looking at all potential services to increase the revenue of India Post.

'We need to transform ourselves from just a mail busi-

ness and a letter business. We need to transform ourselves into a logistics company. We have got to look at route optimisation, multiple sources to be able to transport our services," Scindia said.

On development in the Northeast, the minister said the government is spending a large amount in building huge infrastructure in the region, including investment of Rs 48,000 on road network.

He said 6,000 villages in the across the country still do not have mobile towers.

Through USO Fund we are trying to set up mobile networks in all the 25,000 villages by the middle of next year... after that there be not a single village left in the country without mobile connectivity," Scindia added.

'Don't miss out on tapping design, export opportunity'

PNS NEW DELHI

IT Secretary S Krishnan on Wednesday exhorted the industry not to ignore the design elements of value chain, and said that India should build on its existing strengths and aim for 'India designed-India developed mobile phones.

Speaking at a Broadband India Forum (BIF) event, Krishnan also noted that India should position itself as where players can manufacture for the domestic market, as well as exports.

The mobile phones manufactured in India in volume terms has reached a "steady state", when seen against the backdrop of the overall size of the domestic market and average expected lifespan of handsets (with replacement cycle seen at three years), he said.

Optimising production capacities from here on would require players to also tap the export markets, he added. Encouraging players to think about 'India designed-India developed mobile phone, Krishnan said that playing on the strengths of both design and manufacturing capabilities would lead to greater value creation in the country.

The big question around what is the design of future is something that can be answered by India along with other countries, he asserted.

strengths we have, and given the kind of capacities we have...the element of design is something that can't be ignored and needs to be an important goal for the mobile industry," he said.

manufacturing pie has increased to about billion, of which mobile phones constitute the fastestgrowing segment.

India's home & household market to reach \$237 bn: Deloitte

over 3 per cent each. Infosys,

Tech Mahindra, Sun Pharma

and Tata Motors were the

Nestle, HDFC Bank, ICICI

Bank and State Bank of India

were among the biggest gain-

In Asian markets, Tokyo

and Shanghai settled higher.

Trading was closed in Hong

European markets were

Kong for a national holiday.

trading lower.

other major laggards.

PNS MUMBAI

25,482.20.

India's home and household market is expected to reach USD 237 billion by 2030 at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of over 10 per cent, fuelled by increasing disposable income, shifting consumer preferences and a growing focus on comfort and convenience across product categories, according to a report by Deloitte.

The report, Powering Consumption Growth-India's Home and House Market, launched at the two-day event MAPIC India 2024, which began here on Wednesday, also said that the home and household market are witnessing strong demand, particularly in tier 2 and tier 3 cities that are emerging as growth hubs.



It also said that omnichannel retail and e-commerce are helping businesses connect with consumers, expanding their reach beyond urban cen-

Stating that factors such as high disposable incomes, the rise of digital platforms, easy access to credit, and young consumers seeking modern designs, home renovations and

personalisation, which provide tailored offerings to consumers, are driving the demand, it said, while the home and household industry are expanding rapidly, there are still limitations to overcome.

a comprehensive omnichannel strategy are all significant issues for businesses to handle.

After-sales support, warranty worries and the need for

Min: Skilling activities should be aligned with job market needs

PNS NEW DELHI

Skilling activities should be aligned with the requirements of the industry and the job market, Union Minister Jayant Chaudhary said on Wednesday. Inaugurating the Airbus-Tata STRIVE skill develop-

ment centre here, the Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Minister also asked the two companies to further deepen their collaborations with higher education

institutions

"It (skilling) needs to be completely aligned with industry, with the requirements of the job market, with the labour market. It needs to be to accentuate what is already present in India," the minister said. Later talking to reporters, he mentioned increasing migration from rural to urban areas and said everyone might not be get-



ting jobs.

Against this backdrop, the minister pitched for encouraging development of entrepreneurship skills among youth.

The centres at Delhi and

Bengaluru will offer courses in the field of Information Technology (IT) such as cybersecurity, ethical hacking, web designing, cloud computing along with youth development modules (soft skills curriculum) that will empower the youth and enrich their skills and scope of employability in the IT and allied services.

"Given the kind of design

He noted that electronics

FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Nearly 50pc of public infrastructure unprepared: CBRE

PNS NEW DELHI

Nearly 50 per cent of public infrastructure in India is unprepared for disaster management, according to a survey

by CBRE. The survey findings were released at a joint 'Infrastructure Management Conference 2024' organised by CBRE and Confederation of

On Wednesday, real estate consultant CBRE said as per its survey on select large infrastructure assets on risk management parameters, "nearly 50 per cent of the public infrastructure in India is unprepared for disaster planning and management and needs greater attention". "India is grappling with a significant

Indian Industry (CII) here.



increase in both natural and man-made disasters, posing a

threat to the economy, population and long-term sustainable development," the consultant said. The vulnerability to disasters is further exacerbated by a confluence of factors, including changing demographic and socio-economic conditions, unplanned urbanisation, development within high-risk zones, environmental degradation, climate change, and geological

hazards, it added. Anshuman Magazine, Chairman & CEO India, Southeast Asia, Middle East & Africa, CBRE, said, "Inadequate risk management is a primary cause of the issues we see in infrastructure pro-

This leads to direct financial losses, hindered GDP growth, and negative impacts on reputation and society."

India takes part in key trade fair in France to boost inbound tourism

PNS NEW DELHI

India is participating in a key tourism trade fair in French capital Paris with the goal of significantly increasing inbound tourism, officials said on Wednesday.

The Ministry of Tourism in a statement said it is participating in the prestigious IFTM Top Resa 2024 which is one of



the prominent travel exhibitions held in Paris from September 17 to 19. An Incredible India

Pavillion has been set up at the The pavillion was inaugurat-

ed by Ambassador of India to France, Jawed Ashraf, in the presence of officials from the Ministry of Tourism, the state tourism departments of Meghalaya and Jammu and Kashmir, along with the prominent travel trade stakeholders of the country, it said.

Vijayawada | Thursday September 19, 2024

what's brewing?

FASTEN YOUR SEATBELTS WITH ISHQ IN THE AIR

mazon MX Player, on Wednesday, released the official trailer for its upcoming love-drama series, Ishq In The Air. Set against the backdrop of two contrasting cities—Indore and Mumbai—the series is here to take you on a journey filled with chance encounters, a sweet romance where two opposing worlds collide and some turbulent times. Produced by BBC Studios Productions India, the series features the talented Shantanu Maheshwari and Medha Rana in key roles.

The trailer showcases the life of Naman, a creative and driven photographer from Indore who is rooted in his family's successful Namkeen empire. Wherein Kavva is a free-spirited hair stylist from Mumbai who forges her own independent path. Their lives take a

turn when a serendipitous meeting at an airport sets their romantic journey in motion. As they navigate the thrill of their new-found connection, can Naman and Kavya bridge the gaps between their diverse backgrounds and embrace the love growing between them? Shantanu Maheshwari, who

plays the role of Naman, said, "It feels great to come back with another tale of romance, which will deeply resonate with the audiences. *Ishq In The Air* is a love story that brings together Naman and Kavya, two individuals from diverse backgrounds, as they embark on a journey of love. As the two of them board their flight of love, they soar through the ups and downs of life, discovering the true meaning of connection and devotion. We hope that Ishq In The

Aastha Gills brings fun twist

on romance with Nazar

op sensation Aastha Gill makes a triumphant return with her

Released on Wednesday via Warner Music India, this feel-good-

anthem is set to captivate audiences with its fresh take on

Inspired by the cultural significance of the evil eye in Indian

modern day romance, intertwining Gill's Punjabi lineage

whilst subtly referencing supernatural beliefs.

tradition, she takes listeners on a whimsical

and vibrant production, is poised to create a

Aastha Gill states, "This song is all about those

hilarious, heart-fluttering moments when you're smitten. I

wanted to create something relatable and lighthearted and

into the traditional Indian belief of the 'evil eye' or 'Nazar,'

using this metaphor to weave modern-day romance with

an age-old cultural concept. I wanted to fuse tradition

The accompanying music video features Gill and Indian

and contemporary themes to enhance the song's

actor Suhail Nayyar attending a masguerade party

where nothing goes as planned. With her effortless

comedic timing, Gill's character embarks on a series

mysterious boy, Nayyar. Directed by Supreet Kaur

from Jugaad Motion Pictures and produced by

Hiten, known for his work on previous hit tracks

like Laado and Daaku, the mesmerising video

adds an extra layer of visual storytelling to the

playful energy of the song.

of misadventures as she tries to impress a

the music video brings that to life. I've also tried to tap

truly unforgettable listening experience.

journey through the highs and lows of a

spontaneous attraction. The track dives

into the rollercoaster of

capturing the excitement

emotions, perfectly

and vulnerability of a

chance encounter, blending catchy

melodies with elatable lyrics. The

song's upbeat

tempo, coupled with powerful vocals

infectious new single Nazar.

Air will strike a chord in the hearts of our viewers with its relatable themes and authentic portrayal of characters. So yes, I am looking forward to seeing everyone's response, it's been made with a lot of love."

Meanwhile, Medha Rana, who will be seen portraying the role of Kayva Mehrain in the series. shared her take: "Ishq In The Air is a love story that will transport the audience back to the days of classic romance! Working on this project has been a really fun and enriching experience. This story shows how the perfect recipe for love does not exist! Love is what you make of it and even if the odds are all against you, you don't stop believing in the magic of love. I'm hoping that the viewers will love the show as much as we did while creating it."



Harry Potter fame Katie will play antagonist in Bridgerton season 4



atie Leung, who is best known for her role as Cho Chang in the *Harry Potter* series, joined the cast of the upcoming fourth season of the popular series Bridgerton. Netflix, on September 16, announced that production has officially started in

Luke Thompson and Yerin Ha will star as Benedict Bridgerton and Sophie Baek in the new season. The show will also introduce new characters, including Katie, known for her role in the *Harry Potter* films. Katie, 37, will play Lady Araminta Gun, a character described as "twice married and twice widowed." Her two daughters, Rosamund Li (played by Michelle Mao) and Posy Li (played by Isabella Wei), are making their debut on the marriage market this

season. Lady Araminta is "feeling the pressure to get at least one of [her girls] married off," with Rosamund setting her sights on Benedict Bridgerton. Katie first appeared in Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (2005) and later developed a romance with Harry Potter in Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, although Harry ultimately ended up with Ginny Weasley by the series' end. Season 4 will focus on Benedict Bridgerton's love story. Benedict is described as "taking a vow to settle down," despite his brothers Anthony and Colin being "both happily married." Most of the cast from the previous season will return, but Simone Ashlev, who plays Viscountess Kate Bridgerton, is not confirmed for the upcoming season.

Vivek Oberoi divulges on shifting to Dubai



built an education startup that focused only on small town guys-kids who don't get access to the best teachers in the big cities. They get a better education called I Scholar. In India, we run an agri-startup that helps 97 lakh Indian farmers. My businesses are more like tech meets social impact, which I love doing."

He further added, "Our company is doing some ultra-luxury projects with the new casinos coming. So we are doing eight buildings there. I have a little startup ecosystem here. God's been kind to me; Dubai has been good to me. It's been a success story here." Nevertheless, he also claimed, "Every time I go to Mumbai, I don't feel like leaving. You will ask me where he is, and I will still say Mumbai. I love Dubai; I love part living here and part living there. It's a mix of the best of both worlds.3

Mickey 17 brings a sneak peek into Robert **Pattinson's death**

→he trailer for Bong Joon-ho's much-anticipat-ed sci-fi thriller *Mickey 17* has been released, offering a captivating adventure delving into the ultimate sacrifice needed for survival.

In the movie, Robert Pattinson plays the role of Mickey Barnes, an employee with a unique job where he must die multiple times for his employer and then be revived for the next task.

The trailer provides a sneak peek at Bong's distinctive visual aesthetic and engaging narrative, combining futuristic settings with deep reflections on identity, mortality and what it means to be human.

Adapted from the book *Mickey 7* by Edward Ashton, the movie showcases a well-known ensemble with actors Naomi Ackie, Steven Yeun, Toni Collette and Mark Ruffalo.

Mickey 17, directed by the Academy Award-winning director of *Parasite*, is anticipated to offer a film with profound existential themes, stunning visuals and twisted humour.

The movie, produced by Dede Gardner and Jeremy Kleiner (who won Oscars for *Moonlight* and *12 Years* a *Slave*), is scheduled to be released globally, with a US theatrical release set for January 31, 2025.

'Malavika Mohanan should have her own universe,' says **Siddhant Chaturvedi**

alavika Mohanan has created quite a stir with her standout performance in Thangalaan, earning Limmense love and praise from both audiences and critics. But that's just the beginning for her; she's now gearing up to take on a completely different role in her upcoming film Yudhra. The trailer offers an exciting glimpse of Malavika's action-packed avatar, leaving fans eager to see her in action!

Despite the distinct nature of her characters in these films, Malavika has amusingly found some common ground. In a recent interview, when asked about the similarities between her roles in Thangalaan and Yudhra, she shared, "They both fight for what they believe in. They stand for it. That's the only commonality because, as characters, they are so different. They both are fierce and they both fight (laughs). They should do a universe of Aarthi

The conversation also touched on her earlier remarks, where she likened her roles: "If *Thangalaan* is Earth, *The* Raja Saab is Saturn and Yudhra is Mars." To which her Yudhra co-star, Siddhant Chaturvedi, humorously added, "It's called the Malavika Universe."

Fans can look forward to seeing Malavika in *Yudhra* as she takes on her hottest avatar ever!

ARCHIE







almost 45 lakh kids in India. Then I

CALVIN AND HOBBES



IE, OR DID THE VIOLIN KEEP

COMING IN WAY TOO LATE? LET'S GO UPSTAIRS







GARFIELD







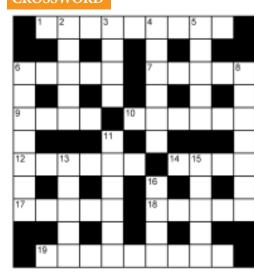


REALITY CHECK

SPEED BUMP







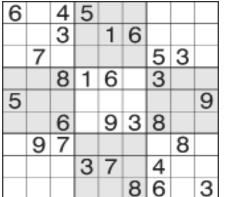








SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: **************

	Yesterday's solution										
4		4	7	1	8	9	2	3	5		
		8	5	9	6	3	4	2	7		
٦		2	6	3	7	5	1	8	9		
_		6	8	2	1	7	3	5	4	ļ	
		9	1	4	5	2	8	7	6	ľ	
)		7	3	5	9	4	6	1	8	ľ	
		3	2	7	4	8	9	6	1	ļ	
		5	4	6	2	1	7	9	3	ı	
-		1	9	8	3	6	5	4	2	ľ	
	Rules										
		Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9									

The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

19 Lucky DOWN

2 These are cut down for

ACROSS

6 Perspire

A ship's right side

12 A passenger needs this

17 Divide into two equal parts

7 Young person

9 Take a break

10 Very rarely

14 Sky colour

18 Acted dramas

paper manufacture 3 Decays 4 The gas we need to live

5 Circular in shape

6 Make longer by pulling

engineers use these

8 Carpenters and

13 A stringed musical

instrument

11 Say again

15 Fewest

16 Twirl

GINGER MEGGS







Vijayawada

Follow us on

@TheDailyPioneer

facebook.com/ dailypioneer

Thursday September 19, 2024

Bringing Hyderabad its own

'Radhey Kutumb' with Radha Raanis

TEJAL SINHA

tejal.sinha30@gmail.com

abki apni duniya hai, par meri duniya toh aap ho—Kanha. Isn't this the feeling every devotee of Muralidhar Krishna Gopala has for him? Krishna, revered as the god of love, compassion and protection, is worshipped by devotees throughout the country, not just on certain days but through their continuous devotion to him. It is thought that Lord Krishna lived his childhood years in Vrindavan. Vrindavan is situated in the Braj Bhoomi area, known as a focal point of the Krishna circuit for Hindu pilgrims. However, not all followers can visit the city frequently. Picture having a piece of Vrindavan right in your own city. Hey, people from Hyderabad, we do possess one; Radhey Kutumb Club. As it goes by the name, it defines a whole family devoted in the love of Radhey Krishna.

Hyderabad's only all-women's spiritual club devoted to Radha Krishna aims to not just bring the aura of Vrindavan but also make the devotion with fun and touches of laughter.

"Where people are so busy with their own lives, getting exhausted over many things, we do wish to do a lot of things. Unfortunately, we don't," expresses Reenu Sharma, founder of the Radhey Kutumb Club, in an exclusive chat with The Pioneer. Hailing from Jaipur, the

With a community of Radha Raanis, the Radhey Kutmb Club has created an aura of their own for the devotion of Radhe Krishna, here in Hyderabad. The Pioneer connects with the club's founder, sharing the back story of the club being an allwomen's spiritual club and bringing together fun and

laughter with devotion

ardent Krishna devotee travelled verv often to Vrindavan and Mathura during her teen years as her grandpa resided there. Making her inclination towards the devotion of Kanha but obvious.

"As I travelled here to Hyderabad after I got married, I was busy with my familv and kids," she enthuses. Being a socialite, not only did she travel pretty often, she used to also attend various parties, club events and many more. But there was something lacking, she felt. "Being in Hyderabad, it's not possible for me to travel every now and then to Vrindavan. It was then that I realised, Why not bring a piece of Vrindavan and Mathura's aura here in Hyderabad? It's been 7 years now that I started this club."

What started off with an expectation of having about 15 ladies join the club eventually began with 50 of them. Overwhelmed by this unexpected response, with great regards, she shares, "Isn't that something mindblowing? I mean, I had no idea that so many Hyderabadi women would be keen on joining the club. The enthusiasm since the beginning has been enormous. These ladies, who are all below 50, had connected very well."

If you feel Radhey Kutumb is all about bhakti and archana, well, it's about doing it all with some fun and entertainment. "We are a fusion club. Along with Bhakti, we bring together some entertaining tasks like Q&A, storytelling, skits and many more around Radha and Krishna. My club members are called 'Radha Raanis' and they have all now become family. Through

this, we are connected to the sanskriti of the Lord. As a part of these activities, we had also organised a Nandutsav during Ianmashtami. We have all been followers of Lord Krishna and I wanted to create a small Mathura Vrindavan in Hyderabad, where people can feel its aura here," she shares with great enthusiasm. Apart from these activities, they also have an annual event, where all the 'Radha Raanis' bring in their husbands and make it a familial extravaganza. Then there's also a spiritual trip for two days, once a year for them.

These days, youngsters have been surprisingly finding their peace in devotion and spirituality, notices Reenu as she shares, "I see many of them adoring Radhey Shyam

so much and turning spiritual than ever before. Even when you go to the temples, you find so many of the youngsters taking the blessings. These days, life has been so stressful. I would like to say that if more of such clubs are being made, it helps us to connect with ourselves even

But again, starting a one-of-a-kind club came in with its own set of challenges. Reenu, who credits her parents, RS Gemini and Shakuntala Gemini, for all of the devotion and love filled in within her. She goes on to express, "My con-

cept was that wherever we go, be it parties and other events, we dress up so well. Then why not to temples? I used to tell my Radha Raanis that whenever you come to the club, dress up just as

you would while going to an event, dressed colorfully. Bhagwan ke wajeh se humane itna sab mila, hum unke liye itna kamm dress hote hai. Then, every time that I used to call the media to cover our events, many of the ladies were like, Why media?' I believe that when we can call media to cover so many other events, why not a spiritual event? And then, making them dance in front of Radha Krishna as a celebration was again a challenge. We organise these events at the houses of the members. Initially, many were apprehensive because all of them come from different social strata. But I made them believe that Mann



Sip of art and a bite of bliss!

AARTI SREENATH aarti.sreenath9@gmail.com

n celebration of its expansion, Maize and Beans, the cafe promoted by renowned designer Gaurang Shah, opened its doors for a one-of-akind pop-up event on Road No. 59, Jubilee Hills. The muchanticipated affair marked a delightful collaboration between the cafe's Creative Director, Meet Shah and acclaimed barista Shraavan, affectionately known as the "Mokapotguy" in coffee circles.

In an exclusive interview, when asked about the inspiration behind the pop-up at Gaurang's Kitchen and how it differs from the usual menu, Meet Shah shared, "We had some unused space where we were selling continental specialty cof-fee. But when you have an Indianambiance restaurant. people don't often come in just for coffee. We were looking for a different space, but then

someone suggested, 'Why not utilise this space and make it into a coffee shop?' That's when the idea clicked. We decided to open the space with a pop-up, featuring drinks that Shraavan and I created and four food items that I've been trialing for the past four months. Rather than launching them on a regular day, we thought this pop-up would be the perfect occasion, especially since we knew it would attract a younger crowd who wants something unique. So, we opened the café and launched the pop-up on the same dav."

He further delved into the concept behind Maize and Beans, explaining the thought process of combining these two central ingredients. "We originally focused on Italian and Mexican cuisine and maize is a staple food in Mexican culture. So, we came up with the idea of putting 'maize' in the name. As for 'beans,' they signify our specialty coffee offering, which tied everything together as Maize and Beans."

When asked about maintaining the balance between traditional flavours and contemporary dining trends, he said, "My dad is deeply rooted in Indian culture, whether it's clothes or food and being around him for the past 20 years, I've developed a strong connection to Indian cuisine. So, I thought, why not blend continental flavours with Indian? For example, we've created Aglio e Olio Thecha Balls. Aglio e Olio is a classic conti-nental dish with garlic as its main ingredient, while Thecha is a tramain ingredient, while Thecha is a traditional Indian chutney made with chili and garlic. Combining these two elements brings something unique to the table, which was the thought process behind it."

The pop-up event itself was set in a beautifully designed open-air venue, offering a serene and spacious environment. Its vibrant yet minimalistic aesthetics made the perfect backdrop for an afternoon of indulgence and creativity. Not just about coffee and food, the event also doubled as a creative platform for young local artists,

who showcased their work, turning the cafe into a space that fed the mind and soul as much as the palate. The menu was the centerpiece, showcasing an array of meticulously crafted beverages and gourmet bites.
Guests enjoyed classic coffee favorites
like Espresso, Cortado and
Cappuccino, alongside creative twists such as Lotus Biscoff Latte and Rose Latte. For cold brew lovers, options like Yuzu Passionfruit and Buttered Fig & Rose were on offer, with signature drinks like Orange Star Anise Cold Brew and Kulfi Affogato stealing the

The food, too, was an absolute delight. The Cheesy Spinach Croissant Sandwich was a hit, crispy, buttery and oozing with perfectly melted cheese.
The Herbed Zucchini Feta Fritters offered a light, flavourful crunch, while desserts like the Mawa Croissants and classic Tiramisu provided the perfect indulgence for the sweet-toothed.

As someone fortunate enough to sample the menu, the Cold Brew Ginger Ale was a refreshing standout, blending the warmth of ginger with the cool smoothness of cold brew. The Cheesy Spinach Croissant was nothing short of sublime, leaving a lasting aftertaste of buttery per-

As the event drew to a close, it was clear that Maize and Beans is set to become a hub for coffee and gourmet food lovers alike. The cafe's new offerings and the collaborative pop-up with Shraavan have created a lasting impression, establishing it as the perfect spot to unwind with a perfect cup of coffee, a delicious bite, and perhaps

of coffee, a delicious bite, and perhaps some inspiring art. Whether you're a coffee aficionado, a foodie, or an admirer of the arts, Maize and Beans at Gaurang's Kitchen is poised to become your new favourite spot, promising an experience that nourishes not just the body but the mind and soul as well.

serious consequences due to their impact on CSF flow. Early diagnosis and prompt treatment are essential to prevent life-threatening complications. Colloid cysts are rare, benign lesions found in the third ventricle of the brain. Although these fluid-filled sacs are not true brain tumors, they are classified under intraventricular brain tumorsdue to their location. These cysts can have significant implications if they obstruct the normal flow of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF), leading to severe symptoms and potential compli-cations. The third ventricle is a crucial part of the brain's CSF circulation system. The brain and spinal cord are suspended in CSF, which not only provides nourishment but also acts as a protective cushion. When a colloid cyst obstructs the flow of CSF, it can lead to hydrocephalus, a condition characterised by increased intracranial

Common symptoms of colloid cysts may include severe headaches, often sudden and intense, these headaches are typ-

olloid cysts, though rare, can have ically due to the build-up of pressure inside the skull. Patients may experience fainting or drowsiness as a result of intermittent CSF blockage. Nausea and Vomit, these symptoms are associated with the elevated intracranial pressure. Blurred or double vision can occur when the optic nerves are affected by the increased pressure. In some cases, colloid cysts are asymptomatic and are discovered incidentally during imaging for unrelated conditions. Regular monitoring through surveil-lance scans is crucial for these patients to track any changes in the cyst's size or effects on brain function. The varied presentations of colloid cysts require tailored treatment approaches, as demonstrated by the following cases.

A woman in her late 40s was brought to the hospital in a comatose state after experiencing severe headaches earlier in the day. Her condition rapidly worsened, leading to unconsciousness. A CT scan revealed acute obstructive hydrocephalus caused by a colloid cyst. Immediate intervention was necessary to prevent fatal out-

comes. Bilateral frontal external ventricular drains were inserted to relieve the ular drains were inserted to relieve the intracranial pressure by draining the excess CSF. The patient's condition improved dramatically and she regained consciousness by the next morning. An MRI confirmed the presence of the colloid cyst and the patient consented to surgical removal.

Given the enlarged ventricles, the surgical team performed a craniotomy on the right frontal

craniotomy on the right frontal area of the skull. Using a microscope, they accessed the cyst through the brain cortex and right lateral ventricle, successfully resecting it. The patient made a full recovery and was discharged a few days later.

Another woman in her late 20s had been diagnosed with a colloid cyst during a routine scan, though she initially had no symptoms. Over time, the cyst grew, leading to frequent fainting episodes due to intermittent CSF blockage. enlargement, a different surgical approach was cho-

However, her ventricles were not enlarged, suggesting less severe obstruction. Due to the absence of ventricular sen. Image guidance was used to navigate precisely to the cyst through a narrow corticle absence of ventricular ridor between the brain's hemispheres and the corpus callosum. The operation was performed using a microscope, allowing for the cyst's complete removal without significant damage to the brain. The patient's fainting episodes ceased immediately and she was discharged a few days after surgery.

days after surgery.

Treatment for colloid cysts depends on various factors, includ-ing cyst size, symptom severity and overall patient health. Common

treatments include-Ventriculoperitoneal shunt: A includedrainage system is implanted to divert excess CSF, reducing intracranial pressure. Endoscopic Removal-a minimally invasive procedure that uses an endoscope to remove the cyst through a small incision can be undertak-

Craniotomy: An open surgical approach to remove the cyst, typically reserved for larger cysts or those causing significant

symptoms.

The rising number of colloid cyst cases in India is likely due to a combination of improved diagnostic capabilities, greater awareness among healthcare professionals, and increased access to advanced medical imaging like MRI and CT scans. These benign, fluid-filled sacs in the brain's third ventricle can cause serious symptoms if they obstruct cerebrospinal fluid flow, leading to conditions like hydrocephalus. While colloid cysts were once considered rare, the enhanced ability to detect them earlier and more accurately has led to a noticeable increase in diagnosed cases, underscoring the importance of continued vigilance and improved neurological care across the

(The author, Dr. Rathijit Mitra, is an expert on colloid cysts at CK Birla Hospital.)

India look to spin a new story but tricky Bangladesh no pushovers

Littered largely with lopsided contests, India's hopes of walking down that familiar path will hinge on sorting an uncharacteristic batting infirmity against spin when they face Bangladesh in a two Test series starting here two-Test series starting here

from Thursday.
Bangladesh, who are fresh from a recent 2-0 drubbing of Pakistan, are no pushovers this time and this will add to India's list of concerns as they look to take that bold first step into a long season that features 10 Tests, including a possible berth in the World Test Championship Final.

India's 40-4 (win-loss) home record in the last decade is awe-inducing but there is an ever-little crack, which is getting more pronounced in the past three years, particularly in the case of star batter Virat Kohli.

Kohli was a constant in India's bull run at home since 2015, crunching runs for fun against all comers. But since 2021, his numbers against spin have dipped -an average of 30 in 15

Kohli's extraordinary qualities as a batter, but it's an area that the champion cricketer himself will certainly want to improve

Skipper Rohit Sharma has also been prolific in dismantling spin, especially since his promotion as an opener in 2017 against South Africa. He averaged over 90 against tweakers.

But since 2021, it has come down to a less flashy 44 in 15 matches. KL Rahul, a batter who is backed by Rohit as equally proficient against spin and pace, offers a slightly bleaker picture.
In the last three years, he has

played five Tests at home but against the slower kind, the elegant right-hander's average has taken a beating and stands at 23.40.

Collectively, these stats need to be taken as an indication of waning skills but, perhaps, also as a reminder to refocus on perfecting the art of playing spin, often the core strength of batters from this part of the

Assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate had stressed on this Tests in this period. point recently after India's debacle against Sri Lankan



spinners in a three-match ODI series which they lost 0-2. There are bright points too in Rishabh Pant (five matches,

average 70), Shubman Gill (10

matches, average 56) and by their breakaway series Yashasvi Jaiswal (five matches, average 115). However, the numbers of

Sharma and batting talisman Virat Kohli to take Indian cricket forward.

Gambhir, who took over from Rahul Dravid after the T20 World Cup, has

shared the Indian dressing room with the likes of Kohli, Rohit and Ashwin in

"It's still early days (for him as coach).

But the good part is that I have played

with those guys (seniors). At one stage

we were sharing the dressing room as players, when they were younger, who

the not-so-distant past.

against England earlier this year, but the Three Lions did not have an experienced spin

In contrast, Bangladesh have much more potent spinners in left-armers Shakib Al Hasan, Taijul Islam and off-spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz, who can

Important to build relationship with seniors

hurt any opposition on their day. Here, India will bank on the firepower and innovative approach of Pant to unsettle and eventually take down the visiting spinners as the Delhiite is expected to return to Test cricket for the first time since his horrific car accident in

In the bowling department, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, R Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja are certain to figure in the first eleven, and it's as formidable a unit as one would get irrespective of conditions.

get irrespective of conditions. India will ponder over whether to go with a third seamer in either Akash Deep or Yash Dayal, considering that the MA Chidambaram Stadium may offer a red-soil pitch, or field a third spinner in Kuldeep Yadav as is the prevailing trend in a home Test. in a home Test.

India can also consider the option of giving another run to Axar Patel as it can give a fillip to late order batting against a Bangladesh attack that also has two express quicks in Nahid Rana and Hasan Mahmud. New head coach Gautam

Gambhir too might have a small but significant personal goal in front of him, that is to

his tutelage on a winning note, after returning from Sri Lanka with a tad underwhelming 1-1 record from a white ball tour. An obsessed pursuant of victory, he will want to set it right. Rohit might carry a contrarian view on such individual targets and dress rehearsals, but India's effort in this series, first in six months for them in the traditional format, will certainly be a strong pointer to the course for the season ahead.

TEAMS (FROM):

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

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



Rishabh Pant braces for Test return after 632 days

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Aharsh sun beating down on him, Rishabh Pant was engrossed preparing for his first Test in two years, taking down net bowlers in that unmistakably Pant-ish way.

From getting tossed up some 40m into air off a toppled car to match press meet here. getting back to cricket field at the Of course, Pant has made his hest level is nothing less than extraordinary.

It was hard to believe that 632 days have passed since Pant has played a Test match, and, coincidentally, his last five-day game was also against Bangladesh in 2022.

Now, the same opposition awaits him on his return to Test cricket come Thursday at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, and while the cricketing landscape around him remains largely unchanged, though some worthy contenders have come up in the interim.

Dhruv Jurel has impressed all with a gritty outing in front and behind the stumps during the home series against England ear-

lier this year. None could have faulted the team management if they continued with Jurel for this match, but head coach Gautam Gambhir underlined the value Pant brings to the table.

"We all know how destructive he can be (as a batter) and what he can do in Test cricket. Obviously,

it gives him the freedom to go out there and express himself. He has got runs everywhere

around the world.

"It is always good to have some-one like him who can open the game for us and more importantly can bring a lot of impact as well," Gambhir said in the pre-

return to international cricket through the white ball formats, and was a part of India's T20 World Cup winning squad too but the long-format matches offer a vastly different chal-lenge in terms of skills and the

duration of concentration. Pant showed his readiness for the grind of red-ball cricket while playing for India B in the recent Duleep Trophy match at Bengaluru.

After a rather nervy 10-ball seven in the first innings against India A, Pant showcased his full range with a 47-ball 61 that contained nine fours and two sixes. He tumbled, shuffled across and went deep into crease during that knock, but the management could have been more eager to see how he responded to the task of wicket-keeping. Pant aced that test with flying colours, taking seven catches, five alone in the second innings,

in that match. The 26-year-old flew around behind the stumps to latch on to catches way down the leg side,

a telltale sign of a wicket-keeper's anticipation and agility, and was in the right position when

the spinners operated.

Jurel played for India A, but it was clear that the match was more of an audition for Pant ahead of his reintegration into Test cricket, which was supported by a quick assessment by the NCA physios.

a wicketkeeper.
"Not only with his batting, he has been excellent behind the stumps as well. Probably his batting overshadows his keeping many times.

'But actually, see what he has done in Indian conditions...it is never easy to keep against people like Ashwin, Jadeja and Kuldeep. So, what he has done behind the stumps has been remarkable. "Obviously, he brings a lot of good things to the Test side. Not only from the batting point of view, but from the keeping point of view as well,"

Gambhir detailed. Above all this, Pant gives a different angle to the whole game of cricket with his attitude. Ricky Ponting, who worked with Pant at Delhi Capitals, gave an insight. "He's an infectious character to have around the group. He loves his cricket. He's a winner. He doesn't just play to make a few runs and be out there for the fun of it," Ponting recently told Sky Sports.

to take Indian cricket forward: Gambhir have now become experienced guys, Gambhir said in the pre-match press Head coach Gautam Gambhir on Wednesday underlined the significance for him to build on the existing cordial relationship with the senior players like skipper Rohit

meet here. When you have that kind of a relationship, sometimes it gets much easier than building a relationship. Obviously, now the roles are different. "The relationship we can build over a period of next couple of years. It's going to be very important, and now we should keep taking it a little bit forward because we've got massive challenges coming our way," he added.

The spat between Gambhir and Kohli

after an IPL match at Lucknow has often been portrayed in social media as an example of strained relation between

But Gambhir did not buy those



assumptions

Sometimes people have made a lot of hue and cry about these things. But that's not true. My relationship with everyone in the dressing room team has

been really, really good.
"More importantly I think the heart needs to be in the right place. When the passion is there, I think a lot of things can ease. I think the desire to win each and every time when we walk onto the cricket field, it's there. So, I think we've started off really well," said Gambhir. To buttress his argument, the 42-yearold explained his rationale behind selecting the eleven for a particular

match. Communication, for him, is the watch word here.

"I think the most important thing is clear communication. See, we don't drop anyone. We only select the best playing 11. We think and do the job for that particular Test match."

Ponting joins Punjab Kings as head coach on four year contract

Australian great Ricky
Ponting was on head coach of Punjab replacing Kings, compatriot Trevor Bayliss in the underperforming franchise. The former Australian

captain has made the switch to Punjab Kings from Delhi Capitals, a team he was part of for seven years.

"We are delighted to have Ricky on to guide and build our team for the next four seasons. His experience is crucial to help us develop a squad to deliver on-field success," franchise CEO Satish Menon said.

An IPL source added that Ponting will take a call on the rest of the support staff.

Under Ponting, Delhi Capitals became a force to reckon with though the elusive title never came. The team reached the final in 2020. He has also coached Mumbai Indians. Punjab too have never won the IPL since the

league's inception in 2008 and the four co-

owners will be hoping the World Cup-winning captain takes them all the way. Punjab's sole final appearance came way back in 2014 and they are one team which is often criticised for frequent chopping and changing.

They have failed to finish even in the top five in



10 teams earlier this year. In a team statement, Ponting promised different style of play going forward. I am excited to take up the new challenge. I had great conversations with

the owners and the management about the way forward and was truly elated to see the alignment of our visions for the team. We all want to repay the fans who have stayed

with the franchise over the years and we promise that they will see a much different Punjab Kings going forward," he said. Bayliss was in charge of the side for the past two

seasons with now-retired Shikhar Dhawan as its Sanjay Bangar was head of cricket development,

Charles Langveldt, the fast bowling coach, and Sunil Joshi took care of the spinners. Prior to Bayliss, Anil Kumble coached Punjab

Kings but success eluded them. Punjab have had a strong core including Arshdeep Singh, Jitesh Sharma, Kagiso Rabada,

Liam Livingstone, Sam Curran and Jonny Bairstow but the results have not come. Uncapped Shashank Singh and Ashutosh

Sharma were the standout players for Punjab Kings in an otherwise forgettable season this

Asian Games last year.

After her recovery, Malvika consistently faced top-ranked

players in early rounds of world tour events. Despite

early exits, she managed to

maintain her position in the

world's top 50. She has played close matches against the likes

of world No. 1 Akane Yamaguchi and former world

Currently training under coach Shrikant Vad at the

Thane Badminton Academy,

Malvika continues to push her

"This is her biggest win, and she is extremely happy. She has

been performing well, but

favoured her," her mother

experience,

luck

and

hasn't

game forward.

sometimes

champion Nozomi Okuhara.



Duleep Trophy: Iyer, Samson, Parag enter final round with point to prove

PTI ■ ANANTAPUR

The likes of Shrevas Iver. Sanju Samson, Riyan Parag and Rinku Singh will get another opportunity to enhance their red-ball credentials when the final round of Duleep Trophy matches begin here on Thursday

No knockout games are scheduled for the season opening event and the team with maximum points will lift the trophy. With nine points from two games, India C sit at the top of the points table, followed by India B (7), India A (6) and India D(0).

Table leaders India C, captained by Ruturaj Gaikwad, will take on Mayank Agarwal led India A, while Abhimanyu Easwaran led India B will face India D, whose captain is under-pressure Iyer. After being ignored for the Bangladesh series, Iyer had a point to prove but he has not been able to lead from the front thus far in the competition. With his team vet to earn a point in the tournament, he will be fired up to put an inspiring performance.

The performance of India D batter Samson and pacer Arshdeep Singh will also be tracked by the selectors. In the India B camp, Rinku will be aiming to get big runs after low returns in the previous game.

In the India A versus India C contest, the selectors will be expecting more runs from Agarwal, Parag and Sai Sudharsan. Parag has batted confidently thus far but needs to stay longer in the middle.

Pacer Prasidh Krishna, making a comeback from injury in the previous round, would be look ing to log in a significant number of overs while Shams Mulani will be fancying another matchwinning effort in the prevailing conditions.

Ishan Kishan, who made a memorable return to red ball cricket by scoring a hundred for India C, will need another epic knock to garner more attention from the selectors.

SQUADS:

India A squad: Mayank Agarwal (C), Riyan Parag, Tilak Varma, Shivam Dube, Tanush Kotian, Prasidh Krishna, Khaleel Ahmed, Avesh Khan, Kumar Kushagra, Shaswat Rawat, Pratham Singh, Akshay Wadkar, SK Rasheed, Shams Mulani, Aaqib Khan.

India B squad: Abhimanyu Easwaran (C), Musheer Khan, Nitish Kumar Washington Sundar, Navdeep Saini, Mukesh Kumar, Rahul Chahar, R Sai Kishore, Mohit Awasthi, N Jagadeesan (WK), Suyash Prabhudessai, Rinku Singh, Himanshu Mantri (WK). India C squad: Ruturaj Gaikwad (C), Sai Sudharsan, Rajat Patidar, Abishek Porel (WK), Ishan Kishan, B Indrajith, Hrithik Shokeen, Manay Suthar, Gauray Yadav, Vyshak Vijaykumar, Anshul Khamboj, Himanshu Chauhan, Mayank Markande, Aryan Juyal (WK), Sandeep Warrier.

India D squad: Shreyas lyer (C), Atharva Taide, Yash Dubey, Devdutt Padikkal, Ricky Bhui, Saransh Jain, Arshdeep Singh, Aditya Thakare, Harshit Rana, Akash Sengupta, KS Bharat (WK), Saurabh Kumar, Sanju Samson (WK), Nishant Sindhu, Vidwath Kaverappa.

Malvika stuns Paris Olympics medallist Tunjung in China Open badminton tournament participation in the Hangzhou

PTI CHANGZHOU (CHINA)

Tndia's Malvika Bansod pulled Loff a sensational straightgame victory over Paris Olympics bronze medallist Gregoria Mariska Tunjung of Indonesia in the women's singles opening round of the China Open Super 100 badminton tournament here

on Wednesday. The 22-year-old Indian, ranked 43rd in the world, displayed immense grit as she saved three game points in the opening game to defeat the world No. 7 Indonesian 26-24 21-19 in a 46-minute match, marking the biggest win of her

career. Malvika, a B. Tech graduate in computer science from SRM University in Chennai, will next take on Scotland's Kristy Gilmour, two-time Commonwealth Games

medallist. She was the sole Indian bright spot in the women's singles as

compatriots Aakarshi Kashyap and Samiya Imad Farooqui exited in the first round. Aakarshi lost to Chinese Taipei's Chiu Pin-Chian 15-21 19-21, while Samiya was outplayed by Gilmour 9-21 7-21 in a one-sided contest.

In other Indian results, the women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand went down 21-16 15-21 17-21 to Chinese Taipei's Hsieh Pei Shan and Hung En-Tzu. The mixed doubles duo of B

Sumeeth Reddy and N Sikki

Reddy lost 10-21 16-21 to

Malaysia's Tan Kian Meng and

Lai Pei Jing. A left-handed Malvika, from Nagpur, transitioned to the senior Nagpur, international circuit in 2019, winning the Maldives International title and finishing runner-up at the 2022 Syed Modi International. She has been in good form this year, claiming the Azerbaijan

International title.



Malvika, once coached by former India junior chief coach Sanjay Mishra, made headlines in 2022 when she defeated

Olympic bronze medallist Saina Nehwal at the India Open, breaking into the world's top 30.

However, her progress was hampered by health issues as she contracted dengue and following typhoid

Trupti told PTI. "Sanjay sir was like a father figure to her, but once he took up his role as BAI secretary, we struggled to replacement."

Vijayawada | Thursday September 19, 2024

Ritesh Rana on cloud nine!

SURESH KAVIRAYANI sureshkavirayani@gmail.com

irector Ritesh Rana is on cloud nine after his film *Mathu Vadalara 2* was declared a hit. The film, which released last week, has been performing well at the box office and continues to gain momentum.

Industry stars like Megastar Chiranjeevi and Superstar Mahesh Babu have spoken highly of the film, which has been a huge morale boost for the director. "I expected the film to be a success, but I never imagined it would be this huge, especially after seeing the collections," said Ritesh Rana.

The team was ecstatic when Chiranjeevi shared his thoughts on social media. "We were all thrilled

The team was ecstatic when Chiranjeevi shared his thoughts on social media. "We were all thrilled to see Chiranjeevi garu's comment. We didn't expect it, and when it happened, it gave us all a massive thrill," Ritesh added. In the film, Ajay's character is a nod to the role he played in Pawan Kalyan's *Khushi*. "We wanted to show the character's growth, so I decided to reference Ajay's earlier role from *Khushi*. It's a connection the audience really appreciated," he explained.

When the first part of *Mathu Vadalara* was released, there weren't many expectations, as it was a small film featuring relatively new actors and a debut director. But with the sequel, the stakes were much higher. "That's why we went ahead with the sequel. We didn't rush into it; we waited for the right story. We were con-

Director Ritesh Rana has solidified his reputation as a filmmaker to watch with the success of *Mathu Vadalara 2*, the highly anticipated sequel to his breakout hit. As the film continues to perform strongly at the box office, Rana reflects on the journey of creating this sequel, his creative choices and the unexpected response from fans and stars alike

fident it would succeed, but the response has exceeded our expectations," said Ritesh.

Known for his unique blend of humour and

tollywood

Known for his unique blend of humour and sarcasm, Ritesh has maintained this style across all three of his films. "I'd love to explore other genres, but humour and sarcasm are my favourites. My next film will be in a different genre," he hinted. On the chemistry between actors Satya and Simha, Ritesh clarified that both characters were written equally. "Satya's character shines because of Simha. I wrote them both with equal importance," he said.

equal importance," he said.

Regarding Vennela Kishore's character as a
"Youth Star," Ritesh emphasised that the role
wasn't a parody of anyone specific. "I didn't
model the character after anyone in particular. It just fit the story," he clarified.

Talking about the "HE" team in the film, Ritesh shared that the dress code and style were inspired by the movies Bad Boys and Brooklyn Nine-Nine. "There aren't many buddy cop films in Telugu, so I wanted to bring that element in, and the look really worked," he explained.

While Sunil wasn't part of the first film, he joined the cast for the sequel. "Sunil wasn't originally supposed to be in the film, but when we met, he expressed interest in working with me. So, we created a new character for him. It was a last-minute decision,

but it turned out well," said

As for another sequel, Ritesh revealed that it's possible, but not immediately. "We can definitely make another sequel, but I want to do a different film before coming back to *Mathu Vadalara*," he said. He also expressed deep appreciation for producer Cherry, whom he considers a father figure. When asked if director Rajamouli had seen the film, Ritesh confirmed, "Yes, he watched it and enjoyed

Ritesh had originally planned to remake the first part of *Mathu Vadalara* in Hindi but ultimately dropped the idea. "Everything was set, but then Covid happened. Moreover, the first part was being watched in all languages, so we felt there was no need for a Hindi remake," he explained. He also praised Faria Abdullah's performance in the film. "I wrote the character with Faria in mind, and she delivered it with ease," Ritesh said. During the shoot, Faria shared her rap song, which the team liked so much that they decided to use it for promo-

tional purposes.

When Sunerstar Krishna ont anory

When Superstar Krishna got angry at Thammareddy Bharadwaj...

Thammareddy Bharadwaj directed several films with Superstar Krishna, one of which was *Rowdy Annayya*, released on September 17, 1993, marking 31 years on Tuesday. Krishna played a lawyer in the film, with Rambha as the female lead. Having made her debut in 1992 with *Aa Okkati Adakku*, Rambha was an instant hit, which led Thammareddy to cast her opposite Krishna.

Krishna's character in the film bore his real name, Ghattamaneni Sivaramakrishna. The movie, set in a rural backdrop, was an action film filled with commercial elements. However, a particular song led to tensions between Krishna and Thammareddy. The dispute arose over a special song featuring Silk Smitha. Thammareddy wanted to film the song with comedian Babu Mohan, but Krishna disagreed and wanted to be the one in the song with Silk Smitha.

Unable to refuse Krishna, Thammareddy filmed the song during the day with Krishna and Silk Smitha. However, later that night, he secretly filmed the same song with Babu Mohan and Silk Smitha. When the film went for censor certification, the board raised objections to certain scenes in the song, causing a delay. It was during this delay that Krishna learned of Thammareddy's actions and grew furious, refusing to speak with him for several months.

"Yes, it is true that I shot the song with Krishna and Silk Smitha during the day and with Babu Mohan at night. After the film's release, fans attacked my office, damaging furniture and other property. I had to file a police complaint, and a few arrests were made," Thammareddy recalled. After Krishna's anger subsided, Thammareddy reshot the song. "One week after the film's release, I reshot the song with Krishna and Silk Smitha and added it to the film," he added. This meant that Silk Smitha had to film the song three times.

The incident strained their relationship,

The incident strained their relationship, and they didn't speak for nearly six months. "One day, Krishna called me to his office and asked me to withdraw the police case filed against his fans. I withdrew it immediately, and



we reconciled," Thammareddy shared. From then on, they maintained a good relationship, with Thammareddy being by Krishna's side when he was hospitaliased in November 2022. "I was with him till his last breath," Thammareddy said. As for *Rowdy Annayya*, it went on to be an above-average film.

Oo Pilla is blend of melody and peppy beats

ctor Vishwak is preparing for the release of his next film,
Mechanic Rocky on October
31. Ravi Teja Mullapudi, making his directorial debut, directs the film, which is produced by Ram Talluri.

The makers have been actively promoting the project and recently launched its debut song as part of the campaign. The song had been met with a fairly positive reaction.

positive reaction.

Later, the makers launched the film's second track, *Oo Pilla*. Jakes Bejoy, well-known for his recent movie *Saripodhaa Sanivaaram*, has been appointed as the music composer for *Mechanic Rocky*. In *Oo Pilla*, he creates a catchy tune with lively rhythms. This song tells the tale of love between Rocky (portrayed by Vishwak) and Priya (portrayed by Meenakshi Chaudhary).

In the meantime, the film's plot

In the meantime, the film's plot focuses on the main character, who failed to tell the girl he loved how he felt back in his B-Tech days. Afterward, he has another chance to meet her and travel together once more. The lyrics were written by Krishna Chaitanya and the song was performed by Nakash Aziz.

Shraddha Srinath is also featured in a significant role in the movie.

WHY IS POONAM KAUR NOT APPROACHING REDRESSAL PANEL?

A ctress Poonam Kaur is making headlines once more. The actress is always discussing things on social media and creating headlines, but she has never utilised the appropriate channels to address her concerns. On social media, the actress reiterated her comments about director Trivikram Srinivas and urged industry leaders to hold the top director accountable.

Surprisingly, the Telugu Film Chamber of Commerce Sexual Harassment Redressal Panel asked them to come forward if they encounter any issues in their workplace. However, Poonam Kaur used social media to urge industry professionals to interrogate Trivikram Srinivas. The actress has accused Trivikram Srinivas multiple times in the past, indirectly. However, it's been for the first time that she has brought up Trivikram Srinivas' name and requested for an interrogation against him. This topic is widely debated within the film industry as well as on social media.

However, there is only one question being asked by everyone. What is stopping Poonam Kaur from seeking help from the Redressal panel after publicly accusing a top director on her social media platform? She has the option to present the evidence and proofs to the panel instead of posting on social media. The panel is unable to address her complaint spontaneously since it does not have the legal authority of a court. On Tuesday, the chairman of the panel, Jhansi, clearly instructed everyone to accept complaints from anyone who comes forward and submit them either in writing or in person. Some of them are talking in interviews and also talking on other platforms, but if they approach us directly, then

we can take their complaints and enquire about it," said Jhansi on Tuesday.

She mentioned that she gave a complaint to the Movie Artiste Association (MAA), but they ignored it. "Had the association taken complaint on Trivikram Srinivas, I and many wouldn't have had the political suffering, I was rather silently ignored, I had given a call and then complaint to the heads, I want industry bigwigs to question Director Trivikram (sic),"

said Poonam Kaur on her social media page.

ast year, the college-themed film *MAD* became a massive hit, introducing

first, delivering even more fun and entertainment.
They assure fans of the original that *MAD Square*will exceed expectations. The film is produced by
Haarika Suryadevara and Sai Soujanya.



Hat-trick of flops for Raj Tarun

ctor Raj Tarun's career is on a downward spiral following his third consecutive box office failure with *Bhale Unnade*. The actor has been making headlines for his personal life lately after his rumoured girlfriend Lavanya accused him. The actor's film career is overshadowed by controversies.

In spite of his personal issues, the actor's movies are consistently being

released back to back. Initially receiving positive reviews, *Purushottamudu* ended up being a box-office failure. The next film was *Tiragabadara Saami* directed by AS Ravi Kumar Chowdhary. The movie flopped and it also bombed at the box office. A few performances were called off on the very first day the movie pre-

miered.
The most recent one is *Bhale Unnade* directed by Sivasai Vardhan. Well-known filmmaker Maruthi is also engaged in the production as he

acts as the film's presenter. In spite of everything, the movie failed to attract an audience and performed poorly financially. Despite some favourable buzz surrounding the movie, its promotion is lacking, resulting in its removal from theaters starting on the second day.

A source said that the actor's

A source said that the actors career is currently in trouble, causing a lot of talk in the film industry. The actor currently holds a few movies, but he requires a well-deserved break in his career.



More fun in MAD Square

several new faces to the industry.

Directed and written by Kalyan Shankar, the film launched actors Narne Nithin, Ram Nithin and Sangeeth Sobhan, along with a few female lead actresses. The project was backed by the prominent production house Sithara Entertainment. With the success of MAD, the team announced its sequel, Mad Square, some time ago. Now, the makers have unveiled the first look poster from the sequel MAD Square. They are also set to release the first single from the film on September 20. To make the announcement, the team released a poster featuring the MAD gang in traditional attire, showcasing their attitude and style in a fresh, yet equally charming, way compared to the first film. The songs composed by Bheems Ceciroleo became huge chartbusters in the first film and the makers have promised another hit album for the sequel.

According to the team, Kalyan Shankar has treated this sequel with the same raw energy as the