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'HYD HAS **TOURISM HUB'**

Ram Charan shines, but *Game* **Changer** falters with outdated STORYLINE

the pioneer While we aim for the Moon, it's time we learnt how to coexist responsibly on Earth. Future City is envisioned as a worldclass hub on par with cities like New York, London, Seoul, Dubai and Tokyo. This exclusive service sector city will be designed to be pollution-free and climate-resilient, establishing Hyderabad as a global benchmark in urban planning

QUOTE OF THE DAY

- Revanth Reddy, Chief Minister

Crack down on nation-wide fraud

In a major operation to tackle the alarming rise in cyber fraud cases, the Cyber Crime police station, Hyderabad, conducted extensive crackdowns across Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh. Coordinated by five specialised teams, the operation targeted sophisticated fraud networks exploiting loopholes for large-scale financial frauds, resulting in the arrest of 23 individuals and the recovery of critical evidence. The detected cases involved various fraudulent schemes: 1. Five cases of investment frauds, totaling

Rahul gets bail in defamation case

A special court in Pune on Friday granted bail to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in a defamation case related to his alleged objectionable remarks on Hindutva ideologue V D Savarkar. The MP/MLA court granted bail to the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha on a surety bond of Rs 25,000 after he appeared before it through video conferencing, his lawyer said. Senior Congress leader Mohan Joshi stood as surety for Gandhi (54) before the court presided over by Amol Shinde, judicial



GST return, payment deadline extended

The government on Friday extended the deadline for filing monthly GST sales return form GSTR-1 and GST payment by 2 days after taxpayers reported technical glitches in the GSTN the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), the last date for filing GSTR-1 for December is January 13, while that for taxpayers opting for quarterly payment under the QRMP scheme for the October-December period will be January 15. Normally, the last date for filing.

-PAGE: 8

India beat Ireland by six wickets

Pratika Rawal showcased maturity beyond her experience, while Tejal Hasabnis capped a memorable comeback, posting a fifty each, as India outplayed an inexperienced Ireland by six wickets to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match women's ODI series here on Friday. Rawal anchored the modest run chase of 239 after stand-in skipper Smriti Mandhana's brisk 41, smashing 10 fours and one six for a career-best 89 (96 balls). Hasabnis, who last played an ODI against New Zealand in October 2024, struck her first fifty after her ...



Judge sentences Trump in hush money case

But declines to impose punishment

PNS NEW YORK

President-elect Donald Trump was sentenced on Friday in his hush-money case, but the judge declined

to impose any punishment.
The outcome cements Trump's conviction before he returns to power while freeing him to return to the White House unencumbered by the threat of a jail term or a fine.

Trump's sentence of an unconditional discharge caps a norm-smashing case that saw the former and future president charged with 34 felonies, put on trial for almost two months, and convicted by a jury on every count. Yet, the legal detour and sordid details aired in court of a plot to bury affair allegations didn't hurt him with voters, who elected him to a second term.

Manhattan Judge Juan M.

Manhattan Judge Juan M. Merchan could have sentenced the 78-year-old Republican to up to four years in prison. Instead, he chose a sentence that sidestepped thorny

constitutional issues by effectively ending the case but assured that Trump would become the first person convicted of a felony to assume the presidency

Merchan could have sentenced the 78-year-old

'Will create wonders in TG'

Future City will compete with NY, London, Seoul: CM Revanth

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy presented a transformative vision for Telangana during his address at the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) National Council meeting held in Hyderabad.

Emphasizing the state's commitment to sustainable growth, innovation and women's empowerment, he invited investors to partner with the government to "create wonders in Telangana.

Revanth reaffirmed the government's decision to make Hyderabad a "Net-Zero City." As part of the effort, 3,200 electric buses are being introduced into the TGSRTC fleet, and electric vehicle registration and road taxes have been waived to boost adoption.

He announced plans to relocate polluting vehicles beyond the Outer Ring Road (ORR) and set an example for urban sustainability.

"While we aim for the Moon, it's time we learn to coexist responsibly on Earth," he remarked, stressing the urgency of sustainable practices.

The CM unveiled plans for Hyderabad's "Future City," envisioned as a world-class hub on par with cities like New York, London, Seoul, Dubai and

This exclusive service sector city will be designed to be pollution-free and climate-resilient, establishing Hyderabad as a global benchmark in urban plan-

Highlighting the state's focus on women's empowerment, Revanth said that 67 lakh women are active members of self-help groups in Telangana. These groups are setting up canteens in government offices and have been encouraged to establish solar power plants generating 1,000 MW. A three-and-a-halfacre site near Hi-Tech City has been allotted for women entrepreneurs to sell their products.

"Our goal is to make one crore women million-



Revanth reaffirmed the government's decision to make Hyderabad a "Net-Zero City." As part of the effort, 3,200 electric buses are being introduced into the TGSRTC fleet, and electric vehicle registration and road taxes have been waived to boost adoption

aires while prioritizing rural women's empowerment," he said.

The CM outlined plans for Telangana's

infrastructure development, including the construction of a 360-km Regional Ring Road (RRR) with radial roads connecting it to the ORR. Development of clusters modelled after China, focusing on pharma, life sciences, aerospace, EVs and solar industries. A dry port in lelangana will be connected to Andhra Pradesh's Machilipatnam Port via road and rail.

Revanth emphasised the government's focus on skill development, noting Continued on Page 2



FIR against KTR & others for rally after **ACB** questioning

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

An FIR was registered against BRS Working President KT Rama Rao (KTR) and five others. This time, the case revolves around traffic violations and public nuisance during KTR's return from the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) office on Thursday.

The allegations emerged after KTR, accompanied by party leaders and workers, conducted a rally from the ACB office to the Telangana Bhavan after his questioning.

According to the complaint filed by Sub-Inspector Govardhan of the Banjara Hills Traffic Police, KTR, identified as Accused No. 1, deliberately slowed his vehicle to interact with the media. Continued on Page 2

Tail-end farmers must receive adequate water: Uttam

Farmers at the tail-end of the irrigation system should receive adequate water during the 2024-25 Yasangi (Rabi) season, Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said.

Addressing a review meeting at the Jala Soudha on Friday, after a presentation on water regulation in the Sriram Sagar Project (SRSP), he asked officials to implement strict tail-

PNS HYDERABAD

The BJP announced the names of its

MLC candidates in two teachers'

constituencies and one graduate

constituency on Friday much before

The BJP announced the name of

Puli Sarottham Reddy (Warangal)

for the MLC teachers' constituency

Nalgonda-Warangal-Khammam.
The party named Malka
Komuraiah's (Peddapalli) for MLC

teachers' constituency Karimnagar-

C. Anji Reddy (Sangareddy) was

Nizamabad-Adilabad-Medak.

the Congress and the BRS.

to-head regulations. The Sriram Sagar Project, launched in 1964, is constructed on the Godavari near Pochampad. It irrigates 9.68 lakh acres in Nizamabad, Jagtial, Karimnagar, Peddapalli and Warangal districts.

Of this, 5,40,171 acres lie

above the Lower Manair Dam (LMD), in Jagityal, Koratla, and Balkonda under Zone I, and Choppadandi, Karimnagar and Dharmapuri under Zone II. Below LMD, the project Continued on Page 2

BJP fields candidates for MLC elections

Puli Sarottham Reddy, Malka Komuraiah for teachers' constituencies,

Anji Reddy for graduates' constituency

picked for the MLC graduates' con-

stituency Karimnagar-Nizamabad-

Telangana BJP President G.

Kishan Reddy announced these years and as

Adilabad-Medak.

CM pulls up Collectors over food poisoning, *Indiramma Indla* survey? PNS HYDERABAD

Addressing a meeting of Collectors at the Secretariat on Friday, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy expressed concern over the frequent food poisoning incidents in government schools and residential schools, it is learnt. The Chief Minister asked the

Collectors why food poisoning incidents are taking place even after

names as per the instructions of BJP

Puli Sarottham Reddy was a

School Assistant for around 21 years and as Continued on Page 2

President Jagat Prakash Nadda.

increasing the diet and cosmetic Minister also expressed unhappiness ernment is getting a bad name due to Indiramma Indla Survey. The CM the frequent food poisoning incidents.

It is learnt that the Chief Minister said that these incidents are occurring as Collectors are not visiting residential schools. It is learnt that the CM asked Collectors to visit residential schools every week and submit reports. It is learnt that the Chief

said that some officials are not monitoring the Indiramma Indla Survey and that it had come to his notice. He asked Collectors to make themselves available to the public and warned that action would be taken if anyone is found to be negligent, it is learnt.

Harish accuses govt of making U-turn on movie ticket prices

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Senior BRS MLA Harish Rao launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, accusing him of backtracking on his Assembly declarations regarding cinema ticket prices and special privileges for films.

He stressed that Revanth who had earlier vowed in the Assembly not to grant special rights to films, reversed his decision in record time, leaving even chameleons

Harish didn't spare Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy either and pointed out the Minister's promise in the Assembly that cinema ticket prices would not be increased. "Within a short time, these words too turned into empty promises," he said. "How can the Assembly retain its sanctity if prom-

ises made in it have no value? Granting permissions for movie ticket price hikes and additional shows is **Continued on Page 2**

Congress moves against KTR done in 'lottapeesu' manner: Bandi

KOLISHETTY VENKATESHWARLU venkat.k.warlu@gmail.com HYDERABAD

Hinting that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and BRS working president KT Rama Rao are hand in glove, the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, said the "Congress is acting against the corrupt KTR in a 'lottapeesu' (useless) manner."

"I am getting a doubt as Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is not taking any action even when KTR blasts the CM using abusive words like 'Lottapeesu CM, Chitti Naidu, Sannasigadu, Luchagaadu etc. Moreover, the CM is adopting delaying tactics in the name of probes without arresting KTR even though



Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay addressing the media at Karimnagar on Friday

a doubt that Revanth might have struck a deal with KCR," Sanjay said.

KTR is lashing out at the CM. I have Karimnagar on Friday, Sanjay asked whether KTR is a freedom fighter who fought for the nation. Did KTR Speaking to the media at launch a Continued on Page 2

Can shed old ideas for 'nation first' cause: PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said he is willing to discard old ideas and embrace new ones as long as they fit into his essential ideology of "nation first".

Appearing for the first time in a podcast, which was hosted by Zerodha co-founder Nikhil Kamath and released on Friday, Modi said he sees his success in how he prepares a team who can deftly handle things, as he asserted that there are many young politicians with potential. He declined to name any, saying it will be injustice to many others.

Modi said it has been his life's mantra that he may make mistakes but will not do anything wrong out of bad intentions.

He said, "When I became

(Gujarat) chief minister I said I will not spare any effort to work hard. I will not do anything for myself. And, today but after 20-30 years, Modi



mistakes. But I will not do anything wrong out of bad intentions. I have made it a mantra of my life. Mistakes are inevitable. I must have made mistakes. I am a human too, not a god."

When Kamath asked him if he has planned for the time beyond him, training those he has faith in, not for

thirdly, I am human and I can make said, "I can see people with a lot of potential. When I was in Gujarat, I would say that I want to go after preparing (team) for the next 20 years. I am doing it. My success lies in how I prepare my team who will be able to deftly handle things. This is my benchmark for me."

He said politics needs continuous entry of good people who put mis-

Modi said he sees his success in how he prepares a team who can deftly handle things, as he asserted that there are many young politicians with potential. He declined to name any, saying it will oe injustice to many others

sion over ambition, and summarised his ideology as "nation first". Asked if he sees such potential in any young politician, Modi said they are many of them.

"They toil, they work with a mission. If I say a name it will be injus-

tice to many others. There are a lot of names and faces in front of me. I know details of Continued on Page 2



'Collectors play decisive role in enhancing stature of govt'

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy clarified that the welfare of the poor and the state development are the 'two eyes' of the People's Government. The Chief Minister asserted that the responsibility of instilling trust among people in the govern-ment lies with the District Collectors who are the real representatives of the government at the ground level.

"Collectors play a decisive role in enhancing the IMAGE of the government," The CM from time to time, the CM

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy

announced the Telangana

Chenetha Abhayahasta

Scheme for the holistic devel-

opment of handloom workers

on September 9, 2024, during

the inauguration of the Konda

Laxman Bapuji Indian Institute of Handloom

The Telangana government

issued guidelines for its imple-

mentation on Friday, along

with budget allocations for

the financial year 2024-25.

PNS HYDERABAD

said, congratulating the collectors of all districts for successfully completing the socioeconomic, educational, employment, political, and caste census survey which has been undertaken by the government recently. Revanth emphasized that it is the only collector who reached the scheme benefits at the people's door steps and their performance is the measurement of

the government's achievement. Suggesting THAT collectors improve their performance

CM launches Chenetha Abhayahasta Scheme for Weavers

The Budget allocations for

Bhadhratha

2024-25 are Telangana

Nethanna Podhupu (Thrift

Fund) Rs. 15 crore, Telangana

(Weaver Insurance) Rs. 5.25

crore and the Telangana

Nethanna Barosa (wage incen-

The Telangana Nethanna Podhupu (thrift fund) aims to

foster the savings habit among

weavers and ensure social secu-

rity. Handloom and power

loom workers contribute 8% of

their monthly earnings (up to

Rs 1,200), while the government

Nethanna

tive) Rs 31 crore.

confined to their offices and now they should go on field trips. The Chief Minister warned that problems should be dealt with effectively when

Announcing that he will embark on district tours after January 26, the CM said he will also conduct surprise visits and warned of strict action if officials are found neglecting their duties in the government system. The collectors have also been asked to alert

matches it with a 16% contribu-

tion. This covers 38,000 hand-

loom workers and 15,000 power

loom workers. The Deposit

tenure has been reduced from

Bhadhratha (weaver insurance)

scheme provides life insur-

ance coverage for handloom and power loom workers. It

offers Rs 5 lakh insurance

cover to nominees in case of a

worker's death, irrespective of

age, with the earlier age cap of

65 removed. The annual bud-

get allocation is Rs 9 crore.

The Telangana Nethanna

three to two years.

PCC President, our journey for tribal empowerment began with the first meeting in Indravelli. We promised the Indravelli Amarula Smritivanam and houses for martyrs' families, and we fulfilled these promises after assuming power."
The Chief

CM showers goodies on

tribal communities

the time I assumed office as

Minister announced the establishment of a dedicated study circle for tribal students and directed officials to clear pending overseas scholarships. He also ordered the recruitment of teaching and non-teaching staff for approved B.Ed colleges in tribal areas. Moreover, the CM called for a detailed report on introducing primary education introducing primary education in tribal languages like Gondi.

Orders were also issued for resolving drinking water issues in tribal hamlets through a special drive under ITDAs.

construction of buildings for tribal 'Rayi Centres' and allocated funds for the Kaslapur

Officials were told to conduct feasibility studies for these projects and prepare model designs in consultation with the Panchayat Raj Department.

The CM promised houses under a special CM quota for tribals, independent of MLA quotas, and assured solar pump sets for tribal farmers with 100% subsidy. He also emphasized free borewell installation under the Indira Jalaprabha scheme, prioritizing tribal farmers.

Revanth declared Komaram Bheem's birth and death anniversaries as official state events. He asked officials to issue immediate orders to this effect, ensuring due recognition for tribal heritage and

TG Minister, MP, MLAs seek blessings at Tirumala

Telangana's prominent leaders marked Vaikunta Ekadashi by visiting the Tirumala temple to seek blessings from Lord Venkateswara. Several leaders, accompanied by

their families, participated in the sacred Uttara Dwara Darshan, offering prayers and extending wishes to the pub-

Health Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha visited Tirumala with his wife and offered prayers to the Lord. He expressed his heartfelt wishes for the well-being of everyone and prayed for the blessings of Lord Vishnu to guide and protect all.

BRS MLAs Malla Reddy and Marri Rajashekar Reddy, along with families, participated in the Vaikunta Ekadashi celebrations. After seeking the blessings of Lord Venkateswara, they wished for peace and prosperity for

the people of Telangana. BJP MP DK Aruna also joined the pilgrimage, visiting Tirumala with her family. "As every year, it was a joyous moment to have the privilege of Uttara Dwara Darshan. I pray to Lord Srinivasa to bless everyone with happiness and prosperity," she shared.

Vaikunta Ekadashi, a significant day in the Hindu calendar, saw a steady stream of devotees at the temple, with leaders and commoners alike seeking divine grace. The serene and festive atmosphere at Tirumala added to the sanctity of the occasion.

Mahila Congress names TG Executive Committee

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Chief Minister Revanth Reddy

held a comprehensive meeting

with representatives of tribal

associations and public leaders,

addressing key issues impact-

The meeting, aimed at fostering development and resolv-

ing grievances, witnessed the

active participation of tribal

leaders who raised topics like

education, employment oppor-

tunities, economic develop-

ment and infrastructure

improvements in tribal regions. The CM assured the

tribal representatives of the

government's commitment to

their welfare, emphasizing the

need to strengthen ITDAs

Development Agencies) and

enhance basic amenities in

Highlighting his administra-

tion's focus on justice for trib-

Tribal

(Integrated

ing tribal communities.

The President of the Telangana unit of the Mahila Congress, Mogili Sunitha Rao, named the State Executive Committee on Friday at the Indira Bhavan and handed over appointment orders to them.

Speaking on the occasion, Sunitha said the appointments were done as per the suggestions of AICC Mahila Congress President Alka Lamba. The posts given to leaders had the highest online membership in the state, she said.

Sunitha said the party had appointed leaders who had enrolled 500 members and more as the presidents of Mahila Congress's district units. She said that she gave

Vice-Presidents, four General Secretaries and 18 Secretaries. Except in Rangareddy and Medak districts, all other 15 district Presidents are old

Sunitha said leaders who got posts should strengthen the Mahila Congress, support the government's social welfare and development programmes and take them to the people. She said that Congress activists should launch public movements against the BJP-led Central Government's 'dictator-

remaining district units will be appointed soon, Sunitha added. activists should make pro-

ship.' The presidents of the

The district Presidents are Thota Devi Prasanna (Kothagudem), Shambula Ùsha Sree (Khairatabad), Parvathamma Karnati (Warangal), Rega Kalyani (Mulugu), Tirumalapragada Anuradha (Suryapet), M. Laxmi (Siddipet), Shrijyothi (Rangareddy), Pamena Dobbala Soujanya (Khammam), Badhike Índira (Jangaon), Banka Sarala (Hanmakonda), Neelam Padma (Yadagiri Bhongir), Gummadi (Jayashankar Bhupalpally), Rajanala Laxmi (Medchal

Malkajgiri), Gopagani Madhavi (Nalgonda), Ch. She said that Congress Bhavani (Nirmal), P. Kavitha units. She said that she gave grammes pointed out by (Secunderabad) appointment orders to the Mahila Congress President Bhavani (Medak). (Secunderabad), Avasula

Nothing to do with 'Kolanupaka Land' issue, says Govt Whip Ilaiah PNS HYDERABAD constituency. He reiterated

Condemning the allegations of former BRS MLA Gongidi Sunitha, Government Whip Beerla Ilaiah said that he will resign if Gongidi Sunitha can prove her allegations against him. Gongidi Sunitha should opt for take political sanyas if she cannot prove her charges, Ilaiah said. He made it clear that he has nothing to do with the Kolanupaka land issue as alleged by Gongidi Sunitha.

Addressing the media on Friday in Yadadri Bhongir district, Ilaiah said that Gongidi Sunitha was levelling allegations against him after losing her mental balance.

He said the people of Alair had changed his name to 'Neella Ilaiah' from Beerla Ilaiah for bringing water to the

that he has no connection to the Kolanupaka land issue. Ilaiah asked Gongidi

Sunitha to identify and prove his benamis. He said that he would resign if it was shown that any of his followers had signed the 150 documents linked to Kolanupaka lands.

Ilaiah said that he had questioned BRS Working President KT Rama Rao regarding a mistake and that Gongidi Sunitha is levelling allegations against him as he is a Backward Class MLA. He challenged Gongidi Sunitha to prove her allegations within 10 days and get ready for an open debate. Gongidi Sunitha should go to the Erragadda Mental Hospital for a check-up and said that he would refer her to the

Erragadda Hospital.

Jeevan: Implement Bhu Bharati as Sankranthi gift

PNS HYDERABAD

Technology.

Appealing to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to implement the Bhu Bharati SCHEME as Sankranthi gift, the Congress MLC T. Jeevan Reddy said that there is a chance for farmers to appeal through Bhu Bharati if there any problem and the government also included Cultivation Column in the Bhu Bharati. Jeevan said the government is going to set up Revenue Courts again.

However, these were all missed in the BRS govern-

Judge sentences ...

Republican to up to four years in

prison. Instead, he chose a sentence

that sidestepped thorny constitution-

al issues by effectively ending the case but assured that Trump would become

the first person convicted of a felony

to assume the presidency. Merchan

said that like when facing any other

defendant, he must consider any

aggravating factors before imposing a

sentence, but the legal protection

that Trump will have as president "is

breadth of those legal protections,

one power they do not provide is

that they do not erase a jury ver-

Trump, briefly addressing the

court as he appeared virtually from

his Florida home, said his criminal

trial and conviction has "been a

very terrible experience" and insist-

ed he committed no crime.

dict," Merchan said.

"Despite the extraordinary

a factor that overrides all others".

ment's Dharani, Jeevan Reddy slammed. The Congress government is reinstating the VRO and VRA systems again. There was no government in villages during the BRS Government, Jeevan Reddy slammed. The Congress government brought Bhu Bharati to solve Dharani problems.

Speaking to the media at CLP Media Hall on Friday, Jeevan said the appeal provision is useful for farmers to solve their problems. During the BRS government, the farmers had to go to Courts only, he lamented. However, the Congress government is setting up Revenue Tribunals now.

He appealed to the government to revive the village revenue system while implementing Bhu Bharati from Sankranti festival, which is a festival of farmers. He said that it is not proper for the NRS government to abolish VROs as the VRAs system used to commit by one or two VROs. The government should issue new Pattadar Pass Books as the government is introducing new columns, Jeevan Reddy said.

Subash to CM: Restrain your brother Tirupati

The BJP's state spokesperson, NV Subash, strongly criticised Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for failing to restrain his brother, Anumala Tirupati Reddy, from allegedly functioning as an extra-constitutional authority.

In a scathing statement, Subash pointed out that Tirupati Reddy, despite holding no official post — not an MP, MLA, MPTC member, sarpanch, or corporation councillor — enjoys privileges like a police convoy and schoolchildren holding parades in his honour. He said the Vikarabad Collector is now acting as Tirupati Reddy's bodyguard.

"How can such blatant misuse of power go unchecked? Is this not reminiscent of the arrogance displayed by the KCR family, which ultimately faced public wrath?" Subash asked. He demanded immediate action from the Chief Minister to rein in his brother.

Drawing parallels with past political scenarios, Subash likened this situation to the tenure of former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, whom he accused of being subservient to Sonia Gandhi.

PNS HYDERABAD

BRS MLC Kavitha criticised the Congress Government's alleged negligence towards tribal development, claiming that the meeting held by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy with tribal associations on Friday was the direct result of BRS pressure. Kavitha asserted that the meeting marked a victo-

Continued from page 1

movement on any public

issue? KTR engaged in corrup-

tion involving crores and why

are BRS leaders doing hunga-

ma if KTR appears before

investigators, he asked. Sanjay

said that KTR handed over

public funds to a foreign com-

pany without Čabinet

approval. What is the need for

hurry in releasing that money?

How did KTR release money

without the permission of the

Finance Department?, he

He asked KTR to explain

Congress moves ...

highlight tribal rights and

BRS credits CM's tribal meet to its campaign, demands action

Accusing the Congress Government of stalling tribal development, Kavitha said, "Under Congress rule, tribal hamlets were neglected, and numerous problems continue to plague the community. The CM must move beyond mere promises and announcements nance, further compounding to address these issues imme- the challenges faced by tribal

where that money went.

"The Congress's actions

against KTR are in a

'Lottapeesu' manner. The

Congress created hungama

when drugs were found in

KTR's brother-in-law's farm-

house and in the end the

Congress did a 'Lottapeesu'

probe. The Congress also did

a 'Lottapeesu' probe regarding

phone tapping, the Kaleshwaram probe, Dharani issues although it had created

hungama in the beginning,"

Sanjay said that KCR came

Kavitha said the initiatives undertaken during KCR's tenure, such as improving tribal hamlets and introducing modern agricultural methods have been halted. She claimed that basic ser-

vices like drinking water sup-ply have been rendered ineffective under Congress gover-

knows about Congress affairs

well. KCR is going to New

Delhi and paying money to the

Congress high command

whenever scams come out and

subsequently the cases become

Declaring that the Congress

and the BRS are one, Sanjay

said the BJP will expose the

dramas enacted by the

Congress and the BRS. He

said the BJP will lay bare the

corruption of BRS leaders and

the KCR family's secrets before

people. The BJP will launch an

uncompromising fight regard-

'Lottapeesu,' he added.

Tail-end farmers ...

Continued from page 1

serves 361,078 acres, with covering Manakondoor, Huzurabad and Parkal and Zone II extending to Wardhannapet, Palakurthy and Madhira.

Officials said that an ON and OFF water regulation system will be followed. Above LMD, water will be supplied on a 7-day ON and 7-day OFF schedule for Zone I and an 8day ON and 7-day OFF schedule for Zone II. This will con-

tinue till April 8. Below LMD, water distribution started on January 9, for Zone I and from January 1, for Zone II, with the supply ending on March 31, for both zones.

Officials said that the oper-

ational plan for Yasangi 2024-25 involves a total water requirement of 77.76 TMC above LMD and 49.89 TMC below LMD for both Stage-I and Stage-II combined.

Below LMD, Stage-I covers ayacut areas between km 146 and km 284, requiring 23.28 TMC, while Stage-II spans from km 284 to km 346, requiring 26.61 TMC. The total ayacut below LMD is 9.04 lakh acres.

As of January 2025, the SRSP reservoir holds 80.50 TMC of water, which is sufficient to meet the needs above LMD. However, below LMD, the projected requirements closely match available water, leaving little room for additional uses.

district. He is an entrepreneur

with investments in many areas

and has been associated with the

nationalist ideology right from

childhood. His wife Godavari

Anji Reddy is the president of the

the SR Trust since two decades.

SR Trust is trying to supply

drinking water in villages and is

providing education to poor stu-

Anji Reddy has been running

BJP Sangareddy district unit.

TODAY **ALMANAC** Month & Paksham Sukla Paksha Dwadashi: Jan 10 10:19 AM to Jan 11 08:21 AM Trayodashi Jan 11 08:21 AM to Jan 12 06:34 AM Nakshatram: Jan 10 01:45 PM to Jan 11 12:29 PM Jan 11 12:29 PM Mrigashirsha: to Jan 12 11:24 AM 9:38 AM to 11:01 AM Rahukalam: 1:47 PM to 3:09 PM Yamagandam: Varjyam: 05:50 PM to 07:21 PM 6:52 AM to 8:15 AM Gulika: 09:27 AM to 10:58 AM Amritakalam: Abhijit Muhurtham: 12:01 PM to 12:46 PM HYDERABAD WEATHER Forecast: Partly Cloudy **Temp:** 28°° Humidity: 59% Sunrise: 6:49 AM

Updated: January 10, 2025 5:00 PM

Sunset: 5:59 PM

Continued from page 1 that 1.1 lakh engineering

'Will create ...

graduates pass out annually, many of whom lack essential skills. Collaborating with the Tata Group, the state is investing Rs 2,400 crore to transform ITIs into Advanced Training Centres.

He also announced the establishment of a Skill University, modelled after ISB, with Anand Mahindra as its Chairman. Additionally, a Sports University and Sports Hub are being developed to promote sports and allied industries.

The CM urged CII representatives to support the Skill University corpus fund and assured them of the best business environment in Telangana. "Telangana is open for investments. Let us collaborate to create wonders, not just for India but globally," he concluded.

Harish accuses ...

Continued from page 1 nothing short of misleading the House

and insulting its authority," he thundered. He said he will move a privilege motion against both the Chief Minister and the Minister for misleading the Assembly.

He questioned the government's objectives behind these decisions. "After proclaiming 'no breaking promises, no turning back,' how can you now approve ticket hikes? Who benefits from this?" he asked and demanded answers.

He also referred to the tragic incident that occurred recently due to the government's approval for benefit shows and ticket price hikes, which led to the death of a woman and left a child seriously injured in hospital. "Isn't this misfortune the direct consequence of your policies, Revanth? How can you take a U-turn so soon after this devastating incident?" Harish said and added, "What is the real reason behind this decision?

Harish's criticism stresses the growing public opinion against the government's handling of film-related privileges, raising concerns over its accountability and transparency.

FIR against KTR ...

how he got Rs 700 crore and from the Congress and he

Saniav said.

Continued from page 1 causing traffic congestion on Road No: 12, Banjara Hills.

The complaint also names several other BRS leaders like Balka Suman, Manne Govardhan, Gellu Srinivas Yadav, Jai Simha, and Krishank, as co-accused. They allegedly gathered around KTR, launched an unauthorized rally, and blocked the free flow of traffic creating public nuisance for over an

The FIR, registered under Cr. No. 23/2025, accuses KTR and others of violating sections 221, 292, 126 (2)A of the BNS, along with other offenses.

The complaint says that despite repeated warnings from the police to clear the road, the instructions were ignored, blocking public servants from performing their duties.

"Revanth's rallies have police security and the Collector receives him. But if we walk with KT Rama Rao, cases are booked. Is this Congress's democracy?" she said.

BJP fields candidates ...

Continued from page 1 headmaster for over 10 years.

He was the General Secretary of PRTU from 2012 to 2019 and took part in the Telangana Movement through the Teachers'

ing this, he added.

Peddapalli in Karimnagar district. He completed BE from Osmania University. Subsequently, he established schools and has done much to promote quality education at the school level. He estab-

Malka Komuraiah hails from

Can shed old ...

a lot of people but it is my

In the over two-hour podcast,

Modi said, "If I have to leave

he summarised his ideology as

responsibility to not do injustice

Continued from page 1

to others," he added.

"nation first".

man of the Pallavai Group of Institutions in Hyderabad. As an academic administrator

in Peddapalli, Nirmal and

Hyderabad. Currently, he is chair-

and educator, he made immense contributions to provide quality education. With his vast experience in the field, he has plans to promote educational architecture in Telangana.

C. Anji Reddy, a BA Maths graduate, hails

Noting that one-third seats for

MLAs and Lok Sabha members

will be reserved for women in

near future, he said women are

already present in local bodies

due to 50 per cent reservation for

change it."

old ideas behind, I am ready to them in many states and asked

discard them. I am ready to accept new things. but the benchmark should be 'nation first'. I have only one scale and I don't

lished educational institutions Ramachandrapuram in Medak

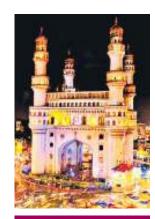
them to work to become as capable as they can be to prepare themselves for assemblies and Parliament.

The prime minister described himself as not a typical politician, and his time is mostly spent on governance.

Asserting that he has never confined himself to a comfort zone, Modi said his risk-taking ability has hardly been utilised.

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Jayanthi of Odde Obenna

By Jatheeya Vaddera Sangam

Venue

Ravindra Bharathi January11, (9 am to 10 pm)

Workshop

On Making Fabric

Lamakaan (2.5 km) January 11, (11 am)

Mom & You: Bond Reflect, Create

Interactive event between mothers and their adult children

Lamakaan January 11, (3 pm)

Ek Se Badhkar Ek

Hindi Comedy Play

Venue Sri Thyagaraja Gana january 11, (7:30 pm)

Weekend kids cooking camp

Master cooking and baking in 09 fun weekends

Venue

Culinary Guru Institute, Hyderabad. Till January 11, 2025

Lilly to open Global Capability Centre

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Eli Lilly and Company announced plans to set up a new Global Capability Centre (GCC) in Hyderabad. The centre will recruit over 1,000 skilled professionals to strengthen the company's digital strategy and service delivery. Recruitment is already underway, with the centre expected to be operational by mid-2025.

Known as Lilly Capability Centre India (LCCI) Hyderabad, it will initially focus on automation, artificial intelligence, software product engineering and cloud computing to provide advanced technology solu-tions. LCCI Hyderabad will be Lilly's second capability centre in India, after LCCI Bengaluru, which was launched in 2016.

IT Minister D. Sridhar Babu welcomed Lilly's new centre, noting that it highlights Hyderabad's growing reputation as a hub for healthcare innovation and talent.

Later, Managing Director of LCCI Hyderabad Manish Arora said the centre will enhance Lilly's technical capabilities and support the

company's global business. Meanwhile, Executive Vice President of Lilly Diogo Rau said that Hyderabad is a hub for innovation and technology, and the centre will focus on advancing healthcare through technology and data insights. The centre will employ around 1,000 to 1,500 professionals, including technology engineers and data scientists.



City Pioneer

he pioneer Hyderabad | Saturday | January 11, 2025



STAY SAFE FROM HMPV

Awareness drive for 300 trainee cops at Yousufguda

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

There is no need to panic about Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV), as simple precautions can keep it at bay, stated Dr Ratnababu Kollabattula, Interventional Pulmonologist and Intensivist from Aster

Prime Hospital, Ameerpet.
Addressing 300 trainee police personnel at the Yousufguda Police Battalion, Dr Ratnababu provided an insightful session on the virus, its symptoms and preventive mea-

sures.
"HMPV typically affects the upper respiratory tract, causing throat discomfort, cough, cold or mild fever. In severe cases, it can lead to breathing difficulties, wheezing, or bronchitis and pneumonia. Though it is generally mild, the virus can pose a higher risk to individuals with weakened immunity, young children and the elderly. If symptoms persist beyond a day or two, one should consult a doctor for appropriate guidance. Key symptoms include nasal congestion, running nose, throat irritation, difficult breathing, chest pain and, in rare cases, rashes, explained Dr Ratnababu.

HMPV is not new; it was first identified in the Netherlands in 2001. It is a common cause of infections in children, with only 10-15 per cent experiencing severe symptoms. The virus spreads through close contact with infected individuals, respiratory droplets from coughs or sneezes and contaminated surfaces like door handles, toys, and phones. Proper hygiene and distancing can significantly reduce the risk of transmission, he added.

Children under five years of age, individuals with asthma, COPD, or chronic lung conditions, as well as those undergoing chemotherapy or organ transplants, are more vulnerable. Complications can include bronchitis, bronchiolitis, pneumonia, and ear infections.

Wash hands regularly with soap or sanitizer, cover your nose, mouth and ears and use masks, said the doctor.

Durgam Cheruvu FTL dispute to be resolved in four months

PNS HYDERABAD

A permanent solution to the long-standing Full Tank Level (FTL) dispute of Durgam Cheruvu will be achieved within four months, assured Lake Protection Committee Chairman and Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) Commissioner AV Ranganath

During a meeting with local residents of Durgam Cheruvu on Friday, Commissioner Ranganath announced that all relevant government departments, along with engineering experts from IIT, BITS Pilani and JNTU, would be involved in determining the FTL. Scientific methods, satellite imagery from the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), and records from the Survey of India, Telangana Survey, Revenue, Irrigation, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) and Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) will be utilised to prepare the final report.

The Commissioner also received objec-

tions from residents regarding the preliminary notification issued by HMDA in the past. The representatives from six colonies submitted their inputs and objections, emphasising inconsistencies in FTL measurements over the years.

The residents expressed frustration that the lake's FTL, originally marked at 65.12 acres, has been inconsistently revised by different



Lake Protection Committee Chairman and Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency Commissioner AV Ranganath interacting with residents of

departments over the years.

They alleged that social media outlets have unfairly portrayed them as encroachers.

Residents also reported being unable to build homes or sell their properties due to the ongoing dispute.

The FTL issue reportedly began after heavy rains in 2000 caused flooding around the lake, leading to disagreements over its

Commissioner Ranganath assured residents that all view points would be considered and FTL boundaries would be determined using scientific methods to eliminate further disputes.

HYDRAA demolishes four illegal villas within Neknampur Lake

PNS HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA) authorities have initiated demolitions of four villas constructed within Pedda Cheruvu (lake) in Manikonda Municipality, Neknampur Ranga Reddy district.

Neknampur, under the The villas being demolished within Pedda Cheruvu in

The demolition activities began on Friday morning. Of the 13 villas in question, each built on 400 square yards with a ground-plus-two structure, two villas are currently protected under court orders. In total, nine are within the buffer zone of Pedda Cheruvu.

HYDRAA authorities have informed the court and are proceeding with further steps for their removal, said a release.

Despite the cancellation of permission for the villas located within the Full Tank Level (FTL) and buffer zones of the lake, construction activities continued, said HYDRAA Commissioner AV Ranganath. The Commissioner inspected the site on Thursday and expressed strong disapproval. Officials from the Irrigation and Municipal departments explained that some structures had already been demolished earlier for encroaching on the FTL area. However, with violations persisting and notices from both departments being ignored, Commissioner Ranganath ordered immediate action

Seven hours of sleep crucial to prevent weight issues: Doctor

deepikapasham2015@gmail.com HYDERABAD

Adequate sleep of seven hours is vital for maintaining health, as even an hour more or less can contribute to weight gain and liver problems, stated Dr Shiv Kumar Sarin, Liver Specialist from the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS). He was speaking at the launch of his Hospitals during a public health awareness programme, The Wellbeing Show, hosted by Dr D Nageshwar Reddy.

Dr Sarin's book narrates patient stories and highlights the critical role of early detection and prevention of diseases. "If a young girl who has come to be was aware of a condition, she could take necessary precautions," he said, emphasising the importance of public awareness.

During the session, Dr Sarin shared alarming insights: one in three people globally has fatty liver, a condition often ignored.



Sarin during the event

"Fatty liver is like a fire alarm, and we are now seeing it even in children. While banning fast food is not feasible, educating the public about choosing the right food, such as avoiding excessive fructose, is crucial," he added.

Dr Sarin also raised concerns about poor exercise habits among youth, urging individuals to engage in 45 minutes of sweat-inducing exercise daily. Addressing misconceptions about alcohol, he warned, "If you are drinking to reduce choles-

terol, you are misinformed. Alcohol must be labelled as a carcinogen.

He advised young parents to plan childbirth only when in good health to avoid passing on genetic conditions to their children. Additionally, he recommended families create a health family tree to document hereditary conditions like diabetes, obesity and hypertension, encouraging proactive measures to move toward better health

MAJOR OPERATION IN FIVE STATES

Five teams crack down on nation-wide fraud network

PNS HYDERABAD

In a major operation to tackle the alarming rise in cyber fraud cases, the Cyber Crime police station, Hyderabad, conducted extensive crackdowns across Uttar Pradesh. Guiarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh. Coordinated by five ecialised teams, the tion targeted sophisticated fraud networks exploiting loopholes for large-scale financial frauds, resulting in the arrest of 23 individuals and the recovery of critical evidence.

The detected cases involved various fraudulent schemes: 1. Five cases of investment frauds, totaling Rs. 5.29 crore. 2. Two cases of digital arrest scams targeting victims through fabricated legal threats. 3. Three cases of trading fraud involving manipulation of trading platforms. 4. One case of APK file fraud where malicious apps were used to steal sensitive information. 5. Two cases of job frauds where victims were promised fake employment opportuni-

The seized items were Rs 40,000 in cash, 25 mobile phones, 45 SIM cards, 28 bank passbooks/checkbooks, 23 debit and credit cards, one lapand five shell company stamps.

The accused were linked to 30 cases in Telangana and 359 cases nationwide. Rs 39 lakh was refunded to victims in three cases this week alone. The operation dismantled organised syndicates, targeting mule account suppliers, bank officials and kingpins.

Deputy Commissioner of Police, Dara Kavitha, lauded the efforts of the teams for their advanced investigative methods, detailed intelligence coordination, and swift action across multiple states.

Cyber Crime Unit busts Rs 2.95 crore trading fraud **PNS** ■ HYDERABAD 318(4), 319(2), 336(3), 338,

The Cyber Crime Police, Hyderabad City, have cracked a Rs 2.95 crore trading fraud case, arresting two individuals involved in duping victims through fake stock market investments. The arrested accused, Sameer Hundekar and Deepak Sampath, both residents of Bengaluru, collaborated with a Dubai-based mastermind, Ritesh Soni, to execute the scam.

On August 27, 20 tim from Hyderabad lodged a complaint with the Cyber Crime Police, reporting a scam operated via a WhatsApp group named 'Marval Capita'" Promoted on YouTube, the group showcased fake stock trading profits to lure victims. The complainant invested Rs 2,95,15,510, which was funneled into various bank accounts linked to the fraudsters. Based on the complaint, a case was registered under Cr. No. 2068/2024 U/s 66 C, 66 D IT Act & Sec

340(2) of BNS.

The accused, Sameer Hundekar and Deepak Sampath, worked in collaboration with Ritesh Soni, the primary fraudster based in Dubai. The duo opened multiple mule bank accounts and provided all banking credentials, including cheque books, to Ritesh. hell companies were set up with mule account holders falsely listed as proprietors.

e fraudsters victims high returns on investments while diverting funds into these accounts. The accused earned a 5% commission for each fraudulent transaction processed.

The seized items include a laptop, 7 mobile phones, 21 debit and credit cards, 18 cheque books, 15 SIM cards, four shell company stamps and three QR Code scanners.

The arrests were made under the supervision of ACP Cyber Crimes, Siva Maruthi, with a team led by Inspector M Seetharamulu.

187 ASIs promoted as SIs in Multi-Zone-11

PNS HYDERABAD

In line with the directives of the Director General of Police Dr litender, a total of 187 Assistant Sub-Inspectors (ASIs) have been promoted as Sub-Inspectors (SIs) in Multi-Zone-11, said IGP V Satyanarayana, in a release.

The promotions were granted as a Sankranti gift, adhering to the guidelines of the isation of districts. Telangana State government. These officers, who were initially recruited as police constables in 1989 and 1990, have been promoted for their dedication and service, who were awaiting promotion for over 35 years. This achievement is especially noteworthy considering the challenging circumstances following the reorgan-

The distribution of the 187 promoted officers is Rachakonda - 22, Nalgonda -12, Suryapet - 7, Hyderabad -20, Cyberabad - 76, Sangareddy - 30, Vikarabad - 10, CID - 4, Intelligence - 2, Nagarkurnool - 2, Wanaparthy

- 1, Mahbubnagar - 1. To ensure preparedness for their new roles, the eligible offi-

cers underwent pre-promotion training under the guidance of Training DGP Abhilasha Bisht. The promotions were granted immediately after the successful completion of the training on Friday. IGP V Satyanarayana

emphasised that this process aims to enhance efficiency and discipline within the police department.

The Visakhapatnam to Secunderabad Vande Bharat train will now operate with 20 coaches and 1,440 seats, starting January 11. Initially introduced on January 15, 2023, with 16 coaches and a capacity of 1,128 passengers, the train has consistently operated at over 130% assistance. To meet growing demand,

GEF India adopts Kotha Cheruvu; allocates



the South Central Railways has added four more coaches. The revised composition includes

18 chair cars accommodating 1,336 passengers (up from 14 cars with 1,024 capacity) and two executive class coaches with 104 seats, totaling 1,440

General Manager of South Central Railways Arun Kumar Jain stated that this augmentation during the Sankranti festival season is timely, allowing more passengers to travel and celebrate with their families.

GHIAL hosts Pushp Utsav'25 horticulture show

PNS HYDERABAD

GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited (GHIAL) hosted its first-ever horticulture show, Pushp Utsav'25, from January 10 to 12, at the Aero Plaza, near the Passenger Terminal Building. The event, inaugurated by senior GHIAL officials, marks a milestone in enhancing the airport experience with innovative and engaging initiatives.

Pushp Utsav'25 celebrates

GHIAL's horticulture exper-

tise, offering visitors a colourful

display of flowering plants and

floral arrangements, including

chrysanthemums, dahlias, roses,

bonsais, ikebana, and cut flow-

ers. It aims to attract gardening enthusiasts, families, tourists, students, and floral designers.

The event features competitions in categories such as seasonal flowers, chrysanthemums, ikebana, and cut flowers. Prizes are awarded based on criteria like cleanliness, plant health, blooms, and overall presenta-

CEO of GHIAL Pradeep Panicker stated that Pushp Utsav'25 is more than a display of flowers; it celebrates the harmony between nature and the airport environment. He noted that this event reflects our commitment to sustainability and creating a vibrant, welcoming atmosphere for all visitors.

The restoration project focuses on cleaning the lake, PNS HYDERABAD Gemini Edible & Fats India improving water quality and

Limited (GEF India) has adopted Kotha Cheruvu Lake, allocating Rs 1.20 crore for its restoration to promote environmental sustainability. In partnership with HMDA, Telangana Social Impact Group (T-SIG), and Dhruvansh (NGO), the project aims to rejuvenate the critical water body in Kokapet. As part of its CSR efforts,

GEF India is committed to

preserving natural resources

for neighbouring communi-

During an event at the lake on Friday, Commissioner of HMDA, Sarfaraz Ahmad and Mailaram Nagapurna, Chairman of Narsingi Municipality, appreciated GEF

preserving biodiversity using

sustainable technologies. It

also aims to raise awareness

about water resource manage-

ment and ecological conserva-

They emphasised the project's role in enhancing the local ecosystem and urged the community to protect the

India's contribution.

lake post-restoration.

Meanwhile, Group Vice-President, GEF India, Akshay Chowdhry, said, "Adopting Kotha Cheruvu reflects our commitment to sustainability and improving quality of life for the region.

Archana Suresh, Director, T-SIG, highlighted the project as a successful CSR collaboration with the Telangana government, highlighting the importance of ecological conservation in Hyderabad. She noted that this initiative ensures a healthier, sustainable ecosystem, benefitting both nature and the commu-



Commissioner of HMDA Sarfaraz Ahmad. Chairman of Narsingi Municipality Mailaram Nagapurna and GEF Group Vice-President Akshay Chowdhry at the unveiling event in Kotha Cheruvu lake on Friday





HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | JANUARY 11, 2025

Police officer Shaik Saleema meeting Maoist's mother Chandramma at Vangaphad village in

Central Zone DCP meets family members of underground Maoist

Police officer Shaik Saleema appeals to Ruben to join the mainstream of society

PNS HANMAKONDA

Maoist leader Manda Ruben aka Manganna has been in hiding for the past 40 years. He hails from Vangaphad village under Hasanparthy mandal. His family was surprised to see that a police officer visiting their house in the vil-

Central Zone Deputy Commissioner of Police Shaik Saleema on Friday visited the house of the Maoist leader. During the visit, the police officer enquired about Ruben's mother Chandramma and her health condition. She also enquired about the health of the family members.

Later, the DCP handed over a sari to o Chandramma. Warangal Police Commissioner Amber Kishore Jha sent the presentation to Ruben's mother. The police officer also handed over blankets and groceries to the family members. She assured the family members that the government would extend assistance to the family members in case of any health issue.

DCP Shaik Saleema said that the Maoists could not achieve their goal through violence.

She appealed to Ruben to come out of hiding and join the mainstream of society. She pointed out that public support for Maoists has diminished in recent times.

Furthermore, she mentioned that Maoists living in hiding face health and personal problems. Recently, many Maoists have been killed in encounters with the police.

He assured that if Ruben laid down his weapons and joined the mainstream of society, the government would ensure that he would receive rewards as well as the benefits provided to such individuals.

Kazipet Assistant Commissioner of Police Tirumal, Special Branch Assistant Commissioner of Police Parthasarathi, Hasanparti Inspector Cheralu and other police officers were

'Efforts on to set up airport in Kothagudem-Palwancha region'

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageshwar Rao on Friday stated that the welfare of farmers would be the primary focus of the people's government. On Friday, the Minister visited the Sathupalli mandal, along with MLA M Ragamayee. He laid the foundation stone for several road construction projects and the Singareni agricultural warehouse, and inaugurated the Cooperative Society and Grama Panchayat

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Nageshwara Rao mentioned that efforts are being made to establish a new airport in the Kothagudem-Palwancha region.

A team of officials is scheduled visit the district during this month to explore the possibilities of setting up an airport. He assured that efforts would continue to provide irrigation for fields

and education for children. He stated that the Sathupalli constituency had given the state

a Chief Minister and noted that the Betupalli canal was completed during his tenure. He also highlighted how the Vemsoor mandal was transformed arid land into lush green today.

The Minister also suggested that if new agricultural cooperative societies are needed in the Sathupalli constituency, proposals should be sent in coordination with the local MLA. He mentioned that strengthening cooperative societies would not only provide fertilizers and godowns but also equipment for farming.

He praised Chief Minister A Revant Reddy for waiving crop loans worth Rs 21,000 crore to farmers, providing Rs 3,000 crore under farmer insurance and Rs 7,600 crore under the Rythu bharoasa scheme.

He announced that nearly Rs 10,000 crore would be transferred to farmers' accounts under the Rythu Bharosa scheme starting January 26.

Sattupalli MLA M Ragamayi expressed happiness about the inauguration of the bitumen road



Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswarta Rao, along with MLA M Ragamayee, inaugurating Gram Panchyat Building in Sathupalli constituency on Friday

and the cooperative society building in Kakaralpalli village.

He mentioned that the bonus given for fine variety of paddy has helped each farmer earn Rs.

10,000 to 15,000 per acre. He further said that the gov-

ernment is working on providing crop insurance.

Later, the Minister distributed Kalvana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak cheques to 59 beneficiaries from Sathupalli mandal. DCCB Chairman Dondapati

Venkateswara Rao, Kalluru RDO L Rajender, Sattupalli Agricultural Market Committee Chairman Doma Anand, Sattupalli Mandal Tahsildar Yogeshwar Rao, Society Presidents, Board Members others were present.

Four-year-old kidnapped girl rescued, 3 women arrested

PNS RAJANNA SIRCILLA

A four-year-old girl, Singarapu Advita, who went missing from Vemulawada temple premises on December 23 last year, was rescued on Friday. The girl hailed from Chintalapalli village under Kodimial mandal in Jagtial district.

The district Superintendent of Police, Akhil Mahajan, shared the details of the case at a media conference at the district police office.

The district police solved the sensational case of a girl missing after a painstaking investigation. The police received a complaint seven days after the girl went missing. The police immediately the child. After reviewing CCTV footage from bus stations in Vemulawada, Karimnagar, Warangal, Khammam, Mahabubabad, three women

In a district, the conduct of a woman

police officer has become a topic of dis-

cussion within the police department.

The officer has been allegedly sending

false reports, keeping the district police chiefs in the dark, while focus-

ing on issues other than her primary

duties. The officer, who is entrusted

with the job of keeping watch on ille-



Rescued girl with Rajanna Sircilla District Superintendent of Police Akhil

who kidnapped the girl were

The arrested are Sriramoji Venkata Narsamma, Ganjirapu Anjavva and Kunapuri Uppamma from Mahabubabad.

eral allegations and suspicions arise.

Recently, an internal investigation by

the state intelligence department has

uncovered shocking findings, it is

In the undivided Nalgonda dis-

trict, the conduct of a senior officer

who has been in the same position for

a long time has become controversial.

Allegations of illegal transportation of

Five migrant workers killed as bus rams stationary lorry

PNS SURYAPETA

Five people were killed in a predawn tragic road accident on the Khammam national highway near Ailapuram village under Chivemula mandal in Suryapet district. Four people from the Rayagada region of Odisha lost their lives on the spot and one more person succumbed to injuries in the hospital, bringing the total death toll to five.

The accident happened when a private bus rammed into a sandladen stationary lorry. The bus was carrying 16 migrant workers who were travelling to Hyderabad for work. Several workers in the bus suffered severe injuries and were immediately rushed to near-

Suryapet District Superintendent of Police Sunpreet Singh visited the accident site and reviewed the situation. He held a discussion with Suryapet Sub-Division Deputy Superintendent

Controversial role of police officer under radar



Private bus which is involved in accident on Survapet-Khammam highway on Friday

of Police Ravi and instructed him to take necessary measures to prevent such accidents from recurring in the future.

The police reached the accident spot promptly and began rescue operations, transporting the injured to hospitals and injtiating an investigation into the

The victims, who hailed from Odisha's Rayagada area, were coming to Telangana for work when the unfortunate incident occurred. Preliminary reports suggest that the accident may

have also surfaced. Due to these accu-

sations, senior officials have focused

Inspector General of Police

Satyanarayana visited Nalgonda and

Survapet districts and conducted an

internal investigation. During this process, the officer in charge of the intelligence department for both dis-

tricts was asked to submit a full report.

their attention on the issue.

have been caused by negligence in adhering to road safety rules. The incident highlights the

critical need for improved road safety measures and adherence to traffic regulations to prevent similar tragedies in the future. The police are inquiring why the sand-laden lorry was parked on

The deceased were identified as Rupu Harijan (51), Sula Harijan (46), S. Mani (61), P. Prabhath (17) and bus driver Sunil Garda (37) all are belongs to Odisha state.

Initially, the State Intelligence

Department officers focused on the

illegal transportation of PDS rice.

However, as the investigation pro-

gressed, they were shocked by the

emerging issues. In Nalgonda and

Survapet districts, it was found that not

only individuals were involved in ille-

gal transportation of PDS rice and

tobacco products, but also some police

personnel were harassed.

Heavy vehicle drivers advised to adopt safe driving practices

PNS HANMAKONDA

Heavy vehicle drivers should adopt safe driving practices, said Hanmakonda District Collector P Pravinya.

The Collector was speaking at a skill development programme organised by the District Scheduled Castes Corporation Development Society here

Speaking as the chief guest at the event, Pravinya appreciated the good initiative taken by the SC Corporation. She emphasised that driving heavy vehicles is not a simple task and that it comes with significant responsibility, requiring great caution. She said that the trainees at the program were taught driving skills.

She suggested conducting such programmes frequently in the urban district areas. Those who received training and certification would be eligible for subsidies under the scheme. The district-level committee would approve subs the trained drivers would be considered for vehicle loans.

She mentioned that the District Employment Department would be organising a job fair next week.

Road safety is extremely important, and she pointed out that the National Road Safety Month is being celebrated this month. The Collector handed over the certificates to the trained candidates. The meeting was attended by SC Corporation General Manager Anand, RTC DTC Srinivas, RTC Training Director Sudha Parimala, SC Corporation ED Balaraju, RTC ITI Principal Arpita, and other officials, along with the trained drivers.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT FORM - VII

(SEE -SUB-RULE (1) OF RULE-25 AND SECTION -19 (1) OF THE ACT-30/2013) PUBLICATION OF DECLARATION

Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/ District Collector, Nalgonda required an extent of Ac. 1.10 gts in Buddharam Village of Nalgonda Mandal of Nalgonda District required for Public Purpose, namely for Udaya Samudram Lift

Imigation Scheme 16R Minor of D-1 of Left Main Canal from Km 0.000 to 0.317 in Sy. No. 248. Therefore, declaration is made for the above said project i Buddharam Village of Nalgonda Mandal of Nalgonda District a piece of land measuring more or less Ac. 1.10 gts standard measurement, whose detailed description is as mentioned below is under acquisition.

isu	underacquis	ition.	SCHEDULE					
Village: Buddaram; Mandal: Nalgonda; District: Nalgonda								
SL.	Classification, Description of	Classification, Description of land i.e. pattal Externi Enjoyer S/o. or W/o.		Details of Structures				
1	2	- 5	6	7				
1	Patta/ Dry	1.10	Yerrabothu Varnshichar Reddy S/o. Shekar Reddy Yerrabothu Verikaleshwar Reddy S/o. Shekar Reddy Yerrabothu Mohen Reddy S/o. Shekar Reddy S/o. Shekar Reddy	Toddy trees - 8				

The declaration is made after hearing of objections of person interested and due enquiry as provided Ulis 15 of the Act. No 30/2013. The area for acquisition would have no displacement of people and no disturbance to the infrastructure in the vicinity cology and minimum adverse impact is foreseen on the effecte individual's livelihood. Hence, there is no need to pass a separati R&R award in terms of Section 31 and schedule of the RFCT LARR Act, 2013 (Act 30 of 2013).

Mines of coal, iron-stone, slate or other minerals lying under the said land or any particular portion of the said land, except such parts of the mines and minerals which may be required to be dug or removed or used during the construction phase of the project for the purpose of which the land is being acquired, are not needed.

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the Specia Deputy Collector, R&R & LA, Unit-II, Nalgonda on any working day. Sd/- Additional Sd/- District

Special Deputy Collector R&R & LA, Unit -II,

TOTAL 1.10

Nalgonda Nalgonda

DIPR No.566/LA/PP-Pub/2024-25

Delay in land acquisition hits rail project: Sanjay

PNS KARIMNAGAR

Union Minister of State for Home Bandi Sanjay Kumar has identified land acquisition issues as the primary reason for delays in railway line construction in Telangana. He expressed concern over the state government's lack of adequate cooperation in addressing these issues despite the Central government's timely release of funds. The unresolved land acquisition problems have caused delays in railway line and railwayover-bridge (ROB) construction at several locations.

long-pending Kothapalli-Manoharabad railway line project, which has faced multiple setbacks, is now expected to be completed by 2027. Meanwhile, the modernisation of the Karimnagar railway station is set to be finished by March next year, and Rs 60 crore Kothapalli railway station construction is progressing rapid-

During his visit to the Karimnagar and Kothapalli

part of his Lok Sabha constituency, the Union Minister reviewed ongoing construction works. He also performed a groundbreaking ceremony for the approach road construction at Thigalaguttapalli ROB. Addressing the media, he highlighted several key "I reviewed the progress of

railway projects in the Karimnagar constituency today with the officials concerned. I specifically inquired about the progress of the Karimnagar railway station, Thigalaguttapalli ROB, and Kothapalli station, urging the authorities to expedite the work. I also visited these sites during my visit," he said.

He praised the ambitious 'Amrit Bharat" scheme, under which Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government embarked on plans to modernise 1,350 railway stations across the country with a Rs 25,000 crore investment. Karimnagar station is among the 40 stations being developed in Telangana under this scheme, with work beginning railway stations, which are in August 2023 at an estimat-



Union Minister of State for Home Bandi Sanjay Kumar inspecting ongoing works of railway projects in Karimnagar district on Friday

ed cost of Rs 44.16 crore. The station is being upgraded with solar power, escalators, lifts, foot overbridges, new platforms, and improved passenger amenities. The project is expected to be completed by March 31, 2025.

The Minister also reviewed the construction of the Rs 154 crore Karimnagar ROB under the Setu Bandhan Scheme, entirely funded by the Central government. He noted delays in the project, attributed to the previous State government's lack of coordination. The

foundation stone for the ROB was laid in July 2023, but construction progress has been slow due to negligence from officials and contractors. However, the Minister emphasised that efforts are being

made to complete the ROB on schedule. Regarding the Kothapalli-Manoharabad railway line, which was approved in 2016 with a budget of Rs 1,160.48 crore, the Minister expressed concerns about delays due to land acquisition issues. While

the Central government has

allocated significant funds for the project, the State government is responsible for acquiring the necessary land. As of now, 90 per cent of the land acquisition has been completed, but 199 acres of land is yet to be acquired. The project is expected to cost Rs 2,780.78 crore, with Rs 1,444.17 crore already spent. Work on 76.135 km of the 151.36 km line has been completed, and the goal is to complete over 30 km of construction by September

The Minister also discussed plans to develop Kothapalli station into a junction station with freight handling facilities, with operations expected to begin by March 2025. He mentioned plans for a crucial bridge over the Maneru River to ensure uninterrupted train travel, with the EPC tender process set to begin later this month.

The Minister concluded by reiterating the Central government's commitment to ensuring that the Kothapalli-Manoharabad railway line and other infrastructure projects are completed on time.

Two dead as two vehicles collide head-on

PNS JANGAON DISTRICT

In a horrific road accident on the Jangaon-Suryapet main road, near Girni Tanda in Kodakandla mandal, two persons died and six others suffered serious injuries.

The accident happened when two vehicles were involved in head-on colli-

The injured were shifted to the district government hospital.

The deceased have been identified as Perala Jyothi and Perala Venkanna. They hailed from Eeturu village in Suryapet dis-





Perala Venkanna

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA FOREST DEPARTMENT TENDER NOTICE Date: 10-0

Rc.No. 53/2025/81, TENDER NOTICE Dated. 10-01-2025
Sealed e-tenders (E-tender platform) are invited for providing the following Third Party
Evaluation of works carried out under CAMPAScheme from 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 years.

RFP Activity & Date: 1) Issue of RFP document (Online): 18.01.2025; 2) Per-Bid conference 20.01.2025 at 11.30 am, 3) Last Date and Time for filing e-tenders online and submission of hon-copies of Pre-Qualification, Technical and Financial Proposals in Qio DFD Hyderabad 01.02.2025 4.00 pm, 4) Date of declaring eligible bidders on the basis of Pre-Qualification and Technical Proposals: 04.02.2025 11.30 am, 5) Date and time of opening of Financial Proposals: 04.02.2025 3.30 pm, 6) Place of Pre-bid conference and opening of Proposals: Conference Hall, Stiffoor, Aranya Bhavan, Ballabad, Hyderabad, 7) Address for Communication: PCCF (CAMPA), 5th Floor, Aranya Bhavan, Sailabad, Hyderabad, Pin: 500004. It is to inform that, the Pd. Chief Consensator of Foseste (HoFF), TS-Hyderabad has proposed to inside or-tenders too eligible, reputed and experienced Third Party to undertake evaluation of activities taken up under Companisatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) from 2022 023 and 2023-2024 year-wise in selected areas of the State of Telangana.

R.O.No: 9015-PPICL/ADVT/12824-25, Date: 10-01-2025

Bodha Road Branch Bodha Road, Nizamabad

SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002 APPENDIX IV (Rule-8(1) POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable Where as The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Bank under th Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interes Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 16.10.202 Calling upon the borrowerls: 1.**Sunnam Shivani** Wo Sunnam Nrasalah Address: H No 1 95/1, Indolwal, Dichpally, Nizamabad District, Telangana PIN-403002: 2.Sunnam Narsalal 8/o Sunnam Nrasalah Address: H No 1-95/1, Indalwal, Dichpally, Nizamabad District

Telangana PIN-403092 with our **Bodha Road Branch** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 9,72,993f- (Rs. Nine Lakha Seventy Two Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety Three Only) as on 15/10/2024 with further interest and cost within 60 days from the fate of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having falled to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undereigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under Section 13 (4) of the said Ac

read with rule 6 and 9 of the said rules on this 6th day of January of the year 2025.
The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with th property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank for an amount of Rs. 9,72,993f- (Rs. Nine Lakhs Seventy Two Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety Three Only) as on 15/10/2024 and further interest, cost and charges thereon.

"We draw attention to the provisions of Section 13 (8) of the SARRAESI Act and the Rule trained there under which deals with your rights of redemption over the securities." DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY The specific details of the assets in which security interest is created are enumerated hereunder: All the part and parcel of Open plot measuring 236.82 Sq yds bearing SY No 800/RU/1/2, Situated at Indatwel Village and Mandel, Nizamebad District a within municipa lmits of Nizamabad North: Own open plot of S Mahipal ,South: Open plot of S Narsalah East: NH44Road ,West: Open Plot of Donor (Sri S Narsalah).

Date: 06/01/2025 Place: Karlmnaga



ACROSS THE STATES



AMU receives bomb threat mail, security intensified

sender threatening "to blow up the campus," police said As Friday. The sender claimed to detonate the bomb already planted on the campus and also threatened to mix "pork oil" in the food if he did not get Rs 2 lakh, his demand, through UPI. Superintendent of Police (City) Mrigank Shekhar Pathak said all sensitive areas on and around the campus have been going through checks since last evening, when top varsity officials, including the vice chancellor, received the email. Authorities are "not taking any chances" with the threat, Pathak said. Police and university authorities have been maintaining a strict vigil in all areas where students gather, including the Maulana Azad library, the officer said. AMU spokesperson Asim Siddiqui told PTI that the email mentioned "ransom money". "The university authorities reported the matter to the police, who have also activated the Cyber Crime Cell to trace the origins of the mail ID from which the threat was issued," he added



Sarpanch assaulted for **NOC** to beer shop

he sarpanch of a village in Maharashtra's Palghar district was allegedly attacked with sticks by a group of persons on Friday for granting a no objection certificate (NOC) to a beer shop, police said. Local residents and shopkeepers observed a 'bandh' to protest against the attack on Chetan Patil, the sarpanch of Manor village. "The incident occurred in the morning at the gram panchayat office. A local resident, Alvi Altaf Rais, questioned the sarpanch about issuing a no-objection certificate (NOC) to set up a beer shop in the village. Their altercation soon turned into a fight, in which Rais and four to five others attacked Patil with sticks," a police official said. The incident created tension in the village. The supporters of the sarpanch gathered outside the local police station to seek action against the accused. A 'bandh' was called to show solidarity with him and all the establishments in the local market remained shut throughout the day.



Couple, son killed over

couple and their 31-year-old son were killed by a group of persons over a property dispute in Chhattisgarh's wife Basanti (53) and their son Naresh were working in the field, an official said. There was a long-standing dispute between the victims and the accused over around 7.5 acres of land. Recently, a local court gave an order in favour of Toppo, he said. When the trio were working in their field, the rival group, comprising more than 20 persons, reached the spot and attacked them with sticks and axes, leaving the woman and his son dead on the spot, he said. The man succumbed to his injuries while being taken to a hospital, he said. The accused escaped from the spot after the incident. Seven to eight suspects have been identified and efforts are on to trace and nab them, he said. A case has been registered in this connection and further probe is on,

'Diaspora will play key role in achieving Viksit Bharat vision'

Noting that the Indian diaspora represents the best of the country and an integral part of the nation, President Droupadi Murmu on Friday emphasised their crucial role in achieving the

vision of a viksit Bharat by 2047.
Addressing the valedictory session of the three-day 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) 2025 here, President Murmu said, "Viksit Bharat is a national mission that requires the proactive and enthusiastic participation of every Indian, including those living abroad."

She asserted that the diaspora's global presence and their achievements place them in a position to significantly contribute to India's development.

"The Indian diaspora represents the best of our country and they have carried with them not just the knowledge and skills acquired in this sacred land, but also the values and ethos that have been the foundation of our civilization for millennia," she

"Whether in the fields of technology, medicine, arts, or entrepreneurship, the Indian diaspora has made a mark that the world acknowledges and respects," she pointed out.

Referring to the convention, the President described it as more than just an event, saying, "It is a platform where ideas converge, collaborations are forged, and the bonds between India and its diaspora are strengthened." On India's timeless philosophy



Women-led development incorporated into foreign policy: Jaishankar

BHUBANESWAR: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday said that women-led development is the priority of the Centre, and it has also been incorporated into India's foreign policy. Jaishankar said this while chairing a plenary session themed "Ideal Woman Diaspora: Women's Leadership and Influence - Nari Shakti", held on the last day of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention. He said that India cannot become a developed nation until "we are able to deal with traditional, historical and societal attitudes. If India is to become a modern, industrial, techcentric society then we cannot neglect the role of 50 per cent of the talent". "Women-led

of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (the world is one family), she said

development has been the priority

of the central government. It has also been incorporated into our foreign policy," Jaishankar said without elaborating. Giving due respect to women's skills, the government is committed to ensuring their nutrition, health and education by reducing social disparities, he said. As significant steps towards women's empowerment by the Centre, maternity leave was extended to 26 weeks, loans were provided to three crore women entrepreneurs under the MUDRA scheme, and 32 lakh bank accounts were opened under the Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana, the minister said, adding that women's participation in

this vision is about creating an

ecosystem that balances eco-

higher education increased

nomic progress with social justice and environmental stewardship, while contributing to global well-being. "As India celebrates the achievements of our Pravasi Bharatiya family, we should also look forward to the future with hope and determination. Together, we can build a viksit Bharat, a nation that stands tall on the global stage and continues to be a beacon of light for the world," she added.

Addressing the gathering, external affairs minister S Jaishankar said the diaspora has made outstanding contributions to both India and the world in diverse domains based on their immense talent, creativity, dedication, commitment, and perseverance

"They have left an indelible mark on global society. Their extraordinary achievements have made the country and Indians proud and have strengthened our relationships with other people and nations," he said.



HC seeks Delhi govt report on action against child labour

The Delhi High Court on Friday asked the city government to file a comprehensive report concerning the steps taken by the authorities against use of child labour as well as rescue and rehabilitation of such children.

A bench of Acting Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela sought district-wise information on these issues in the report which has to be affirmed by the Delhi chief secretary.

"The respondent (Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi) will file a status report clearly indicating how many meetings of task force were held districtwise; action plan have been made for conducting rescue operation district-wise; steps taken for rehabilitation of rescued children.

"Let a comprehensive report be filed, affirmed by the per-

sonal affidavit of the chief secretary of Delhi," the bench

"There has to be some accountability district wise, remarked the court.

The court also asked the Delhi Police to file a status report concerning its probe into an FIR alleging assault and molestation of volunteers who had participated in a

raid to rescue child labourers. "Give a status report. What is the current stage. Don't take it casually. Do your duty and ensure steps are taken," the court said, as it also sought the presence of the SHO concerned on the next date of

hearing in March.
The high court was hearing a plea by NGO Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA) which had filed the petition in the aftermath of a tragedy in which over 40 people, including several minors, lost their lives in December 2019 when a fire broke out at a factory in Anaj Mandi here.

TN proposes stringent punishment for sexual offences

PNS ■ CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Friday introduced a bill proposing to enhance the quantum of punishments for offences committed against women and children under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, and certain provisions relating to bail in the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.

The Bill to amend the BNS and BNSS in its application to Tamil Nadu, known as the Criminal Laws (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Act, 2025, will come into force on the date notified by the state government. It proposes rigorous imprisonyears and twenty years in the case of sexual assault by a police officer or a public servant, but may extend to RI for the remainder of life and fine, RI for life, death or RI for life for repeat offenders, and imprisonment for not less than three years which may extend to five years and fine for disclosure of victim's identity.

Harsh penal provisions have been proposed for assault or use of criminal force on women with intent to outrage her modesty, sexual harassment, voyeurism, stalking, and voluntarily causing grievous hurt by throwing or attempting to throw acid. This Bill is among the three



introduced in the Assembly today. Moving the Bill, the CM said the state government was fully committed to the protection, welfare, and well-being of women and children and therefore they have been accorded the highest priority by the state

About 41 per cent of all women working in factories in India are employed in this state, which has a high female enrollment in schools and higher institutions.

The statement of objects and reason of the Bill stated that pursuant the state's unwavering commitment to ensure the safety of its citizens, particularly women and children, and to ensure that heinous acts of rape and sexual offences against women and children are met with the full force of the law, it has become necessary to provide deterrent punishment for the perpetrators of atrocities against the women and children.

Rahul gets bail in defamation case

SAVARKAR REMARKS



A special court in Pune on Friday granted bail to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in a defamation case related to his alleged objectionable remarks on Hindutva ideologue V D Savarkar.
The MP/MLA court

granted bail to the Leader

of Opposition in the Lok Sabha on a surety bond of Rs 25,000 after he appeared before it through video conferencing, his lawyer said. Senior Congress leader Mohan Joshi stood

presided over by Amol Shinde, judicial magistrate (first class) and special judge for MP/MLA cases.
Advocate Milind Pawar, representing

Gandhi, said soon after his client appeared

before the court, they moved a bail application.
The judge allowed the plea and granted bail to the former Congress president on a surety bond of Rs 25000, he informed.

> FORM-F Notification by the Collector (LA), HAML

(See rule 7 (c))

Where as the following notifications were issued and Gazette

File No.: C6/07/2025-RHS

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL DEPUTY COLLECTOR, LA, HAML, HYDERABAD

Dated: 10-01-2025

property dispute

A Surajpur district on Friday, police said. The incident took place in Jagannathpur village under Khadgawa police chowki when the deceased, identified as Mange Ram Toppo (60), his

Zoological Survey of India discovers new pangolin species



PNS KOLKATA

Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) scientists identified a new pangolin species which diverged from the Chinese pangolin (Manis pentadactyla) around 3.4 million years ago, the organisation said in a statement on Friday.

The ZSI said the discovery of the Indo-Burmese pangolin (Manis indo-burmanica) sheds light on the evolutionary diversity of pangolins, likely influenced by dramatic geo-climatic changes in the region, one of the world's biodiversity

The study, led by Mukesh

Thakur of the ZSI, used cutting-edge genomic tools to mitochondrial analyse genomes. "This discovery is a testament to the power of modern genetic tools in uncovering hidden diversity. The Indo-Burmese pangolin not only enriches our understanding of Asian pangolins but also emphasises the need for region-specific conservation

efforts," Thakur said. Lenrik Konchok Wangmo, a PhD scholar at the University of Calcutta, also played a crucial role in this research, particularly in identifying the paratype specimens from Arunachal Pradesh.

ROW OVER WELL NEAR SAMBHAL MOSQUE

SC orders status quo, issues notice to Centre, ASI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday directed the district magistrate to maintain status quo on reviving or allowing prayers at a "private" well located near the entrance of the Mughal-era Jama Masjid mosque in

Considering a plea of the Sambhal Shahi Jama Masjid management committee on the issue, a bench of Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar issued notices to the Centre, the director general of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Sambhal district magistrate and other private Hindu side litigants led by Hari Shankar

The mosque committee's plea said the Samhal district administration was conducting a "purported drive" to revive old temples and wells in the city with reports indicating the revival of at least 32 old unused temples besides the identification of 19 wells being made operational for public prayers.

In the list of wells, being sought



to be revived by the district administration, there's also a well in the mosque precincts, it alleged.

Seeking a response from the authorities within two weeks, the bench directed the district magistrate not to give "effect to the notice" with regard to the well near the mosque.

The plea sought a direction to the Sambhal district magistrate to ensure a "status quo" was maintained with respect to the "private well situated near the stairs/entrance of the mosque and not take any steps/actions with regard to the same without due permission from

need to improve the launch vehi-

For this the country was devel-

oping the cryogenic and semi-

cryogenic propulsion systems,

semi-cryogenic project was approved almost 15 years back, our hands are tied only because

of the challenges we are facing in

"However, even though the

payload capability,

cles'

Narayanan said.

vere published for the Public purpose for Hyderabad Airpor Metro Limited, Phase-II, from MGBS to Chandrayangutta Corridor-VI, situated at Share-E- Hyderabad Village Bahadurapura Mandal of Hyderabad District. In response to the said Notifications the following affected person (Property owners and others) have come forward to settle their claims through Negotiations. The details of the willing affected persons are as follows. SNO NOTIFICATION NO. & DATE GAZETTE NO. & DATE No. CB/188/2024 - RHS (281 to 225) HAML No.29 dated 28-11-2024

Name and address	No.	No.	in Sq.yds
1	2	3	4
Mr.Habseb Khan, S/o Mustafa Khan, R/o. 17-4-576/1, Bada bazaar road, Charminar, Hyderabad.500023.	RHS-204	23-2-526 and 527.	46.83
Mohammed Abdul Jaleel Hasan, Sio Late Mohammed Abdul Rasheed, Rio 23-2-506, Sultan Shahi, Moghalpura, Hyderabad.	RHS-205	23-2-530 (Old no. 23-2-526 to 530)	49.17
SNO NOTIFICATION NO 8 DATE	GAZETT	E NO 8	DATE

No. C6/189/2024 – LHS (226 to 258) HAMIL No.30, dated 28-11-2024 Name and address Smt.Ayesha Begum, 39.67 RHS-226 23-2-Wo Mohammed Imran Khan. R/o 18-7-212/c/248/A, Jahangir Nagar, Talab Katta, Charminar Hyderabad-500002.

It is hereby notified calling for claims and objections if any, to be filed before the District Collector, Hyderabad District Special Deputy Collector, LA, HAML, Rascolpura, Hyderabac within the Seven days of publication of this Notification i.e., by 17-01-2025.

> Special Deputy Collector, LA, HAML, Rasoolpura, Hyderabad Date: 10-01-2025 DIPR No. 581/LA/PP-Advt/Agency/20

Signature of:

Industries have important role in India's Space Vision: ISRO **PNS** ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM the last 44 years, India has sucrequirements increase, there is a

ISRO Chairman S Somanath said on Friday that industries have a phenomenal role to play in achieving India's Space Vision 2047, rolled out by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. ISRO chairman-designate V Narayanan also echoed the same view.

In his pre-recorded inaugural speech, at the biennial National Aerospace Manufacturing Seminar (NAMS) 2025, Somanath said that the industries will face significant challenges as their collaboration with the space programme is going to increase substantially.

One of the challenges would be the regular production of rockets,

required for the space programme and the other would be engineering, manufacturing and supplying items like new space crafts and systems, miniature electronics, large propulsion tanks and engines, he said.

"They have to be produced in numbers to meet the tight schedules," he added.

He said the task was a huge one as the strength of the space community in the public sector was not increasing substantially.

Somanath further said that while there was growth in the private sector, manufacturing, supplying and managing the supply chain were also going to be substantial challenges.



Narayanan was also not present in person and a pre-recorded speech by him was played at the seminar where he said that material and manufacturing teams

have a crucial role to play in the space programme. He said that without them,

"satellites and rockets will only be in paper form".

cessfully accomplished 99 launch vehicle missions and placed a number of satellites in orbit. The demand for launch vehi-

cles and satellites has gone up. Presently we have around 54 satellites and next in 3-4 years, more than 100 satellites will have to be placed in orbit.

"To accomplish this, the role of industries in manufacturing is phenomenal. It is not just the design team, the materials and manufacturing teams also have to play a crucial role as without them, the satellites and rockets will only be in paper form," he

Earlier the demand for rocket

manufacturing as the industry capability was less," he said.

He said that till today the country was unable to bring out

a single semi-cryogenic engine successfully, "due to the technological challenges".

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Transforming defence

The 'Year of Transformation' can give necessary momentum for defence manufacturing and innovation

ndia's defence landscape is set to undergo a transformative shift in 2025, as the Ministry of Defence (MoD) embarks on an ambitious overhaul aimed at modernising procurement processes, expanding indigenous manufacturing capabilities and boosting research and development (R&D). The year has been declared as the 'Year of Transformation,' with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and other top officials outlining a vision to address long-standing challenges while positioning the country for greater self-reliance and competitiveness in defence. One of the key focus areas for the government is to revamp the Defence Acquisition Procedures (DAP). These procedures, which have been criticised for their complexity and inefficiency, are set to be replaced with a more streamlined, lighter, and faster version. The aim is to cut down delays in procurement timelines and eliminate bureaucratic hurdles that have long impeded defence modernisation. The new framework will not only make the system more efficient but will also create a level play-



ing field for both established players and newcomers in the defence sector. In addition to reforming procurement, the government has placed a strong emphasis on boosting indigenous manufacturing and R&D.

While India is the world's fifth-largest manufacturing economy, its defence manufacturing capacity remains relatively small in comparison to its overall economic standing. To address this gap, the government plans to allocate more resources to defence R&D, with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) targeting an increase in R&D spending from 5 per cent to 15 per cent of the defence budget in the coming years. One area that has garnered particular

attention is the development of aero engines. India has faced challenges in developing these critical technologies domestically, and the government has signaled that joint ventures with foreign Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) will be essential for progress. With significant investments required—potentially as high as Rs 50,000 crore—the government is determined to make the necessary commitments to build the infrastructure and expertise required for successful co-development of aero engines and related technologies. Another significant initiative is the creation of a more competitive defence industry ecosystem. Currently, India's defence sector is largely dominated by Public Sector Undertakings. The government aims to level the playing field by encouraging the participation of startups and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises through policy changes. Despite these ambitious plans, India's defence ecosystem still faces several challenges. One of the most significant hurdles is the relatively small manufacturing base in sectors like aerospace, where India's ability to scale production and develop cutting-edge technologies has been limited. Besides, archaic policies, delays in preparing Requests for Proposals and overly complicated procedures have often led to extended timelines. This must change if defence sector is to become competitive and innovative.



Devotees carry 'kalash' during 'Hindu Rashtra Seva Mela' at Goregaon

The trust factor in human interaction



The temperament and conviction of individuals play a pivotal role in shaping trust, whether in personal relationships or organisational dynamics

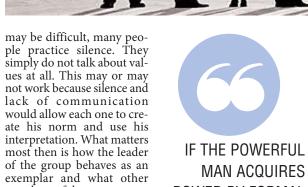
here is a general feeling that if something is committed on paper, with other things being equal, it is reliable evidence that it will be carried out. If it is on a legal document, the credibility quotient is still higher, and if there are clauses that recognise the punitive element of violation, the feeling of reliability further goes on. This, like many truths, goes

a certain distance. This cannot be the place to explore the veracity of such belief, but there is an occasion to look at certain other aspects of reliability, especially the temperament of the people involved. Some people take their words seriously, and others casually. This attitude permeates their entire behaviour, and in certain matters, it becomes even more evident that they take their words seri-

Other types of people are quite iguratively the opposite, and they take their own words so lightly that when they utter them, they are not sure what conviction they carry. Between these two extremes, the larger part of the population rests with varying degrees of reliability and different levels of conviction.

This simple truth makes the entire range of human conviction open to many shades of possibilities and makes dealing with each other either at a direct level or at a group level, an extremely dubious proposition wherein liability is concerned. This even affects official interaction as indeed it does personal interaction. It is therefore necessary in a group culture to inculcate the correct values of interpersonal dynamics.

People cannot be 'taught' to be reliable. This is because the fundamental principles of values, like eternal values, remain acquires power by formal the same. Every domain of human life talks about what is however, he acquires power right, what is beautiful, and through organising cliques what is essential to keep groups and factions and through sustainable and harmoniously manipulations, there are together. In such circumstances always dangers of somebody where it is recognised that calling the bluff or indeed observing pristine standards power slipping out of his



behaviour. Positive or negative recognition then follows. For this, the informal and formal leaders of the group must agree on certain examples and set an example collectively. It is difficult, especially when there is no clear reference point and no way of verifying what rules the roost.

members of the group see as

the essence of acceptable

If the group has a powerful man, his behaviour is noticed and others try to imitate him. If the powerful man position, it is one story. If,



MAN ACQUIRES POWER BY FORMAL POSITION, IT IS ONE STORY. IF, HOWEVER, HE ACQUIRES POWER THROUGH ORGANIZING **CLIQUES AND** FACTIONS AND THROUGH MANIPULATIONS, THERE ARE ALWAYS DANGERS OF SOMEBODY CALLING

All this is not conducive to

organisational stability or, for that matter, even clarity. It makes the job of a new entrant particularly complex.
The complexity would be enhanced if the new entrant could not navigate his way intelligently with perspicacity and shrewdness. If the group has a large number of turnovers, then the complexity is further compounded. Under the circumstances, it's perhaps best to recognise that, like all truths, simplicachievement of goals constructively and dependably. Like all foundations of a sound civil society, positive thinking, straightforward action, and dependable follow-up is the way to go forward.

It is the human mind that Legality and other elements that try to substitute the basic character of dependability, without the right ambience, will remain halfway houses. It can lead to

quibbling, litigation, and, at times, disappointment. However, stability will remain a matter of character, and that is where civil societies need to pitch. Whether this is in a formal organisation or an informal civil setup, it would hardly make a difference. Truth remains the truth and for the best way, it is important to follow it up relentlessly with simplicity and dignity. Like many tales, this too has a tailpiece.

There is a Sanskrit dictum, "Satyam bruyat, priyam bruyity is the best approach.
Being truthful, simple, and straightforward is the foundation of sound behaviour, stable relationships, and the achievement of goals con unpleasant".

There can be many views on this, and each will have its assumptions and derivations. If assumptions vary, as do the derivations, conclusions would be also varied. That is the nature of truth: multifaceted each appearing right creates complications. in its way. One has to navigate one's way.

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

Breaking barriers: The rise of women investors in India's equity markets



ARUN CHAUDHARY

Among the most notable trends in the equity market is the surge in women investors, whose participation has grown 6.8 times since 2015

→he Indian equity market has radically transformed over the past two decades. The advent of smartphones, digital trading platforms, and increased financial literacy has ushered in a new era of investors young, financially aware, and open to taking calculated risks. Recent data from the National Stock Exchange (NSE) reveals that women now constitute over 22 per cent of equity market investors in India, a 6.8X

growth since 2015. This surge in female participation is particularly noteworthy given the tepid adoption of demat trading in its early days. It could be attributed to women enjoying greater financial independence, a growing interest in equities, and a disciplined approach to sustainable wealth creation. The rise in women's financial awareness has also been a critical driver of this growth. A study by CRISIL and DBS found that 47 per cent of women now make independent financial decisions.

This newfound autonomy is reflected in the increasing number of women investing ly perplexing.

in mutual funds. According to AMFI data, women's share in industry AUM rose to nearly 21 per cent by the end of December 2023, against 15.2 per cent in March 2017. Importantly, this trend is not limited to major cities; women in smaller towns show equal enthusiasm for capital market investments. However, the same CRISIL and DBS study revealed that women still allocate 51 per cent of their investable assets to fixed deposits and savings bank accounts, 16 per cent to gold, 15 per cent to mutual funds, 10 per cent to real estate, and just 7 per cent of their investible corpus—being the least preferred option. Given the proven potential for substantial market returns, women's risk-averse attitude towards equities is particular-

Over the past five years, Investor benchmark indices have Programme actively educate delivered over 100 per cent returns. For instance, based on a daily rolling return analysis, the Nifty 50 Total Returns Index has shown positive returns of approximately 93 per cent over three

These double-digit returns from long-term equity investments have far outpaced the single-digit interest rates offered by traditional savings accounts and fixed deposits. However, women tend to be cautious when it comes to equities. The potential impact of increased women's participation in to invest. Starting with a sysequity markets is substantial. A BCG study found that women contribute \$5 trillion annually to the global wealth pool. Encouraging more significant equity investment among women and prudent risk management practices is crucial for building a stronger financial future for individuals and the nation. Regulators are already imple-

menting measures to create a safe and transparent market environment for women investors. For instance, initiatives like the Women's

and empower women by simplifying stock market concepts and encouraging them to take control of their financial futures. Simultaneously, the industry complements these efforts by developing accessible and informative content in regional languages and diverse formats, such as podcasts and video tutorials, to make complex financial concepts easier to understand. Women themselves must actively participate in the stock market by engaging in discussions, seeking knowledge, and taking the initiative tematic investment plan is a smart approach to building over Additionally, consulting financial experts can help women navigate the market with confidence. It is time for women to seize this opportunity, take control, invest wisely, and contribute to rebuilding a more equitable and

(The writer is Director & Chief Business Officer at m. Stock by Mirae Asset Capital Markets; views are

financially robust India.

TWO TIER SYSYEM IN TEST CRICKET

Madam — There are talks between Australia, England, and India and the International Cricket Council's (ICC) new chair, Jay Shah to split Test (cricket) playing nations into two tier, with Australia, England and India in one tier and the rest in a different tier. The concept has gained impetus post the BGT series, where the attendance and TV viewership touched new records. If agreed upon by the ICC council, this will come into effect post-2027 after the present commitments are met by these nations. The objective is that these three nations will play against each other twice in three years as against the present four-year schedule. While the idea may have sprung up from the revenue point of view, ICC must focus on its unwritten objective of improving the quality and skill level of the weaker member nations and making all the members play competitive cricket.

The choice of three nations-India, Australia, and England-also in the upper tier, is arbitrary if it is on the basis of the quality of cricket displayed. If it is so, India has not displayed quality cricket, both in the home series against the Kiwis and down under in the BGT series recently. Also, the Windies have stunned the Aussies in Gabba in a pink ball test in 2024. The recent entrants to the test-playing nations, like Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, Bangladesh, and Afganisthan have also displayed talents and enthusiasm. Hence such an idea of an arbitrary split must be shunned. If the ICC is serious about splitting, it must be based on the performance in a given time period, say between 2025-28, on the number of points scored by each nation on the number of test wins/losses and can consider having two or three divisions amongst the twelve member countries. Having done that on the basis of points scored, one can consider promotion or demotion of the first and last two, respectively, which will also instill a sense of competitiveness and thereby sus-

tain interest in the test cricket. **Gopalaswamy J** | Chennai

A policy shift for Afghanistan



THE BLUFF

a major and surprising development, India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri met Afghan Acting Foreign Minister Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi in Dubai on Wednesday. Though its relations with Afghanistan had nosedived after the Taliban seized power in the mountainous, landlocked republic in 2021, New Delhi, in a smart move, kept providing humanitarian and economic assistance to Afghanistan. The Taliban also requested the Indian delegation to reopen its diplomatic mission in Afghanistan. Now, Misri's meeting marks a major shift in New

Delhi's policy towards the Taliban. This meeting has taken place at a time when Afghanistan is witnessing heightened tensions with Pakistan concerning the Durand Line-the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan-as well as regarding the Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

By condemning Pakistan's airstrikes in Afghanistan, New Delhi has played a well-calculated diplomatic move. Besides the Pakistan factor, Iran's Chabahar Port is also going to play a major role in India-Taliban relations as Kabul is looking to leverage its ties with India by using the Chabahar Port. Thus, both the Taliban and New Delhi have realised that bilateral ties are mutually beneficial for both countries. By playing a vital role in restoring peace, stability, and development in Afghanistan, New Delhi can secure geopolitical leverage over Pakistan at the crossroads of South and Central Asia.

Manoj Parashar | Ghaziabad

HONOURING INDIAN DIASPORA

Madam—The city of Odisha turned out to be the venue for the 18th Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas this year. In order to honour the immense contribution of the Indian diaspora, it is particularly required to appreciate the exceptional contribution of Indians overseas. For many decades, millions of Indians have paid $\dot{v}\mbox{isits}$ to foreign countries to grab vibrant opportunities in different spectrums of life.

Indians made exceptional contributions to the economic success of the different nations, assisting India to create its own niche soft power on the basis of its people settled overseas. Indians are globally renowned for contributing the world's highest remittance back to India with 129 billion USD in 2024. The spirit of the Indian diaspora is ever vibrant and zealous, and this celebration at Odisha's Bhubaneswar for appreciating Pravasi Bhartiya is a welcoming initiative. Let's take a moment to thank & appreciate the Indian diaspora, who are continuously extending the legacy of India all around the world. Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

MAHAKUMBH MELA IN PRAYAGRAJ

Madam — The Great Mahakumbh Mela 2025, set to take place in Prayagraj, which is held only once in a period of 144 years, which is beginning from January 13 to February 26, is much more than a religious gathering-it is a profound celebration of spirituality, culture, and cosmic alignment. This ancient festival, rooted in the Sanatan tradition, is believed to influence not only human affairs but also cosmic and terrestrial energies.

The event is centred on the holy confluence of three rivers-the Ganga, Yamuna and the Saraswati. The Mahakumbh exemplifies India's rich cultural diversity, drawing millions of devotees, ascetics, and pilgrims from all walks of life. Through practices like ritual bathing, chanting, meditation, and spiritual discourses, it becomes a unifying force, blending traditions and beliefs into a harmonious

Anushka Bohra | Ujjain

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FIRST COLUMN

HOMESCHOOLING: AN OPTION WORTH EXPLORING

While it comes with challenges, its benefits make it an increasingly compelling choice



SAKSHI SETHI

hildhood is a short season, and homeschooling gives a child more time to truly enjoy it. In recent years, homeschooling has seen a significant rise in popularity as parents increasingly opt to educate their children at home rather than through traditional schooling systems. This shift reflects a combination of concerns about conventional education and the desire for more tailored learning experiences. One of the primary reasons parents choose homeschooling is the ability to customise education to suit their child's unique needs.

There is no denying that curriculum is a valuable tool but at the same time a terrible master. Traditional classrooms often struggle to accommodate different learning paces and styles, whereas homeschooling allows parents to tailor lessons, fostering deeper understanding and engagement. Many parents cite dissatisfaction with public or private school systems as a motivator for homeschooling. Issues such as overcrowded classrooms, underfunding, and lack of individual attention can negatively impact the quality of education. Additionally, concerns over bullying, peer pressure, and exposure to harmful influences prompt parents to

Homeschooling allows families to integrate their cultural, ethical, or religious values into the curriculum. Parents can teach their children in alignment with their personal beliefs, creating an educational experience that reflects their family's principles. Unlike traditional schooling, homeschooling offers flexibility in schedules and teaching methods. Families incor-



porate travel, extracurricular activities, or non-traditional subjects into their routine, enhancing the learning experience. This adaptability appeals to families seeking a more balanced lifestyle.

Unlike traditional schooling, homeschooling offers flexibility in schedules and teaching methods. Families can incorporate travel, extracurricular activities, or non-traditional subjects into their routine, enhancing the learning experience. This adaptability appeals to families seeking a more balanced lifestyle. While homeschooling offers many benefits, it is not without its challenges. Parents often need to dedicate significant time and effort to planning and teaching. Additionally, concerns about socialisation can arise, as homeschooled children may have fewer opportunities for peer interaction. However, many families address this by participating in extracurricular activities, and community events. Homeschooling is not a new phenomenon.

In olden times, education often took place at home, with parents or private tutors guiding the learning of their child. The rise of formalised schooling in the 19th and 20th centuries shifted education to institutions, but homeschooling remained a choice for families who sought alternatives. Modern homeschooling driven by educational reformers and parents seeking greater control over their children's education began gaining traction in the 1970s and 1980s. Today, it continues to evolve, integrating technology and innovative teaching practices. Technology undoubtedly has played a pivotal role in making homeschooling more accessible and effective. It has also enabled collaboration and connection among homeschooling communities. Online learning platforms, virtual classrooms, and educational applications such as Scholastic Kids, Udemy, Duolingo, Funbrain and many more provide parents with resources to create comprehensive curricula. The shift to homeschooling reflects a broader desire among parents to take control of their children's education and provide a more personalised, values-driven learning environment. While homeschooling comes with its challenges, the benefits of flexibility, individualised attention and alignment with family priorities make homeschooling an increasingly appealing choice for families worldwide. (The writer is an educator; views are personal)

Junta faces collapse amid escalating defeats



Losses across key regions, coupled with mass defections and severe military setbacks, suggest a crumbling grip of Military on power in Myanmar



y all indications, 2025 is going to be, militarily, a dismal year for Myanmar's ruling junta. It is clearly losing its war against the opposition National Unity Government (NUG) and its armed wing, the People's Defence Force (PDF), ethnic armed organisations (EROs), and the Three Brotherhood Alliance (Henceforth the Alliance). Comprising the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), active in the Kokang Special Region of northern Shan State, the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), also active in the Shan State and the Arakan Army (AA), based in the Rakhine State in the country's western part, the alliance has been acting in close cooperation with the PDF and other eth-

Crystal-gazing is a hazardous business. Nevertheless, a fling at it is warranted by the unfolding events in that star-crossed country. A report under the headline, 'Junta's Writ Only Runs in One-third of . Mvanmar: NUGʻ (datelined Ianuary 6, 2025), in the news website The Irrawaddy, cited the NUG as stating that the military regime controlled only 107 of the country's 330 townships. The PDF and EROs fully or partly controlled 144 townships or 44 per cent of the country. The website, which enjoys a high-measure of credibility, carried an article by Maung Kavi (datelined January 8, 2025) under the headline, 'Myanmar Junta Boss warns resistance as Regime Loses Ground Nationwide, saying that the NUG had further claimed that nearly 1,500 of the junta's soldiers and police personnel had defected to the civil disobedience movement and 480 of them had taken up 'revolutionary duties.'

The report titled 'Junta's Writ Only Runs in One-third of Myanmar: NUG,' further states that 315 officers were killed and 127 injured in course of the last year. In the same period, 53 senior officers ranging in rank from colonel to major general, were either killed, injured, or taken prisoner. Among the rank and file, 14,093 soldiers and border guard policemen were killed and 7,363 injured. Anti-regime groups seized 741 junta



THE ODDS STACKING UP AGAINST THE JUNTA. NO HAS TANKS AND OTHER ARMOURED VEHICLES, ARTILLERY AND AIR FORCE.

TANKS AND ARMOURED VEHICLES ARE **VERY DIFFICULT** TO DEPLOY IN THE AREAS DOMINATED BY THE ETHNIC

FORCES

positions. They were mostly captured by ethnic armies, but 162 were taken by PDF and People's Defence Teams in Sagaing, Magwe, Mandalay, Bago and Tanintharyi regions.
The military lost in 2024 some

140 battalions and two regional commands-Northeastern Command in northern Shan State and Western Command in Rakhine-plus one regional operations command, five military operations commands, six operational bases, two airbases, 17 border guard police bases, as RAPIDLY infantry battalions, and artillery,

logistics, signal, and military engineering units.
While one should not take the NUG's claims at face value reports from the ground indicate that the Sit-Tat (as the junta's army is DOUBT, THE called) has suffered severe body blows during the last year. The LATTER Three Brotherhood Alliance has gained significant ground since launching its offensive, codenamed Operation 1027, on October 27, 2023. The AA had established control over almost the entire Rakhine State by April, 2024. In a major development, the MNDAA claimed on July 31, 2024, that it had captured Sit-Tat's military base in Lashio, a city in Shan State close to the border with China, and its airport. This was a major loss for the junta. As Vivek Shankar has pointed out in a piece in The New York Times datelined August 5, 2024, the 'city of Lashio and its airport lie on a crucial trade corridor to Yunnan Province in China, which is spending hundreds of millions of dollars on a high-speed rail link and other infrastructure projects on both sides of the bor-

> Besides gains in the north, the anti-junta forces had captured four towns in northern Mandalay.

According to a report by Andrew Nachemson published in Al Jazeera dated September 23, 2024, their capture had placed them within striking distance of the city of Mandalay, Myanmar's second largest urban centre, with a pop-

ulation of nearly two million. On October 8, 2024, the Sit-Tat suffered a serious reverse with the fall of the township of Pinlebu to the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), an important part of the coalition of forces fighting the junta, and its allies. Located on the border of the Sagaing Region and Kachin State, its capture opened up to the opposition forces the routes leading to the Kawlin township and the surrounding areas.

Besides its geo-strategic significance, the township's fall is important for what it revealed of the Sit-Tat's state. A report by Saw Lin, published in the news website, The Irrawaddy, on October 14, 2024, cites the NUG as claiming that the junta's troops, numbering 800, were defeated despite 670 airstrikes and the dropping of over 5,000 bombs, that around 70 junta soldiers were killed, 275 were missing, 225 were wounded, 48 surrendered and 102 captured during the fighting. Around 400 firearms and other military equipment were seized.

In keeping with the trend, the Junta had ceded three townships and the Western Command headquarters in Rakhine State in December, 2024, as the ethnic Arakan Army gained control over 14 of the 17 townships in the westernmost state. On January 1, 2025, the Sit-Tat retreated from a heavily-fortified police station in Sagaing Region's Budalin Township after a yearlong siege by regional resistance forces, making it easier for the latter to operate in the region. According to Maung Kavi's report

cited earlier, the junta, which has been losing towns and bases to EROs in Rakhine, Chin, Kachin and Karen states, has not been able to launch any military operation to retake the northern Shan State, almost the whole of which it had lost in 2024. The Sit-Tat is in a bad way.

Its morale is low. There is internal discord. Several three-stars generals have been removed. Many younger officers are unhappy as they recognise that almost the entire country is against them. According to a piece by Ye
Myo Hein (datelined May 4, 2023) featured by the United States Institute of Peace, it was found the Sit-Tat, whose "headcount," showed a "strength of a total 300,000-400,000 before the coup," showed that it currently "had a strength of about 150,000 personnel.

Roughly 70,000 are combat sol diers. At least 21,000 service members have been lost through casualties, desertion and defection since the coup. At this troop level, the Sit-Tat is barely able to sustain itself as a fighting force, much less a government.

The odds are now rapidly stacking up against the Junta. No doubt, the latter has tanks and other armoured vehicles, artillery and air force. Tanks and armoured vehicles are very difficult to deploy in the areas dominated by the ethnic forces. With densely forested mountainous terrains, deep gorges and steep climbs, these are ideal for staging ambushes. Moreover, air-strikes and artillery do not win wars, even when backed by heavily armed and trained infantry. Otherwise, the United States would have swept to a victory in Vietnam.

(The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal)

aligns with India's vision of cre-

ating a more inclusive and wel-

Real-time travel assistance: Transforming the Indian travel experience

From the integration of cutting-edge technology to the emergence of unique destinations, the way we explore has been redefined

he travel industry in tions, exploring India can be as India has undergone a significant transformation in the past decade. The A misplaced document, a lanadvent of technology, the emergence of unique destinations, and travellers' shifting preferences have reshaped the way we experience travel. While convenience and connectivity have expanded exponentially, so have the challenges that come with travelling through this vast and

diverse country. In such a scenario, the idea of real-time travel assistance is much more than a luxury, gradually becoming a necessity. India is a land of incredible diversity, which often presents challenges for travellers, both domestic and international. With 28 states and countless languages, customs, and tradi-

overwhelming as it is enrich-

guage barrier, or a medical emergency in an unfamiliar city can turn a dream vacation or a crucial business trip into an overwhelming ordeal. This is where the concept of realtime assistance steps in, bridging the gap between exploration and ease.

The Need for Immediate **Support:** Travelers today demand solutions that are immediate, efficient, and humanised. The expectations from travel experiences are no longer confined to curated itineraries and luxury stays. Safety, comfort, and resolution to unexpected issues are just as critical to creating memorable journeys. Whether it's assis



HARISH KHATRI

tance in locating a nearby pharmacy late at night, naviating bureaucratic hurdles in foreign environment, or finding reliable medical aid during emergencies, travellers increasingly rely on services that ensure a smooth journey. Real-time assistance goes beyond static travel guides or pre-recorded helplines.

It operates as a different system where timely, empathetic, and

accurate support becomes a part of the travel experience. It is this proactive approach that helps mitigate common traveller challenges and allows for a seamless journey, irrespective of the destination.

Empathy in **Assistance:** A game-changer at its core, real-time travel assistance is about offering humanised solutions. Travellers often find themselves in vulnerable situations where a touch of empathy can go a long way. Imagine being stuck at a remote train station with no one to guide you to your next stop or dealing with a sudden health scare in a busy urban centre where you don't know the language.

These are moments when an empathetic, knowledgeable professional on the other end



of a call or chat can provide not just solutions, but also reassurance. It is this empathy paired with technology that is revolutionising travel assistance in India. Real-time support services aim to address the emotional and logistical needs of travellers in equal measure. Utilising Technology to **Enable Seamless Experiences:** The amalgamation of technology and travel assistance has unlocked possibilities previously deemed unattainable.

tracking, and geo-location services now enable assistance providers like India Assist to respond with precision and speed. Right from helping a traveller recover a lost wallet, guiding them to the best transport options, or facilitating emergency care, technology serves as the backbone of realtime assistance.

Moreover, AI-powered systems can predict and preempt potential challenges, ensuring that travellers are equipped with solutions even before they face a problem. Combined with human expertise, such systems provide an unprecedented level of service that adapts to the ever-changing needs of travellers.

A Vision for the Future of **Indian Travel** Advanced algorithms, live As India continues to grow as

a preferred travel destination for global tourists and a thriving market for domestic explorers, the need for reliable, real-time support systems will only increase. From first-time solo travellers to seasoned professionals on the move, everyone stands to benefit from a travel arena where assistance is no longer a reactive measure but an integral part of the journey.

The impact of such assistance goes beyond individual convenience. It enhances the overall travel ecosystem, fostering trust and confidence among travellers. When individuals feel supported, they are more likely to venture into lessexplored destinations, bolstering local economies and creating new tourism opportunities.Real-time assistance also

coming travel environment. Addressing the unique needs of every traveller, be it accessibility, safety, or cultural understanding — opens the doors to a more diverse and enriching travel experience. As we move forward, the travel industry must imbibe the ethos of real-time assistance, not as an add-on service but as a core pillar of the travel experience. After all, the most unforgettable journeys are not just about the destinations we visit — they are about the challenges we overcome and the moments of human connection that transform challenges into memories.

(The writer is founder and MD of India Assist; views are

IN BRIEF



India's forex kitty drops to \$634.58 bln

ndia's forex reserves dropped by USD 5.693 billion to USD 634.585 billion in the week ended January 3, the Reserve Bank of India said on Friday. In the previous reporting week, the overall kitty had declined by USD 4.112 billion to USD 640.279 billion. The reserves have been on a declining trend for the last few weeks, and the drop has been attributed to revaluation along with forex market interventions by RBI to help reduce volatility in the rupee. The forex reserves had increased to an all-time high of USD 704.885 billion in end-September. For the week ended January 3, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased by USD 6.441 billion to USD 545.48 billion, the data released on Friday showed. Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.



Rupee hits 86 against US dollar, settles 14 paise lower

he rupee declined 14 paise and touched the crucial 86.00-mark (provisional) for the first time against the US dollar on Friday as it failed to resist pressure from a stronger American currency and huge outflow of foreign funds. Surging crude oil prices overseas and negative sentiment in domestic equity markets also weighed down the Indian currency, forex traders said. Also, dollar strengthened on increased demand amid the anticipation of restrictive trade measures by the new US administration after Donald Trump takes over as president on January 20. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 85.88, hit the intra-day peak of 85.85 before settling at the lowest-ever level of 86.00 (provisional) against the greenback, 14 paise lower from its previous close. On Thursday, the rupee gained 5 paise to settle at 85.86 against the US dollar, recovering from the steep decline of 17 paise in the preceding session.



SpiceJet to fly 10 grounded aircraft by mid-April

omestic carrier SpiceJet on Friday announced plans to bring back into operations 10 of its grounded aircraft, including four Boeing B737 Max, by mid-April. The airline said it has added 10 planes to its fleet since October 2024 -three grounded aircraft that were brought back into service and seven inducted on lease. The move comes close on the heels of SpiceJet signing a pact with US-based engine MRO StandardAero Inc last month for the restoration of its grounded MAX fleet. SpiceJet has 28 aircraft, of the total 62 in the fleet, in operations, comprising 20 B737, six De Havilland Canada DHC-8 Dash 8 and two Airbus A320, as on January 10 as per flight tracking website planespotter.com. The remaining 34 aircraft -- 16 B737s and 18 De Havilland Canada DHC-8 Dash 8 -- are on the ground due to various reasons, as per the website. The return of 10 grounded aircraft back into operations will help the airline significantly increase its current fleet of 28 aircraft, even as some of these planes are redelivered to lessors during the same period, SpiceJet said.

the increased festive demand

and pick up in manufacturing

sector, according to the official

growth of 2.5 per cent in November 2023, according to

data released on Friday. The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) recorded a

Implementation.

SNAG IN SYSTEM

Govt extends monthly GST return, payment deadline

The government on Friday extended the deadline for filing monthly GST sales return form GSTR-1 and GST payment by 2 days after taxpayers reported technical glitches in the GSTN system.

As per a notification by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), the last date for filing GSTR, 1 for December is January 13, while that for taxpayers opting for quarterly payment under the QRMP scheme for the October-December period

will be January 15.

Normally, the last date for filing GSTR-1 for monthly return filers is January 11, while for quarterly taxpayers it is January 13.

The deadline for GST payment by filing GSTR-3B for December has been extended to January 22, from the existing date of January 20.

For taxpayers who pay GST quarterly, the due date has been extended to January 24 and January 26, depending on the state-wise registration of the business.

Earlier in the day, GST Network said in a post on X



that it has sent an "incident report" to the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) on the technical glitches in the system and requested an extension of the filing date of GST sales return or

"GST portal is currently experiencing technical issues and is under maintenance. We expect the portal to be operational by 12:00 noon. CBIC is being sent an incident report to consider extension in filing date," GST Tech, the official handle of GSTN, said in a post on X

The GST Network has been facing technical glitches since Thursday as taxpayers were unable to generate summary of GSTR-1 and file the return.

UN report forcasts robust growth in Indian economy

Projects 6.6% growth in 2025

PNS UNITED NATIONS

The Indian economy is projected to expand by 6.6 per cent in 2025, primarily supported by robust private consumption and investment, according to a

United Nations report.
The report titled 'the UN World Economic Situation and Prospects 2025' was released here on Wednesday.

It also said that the nearterm outlook for South Asia is expected to remain robust, with growth projected at 5.7 per cent in 2025 and 6.0 per cent in 2026, "driven by strong performance in India as well as economic recovery in a few other economies", including Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

The Indian economy grew by 6.8 per cent in 2024 and is forecast to expand by 6.6 per cent in 2025. The Indian economy is projected to return to the 6.8 per cent growth in 2026.

"The economy of India, the largest in the (South Asia) region, is forecast to expand by 6.6 per cent in 2025, primarily supported by robust private consumption and investment.



Additionally, capital expenditure on infrastructure development is expected to have strong multiplier effects on growth in the coming years," the report

It added that strong export growth in services and certain goods categories, particularly pharmaceuticals and electronics, will bolster economic activity for India. On the supply side, expansion in the manufacturing and services sectors will keep driving the economy throughout the forecast period.

Meanwhile, favourable monsoon rains in 2024 have improved the summer-sowing areas for all major crops, boosting agricultural output

expectations for 2025. Investment growth has remained particularly strong in East Asia and South Asia, partly driven by domestic and foreign investments in new supply chains, particularly in Índia, Indonesia, and Vietnam, the report said.

In Îndia, the public sector continues to play a pivotal role in funding large-scale infrastructure projects, physical and digital connectivity, and social infrastructure, including improvements in sanitation and water supply.

Strong investment growth is expected to continue through

Consumer price inflation in India is forecast to decelerate from an estimated 4.8 per cent in 2024 to 4.3 per cent in 2025, staying within the 2–6 per cent medium-term target range set by the central bank. While decreasing energy prices have contributed to the ongoing decline, adverse weather conditions have kept prices of vegetables, cereals, and other staples elevated in 2024, resulting in spikes in the country's headline inflation in June and September.

It said that several developing economies, including China, India, and Mexico, have maintained robust investment growth, while African nations have faced limited public investment due to high debt servicing burdens, and Western Asia has experienced low investment growth amid subdued oil revenues.

Global economic growth is forecast at 2.8 per cent in 2025 and 2.9 per cent in 2026, largely unchanged from the rate of 2.8 per cent recorded in 2023 and estimated for 2024.

Sensex, Nifty extend losses on surging crude prices, FII outflows

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty nursed losses for the third consecutive session on Friday, in lockstep with a weak trend in global equities as concerns over economic growth and quarterly earnings sapped risk appetite.

Surging crude oil prices and a strengthening dollar index also hit investor sentiment. In a volatile trade, the 30-

share BSE benchmark Sensex declined 241.30 points or 0.31 per cent to settle at 77,378.91. During the day, the benchmark gyrated 820.15 points between the intraday high of 77,919.70 and a low of 77,099.55.

As many as 3,167 stocks declined, 827 advanced and 84 remained unchanged on the The NSE Nifty dropped 95

23,431.50. On the weekly front, the BSE

benchmark slumped 1,844.2 points or 2.32 per cent, and the Nifty dropped 573.25 points or 2.38 per cent.

"Domestic market sentiment remained subdued due to rising crude oil prices, driven by



supply concerns, and a strengthening dollar index.
Despite the IT sector's resilience following positive early Q3 results, broader indices bled due to uncertainties surrounding Trump policies and high valuations.
"Consolidation may persist

in the near term, yet investors are closely watching the US non-farm payroll data today Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said.

From the 30-share bluechip pack, IndusInd Bank, NTPC, UltraTech Cement, Sun Pharma, Axis Bank, State Bank of India, Tata Steel, Power Grid, Adani Ports and Kotak Mahindra Bank were among the major laggards.

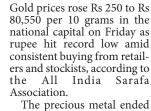
Tata Consultancy Services jumped nearly 6 per cent after the IT services company reported an 11.95 per cent jump in the December quarter net profit to Rs 12,380 crore. Tech Mahindra, HCL Tech,

Infosys and Bajai Finsery were the other big gainers. "Markets continued its

downward trajectory as rupee scaling new lows due to strengthening dollar has further dampened investors' sentiment. Amid concerns of subdued economic growth and expectations of a slowdown in the quarterly earnings, investors cut their bet on banking and mid and small-cap

Gold rises Rs 250 to Rs 80,550 per 10 gm; silver trades flat

PNS NEW DELHI



the previous session at Rs 80,300 per 10 grams.

However, silver traded flat at Rs 93,000 per kg on Friday. The price of gold of 99.5 per

cent purity continuing to shine bright for the fourth straight session by appreciating Rs 250 to Rs 80,150 per 10 grams. It had finished at Rs 79,900 per 10 grams on Thursday.

Traders said the rise in gold prices at local market is also propelled by robust overseas demand.

Meanwhile, the rupee clined 14 paice and the crucial 86-mark for the first time against the US dollar on Friday as it failed to resist pressure from a stronger American currency and huge outflow of foreign funds.

On a weekly basis, gold prices surged Rs 1,550, or 2 per cent, to Rs 80,550 per 10



grams, while silver shot up 2.5 per cent to Rs 93,000 per kg. On the MCX, gold contracts

for February delivery climbed Rs 388, or 0.5 per cent, to Rs 78,492 per 10 grams in the futures trade on Friday. Silver contracts for March

delivery bounced Rs 506, or 0.55 per cent, to Rs 92,217 per kg on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX).

Comex gold futures increased USD 16.10 per ounce, or 0.6 per cent, to USD 2,706.90 per ounce in the orceae marl

"Gold extended rally on Friday on the back of safehaven demand due to uncertainty around future US monetary policy under Presidentelect Donald Trump," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

a global champion in sunrise sectors'

'India needs to be

PNS NEW DELHI

India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant on Friday said the country needs to become a global champion in sunrise sectors to achieve the target of becoming a developed nation and USD 32 trillion economy by 2047. Addressing the 'Bharat Climate Forum 2025', Kant further said the US, Europe and India have lost the art of manufacturing, and this will have huge implica-

tions for the global economy.
"My belief is that without India becoming a global champion in sunrise sectors, we would not be able to achieve the target of becoming a developed nation by 2047, we will never be able to become a USD 32 trillion economy," he said.

Kant pointed out that in Indian industries are 5-7 years behind the curve.

Noting that India's industry is persistently focusing on fossil fuel vehicles, he said, "If you do not become a manufacturer of electric vehicles (EVs), then you will lose the EV market globally".

NTPC Renewable Energy begins 110 MW commercial supply

PNS NEW DELHI

State-owned power giant NTPC on Friday said its step-down arm NTPC Renewable Energy has started commercial supply of 110 MW electricity from two different solar projects.

With this, the total installed and commercial capacity of the NTPC group has now become 76,708.18 MW, a BSE filing

According to the filing based on the certificate issued on January 9, 2025, by Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI), the second part capacity of 60 MW out of 320 MW Bhainsara Solar PV Project in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan of NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd (NTPC REL), a step-down subsidiary of NTPC Ltd through its subsidiary NTPC Green Energy Ltd, is declared on Commercial Operation with effect from January 7, 2025.

National waterways to get Rs 50,000-cr investment in next 5 yrs

PNS NEW DELHI

An investment of Rs 50,000 crore will be made to boost infrastructure along national waterways in the next five years, according to an official statement on Friday.

According to the statement, the investment proposals announced in Inland Waterways Development Council (IWDC) meeting at Kohora in

Kaziranga.
"IWDC bats for major infra upgrade on National Waterways, to invest Rs 50,000 crore in five years," the statement

IWDC was organised by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), the nodal agency for development of waterways under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW).

According to the statement, a major policy initiative in the form of Riverine Community Development Scheme was mooted at the IWDC meet to improve the socio-economic wellbeing of coastal communities by developing infrastructure.

Speaking at the event, Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said 1,000 green vessels will be launched in the next five years to boost green shipping inland waterways.

After the success of

Kochi's Water Metro proiect, it will be expanded to 15 cities of the country, including Guwahati, Sonowal added.

He also said ship repair facilities will be established at more national waterways soon.

According to Sonowal, more than Rs 23,000 crore has been earmarked for New National Waterways Development and Green Shipping ini-

According to the data, infra-

from a 1.5 per cent expansion

the output of primary goods

logged a 2.7 per cent growth

in November 2024 against 8.4

The data also showed that

in the year-ago period.

per cent a year earlier. The expansion in the inter-

Encouraging big corporates to collaborate with startups

PNS NEW DELHI

The government is encouraging large corporates to collaborate with startups to address business challenges and problems as it would promote the growth of budding entrepreneurs, a top official said on Friday. Secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Amardeep Singh Bhatia also said measures like the abolition of angel tax are helping startups to come back.

#3-5-335.Guestin CORRIGENDUM All are hereby informed that in Sale Notice is sale of Immovable Properties published of 07.01.2025 1) (Borrower -Gangula Krishr

veni) and on 27.12.2024 2) M/s Sudhak reddy dairy farms) in this papers Proper Auction dates are wrongly mentioned. But correct auction Date as 14-82-2025 f both the Accounts. All the other contents of the Cos will remain same.

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Irrigation Circle, LMD Colony, Kerimnagar.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA ROADS & BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE NIT No. 02/SE/TS/R&B/WNP/2024-25, Conline tenders are invited under e-procurement platform for 1 (One) work of value 6.12
 Crore in Nagarkumool District. 2. Tenders can download the tender schedules from emerket place i.e https://tender.telangana.gov.in from 09.01.2025 at 5.00 PM onwerds The last date of receipt tenders is before 23.01.2025 up to 3.30 PM. Further details can be

seen at e-procurement market place i.e https://flender.telangana.gev.in Sdi-Superintending Enginee R.O.No: 895-PPICUXDVTH10824-25, Deb: 10-01-2025 (R&B) Circle: Wanaparth R.O.No: 8985-PPICL/ADVTH19924-35, Date: 10-01-2035

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION F PROCUREMENT NOTICE NIT No. 26/26-50/SDD/GHBC(2004-25, Dt. 16-01-2025 published on W/procurement platform.

The details can be seen by logging @ https://tender.aprocurement.gov.in. The detail of events is detailed believe Name of the Work: Package - W - To provide semices of Man power patins in Secunderabad Contin-2-98 Beggregat Lee 95, Sectbad Zove, GHMC, vs. 101.01.2825 to 31.82.2825 js. 407 months) for the year 2024-2025. Estimate Amount: Rs. 49.35 takins, Bid Document Download Start Date 8 Time. 16-01-2025 (§ 12-00 PM, Birl Submission Closing Date & Timer 24-01-2025 (§ 12-00 PM, Name & Address officer Cell. No.: EE., Circle. 30, GHMC, Sec'bed, Cell No.: 7331161426 (§ 9846909770) Address of the officer concerned Srt. Sadentham, Executive Engineer, Cride-30, Regumest, Sec-bed Zone, GHMC, Further details contra seen at e-Procurement (§ https://lendectationgora.gov/in

Sdi- Executive Engineer, Circle-38, Begun

Factory output growth hits 6-month high of 5.2 pc PNS NEW DELHI Power generation growth ed in May 2024. It grew by 4.9 slowed to 4.4 per cent from 5.8 contraction of 3.4 per cent in India's industrial production per cent in June and 5 per cent November 2023. per cent a year ago. As per use-based classifica-(IIP) growth accelerated to a in July 2024. six-month high of 5.2 per tion, the capital goods segment growth accelerated to 9 The IIP growth was flat in structure/construction goods cent year-on-year in November 2024, riding on August before picking up at 3.1 per cent in September reported a growth of 10 per per cent in November 2024 cent in November 2024, up

The growth in the factory output, measured in terms of the IIP, in April-November 2024 grew by 4.1 per cent against 6.5 per cent in the year-ago period, the data

and 3.7 per cent in October

2024.

a statement by the Ministry of As per the data, the mining Statistics & Programme output growth decelerated to The previous high growth 1.9 per cent in November



from 7 per cent expansion in the year-ago month.

The manufacturing sector's

growth accelerated to 5.8 per cent in November from 1.3 per cent a year ago

cent in the year-ago period. Showing festive demand, consumer durable (or white) goods production grew by 13.1 per cent during the

against a contraction of 1.1 per

reporting month against a contraction of 4.8 per cent in November 2023.

In November 2024, consumer non-durables output growth remained almost flat at

mediate goods segment was 5 cent a year ago.

per cent in the month under review, higher than 3.4 per

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> Saturday January 11, 2025

'HYD HAS BECOME **MEDICAL TOURISM HUB'**

VAISHNAVI TIKKA vaishnavi.tikka@gmail.com

yderabad has rapidly emerged as a leading hub for medical excellence and healthcare infrastructure in India. The city boasts of robust healthcare system, featuring world-class hospitals, research centers and medical institutions. Renowned facilities like Apollo Health City, Care Hospitals and KIMS, along with specialized centers for oncology, cardiology and orthopedics, provide top-notch med-ical services to both domestic and international patients.

Among the distinguished medical professionals contributing to the city's growing reputation is Dr Sujeeth Kumar Bashetty, a well-known doctor with over 17 years of experience. He strongly believes in the philosophy: "Earn your success based on service to others, not at the expense of others." Originally from Nizamabad, he is now settled in Hyderabad, where he has made significant contributions to the medical field. Well, he was one of those accomplished health expert, who had saved over 2,000 patients during the COVID-19 for free. He completed his MBBS, MS (General Surgery), FIAGES (Minimal Access Surgery), FAIS, FALS (Advanced Laparoscopic Colorectal Surgery), DIPMAS (Minimal Access Hernia Surgery) and FICRS (Robotic Surgery). Currently, he serves as a Professor and Senior Consultant Laparoscopic & Robotic Surgeon in the Department of General, Surgical GI and Laparoscopic Surgery. He is also affiliated with Apollo Health City, Jubilee Hills, and Apollo Clinics, Manikonda.

In a conversation with *The Pioneer*, Dr Sujeeth shares that he first visited Hyderabad when he was in 5th grade for a small vacation at his aunt's house. That was his first experience of the city. He mentioned that during his visit, he explored places like the Salar Jung Museum, Birla Planetarium and Zoo Park.

Born and raised in Nizamabad, he was a scholarly student, scoring 526 in his 10th grade. He said that he is someone who is always open to new experiences. Inspired by the respect doctors commanded, he decided to pursue a career in medicine from a young age. He shares, "I always wanted to do service." He also recalls a memorable incident where a boy reached out to him and suggested that he start a foundation. "A boy contacted me and suggested that I start a foundation and eventually, it came

Reflecting on his association with Hyderabad, Dr Sujeeth said, "I used to look at Apollo Jubilee since my childhood. It was always my wish to work there and I am glad I got the opportunity. All the senior doctors I got

inspired by are now

When comparing his hometown with Hyderabad, he described, "Hyderabad is a much bigger place than my hometown and here, I get to meet more intellectual peo-ple than at the district level. It provides better opportunities and the technology is also better here. Hyderabad has become a medical tourism hub, where people from countries like Australia come for medical treatment and also visit the city's tourist attractions."

When asked about Hyderabad's iconic features, he commented, "The first thing that comes to mind when we hear about Hyderabad is Biryani for food and Birla Temple for places."

Dr Sujeeth's journey is truly inspirational.
Despite being offered numerous job opportunities, he chose not to accept them in order to establish something different and helpful to people. He has always believed in service. He is also well-known for providing free services to around 3,000 patients during the Covid-19 pandemic. Additionally, he ran a clinic where he offered free treatment to patients who vis-

He further shared that Hyderabad, as a city, has expanded a lot over the years. "I have observed a lot of improvements since the first time I visited. Hyderabad is like an extended family to me," he added.



I USED TO LOOK AT APOLLO **JUBILEE SINCE** MY CHILDHOOD. **IT WAS ALWAYS MY WISH TO WORK** THERE, AND I AM **GLAD I GOT THE** OPPORTUNITY. ALL **THE SENIOR DOCTORS I GOT INSPIRED BY ARE NOW MY**

> IN AN EXCLUSIVE CHAT WITH THE **PIONEER**, DR **SUJEETH KUMAR BASHETTY, A PIONEER IN** LAPAROSCOPIC AND ROBOTIC **SURGERY, SHARED**

COLLEAGUES

HUMBLE **BEGINNINGS IN NIZAMABAD TO BECOMING A** RENOWNED **MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL IN HYDERABAD**

JEANNE MERCHANT'S

Heartfelt melody continues to spread joy beyond

musician, voice coach and performer, Jeanne has carved a niche for herself by blending technical brilliance with soulful artistry. Her extraordinary ability to channel emotion into every note she sings has not only captivated audiences but also set a new standard for modern

Her musical roots run deep. Having sung rigorously in diverse styles such as R&B, Soul, Jazz and Gospel, she brings a versatility to her artistry that resonates across genres. Her talent has allowed her to collaborate with prominent names in Bollywood and international music, earning her a reputation as a sought-after artist and mentor. Beyond the microphone, she has dedicated over a decade to cultivating the talents of budding vocalists, helping them find their voice and build thriving careers. Her students consistently and it is tently credit her for transforming their musical journeys with her expertise, patience, and personalized approach to teaching.
Her latest offering, Jesus You're The Miracle, is a testament to her ability to bridge tradi-

tion with modernity. This vibrant pop anthem encapsulates the true essence of Christmas—hope, love and divine wonder—while delivering a sound that feels fresh, dynamic and accessible to listeners of all ages. Her vision for this track was clear: to create a song that not only celebrates the birth of Christ but also resonates with a modern generation eager for uplifting and meaningful music. "Lyrically, the song speaks to the miracle of Jesus' presence in our

tive season." Musically, it features a captivating blend of contemporary beats, lay-ered harmonies and Jeanne's powerhouse vocals. The production seamlessly combines traditional Christmas elements with a modern pop sensibility, making it a standout track in any holiday

playlist. "In an era where holiday nusic often feel repetitive, Jesus You're The Miracle breathes new life into the

genre." The song appeals to both The devout listeners seeking a spiritual connection and music enthusiasts

eanne Merchant is a name synonymous with passion, excellence and innovation in the music industry. As a multifaceted looking for an upbeat, feel-good anthem. Its modern production and relatable message ensure it stands out as a beacon of positivity during the holiday season.

With this track, Jeanne Merchant once again proves her ability to innovate while staying rooted in the timeless themes of faith, love and celebration. "It's more than just a Christmas song; it's an anthem for anyone who believes in miracles and the transformative power of faith."

As you add *Jesus You're The Miracle* to your hol-

iday playlist, let Jeanne Merchant's rich vocals and heartfelt lyrics inspire you to embrace the true spirit of Christmas—a season of miracles, joy and unshakable hope.



Alarming disparity: Men's TBI death rate significantly higher than women's

PNS|HYDERABAD

latest study has highlighted the alarming disparity in the impact of traumatic brain injuries (TBI), particularly emphasising how men are three times more likely to die from these injuries compared to women. The study, which analyzed US mortality data from 2021, underscores the persistent and disproportionate toll that TBI takes on older adults, men and certain racial and ethnic

Published in the peer-reviewed journal Brain Injury, the research identifies suicides as the leading cause of TBI-related deaths, followed by unintentional falls. These fatalities continue to disproportionately affect specific groups, especially men and older

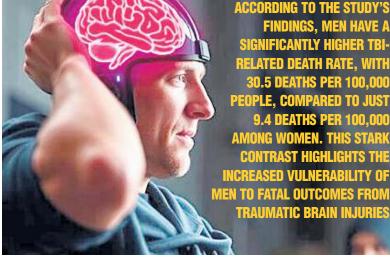
According to the study's findings, men have a significantly higher TBI-related death rate, with 30.5 deaths per 100,000 people, compared to just 9.4 deaths per 100,000 among women. This stark contrast highlights the increased vulnerability of men to fatal outcomes from traumatic brain injuries.

Alexis Peterson, lead author of the study and researcher at the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), emphasised that older adults are particularly at risk. "Unintentional falls are a significant cause of TBI-related death in older adults." Peterson stated, underscoring the vulnerability of this demographic in the face of such injuries. The study delves into various factors contributing to TBI deaths, including the severity of injuries resulting from incidents like falls or motor vehicle crashes. It also explores how sex and age interact to influence outcomes. Men, as they age, tend to experience worse outcomes from TBI, while postmenopausal women often fare better in similar circumstances, suggesting hormonal and physiological factors play a role in recovery and survival.

Peterson called for more tailored prevention strategies, particularly for at-risk groups. She also highlighted the importance of early intervention by healthcare providers and the need for culturally sensitive care to reduce TBI-related deaths and improve recovery outcomes. "Healthcare providers play a critical role in reducing TBI-related mortality, and implementing early interventions and culturally aware care can significantly help at-risk populations," she emphasised.

The study, which analyzed data from the National Vital Statistics System, revealed that in 2021 alone, there were 69,473 TBIrelated deaths among US residents, averaging about 190 deaths per day. Additionally, the age-adjusted TBI-related mortality rate saw an 8.8% increase from the previous year, rising to 19.5 per 100,000 residents.

This research highlights the urgent need for continued awareness, prevention, and treatment strategies to address the disproportionate impact of traumatic brain injuries, particularly for vulner-



able populations such as men and older adults. As the study shows, a deeper understanding of the factors influencing TBI outcomes is essential to reducing these fatalities and improving longterm care.

WHAT DO DOCTORS HAVE TO SAY?

Dr Venkat Kumar, neurologist and certified life-care planner shares, "Traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) are a major health concern, with a higher incidence in men than in women. Several factors contribute to this disparity, from lifestyle choices to biological differences. Understanding these factors is key to addressing the higher prevalence of TBIs in men and improving prevention and treatment strategies." **RISKIER BEHAVIOURS**

One of the primary reasons men are more likely to experience TBIs is their tendency to engage in riskier behaviours. Men are more often involved in activities that carry a higher likelihood of injury, such as contact sports, military service and physi-

cal altercations. These activities increase the

chances of head trauma, making men more

erally engage in these activities at lower rates. **WORK-RELATED INJURIES**

vulnerable to TBIs than women, who gen-

Another significant factor contributing to the higher incidence of TBIs in men is their greater representation in hazardous occupations. Men are more likely to work in physically demanding jobs that involve exposure to heavy machinery, construction sites, or other dangerous environments. The risk of accidents in these jobs, which often result in head injuries, is a key fac-

tor in the higher rate of TBIs in men. **GENDER-BASED PERCEPTIONS**

Society's gender-based perceptions also play a role in how men experience TBIs. In many cultures, there is a tendency to downplay or misinterpret men's injuries. Men may be less likely to report symptoms or seek medical attention for fear of being seen as weak or vulnerable. This societal pressure, combined with the expectation to recover quickly and return to work or physical activities, can delay diagnosis and treatment, potentially lead-

ing to worsened outcomes. **GENETICS AND SEX HORMONES**

Genetics and sex hormones play a crucial role in how the body reacts to injury, including traumatic brain injuries. These factors can influence inflammation, oxidative stress and mitochondrial function, all of which are critical in brain injury recovery. Studies suggest that testosterone, a hormone present in higher levels in men, can influence the severity of TBI outcomes by affecting neuroinflam-

matory responses and brain cell damage. **NEUROPLASTICITY**

Neuroplasticity—the brain's ability to repair itself after injury—also differs between men and women. Research indicates that men and women may have vary ing levels of neuroplasticity, which could affect how their brains recover from TBIs. While neuroplasticity plays a critical role in recovery, gender differences in brain structure and function may impact the efficiency of this process.

EXTRACEREBRAL TRAUMA

Men and women may experience different patterns of extracerebral trauma, which refers to injury outside the brain but that still impacts brain function. These types of injuries, including damage to the neck, spine, or facial bones, can complicate the aftermath of a TBI. The way the body responds to such trauma can vary between genders, affecting recovery timelines and long-term outcomes.

The higher incidence of traumatic brain injuries in men can be attributed to a combination of risky behaviours, work-related dangers, societal expectations and biological factors. Understanding the reasons behind this disparity is crucial for developing targeted prevention strategies, improving early diagnosis and ensuring that both men and women receive effective care for brain injuries. Recognising the unique challenges that men face when dealing with TBIs can ultimately lead to better health outcomes and more personalised approaches to treatment and recovery.

what's brewing?











mesmerising performance by Ustad Shahid Parvez in Hyderabad. The event was inaugurated by Shailaja Ramaiyer, IAS. Conceptualised by Mohan Hemmadi, Triveni is a tribute to the legendary trio of Indian classical music: Bharat Ratna Pandit Ravi Shankar, Ustad Allah Rakha

















Annapurna Studios has made history by launching India's first Dolby certified postproduction facility for cinema and home, unveiled by acclaimed filmmaker SS Rajamouli in the presence of actor Nagarjuna Akkineni, Vice Chairman of Annapurna Studios. Notably,

Rajamouli's Oscar-winning film RRR, which was the first Indian film to release in Dolby Cinema, was showcased at the event, marking a landmark moment for the Indian film industry.

GEF India has adopted the Kotha Cheruvu lake in Hyderabad as part of its environmental süstainability initiatives. The project aims to restore and preserve the lake, promoting local biodiversity and benefiting the surrounding community. Unveiled by Sarfaraz Ahmad, I.A.S -Commissioner, HMDA, this initiative is a significant

> step towards ecological conservation



ARCHIE







CALVIN AND HOBBES









GARFIELD







SLOWER BUT HE STILL HAS THE MOVES

REALITY CHECK

STEVEN SEAGAL IS A BIT OLDER AND

SPEED BUMP TATE OF STREET



CROSSWORD







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- 12 A fire-breathing monster 14 The number in a quartet
- 17 Frown 18 Played a part in a play
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- 2 More than is needed
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11 Go after

15 Frequently



GINGER MEGGS







Hyderabad | Saturday January 11, 2025

tollywood

Ram Charan shines, but *Game Changer* falters with outdated storyline

SURESH KAVIRAYANI sureshkavirayani@gmail.com

he New Year of 2025 kicked off with a high-budget film like *Game Changer*, which was released on Friday. Starring Ram Charan, Kiara Advani and Anjali in lead roles, this film is directed by the popular filmmaker Shankar Shanmugam. The movie also features prominent actors like Srikanth, Samuthirakani, Jayaram, Sunil, Rajiv Kanakala, Naveen Chandra and others in key roles. *Game Changer* has been one of the most anticipated films of the year, especially for Ram Charan, as it marks his solo release after the massive success of *RRR*. The film took nearly three years to complete and expectations are high due to the star-studded cast and the big budget. Dil Raju is the producer. Here's a breakdown of the story and what the film offers.

Story:

The plot of *Game Changer* revolves around Chief Minister Satyamurthy (Srikanth), who falls ill and is admitted to the hospital. His son and Minister, Mopidevi (SJ Suryah), aims to become the Chief Minister. While Satyamurthy wants to leave behind a clean government in his final year, Mopidevi disagrees. Enters Ram Nandan (Ram Charan), an honest and sincere IAS officer who takes charge as the collector of Visakhapatnam. The conflict between Ram Nandan and Mopidevi ensues as Ram Nandan strives to shut down the illegal operations run by Mopidevi and his allies.

by Mopidevi and his allies.

In a flashback, Ram Nandan falls in love with Deepika (Kiara Advani) in college. However, their relationship faces a roadblock when Ram Nandan becomes an IPS officer, which Deepika disapproves of as she wanted him to pursue an IAS career. Eventually, Ram Nandan becomes the collector of Vizag and seeks to marry Deepika. Meanwhile, the chief minister passes away and before his death, he names Ram Nandan as his successor in a video message. Mopidevi, however, plans to seize power. The film unfolds as Ram Nandan fights to hold his ground, and his connection with Appanna (also played by Ram Charan) comes to light. The story follows Ram

Nandan's journey as he confronts Mopidevi and unravels the larger political conspiracy.

Director Shankar is renowned for his grandiose visuals, aesthetic songs, and high production values. However, in recent years, he seems to have lost his touch. While Shankar has directed several successful films in the past, such as *Gentleman*, *Oke Okkadu*, *Bharateeyudu*, *Aparichithudu* and *Sivaji*, his recent works, including *Bharateeyudu* 2, have struggled at the box office. His signature style seems outdated and *Game Changer* lacks the innovative spark that his previous films showcased.

The story, penned by Karthik Subbaraj, follows the familiar trope of an honest IAS officer battling a corrupt politician. While the story touches upon relevant themes, the execution feels outdated and predictable. The screenplay fails to captivate the audience, with the romantic track between Ram Charan and Kiara Advani coming across as boring and outdated. Similarly, the comedy sequences featuring Vennela Kishore and Brahmanandam fall flat, failing to evoke laughter.

While the concept of an IAS officer taking on a corrupt minister should have made for an engaging political drama, Shankar's outdated approach undermines the potential of the story. There is a lack of realism and depth in the narrative, making the film feel artificial and far from convincing. Some scenes are

CAST: Ram Charan, Kiara Advani, Anjali, SJ Suryah, Samuthirakani, Srikanth, Jayaram, Sunil, Naveen Chandra, Rajiv Kanakala, Vishwanth

MUSIC DIRECTOR: S. Thaman CINEMATOGRAPHER: Thiru STORY: Karthik Subbaraj PRODUCERS: Raju and Shirish DIRECTOR: Shankar RATING: 2.5/5

cinematic to the point of being unrealistic, with moments that seem detached from the current political landscape.

Anjali's character, though powerful, lacks the depth and emotion it could have had. The

Anjali's character, though powerful, lacks the depth and emotion it could have had. The second half, which focuses on Appanna's character, shows potential, but after that, the film quickly loses momentum, and the climax becomes unnecessarily dragged out.

Performances:

Ram Charan carries the entire film with his strong performance. As Ram Nandan, an IAS officer and in the flashback as Appanna, he brings energy and conviction to his roles. His portrayal of both characters is commendable,

and he succeeds in anchoring the film with his stellar screen presence.

SJ Suryah plays a significant role as the antagonist, Mopidevi. While he has delivered strong performances in the past, his accent here seems ill-suited for the Telugu audience, which detracts from his impact. Anjali, portraying Parvathi, delivers a solid performance, but her character could have been better developed. Despite her powerful presence, her role lacks the emotional weight it could have carried. Srikanth steps into a different role compared to his usual image, but his performance doesn't leave a lasting impression. Jayaram's role is underwhelming, and Sunil's comedy does not hit the mark. Samuthirakani's performance is average, while the other supporting actors do not stand out.

Technical Aspects:

The technical aspects of *Game Changer* are undoubtedly one of the film's strengths. The cinematography by Thiru is visually stunning, capturing the grandeur of the film's high-budget sequences. The songs, though choreographed beautifully in some visually impressive locations, do not live up to the high standards one might expect from a Shankar film. Thaman's music, especially the songs, falls short of expectations and the background score feels average. The dialogue delivery in some scenes is thought-provoking, but the overall screenplay and emotional depth are lacking. Despite the film's impressive visuals, the film's technical elements do not make up for the weak narrative.

Verdict:

Game Changer fails to meet expectations, as it falls short in terms of both story and execution. While Ram Charan's performance is commendable and the film has some grand visuals, the outdated and predictable story, along with a lack of emotional depth, make it a letdown. Shankar's onceinnovative approach now feels stale and the film struggles to stay relevant in the current political and cinematic landscape. For those expecting a fresh and exciting political drama, Game Changer may not deliver. The film's commercial appeal might help it to some extent, but its longevity remains uncertain without a compelling story to back it up.

Nala Jilakara

the heart of

Uttarandhra

ctress Anandhi, known for her powerful

Garividi Lakshmi. Produced by TG Vishwa Prasad

rich cultural heritage of the Uttarandhra region, with

the beloved folk song Nala Jilakara Mogga playing

a central role in its narrative. Nala Jilakara Mogga,

significance. The song draws a captivating analogy,

comparing the elegance of a young woman to the

symbolising purity, simplicity and grace. Its lyrical

natural charm and inner beauty far surpass material

efforts of Garividi Lakshmi, a celebrated Burra Katha

popularizing Uttarandhra's folk

traditions, particularly during

authentic

the 1990s, has cemented

her place as a cultural icon in the region's history.

With its powerful storytelling and

representation of

of Uttarandhra,

Garividi Lakshmi

promises to capture

the folk traditions

wealth, jewelry, or even the most exquisite sarees.

message conveys a profound truth: a woman's

The song owes much of its fame to the tireless

artist. Her remarkable work in preserving and

a timeless folk song cherished by generations, is

renowned for its poetic beauty and cultural

delicate Nala Jilakara Mogga (cumin bud),

performances, is set to deliver another

memorable role in the highly anticipated film

Mogga captures

VENKATESH HAD RECORDED THE SONG IN JUST 20 MINUTES: ANIL RAVIPUDI

Director Anil
Ravipudi talks
about his
upcoming film
Sankranthiki
Vasthunnam and
why he auditioned
experienced
actress Aishwarya
Rajesh for the role
of Bhagyam

PNS|HYDERABAD

pirector Anil Ravipudi, known for delivering continuous box office hits, is now gearing up for Sankranthiki Vasthunnam. The film stars Venkatesh in the lead role, with Aishwarya Rajesh and Meenakshi Chaudhary playing the female leads. Interestingly, despite Aishwarya's extensive filmography, the director decided to audition her for the role of

Bhagyam.

"It's a very important role, and she needed to speak in the Godavari accent. To understand her body language, I auditioned her for the part. She's an exceptional performer and did an outstanding job," said Anil Ravipudi about Aishwarya. He added that she will receive great recognition for her performance in this role. Anil also spoke about Meenakshi Chaudhary, describing her as a disciplined actress.

Actor Venkatesh also surprised everyone by singing a song for the film. Whose idea was it? "Venkatesh liked the song so much that he wanted to sing it himself. He recorded it in just 20 minutes, and even music director Bheems was surprised. It came out really well," said Anil Ravipudi about the song. Anil explained the significance of the film's title, saying, "The story revolves around a rescue operation that begins four days before the Sankranthi festival. When I wrote the story, I finalised the title right away."

The director also mentioned his earlier collaborations with Venkatesh, particularly F2, which was a Sankranthi release and became a massive blockbuster. "My other film, F3, missed the Sankranthi race, but with this movie, we decided to release it during the festival. That's how it all came together," he

Talking about the film's universal appeal, Anil said, "The story is relatable to everyone. It's about a husband caught between his wife and his ex-girlfriend. I'm confident that the audience will thoroughly enjoy the movie and leave the theatre laughing. This film is going to be a blockbuster and I'm sure I'll continue to succeed as a director," he said.

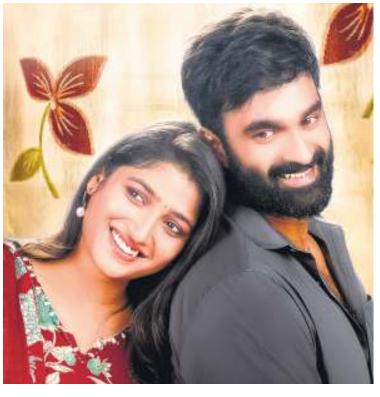
Reflecting on his collaboration with producer Dil Raju, Anil said, "I started working with Dil Raju with my first film, *Pataas*. It's been almost ten years now. I prefer working with people I share a good bond with and I want to continue this association," he added.

This marks Anil's third collaboration with Venkatesh, and he shared that their working relationship has grown into a deep friendship. "Venkatesh garu and I have become best buddies through this journay," said the director

this journey," said the director.

He also elaborated on the genre of the film: "I tried something different with Venkatesh in this movie. While it has entertainment, it also includes elements of crime and adventure. The second half takes on a completely unique tone. Even if I were to make an action film with Venkatesh garu, I wouldn't miss adding the entertainment quotient," Anil shared.

Brahmi and his son Raja Goutham in *Brahma Anandam*



wadharm Entertainment, known for its successful films like Malli Raava, Agent Sai Srinivasa Athreya and Masooda, is coming up with a unique entertainer titled Brahma Anandam. The movie stars legendary comedian Brahmanandam and his son Raja Goutham in lead roles, alongside Priya Vadlamani and Aishwarya Holakkal in key roles. Directed by debutant RVS Nikhil and produced by Rahul Yadav Nakka, Brahma Anandam promises to be a captivating film with a refreshing concept. The film is slated for release soon and the makers have kickstarted promotions with the launch of a lyrical song.

As part of the promotional activities, a melodious song titled *Anandamaaye* was released on Thursday. Composed by Sandilya Pisapati, with lyrics penned by Sri Sai Kiran, the song is beautifully rendered by Manisha Eerabathini and Yashwanth Nag.

and Yashwanth Nag.

Director RVS Nikhil has portrayed the lead pair as two individuals with contrasting personalities and opinions, adding depth to their characters. With its catchy tune and meaningful lyrics, the song is expected to strike a chord with listeners. Sandilya Pisapati's music composition is a highlight of the track, further enhancing its appeal.

With promising performances from its cast and a unique storyline, *Brahma Anandam* is shaping up to be an engaging entertainer that audiences can look forward to.



Allu Arjun celebrates his dad, Allu Aravind's birthday in style! Marking the special occasion on Vaikuntha Ekadashi, this was the first celebration post the blockbuster success and controversy surrounding *Pushpa*. The highlight? A cake featuring *Pushpa's* iconic palm with '*Pushpa Ka Baap*' written on it—truly a fitting tribute to the star and his journey!





India pacer Varun Aaron retires from 'representative cricket'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

rndia pacer Varun Aaron, who was once regarded as the country's fastest bowler before injuries hampered his promising career, announced retirement from "representative cricket" on Friday after his home state Jharkhand's campaign ended in the ongoing Vijay Hazare Trophy. The 35-year-old Aaron made the announcement on social media after Jharkhand failed to go beyond the preliminary stage of the marquee domestic one-day event. After a dazzling start event. After a dazzling start, Aaron struggled with erratic form, which was made worse by injury breakdowns, and he had not represented India since 2015. "For the past 20 years, I have lived, breathed, and thrived on the rush of bowling fast. Today, with immense gratitude, I announce my officially retirement from representative cricket," Aaron posted on his

Instagram account At just 21, Aaron burst onto the scene during the 2010-11 Vijay Hazare Trophy, showcasing his raw pace and making a mark with a blistering 153kph delivery against Gujarat in the final.

His ability to consistently bowl at speeds exceeding 150kph quickly caught the attention of the Indian cricketing fraternity and he soon made his international debut in an ODI against England in Mumbai in 2011. This was followed by a Test debut

at the same venue against the West Indies, again in 2011.

However, the relentless demands of bowling at high speed took a significant toll on his body. He played nine ODIs and as many Tests, taking 29 wickets across the two formats for India.

Over the course of his career, he endured as many as eight back stress fractures and three foot fractures. which hampered his progress.



Injuries had forced him to give up red-ball cricket last year.
"Over the years, I've had to push

both my physical and mental limits to recover from numerous career-threatening injuries, having to come back time and having to come back time and again, this was only possible thanks to the relentless dedication of the physios, trainers, and coaches at the National Cricket Academy.

"I'd also like to thank the BCCI,

To also like to thank the BCCI, JSCA (Jharkhand State Cricket Association), Red Bull, SG Cricket, and MRF Tyres for their invaluable support during critical junctures in my career.

"As I bid farewell to a pursuit that has consumed me completely, I now look forward to sayouring

now look forward to savouring the smaller joys in life while staying deeply connected to the game, that has given me

who I am," he added.

Among his memorable moments in the game, he had grabbed headlines by breaking Stuart Broad's nose with a bouncer during a Test match in 2014. Broad had tried to pull the delivery but the ball took the edge

and sneaked inside the grill of his

helmet to hit him on the nose. Despite not making the Indian team since 2015, Aaron continued to bowl in domestic cricket. He picked 141 wickets at an average of 26.47 and an economy rate of 5.44 in 88 List A matches. He also snared 93 wickets at an economy rate of 8.53 in the 95 T20s he played.

Aaron also played nine seasons of the IPL between 2011 and 2022, turning out for with Delhi Daredevils, Kings XI Punjab, Kolkata Knight Riders, Rajasthan Royals, Royal Challengers everything.

"Fast Bowling has been my first love, and though I step off the field, it will always be a part of Royals, Royal Challengers Bangalore and Gujarat Titans. In his final season, he won the title with Gujarat Titans in 2022. In his final season, he won the



People have opinion but I'm comfortable in my own skin: Steve Smith

PTI SYDNEY

A ustralia skipper for the Sri Lankan Test series, Steve Smith is not getting unduly teveryone inside. People are bothered by people's opinion over his role in the can say what they want," he 'sandpapergate' episode, saying they are entitled to their views while he continues to be "comfortable" in his own

world. Smith, who was the Australia skipper when the ball-tampering scandal broke out in the 2018 Cape Town Test against South Africa, will lead a 16-member squad to the He said while it was a "cool sub-continent for the two-Test win" in the series, missing a series beginning January 29 after regular skipper Pat Cummins rested was following the Gavaskar Tests. Borderthe

The charismatic top-order batter, opener David Warner and Cameron Bancroft were found guilty of ball-tampering in 2018 and banned for varying periods. Smith also served a two-year leadership ban for his role in the scandal. He has since led Australia on four occasions in Tests -versus England in Adelaide (2021), against the West Indies in Perth (2022) and two away Tests versus India in

While Cricket Australia deems the matter as closed, some sections still feel that Smith should not be allowed to lead the country's team. "I mean, everyone's entitled to

their opinion," Smith told Sydney Morning Herald. "They can say whatever they like. I'm pretty comfortable in

skin. (The environment) around the added.

'Missing 10,000 Test runs hurts'

Australia finally While claimed the Border-Gavaskar Trophy after four attempts, defeating India 1-3 in the fivematch series recently, Smith missed the 10,000 Test-run mark by just one run.

personal landmark by just one run was painful

"It was a cool summer to be a part of... And particularly after the way we fought back from Perth (defeat). Just as a collective, it was a really cool win. Our bowlers were unbelievable. Scotty Boland, the way he came in, was exceptional. He's unbelievable at the moment," said Smith. Smith was left stranded at 9,999 runs in the fifth Test at

Sydney after being dismissed by Prasidh Krishna in both innings. "One run... It hurt a little bit at

the time. It would have been nice to have ticked that off in front of all my friends and family here at my home ground, but hopefully, I can knock it off first thing in Galle (Sri Lanka, first Test). "I probably let it wander (in

my mind) too much throughout the game. It's a cool milestone to tick off," he

Travis Head could open in Sri Lanka Tests, says chief selector George Bailey

A ustralian big-hitter Travis Head could open in the two-Test series against Sri Lanka where "quick learner" Sam Konstas is also likely to get more opportunities to showcase his audacious skills, chairman of selectors George Bailey has said.

Head, who wreaked havoc with the bat during the recently-concluded Border-Gavaskar series against India in the middle order, has been tested in the opener's role in the sub-continent. He had come in for an injured David Warner during the 2023 tour of India and

scored 223 runs at 55.75 in five innings at the top of the order.

"Trav's an option (to open). We've got a number of options and there's been a few preliminary discussions around where that may land, and that may depend on the makeup of that first XI," Bailey told cricket.Com.Au.

"I think (head coach) Andrew (McDonald,) and (stand-in captain) Steve (Smith) will settle on that in due course, once we hit Sri Lanka," he added. Australia announced a 16-member squad on Thursday with several fresh faces added to the group that played India in the fifth and final Test at Sydney last



week. Australia won the marquee series

Smith is leading the squad as regular captain Pat Cummins is on leave for the birth of his couple's second child.

With 19-year-old Konstas turning heads with his refreshing style of batting during the Border-Gavaskar Tests, Bailey said the youngster's ability to read match situations quickly would help him excel in Sri Lanka, his maiden international

"What we have seen is he's (Konstas) a quick learner. (He) absorbs a lot of information," Bailey said.

"So (we're) expecting him to get to get a lot out of it. I know from his spin play in Australia, and the opportunities he's (had) in different parts of the world, we think he's got a game that's well suited, and a technique that can stand up.

"But that's one of the exciting things about this tour – we will learn a bit more

about his game in different conditions to what he's just faced in Australia," he

Bailey feels that Nathan McSweeney, who is there in the Sri Lanka-bound squad, handled his exclusion from the last two BGT Tests quite well and he wil remain in the scheme of things despite the unimpressive show as an opener.
The debutant had a trial by fire against

Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, failing to put up a decent score in the first three games. "We still view (McSweeney) as a great Test prospect, and a long-term Test prospect. "I think at times when someone is left out

of a team or squad, there's a view that they fall out of favour, or down the pecking order, but that wasn't the case with Nathan," said Bailey.

'I think it shows the character... And the sort of person he is, the way he responded and spoke so well about (being dropped) publicly pretty soon after it happened."



ICC chairman Jay Shah to be

PTI MUMBAI

Ne w l y - e l e c t e d International Cricket Council (ICC) chairman Jay Shah will be felicitated by the BCCI's state units on the sidelines of the Special General Meeting, scheduled

here on Sunday.
Shah, a former BCCI secretary, became the youngest ICC chairman after he was elected unopposed in August last year and took over the prestigious post on December 1. He replaced Greg Barclay who decided not to seek a third term.

Shah was the BCCI secretary since October 2019 and chairman of the Asian Cricket Council since January 2021. Shah will, however, not be a part of the SGM as he is no onger an office-bearer of the

The cricket administrator has been at the forefront of expanding the game's imprint globally and recently met top officials of the 2032 Brisbane



committee to discuss the sport's inclusion Summer Games. Cricket will make a return to

the Olympics after 128 years when it is played in the 2028 Los Angeles Games. The sport is not yet confirmed for the 2032 edition in Brisbane. Australian newspaper, The Age, recently reported that Shah will meet meet Cricket Australia chair Mike Baird and his England counterpart Richard Thompson later this month to discuss the finer points of a two-tier Test system to facilitate more

series between the big three

Gael Monfils reaches his 35th ATP final

ael Monfils became the Usecond oldest player since 1990 to reach a final on the men's elite tennis tour after beating American Nishesh Basavareddy 7-6 (5), 6-4 in the semifinals at Auckland on Friday aged 38 years, 131 days. Ivo Karlovic holds the ATP Tour record, having won through to final in Pune, India in 2019 at the age of 39 years, 311 days. Monfils edges Stan Wawrinka who was aged 38 years and 124 days when he reached the final at Umag, Croatia in 2023. Karlovic also reached the final

at Den Bosch in 2017 aged 38 years, 110 days while Roger Federer (Basel in 2019 aged 38 vears and 80 days) and Rafael Nadal (the 2024 Swedish Open at 38 years and 48 days) also are in the top five. Frenchman Monfils has been

breaking records steadily in



Auckland to reach his 35th ATP Tour final. When he beat Jan-Lennard Struff to reach the quarterfinals, he became the oldest player in the professional era to reach the last eight in Auckland.

He became the oldest-ever semifinalist in Auckland when he beat Facundo Diaz Acosta 6-3, 6-1 to reach his 73rd ATP Tour semifinal. Only Novak Djokovic has played more. Monfils will face Zizou Bergs of Belgium in Saturday's final. "Everybody knows I'm a warrior on the court, I don't give up easy," Monfils said after his semifinal.



goals in his last eight Spanish league games. He notched another goal in 63rd minute of the Super Cup semifinal when he finally broke down a tough Mallorca that until his goal had imposed its defensive style on the star-studded Madrid.

season, started this campaign

slowly but has netted seven

Bellingham blasted in the third shot in a row by Madrid after Rodrygo initially hit the post and goalkeeper Dominik Greif blocked a follow-up by Kylian Mbappé. Bellingham collected the



Real Madrid walks into Spanish Super

Cup final with a 3-0 win over Mallorca

rebound and slotted his shot from just outside the six-yard box under the on-rushing Greif and past three defenders who were trying to protect the goalmouth.
Madrid tacked on two goals

late in stoppage time. Mallorca's Martin Valjent scored an own goal when he inadvertently turned a pass

by Brahim Díaz into his net. Rodrygo then took Madrid's third.

The match ended with a short scuffle after the final whistle before calm was restored. It started when Bellingham slapped the back of the neck of Mallorca defender Pablo Maffeo, who had had an intense duel with

Vinícius Júnior during the Barcelona awaits Madrid in

Sunday's final. Madrid lost Tchouaméni, a midfielder playing as a central defender, in the 54th after he took a

hard knock to the head during a collision with a Mallorca player. Youth player Raúl Asenció replaced him. Madrid was competing as last season's Spanish league champion, while Mallorca was invited as the runner-up

in the Copa del Rey. Former Madrid striker Karim Benzema, who now plays in the Saudi Arabian league, was in attendance.

The minor trophy has become a major cash maker for the federation and competing clubs since the federation struck a deal in 2019 to hold it in the Middle Eastern kingdom.

Pratika, Tejal smash fifties as India beat Ireland by six wickets in 1st women's ODI

PTI ■ RAJKOT

Pratika Rawal showcased maturity beyond her experience, while Tejal Hasabnis capped a memorable comeback, posting a fifty each, as India outplayed an inexperienced Ireland by six wickets to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match women's ODI series here on Friday. Rawal anchored the modest run chase of 239 after stand-in skipper Smriti Mandhana's brisk 41, smashing 10 fours and one six for a career-best 89 (96

Hasabnis, who last played an ODI against New Zealand in October 2024, struck her first fifty after her comeback, remaining unbeaten on 53 off 46 balls with the help of nine boundaries.

Rawal and Hasabnis put together a match-winning 116-run partnership from 84 balls with India winning

spare. Carrying forward her dominant form from the Indies series. Mandhana gave the team a fantastic start with a blistering 29-ball 41, studded with six fours and a six. In the process, she became the second Indian and 15th overall to surpass 4,000 ODI runs. Mandhana unsettled the

Irish bowlers with her attacking strokeplay on both sides of the wicket. Her aggression was particularly evident against seamer Dempsey in the eighth over, when she stepped out to hammer a boundary, followed by a six and another four.

Her rookie opening partner Rawal, who debuted in the preceding West Indies series, provided excellent

The duo shared their third fifty-plus opening stand in

the match with 93 balls to scoreboard ticking with ease.

However, Ireland managed a breakthrough right at the end of powerplay when Mandhana mistimed a slog sweep to mid-on, falling nine runs short of her fifty. Harleen Deol (20) and Jemimah Rodrigues (9) looked in good touch initially, but clever bowling by left-arm spinner Aimee Maguire (3/57 from 8 overs) stalled India's momentum temporarily.

The 18-year-old Maguire lured Jemimah into stepping out too far, resulting in a stumping when the batter was at least a foot outside her crease. This phase saw India lose three wickets for 46 runs, but Mandhana's explosive start ensured the team stayed well on par.

The inexperience of Ireland came to fore as they failed to seize the momentum, leaking 21 runs in extras.

bowling unit and she bowled successive no balls with two waist-high full tosses in the 24th over when Hasabnis cashed in on the opportunity to hit back-toback fours from the two freebies. Earlier, butter-fingered India let Ireland off the hook with their pathetic fielding as visiting skipper Gaby Lewis carved out a classy 92 to lift her team to a respectable 238 for 7. Opting to bat, Ireland were

in deep trouble at 56 for four in the 14th over, but Lewis and Leah Paul (59 off 73 balls) added 117 runs for the fifth wicket to steer their team to safety. Lewis scored her runs in 129 balls, lacing with 15

boundaries.

Aided by at least three clear dropped catches and a few misfields, the duo of Lewis and Paul went about their job in a calculated manner four matches, keeping the Laura Delany was the and brought a semblance of three in the 14th over.

weakest link in their stability to the Ireland innings while putting together the team's first-ever while putting century partnership against India. Medium pacer Titas Sadhu effected the first breakthrough for India when she induced an outside edge from Sarah Forbes (9) after the batter tried to play away from her body, and Deepti Sharma did the rest in the slip cordon.

Making their first visit to the country, Ireland were reduced to 34 for two thanks to a terrible mix-up that led to the run out of Una Raymond-Hoey (5), who attempted an inexplicable single despite hitting the ball straight to Jemimah Rodrigues at cover.

Orla Prendergast (9) was next to go as she was stumped by Ghosh off the bowling of leg-spinner Priya Mishra (2/56), leaving the visitors in a spot of bother at 56 for

