

Jaishankar says India supports Israel-Palestine ceasefire



BOOST PRODUCTION, CUT IMPORTS, TARGET \$100 BN EXPORTS



Prabhas enjoyed a lot after watching the trailer: SRI SIMHA



QUOTE OF THE DAY
 Konda Laxman Babuji is synonymous with his sacrifice for Telangana. He even gave shelter to the TRS by setting up an office. The people of Telangana have seen resignations, elections and collections from 2001 to 2014. Those who came with empty hands and rubber slippers now have newspapers, houses, farmhouses in Gajwel, bungalows in Jubilee Hills and properties worth crores. The word sacrifice does not suit you KCR
 -Revanth Reddy, CM Telangana

DON'T MISS...

Scientists identify antibody to...

Researchers have discovered an antibody that could counter all known variants of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 and also distantly related ones that infect other animals. SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus causing COVID-19, uses its spike protein to invade and infect another individual, or the host. Antibodies, produced by the host in response, bind to the spike protein to block its action and prevent infection. The researchers, led by those at The University of Texas in Austin, US, isolated the antibody...

-PAGE: 2

Accused snooped on 119 Cong incharges...

The phone-tapping case accused had intercepted all the 119 Congress incharges during 2023 elections, said the Public Prosecutor. He said that they have also snooped on the phones of collectors, revenue and other officials. The phone-tapping case was registered with the Panjagutta police on March 10, 2023. The complainant said that the accused destroyed 17 hard disks of the Special Intelligence Bureau (SIB) on December 4. As of now, there are six accused in this case. They are Prabhakar Rao...

-PAGE: 3

Elon Musk may be world's first...

Elon Musk, the charismatic CEO of electric car maker Tesla and rocket manufacturer SpaceX, may become the world's first trillionaire by 2027, while Indian tycoon Gautam Adani may attain that status in the following year, and Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani may do so in 2033, according to an Informa Connect Academy report. For Musk, the richest in the world with USD 237 billion net worth, to become the world's first trillionaire needs to grow at an average annual growth rate of 110 per cent...

-PAGE: 8

Pant on course to become all-time...

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly believes Rishabh Pant is on course to become an all-time great in Test cricket but at the same time, the southpaw needs to raise his game in the shorter formats. Pant on Sunday returned to the Test side for the first time since his life-threatening car accident in December 2022. He is expected to start the first Test against Bangladesh beginning in Chennai on September 19. Since his return earlier this year following the accident, Pant has played T20s and ODIs...

-SPORTS

CRUCIAL TALKS WITH 16TH FINANCE COMMISSION

TG demands fair share of funds

- HYD MAYOR SEEKS RS 10,500 CRORE FOR INFRA PROJECTS
- HARISH, EATALA RAISE CONCERN OVER CUT IN TAX DEVOLUTION

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Representatives of political parties, local bodies and trade organisations submitted their inputs to the 16th Finance Commission led by Aravind Panagariya, urging increased devolution of funds to Telangana and highlighting the infrastructure needs of the state at a meeting held at the Praja Bhavan on Monday.

Former Finance Ministers Harish Rao and Eatala Rajender expressed their concern about Telangana not receiving its fair share of funds after the reduction in the state's tax devolution.

BRS MLA Harish Rao, in an appeal for fairness regarding Telangana's share of Central funds, criticised the Centre for failing to deliver on its promise of a 41% tax share to states, claiming that Telangana was receiving only 31%. "Despite contributing around 20% of the Centre's revenue, Telangana does not get its due share," he added, calling for the states' share of Central taxes to be increased to 50%.

Harish highlighted Telangana's contributions to agriculture and the challenges faced by the state in



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maintaining critical infrastructure like lift irrigation projects. He called for an allocation of Rs 40,000 crore for maintaining lift irrigation systems which have made Telangana the largest producer of paddy in India.

Despite the success of initiatives like Mission Bhagiratha, which provided piped drinking water to every household in Telangana, the state has not received funds from the Centre, he said.

He also pressed for Rs 10,000 crore to construct public hospitals

Despite the success of initiatives like Mission Bhagiratha, which provided piped drinking water to every household in Telangana, the state has not received funds from the Centre, Harish Rao said

offering corporate-level healthcare to the poor, emphasising the need for equitable health infrastructure development.

BJP leaders Eatala Rajender, Kasam Venkateswarlu and Prakash Reddy expressed concern over the decreasing share of taxes for Telangana. Eatala said that after Modi became Prime Minister in 2014, "the tax devolution increased from 32% to 42%."

However, he added that despite Telangana receiving a 2.9% tax share during the United AP period, the 15th Finance Commission reduced this to 2.43%, and it has now decreased to 2.1%.

The Telangana representatives also underscored the need for dedicated funds for addressing recurring natural disasters, particularly cyclones. Another critical point raised was the rapid urban growth in Telangana, necessitating the construction of sewage treatment plants (STPs) and other urban infrastructure. During the discussions, GHMC representatives, led by Mayor G. Vijaya Laxmi, requested an allocation of Rs 10,500 crore for infrastructure projects in Hyderabad.

PLEA AGAINST MLAS DEFECTION

HC directs Speaker to decide in 4 weeks

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Justice B. Vijayasen Reddy of the Telangana High Court on Monday directed the Speaker of the TG Legislative Assembly to decide the disqualification applications against the three MLAs who defected from the BRS to the Indian National Congress (INC) within four weeks.

The court ordered the Assembly Secretary to place the disqualification petitions before the Speaker. Quthbullapur MLA KP Vivekananda, Huzurabad MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy and Nirmal MLA Alleti Maheshwar Reddy had filed writ petitions requesting the HC to issue an order asking the Assembly



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Stating that the BRS leaders have no moral right to speak on party defections, Station Ghanpur MLA Kadiyam Srihari said that the BRS party only encouraged defections.

CM pushes for Green Pharma City development



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has instructed officials to expedite the development of Green Pharma City on the outskirts of Hyderabad.

On Monday evening, a detailed discussion was held at the Secretariat with Minister for Industries D Sridhar Babu regarding the plans for the Green Pharma City. The meeting saw the participation of Chief

Speaker appoints Arikepudi as PAC Chairman

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Legislative Assembly Speaker has appointed Arikepudi Gandhi as the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), traditionally a role given to the principal Opposition party.

The appointment of Arikepudi Gandhi, who defected from the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) to the Congress, has drawn sharp criticism from Opposition leaders, particularly from the BRS. They have accused the Congress-led State government of undermining democratic

HC ORDER ON DEFECTIONS

May speed up BRS's merger with Congress

NAVEENA GHANATE
 naveena.ghanate@gmail.com
 ■ HYDERABAD

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi Legislature Party's (BRS) merger with the Congress is likely to gain pace in the next four weeks.

This development is due to the Telangana High Court directing the Assembly Speaker's office on Monday to act on petitions seeking disqualification of the defected BRS

BRS predicts by-elections

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana High Court's ruling on the disqualification of BRS MLAs who defected to the Congress has led to strong reactions from BRS leaders. BRS Working President KTR was quick to welcome the court's decision, calling it a significant victory for democracy.

"This decision is a strong message to those who think they can switch parties without facing consequences. By-elections are now inevitable," said KTR, emphasizing that this serves as a clear blow to the Congress's undemocratic practices.

KTR criticised the Congress for fostering a political environment where defections are encouraged, stating that the Assembly Speaker must now act decisively in the four-week period set by the court.

"The Speaker must protect the dignity of the Assembly by making a fair decision," he added, expressing confidence that the by-elections will give BRS a clear mandate. MLA KP Vivekanand echoed KTR's sentiments, describing the court's ruling as a major victory for the BRS.

Indiramma houses for those who lost houses: Ponguleti

Financial aid of Rs 16,500 each for damaged houses

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said that Indiramma houses will be allotted to families who lost houses in the recent floods and extended an assistance of Rs 16,500 per family. The Minister of Revenue, Housing and Information and PR, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, held a review meeting on Monday at the



Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said that Indiramma houses will be allotted to families who lost houses in the recent floods and extended an assistance of Rs 16,500 per family. The Minister of Revenue, Housing and Information and PR, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, held a review meeting on Monday at the

Secretariat regarding the floods across Telangana.

The CM's Adviser Vem Narendra Reddy, Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari, Special Principal Secretary of Disaster Management Department Arvind Kumar and Municipal, Agriculture, Panchayat Raj, Power, Education, Roads, Housing and Irrigation officials attended the meeting.

He said that AICC chief Mallikarjuna Kharge and former party resident Sonia Gandhi have given the green signal for a caste census at the national level.

He said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka's actions are positive regarding that.

FLOOD DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

Central team to visit Telangana tomorrow

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Union Coal and Mines Minister G. Kishan Reddy said a Central Team would visit Telangana on September 11 to survey flood-affected areas and assess the damage.

In a statement, Kishan said the Central Team would have a meeting with victims and officials. Kishan said that he had spoken to Home Ministry Joint Secretary KP Singh who is leading the team and had given him the details. The 6-member Central Team

Bhatti urges cut in GST on medical insurance premiums

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka who handles the Finance portfolio attended the 54th meeting of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council in New Delhi on Monday.

The meeting, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, addressed key tax issues.

During the meeting, Bhatti proposed several changes like exempting research grants or donations from the government and private agencies from GST.

He also sought a reduction in the GST rate on health insurance premiums from the current 18% to 5%,



stressing that it should apply to all age groups. For senior citizens, he requested complete GST exemption for health insurance premiums. Highlighting the growing burden

of healthcare costs, Bhatti said that access to quality healthcare must be ensured for the middle and lower-middle classes. "It is the responsibility of a people's government to make health insurance affordable to all," he stated.

The Council responded by forming a Group of Ministers (GoM) to review taxability on various insurance policies, including group and family policies. The GoM is expected to submit its recommendations within a month.

The same GoM is also tasked with exploring possible GST reductions for life insurance premiums. Bhatti volunteered to join this GoM.

Govt to provide Aadhaar style IDs to farmers

To begin registration across nation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a major push towards digitising the agriculture sector, the government will soon begin registration of farmers across the country to provide them with a unique ID similar to Aadhaar, Agriculture Secretary Devesh Chaturvedi said on Monday.

Chaturvedi, speaking to PTI on the sidelines of an Outlook Agri-Tech Summit and Swaraj Awards, said the guidelines for the registration process will be issued soon, with the implementation set to

begin in the first week of October. "Our target is to register five crore farmers by March next year," the secretary said, noting that the initiative is part of the government's Rs 2,817-crore Digital Agriculture Mission approved by the Cabinet recently.

A pilot project was earlier conducted in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, and 19 states have already onboarded the project, he said.

Once the farmers' registry is created, an "Aadhaar-like unique ID" will be provided to each registered farmer.

2 sarees each for 63 lakh women of SHGs every year: CM

IIHT to be named after Konda Laxman Babuji

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
In a move aimed at helping women as well as the weaving community, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy announced that instead of Bathukamma sarees the 63 lakh women of Self-Help Groups across Telangana will receive two sarees each annually. The CM made the announcement during the inauguration of the Indian Institute of Handloom Technology (IIHT) in Hyderabad on Monday, marking

ing a major step in the government's efforts to empower weavers. The IIHT would be named after Konda Laxman Babuji. Speaking about the Bathukamma saree distribution of the BRS, the CM said that they lacked quality and the dues were never paid to weavers. Konda Laxman Babuji is synonymous with his sacrifice for Telangana. He even gave shelter to the TRS by setting up an office. The people of Telangana have seen resigna-

tions, elections and collections from 2001 to 2014. Those who came with empty hands and rubber slippers now have newspapers, houses, farmhouses in Gajwel, bungalows in Jubilee Hills and properties worth crores. The word sacrifice does not suit you KCR. He said the government has already directed officials to ensure the production of 1.30 crore sarees every year to meet the requirements of this plan. The Chief Minister expressed disappointment at the failure of the BRS govern-

ment to establish the IIHT in Telangana, forcing students to go to Odisha and AP to pursue handloom technology courses. "In the last 10 years, nothing was done to set up an institute like this in Telangana," Revanth said. His government, he explained, took up the matter with the Centre soon after coming to power. "I appealed to the Prime Minister, and I am happy to announce that the Centre approved the institute," he added. The IIHT will provide educational opportunities for students in the state.

Syria wins Intercontinental Cup 2024

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
Syria emerged victorious in the Intercontinental Cup (4th Edition) 2024 held at Gachibowli Stadium in Hyderabad. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy congratulated the winners and awarded the prestigious Intercontinental Cup 2024 to the Syrian team. The tournament, which started on the 3rd of this month, saw a thrilling final match between India and Syria. During the event, Revanth Reddy praised the players' efforts and emphasized the importance of such international tournaments in promoting football and fostering sportsmanship among nations.

DEVELOPMENT OF SEC' BAD RAIL STATION, CHERLAPALLY TERMINAL Central Min Kishan seeks CM's help

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
Union Coal and Mines Minister G. Kishan Reddy sent a letter to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy seeking the TG Government's cooperation for the development of the Secunderabad Railway Station, expansion of the Cheralapally Terminal and the widening of

roads. In his letter addressed on Monday, Kishan said that Prime Minister Modi will visit the State to inaugurate the Cheralapally Terminal. He appealed to the CM to finish works of the roads as soon as possible. It may be recalled that the Union Minister of State for Railways, Ranvith Singh Bittu, during his recent visit to

Telangana, assured that the Centre will cooperate to develop the Secunderabad Railway Station, the Cheralapally Terminal and roads. He revealed that the Centre is taking up the development of the Secunderabad Railway Station at a cost of Rs 700 crore and is planning to complete it by 2026.

BJP hails HC verdict on defections

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
The BJP has welcomed the HC verdict regarding defections. BJP Parliamentary Party Board member Dr K. Laxman said that some people are becoming ministers by joining other political parties after winning on another party's ticket. He said the Congress too has engineered defections like the BRS. Speaking to the media on Monday, he said that Congress is running an inefficient admin in Telangana. The CM and Ministers are doing nothing for the people except going to New Delhi frequently. The CM and Ministers have become slaves of their Delhi bosses, he said. Laxman said that the public health system in TG has been destroyed and that the Congress government launched HYDRAA only to divert public attention. The Congress government is running HYDRAA through GOs without making it law, he said. He said the Congress government reduced the number of RTC buses after introducing the free bus travel scheme for women.

India, UAE ink four key pacts to expand ties

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
India and the United Arab Emirates on Monday inked four major pacts that will facilitate crude oil storage, long-term supply of LNG and cooperation in the civil nuclear energy sector as Prime Minister Narendra Modi held wide-ranging talks with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Khalid bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan focusing on boosting overall strategic ties. In their discussions, the two leaders underscored the need to explore new areas of untapped potential, particularly in nuclear energy, critical minerals, green hydrogen, artificial intelligence and cutting-edge technologies, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). An agreement for the



long-term supply of one million metric tonnes of LNG (liquefied natural gas) per annum to the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd by Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and another between ADNOC and India Strategic Petroleum Reserve Ltd (ISPRL) are among the four pacts, the MEA said. Emirates Nuclear Energy Company (ENEC) and Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) also inked a pact that is expected to enhance cooperation in the operation and maintenance of nuclear power plants, the sourcing of nuclear goods and services from India. It will also provide a framework for exploring mutual investment opportunities and capacity building in the civil nuclear domain.

Six SCR staff honoured for detecting breaches

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
Arun Kumar Jain, General Manager, South Central Railway presented Certificates of Merit to six employees for timely detection of the breaches on tracks during the recent heavy rains and for averting a major mishap. He released a booklet on "Performance & Achievements (2022-23, 2023-24) - Two glorious years of Excellence" on Monday at Rail Nilayam, Secunderabad. The General Manager awarded Certificate of Merit to G Mohan, Trackman /Nekkonda, B Jagadeesh, Trackman/Mahbubabad, K Krishna, Trackman/Mahbubabad, B Zail Singh, Bridge Man/Mahbubabad, V Saida Naik, JE/PW/Mahbubabad, P Raja Mouli, SSE/PW/Mahbubabad, for absolute dedication and alertness while discharging their duties.

Conspiracy by Centre, Left parties involved

Mamata on RG Kar protests

PNS ■ KOLKATA
West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday alleged that the Centre was conspiring over public outcry involving the alleged rape and murder of a doctor at a state-run hospital last month. She also claimed that some Left parties were involved in it. Speaking at an administrative review meeting at the state secretariat - Nabanna, Banerjee also claimed she had never offered money to the deceased doctor's parents, dismissing a campaign that the family members of the postgraduate trainee were offered money. Banerjee urged people to "return to festivities" as Durga

puja is round the corner. "I have never offered money to the deceased doctor's family, this is nothing but slander. I have told the parents that if they wanted to do something in their daughter's memory, our government is with them. I know when to speak what," Banerjee said. "This (protest following RG Kar incident) is definitely a conspiracy by the Centre and some Left parties are also involved in it. Some people are taking advantage of the turmoil in the neighbouring country. They have forgotten that India and Bangladesh are separate nations," she said. Banerjee, who also takes care of the home department, said Kolkata Police Commissioner



Vineet Goyal has offered to resign in the wake of the protests but "we need someone who knows law and order ahead of Durga puja". The Bengal CM also requested the junior doctors to resume duty as soon as possible. The body of a woman doctor was recovered from the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital on August 9. The postgraduate trainee doctor was allegedly raped and murdered while on duty in the health facility. The incident triggered a nationwide protest.

RSS and BJP want women to stay at home

Rahul tells Indian diaspora in US

PNS ■ WASHINGTON
Love, respect and humility are missing in Indian politics, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said while addressing the Indian American community in Texas, where he also accused the RSS and the BJP of believing that women should stay at home. Gandhi was addressing the Indian American community in Texas on Sunday in Dallas during his first interaction with the Indian diaspora after becoming Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha this summer. During an interaction at



another event, Gandhi said that the attitude of Indian men towards women needs to change. The 54-year-old said he is a supporter of women's participation in politics starting with the women's reservation bill. Gandhi said women should be supported financially if they want to start a business and they should be treated

equally to men. "The BJP and the RSS believe that women should be restricted to a particular role. They should stay at home, they should cook the food, they should not talk too much and we believe that women should aspire to whatever they want to do," the Congress leader said. "The RSS believes that India is one idea. We believe that India is a multiplicity of ideas," he said during his address to the Indian American community. "Very much like the United States, we believe everybody should be allowed

KOL DOC RAPE-MURDER SC voices concern over missing documents

Asks striking medics to resume work by Today

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Monday voiced concern over the absence of the "challan", a key document forwarding the body of the junior doctor who was raped and murdered at R G Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata for post-mortem, from the records presented before it and sought a report from the West Bengal government. Amid continued protests by resident doctors who have stopped work following the rape and murder incident, the top court directed them to resume their duties by 5 p.m. on Tuesday to avoid adverse action by the state government which claimed their strike has



led to 23 deaths. The court passed the direction after the West Bengal government assured it that no action, including punitive transfers, shall be taken against the protesting doctors if they resume work. A bench headed by Chief Justice D Y

Chandrachud said there was no reference to the 'challan' issued before the post-mortem and sought answers from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which is probing the incident that shook the nation's conscience and triggered massive protests in West Bengal.



'Budameru bund raised by 0.3 m'

Geo-membrane sheets used to arrest leakage

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA
Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh has been monitoring the Budameru flood situation through drone surveillance, coordinating with Irrigation Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu. The leakages in the newly constructed bund on the Budameru canal were sealed using geo-membrane sheets on Monday, with officials completing the task by raising the bund's height by another 0.3 metres where breaches had occurred. Minister Lokesh is regularly reviewing the flood surge affecting Budameru with the authorities. Seepage has been reduced from 500 cusecs to 200 cusecs in the breached area, thanks to urgent measures taken. Lokesh ordered officials to ensure that the seepage is stopped entirely. By evening, after applying the geo-membrane sheets to arrest the leakage, the issue was fully resolved.

Scientists identify antibody to counter all COVID-19 variants

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
Researchers have discovered an antibody that could counter all known variants of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 and also distantly related ones that infect other animals. SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus causing COVID-19, uses its spike protein to invade and infect another individual, or the host. Antibodies, produced by the host in response, bind to the spike protein to block its action and prevent infection. The researchers, led by those at The University of Texas in Austin, US, isolated the antibody 'SC27' from the plasma donated by four patients. These patients had breakthrough infections, which occur when a vaccinated individual gets infected. The research has been published in the journal Cell Reports Medicine. Over the more than four years since the first case of COVID-19 emerged,



SARS-CoV-2 has evolved to acquire certain characteristics which make the virus resistant to vaccines and treatments. The authors said the 'SC27' antibody recognised all these various characteristics of the spike proteins across COVID-19 variants. "One goal of this research, and vaccinology in general, is to work toward a universal vaccine that can generate antibodies and create an immune response with broad protection to a

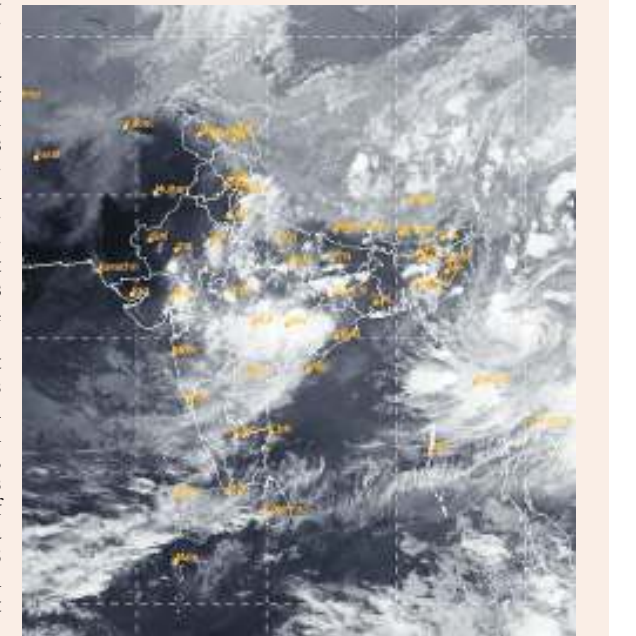
rapidly mutating virus," said one of the lead authors William Voss, a PhD graduate in cell and molecular biology at The University of Texas. However, the authors also acknowledged that "the small number of individuals analysed may limit the interpretation of the data and leave it unclear how common the SC27-like antibody might be in human populations." The researchers used the technology IgG proteomics, or 'Ig-Seq', to study hybrid immunity, which is one's antibody response to both infection and vaccination. "The discovery of SC27, and other antibodies like it in the future, will help us better protect the population against current and future COVID-19 variants," study author Jason Lavinder from The University of Texas. The researchers also found that hybrid immunity offered an increased protection against the disease, compared with infection or vaccination alone.

Deep depression headed towards Odisha coast

PNS ■ GUNTUR
A deep depression over the northwest and adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal has been moving north-northwestward at a speed of 10 km/h over the past six hours, the Meteorological Centre reported on Monday. As of 08:30 hours on Monday, the deep depression was centred approximately 50 km east-southeast of Puri (Odisha), 90 km southwest of Paradip (Odisha), 140 km east-northeast of Gopalpur (Odisha), 140 km south-southwest of Chandbali (Odisha), 260 km east-northeast of Kalingapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), and 260 km south-southwest of Digha (West Bengal).

Thunderstorms, along with lightning and strong surface winds of 30-40 km/h, are anticipated in isolated locations in Coastal Andhra Pradesh over the next 24 hours. Strong surface winds within the same speed range are also expected in Rayalaseema over the next five days and in North and South Coastal Andhra Pradesh from 10 to 13 September. Light to moderate rain or thundershowers are likely in many areas across North and South Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema over the next seven days. Rainfall has been recorded in most parts of Coastal Andhra Pradesh and at a few locations in Rayalaseema over the past 24 hours, the report added.

The Met Office stated that the deep depression is expected to continue moving north-west and cross the Odisha coast near Puri within the next three hours. It will then advance further inland across Odisha, maintaining its intensity as a deep depression until this evening, before weakening into a depression by midnight. The system is forecast to move west-northwest across Chhattisgarh over the next 24 hours. Meanwhile, the southwest monsoon remains vigorous in Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam but is weak in Rayalaseema. Consequently, heavy to very heavy rainfall is expected in isolated areas of North Coastal Andhra Pradesh over the next 48 hours and in South Coastal Andhra Pradesh over the next 24 hours.



TODAY ALMANAC
Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha
Tithi: Saptami: Sep 09 09:53 PM to Sep 10 11:12 PM
Ashtami: Sep 10 11:12 PM to Sep 11 11:46 PM
Nakshatram: Anuradha: Sep 09 06:04 PM to Sep 10 08:04 PM
Jyeshtha: Sep 10 08:04 PM to Sep 11 09:21 PM
Rahukalam: 3:15 PM to 4:47 PM
Yamagandam: 9:10 AM to 10:41 AM
Varjyam: 01:58 AM to 03:39 AM
Gulika: 12:12 PM to 1:44 PM
Amritakalam: 08:48 AM to 10:32 AM
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:48 AM to 12:37 PM
HYDERABAD WEATHER
Forecast: Mostly Cloudy
Temp: 28°C
Humidity: 78%
Sunrise: 6:04 AM
Sunset: 6:22 PM
Updated: September 9, 2024 5:00 PM

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Celebrate Onam

An exquisite feast! 2024. immerse yourself in the true essence of Kerala with special Onam Sadhya Thali. Delight in a vibrant selection of traditional dishes, thoughtfully crafted to honour this joyous festival. This limited-time feast is a celebration not to be missed.

Venue

Aidu Restaurant
Plot no 1057/G, Road No. 45, beside SBI Bank, Nandagiri Hills, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad, From September 9th to 15th

Free Homeo Camp

In the backdrop of the city being gripped with dengue, chikungunya, malaria and viral fevers. FTCCI is organising the camp. Top experts from Allopathy & AYUSH will address the prevention, treatment and post fever care. Free Homeopathic Consultation & Medicine distribution by the Experts from the Govt Medical College from 2 pm to 5 pm the same day.

Venue

Federation House ,Red Hills
September 12th at 4 pm.

Prajavani postponed to Wednesday

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Prajavani session, originally scheduled for Tuesday (September 10), has been postponed to the next day, Wednesday, (September 11), due to important meetings. The Prajavani programme is organised twice every week at the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Prajabhavan, Begumpet, to address public grievances. The petitioners are requested to note the change in timings.

City Pioneer



HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

03



Priority for welfare of field staff: Rachakonda CP

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Rachakonda Commissioner of Police Sudheer Babu emphasised the importance of prioritising the welfare of field-level staff, during a programme where he distributed 500 newly designed white caps to Rachakonda traffic personnel. These caps, significantly lighter than the previous helmets, aim to provide more comfort and protection to staff from sun and rain, making their duties easier.

Meanwhile, CP Sudheer Babu visited Saroor Nagar pond to inspect the arrangements for the upcoming Ganesh immersion. He assured that all necessary measures are being taken to ensure smooth Ganesh Navratri celebrations in Rachakonda. Eight cranes will be deployed for the immersion at Saroor Nagar, along with facilities such as barricades, fresh water, yard swimming pools and lighting, in collaboration with the GHMC.

PHONE-TAPPING CASE
Accused snooped on 119 Cong incharges during elections

Ex Nakrekal MLA Chirumarthi Lingaiah's name mentioned in case



CHITHALURI REVANTH
revanth.chithaluri@gmail.com
■ HYDERABAD

The phone-tapping case accused had intercepted all the 119 Congress incharges during 2023 elections, said the Public Prosecutor. He said that they have also snooped on the phones of collectors, revenue and other officials.

The phone-tapping case was registered with the Panjagutta police on March 10, 2023. The complainant said that the accused destroyed 17 hard disks of the Special Intelligence Bureau (SIB) on December 4. As of now, there are six accused in this case. They are Prabhakar Rao, Praneeth Rao, Bhujanga Rao, Thirupathanna,

Radha Kishan Rao and Sravan Rao. Out of the six accused, Prabhakar Rao and Sravan Rao are absconding.

Justice Juvvadi Sridevi of Telangana High Court on Monday heard the bail petition of accused Mekala Thirupathanna. During the bail arguments, Public Prosecutor Palle Nageshwar Rao said that during 2023 Assembly elections they have created whatsapp groups to help the then ruling party in the State, the BRS. "Even some of the Collectors and RDOs and other official phone calls were tapped", said the Counsel.

The counsel said that the police have seized the belongings of accused M Thirupathanna when he was arrested. As part of the procedure, the police sent the gadgets to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) for more information.

Case against ACP Bhujanga Rao for forgery

The Economics Offence Wing (EOW) of Cyberabad Commissionerate on Thursday filed a criminal case against four accused, including one of the phone-tapping case accused Bhujanga Rao. The petitioner Mir Abbas Ali Khan filed a case against SS Moinuddin, Srinivas Rao of Prime Properties and Chalamalasetty Anil, the MD of Greenko Company. The complainant alleged that they fabricated and created false documents by forgery of signatures of his late father, impersonation of his late father and other criminal activities. "They have done it with an

intention to illegally grab and usurp my father's land in Sy.No.1007 of Kukatpally, admeasuring about 340 acres by threatening our family members with dire consequences and for providing protection to our lives from the goondas of those persons," the complainant said. "His father late Nawab Mir Hashim Ali Khan (Hashim Ali for short) is the owner and possessor of an extent of about 340 acres in Sy.No.1007 situated in Kukatpally, Hyderabad which was arranged by his grandfather namely, Nawab Rayees Yar Jung under a sale deed", the petitioner said.

The Counsel for the accused said that according to the chargesheet, the accused had gathered only Call Data Record (CDR). The Counsel for the

State said that the police received the FSL reports after filing the chargesheet.

The Counsel said that then Nakrekal MLA (Chirumarthi Lingaiah) sent SMS to the accused to intercept the phone calls of some people to target them. "The then ruling party MLA sent the SMS to the present accused in order to target the particular persons," the Counsel said.

After hearing the arguments, the court postponed the petition to August 18.

DISHA CASE

Sirpurkar report can be taken as evidence: HC

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The High Court on Monday said that the Sirpurkar Commission's report could be considered as evidence. The two-judge panel of Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice Srinivasa Rao heard a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) on Monday.

The Counsel for the State said that in the month of May, the single judge of the High Court passed an interim order not to take any coercive actions based on the reports. The interim petition was passed on May 1. Chief Justice Alok Aradhe said that the Counsel for the accused said that the Sirpurkar Commission report should be taken as a piece of evidence and "which should be considered not as the sole basis".

When the Counsel for the State said that FIR was registered, the Chief Justice said that the FIR is against dead persons. Senior Counsel Vrinda Grover said she is aware of that order.

"That order says, do not take 'coercive' action. The arguments advanced by me before this court, my lords, is for registration of an FIR." She said that registration of an FIR does not amount to 'coercive' actions.

She said that the Supreme Court directed to take appropriate action on the report. What that appropriate action is for the court to determine and nobody else.



Hyd PRSI re-elects Ramu as Chairman

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Public Relations Society of India (PRSI), Hyderabad chapter, has reaffirmed its leadership for the next two years with the re-election of Dr S Ramu as Chairman during the PRSI's annual general body meeting on Sunday.

Dr Ramu, a renowned journalist, educator and communication professional, expressed his gratitude for the continued trust placed in him and his team.

"We are committed to equipping public relations and corporate communication professionals with the skills needed to navigate the evolving landscape," he said.

K. Yadagiri, Assistant Professor at Dr BR Ambedkar Open University, was also re-elected as secretary for the third consecutive term.

He emphasised the team's dedication to promoting government programmes and initiatives.

The leadership highlighted the support of Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Information Minister P Srinivasa Reddy in addressing the concerns of journalists.

The re-elected team includes B Mahesh (Speed Infra) as vice-chairman, V Bhujanga Rao (Cotton Association) as treasurer and Aparna Rajhans, a faculty member at St Joseph's Degree and PG College, as joint secretary.

Other executive committee members include Rajesh Kalyana (PRO, South Central Railway), Ch Srinivasa Rao (NMDC), Dr V Sudhakar (PRO, PJTS Agricultural University), P Linga Reddy (T-Sats), PSR Murthy (Banking) and Dr Sajida Khan (TV and Film industry).

MoU with Gati Shakti for enhancing logistics of Indian Armed Forces

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Indian Army and Indian Air Force have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, Vadodara on Monday to enhance the logistics capabilities of the Indian Armed Forces. The agreement was formalised in a ceremony held in New Delhi, attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnav and Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan.

The MoU marks a pivotal step in strengthening the logistical backbone of India's military operations. It is designed to elevate the logistics expertise of personnel from both services, aligning with the government's national development plans, including the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan



2021 and the National Logistics Policy 2022.

Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnav expressed confidence in the university's role in empowering the Armed Forces with advanced logistics education and research. He emphasised that the MoU would be instrumental in bridging the gap between theoretical knowl-

edge and real-world application. "The target which we have given to Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya is that students who pass out of this university must have at least two job offers by the time they are in 3rd year of the course and they should be deciding where to go for the employment or be self-employed," he added.

Laddus stolen from Ganesha pandals in Pragathi Nagar apartments

B SRINIVAS REDDY
srinivasreddy84@gmail.com
■ HYDERABAD

Ganesh Chaturthi is currently being celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm across the city. From elaborately decorated pandals to the preparation of delectable offerings for Ganesha, people are celebrating this

10-day festival in their own unique ways.

Devotees present sweets like varieties of modaks and laddus to honour the deity. However, in a peculiar incident that unfolded in Pragathi Nagar, devotees were left bewildered.

According to videos surfaced online, thieves entered Ganesha pandals in apartments during night and took away the laddus, which were kept in front of Ganesha idol.

The peculiar incident took place in the wee hours of Monday. Laddus have been stolen in Aadhya Crystal apartment, SR Topaz and in a few

other apartments in the opposite lane of Sri Vigneshwara Grocery mart in Pragathi Nagar.

Sai Chander, resident of Vishnupriya Enclave Apartment, said "There might

be a gang of five to six people roaming in the colony and stolen laddus last night." On Monday morning, an apartment resident came down to perform puja to Ganesha, when he noticed that laddus, kept in front of the Ganesha, had been stolen.

Then they searched the CCTV cameras installed in their apartments and noticed that thieves gained entry to the apartments around 2.59 am and ran away with the laddu. One of the CCTV footage shows that one person came through the apartment gate covering his head with a towel and two more joined him after some time. They all went into the Ganesha pandal and took away the laddu.

Another resident Ramesh said, "Today, thieves entered the apartment and stole the laddu. We are worried about the security of the apartment now".

When contacted, G Ramesh, Pragathi Nagar Sub Inspector



A decorated Ganesha pandal in an apartment in Pragathi Nagar

of Police, said that a video has been circulating on social media showing that laddus have been stolen in apartments in Pragathi Nagar. But till now, nobody lodged a complaint about those incidents.

94 Lab Technicians receive posting orders from TSPSC

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A total of 94 lab technicians, selected through the Telangana State Public Service Commission (TSPSC) counselling process, were issued their posting orders on Monday.

Addressing the newly appointed employees, Dr B Ravinder Naik, Director of Public Health and Family Welfare, Telangana, emphasised the importance of serving the public effectively in their respective postings. He urged the lab technicians to deliver their best performance, stating that this ded-



CV Anand assumes office as the Commissioner of Police of Hyderabad City for the second time on Monday

"In City Police, bandobast for all other events is usually considered as quarter finals and semifinals. Ganesh immersion bandobast is considered as the finals and I am sure all officers will rise to the occasion," said CV Anand, who took charge as Hyderabad City Commissioner of police here on Monday.

Anand has assumed office as the Commissioner of Hyderabad City for the second time, following an earlier tenure from December 2021 to October 2023.

Interacting with the media in his office at Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC), the CP outlined his immediate focus areas, including ensuring the peaceful conclusion of the Ganesh idols immersion, Milad festivities and conducting a thorough review of the associated arrangements and action plan.

"Easing traffic congestion, intensifying Hyderabad Narcotics Enforcement Wing (H-NEW) operations to control drug menace and improving law and order through effective policing and crime control measures, remains our top priority," he said.

Answering a query about the strict

HYDRAA action: Criminal case on 3 for self-immolation attempt

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Madhapur Police registered a criminal case against three persons on Sunday for trying to immolate themselves at Sunnam Cheruvu while HYDRAA authorities were demolishing illegal constructions.

The petitioner said that the accused are 35-year-old Venkatesh, his wife Lakshmi (28) and Venkatesh's brother Naresh (28), who poured petrol over their bodies. In this manner, the accused interrupted the complainant from discharging his legitimate duties.

The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA) conducted demolitions at Sunnam Cheruvu and other places on Sunday, when the residents tried to stop the officials.

The complainant is working as Assistant Executive Engineer at North Tanks Division in Hyderabad. He said that he was performing his legitimate duties as per the instructions of HYDRAA team of conducting demolition activity of illegal constructions in the Full Tank Level (FTL) zone.

Priority for peaceful conduct of Ganesh idols' immersion: Hyd CP

policing in the State, the CP said that they will practice strict policing against criminals and friendly policing with the citizens, who come to the police stations with their complaints.

He thanked Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and the State government for his new assignment.

During the previous term, CP Anand was credited with introducing a series of significant IT initiatives and reforms, including reorganisation of the City Police, H-NEW, appointing women Inspectors as SHOs and several other effective policing measures.

Anand posted an interesting matter on the Social Media X. He wrote, "Hi friends, I took charge as CP Hyderabad for the second time. It was interesting to read on the board that I was the 58th Kotwal of Hyderabad City and also I am the 61st. The Kotwali system of policing was started to manage law and order and civic issues in 1847 in the city by the Nizam.

Even today, old Hyderabadis refer to the CP as Kotwal and once we cross the Musi river and go into the South Zone, people say 'Kotwaal Saab aaye hain'. Therefore, there is some history attached to this post!.

Sridhar Babu accuses BRS of politicising loan waiver issue

The Minister has made it very clear that the Congress government is committed to welfare of farmers

PNS ■ PEDDAPALLI

Information Technology Minister D Sridhar Babu has assured the farmers that the State government would ensure that loan waiver benefits all the eligible farmers.

He accused the Opposition leaders of politicising the loan waiver issue. There are some technical problems and they would be sorted out. The Minister toured Kataram mandal area of Mandhani constituency to gain first hand knowledge of impact of floods in the area. Addressing the media here on Monday, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, Ministers, MLAs and Congress leaders have been supervising the relief measures by staying in touch with the people during the current flood situation triggered by heavy rains.

Unprecedented flood relief measures are being implemented in the state by alert-



Information Technology Minister D Sridhar Babu speaking to reporters in Peddapalli on Monday

ing the official machinery from time to time to prevent loss of life and loss to property, he said, adding that the loss to lives and property was at its minimum. The Revanth Reddy government would stand by the who have

lost their crops. During the 10 year of BRS regime, when the floods wreaked havoc, compensation was not at all paid, the minister pointed out. District administration will conduct a complete survey on the loss of

crops and take steps for disbursement of compensation. The Minister assured all support to the farmers. He advised the Opposition parties to stop making unnecessary criticism and take part in the relief measures.

JVV recommends preservation of forest in Mulugu district

PNS ■ WARANGAL

K Purushottam, president of Jana Vignana Vedika (JVV), Hanumakonda district unit, said that the organisation's environmental sub-committee investigated the destruction of the forest between Medaram and Tadvi in Mulugu district on August 31.

A team consisting of Purushottam, Dharma Prakash, Srinivas, Nageswara Rao, and Sajid conducted a field study on September 8. Their observations revealed that strong winds at 90-100 km per hour uprooted around 60,000 trees spreading over 100-150 hectares.

The destroyed forest had trees aged over 100 years, vulnerable to strong winds and heavy rainfall. Trees with trunks as wide as 100 cm were uprooted, while smaller trees were broken. Sandy soil with rocks at a depth of 4 feet contributed to the destruction.

Lack of deep roots and shallow root spread due to rocky terrain made trees vulnerable to strong winds. The forest's destruction saved surrounding villages from damage.

The Jana Vignana Vedika team recommends that the Central government establish a research center to predict and prevent natural disasters. The Telangana government's Forest Department should take immediate conservation measures after counting the fallen trees.

Following the field survey, the team met with District Forest Officer Mulugu Jadhav and discussed the prevailing situation.



Government Whip Adi Srinivas showing the plan for development of Vemulawada temple to Srungeri seer on Monday

MLA, OSD to CM, & Vemulawada temple priests visit Srungeri Peeth

PNS ■ VEMULAWADA

Government whip and local legislator Aadi Srinivas, Officer on Special Duty in the CMO Vemula Srinivasulu and Vemulawada Sri Raja Rajeswara Swamy temple authorities on Monday called on Srungeri seers, Jagadguru Bharati Teertha Maha Swamy and Vidhisekhara Bharati Swamys in Karnataka and sought permission to expand the famous Shiva temple in Vemulawada.

The team visited the Srungeripeeth in Karnataka on orders from Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. The temple team includes temple Executive Officer Vinod Reddy and priests.

Vemulawada temple earned the reputation as Varanasi of the South. To ensure speedier darshan of the deity, the temple authorities proposed to expand the temple. To secure permission of SrungeriPeeth, the MLA and OSD to CM, along with the tem-

ple authorities visited the SrungeriPeeth to secure necessary permission for temple expansion.

When the Government Whip visited the SrungeriPeeth two months ago, the seers asked him to visit them again along with the temple masterplan. Accordingly, the MLA, the OSD to CM and the temple authorities visited the SrungeriPeeth on Monday.

The seers were shown the plan for temple development and sought their permission for the expansion in tune with the Agama Sastra, the seers clarified doubts of the visiting team and gave several suggestions and blessed the team saying go ahead with expansion works. The seers gave oral orders to proceed with the expansion.

They offered to visit the temple soon and have darshan of the deity there and give their suggestions for development then and there.

Damodar assures people in flood-hit areas of all help

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

Health Minister Damodara Raja Narasimha on Monday visited Revenue Colony, Sri Chakra Colony, along with former MLA Jagga Reddy, and inspected the houses inundated there. He interacted with the flood-hit people and assured them of government support.

Speaking on this connection, the Minister said that water is flowing over three feet above Revenue Colony and flood water inundated 130 houses there. The government would initiate measures to ensure that such situation does not recur.

He assured the people that an open drain would be linked to Chandraiah Kunta, the local pond. The Minister told the people in the flood-affected areas not to get disheartened. The State government would support them and ensure that



Health Minister Damodara Raja Narasimha interacting with people in flood-hit areas in Sangareddy on Monday

they get compensation. He directed the officials of the Municipality and Irrigation Department to work in coordination to prevent recurrence of the grim situation.

Construction of houses obstructing the flow of

Yerragunta and Chandraiah Kunta water bodies led to the problems, he said. He offered to resolve the problem by construction of sluices to the tanks. Additional Collector Chandrasekhar accompanied the Minister.

Bypolls in Telangana a certainty now: Jagadish Reddy

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Bypolls in Telangana are now a certainty, said former minister and BRS MLA G Jagadish Reddy here on Monday.

Speaking to the media at the BRS party office here, Jagadish Reddy welcomed the High Court judgment regarding the defection of BRS MLA to the Congress. Earlier, Jagadish Reddy paid floral tributes to the portrait of people's poet Kaloji Narayana Rao on his birth anniversary. Former MLAs Bhupal Reddy and Ch Lingaiah also paid floral tributes to the portrait of the people's poet.

Jagadish Reddy welcomed the High Court verdict on disqualification of MLA who defected to the Congress from the BRS. The verdict would certainly increase faith in democracy. He expressed the view that the people would teach the turncoats a lesson in the bypolls. In the by-elections, he said, BRS would score a win. The Revanth government, he claimed,



Former MLA G Jagadish Reddy speaking to the media in Nalgonda on Monday

created fear psychosis by unleashing terror on people in the form of Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Monitoring and Protection (HYDRAA). Hyderabad brand image was hit, he said.

Continuing his onslaught on the government, Jagadish Reddy con-

demned the demolition of the home as 'bulldozer raj'. The Congress government was pursuing a 'political vendetta' against opposition parties. The Revanth Reddy government's actions were dangerous and unconstitutional, he added.

MLA distributes CMRF cheques to beneficiaries

PNS ■ BHADRADRI KOTHAGUDEM

Aswaraopeta MLA J Adinarayana on Monday distributed Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) cheques to beneficiaries of Pokalagudem gram panchayat at Chundrugonda mandal in the district.

He directed the local village panchayat officials to ensure that there was no water stag-

nation and resultant mosquito breeding. He visited Venkatya Thanda and enquired the people about their problems. He inspected the damaged school building and Anganwadi centre and assured the village panchayat of sending proposals to government to get new buildings sanctioned. Mandal Congress party leaders, local Congress leaders, villagers and others were present.

Singareni Collieries Workers' Union accorded recognition

PNS ■ PEDDAPALLI

The SCCL Chairman Balram Naik at a programme held at Singareni Bhavan on Monday the Singareni Collieries Workers' Union was accorded the status of Singareni-recognised trade union and handed over relevant documents to the union leaders.

In fact, the trade union was elected as the Singareni-recognised trade union eight months ago. Till Monday, the status was not accorded to the trade unions. Addressing the gathering, the SCCL chairman highlighted the role of the trade unions in the development of the colliery and desired that the same relationship should continue in future too.

Kothagudem MLA Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao appreciated the role of AITUC



SCCL Chairman Balram Naik handing over documents to Singareni recognised union at Peddapalli on Monday

in the growth of the SCCL and said that it would rededicate itself to the development of the collieries and welfare of the workers. Trade union secretary Janak Prasad spoke. GM (coordination) SDM Subhani, GM (IR, PM) Kavita Naidu, AITUC general secretary Raj Kumar, INTUC general secretary Tyagarajan and others were present.

23 residential school students hospitalised with viral fever

PNS ■ KOMURAM BHEEM ASIFABAD

At least 23 students of a Social Welfare Residential School and Junior College for Boys at Sirpur (T) have been admitted to government hospital as they are suffering from high fever. The doctors say that they are suffering from viral fever.

Condition of one of the students, named Ramtemki Pramodi of Bodhampalli village of Kautalamandal, was stated to be critical and hence he was rushed to Hyderabad for further treatment.

BRS leader RS Praveen Kumar came forward to bear the expenses of treatment for the student. Kagaz Nagar sub-collector Shradha Sukla on



Residential School students undergoing treatment in government hospital at Sirpur (T) in Komuram Bheem Asifabad district on Monday

Sunday visited the students undergoing treatment at the Government Hospital and enquired about treatment being extended to them.

The residential school principal declared a three-day holiday for the residential school and college in view of the outbreak of the viral fevers.

Woman employed in MGM hospital assaulted by colleague

PNS ■ WARANGAL

A worker in the patient care department of MGM Hospital here was assaulted by leader of the patient care on Monday following differences between the two over the alleged payment of monthly bribe.

The victim was identified as Sumalata, employed in the patient care wing of the hospital. Her attacker was identified as Rajamma.

In full view of others, Rajamma tied Sumalata with chains and assaulted her demanding that the latter pay her monthly bribe since it was she who was responsible for the placement of Sumalata in the hospital, it is alleged.

In the assault, Sumalata sustained serious injuries. Her mobile phone was also damaged in the melee.

Sumalata lodged a complaint with Mattewada police station in Warangal. The police are investigating the case.

Kaveri varsity to establish drone pilot training academy

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

Kaveri University, Siddipet, has collaborated with Marut Drone Academy (MDA) to establish a new drone academy in Siddipet.

Recognising the need to align drone education with industry demands, officials of both sides entered into a strategic partnership for drone-centric education and technology collaboration on Monday. The state-of-the-art drone academy offers four dedicated flying zones, totaling an expansive area of 15,300 square meters, with national objectives of skill development and technolog-

ical advancement in rural areas, the Remote Pilot Training Organization (RPTO) will offer top-tier drone pilot training and industry-specific skill development programs to train rural youth from tier II and III as drone entrepreneurs, according to university officials.

The initiative is also in line with empowering women Self Help groups under the Nammo Drone Didi scheme which aims to train 15,000 women to operate drones for agricultural purposes such as fertilizer sowing, crop monitoring and seed sowing, thereby creating new livelihood opportunities for women.

Currently, the Academy aims to provide drone pilot training to over 1000 people annually. It offers agrif specific courses like Agri Spraying - Drone SoPs, Drone Agri Analytics, Drone Repair and Maintenance, Precision agriculture, digital agriculture etc. The Kaveri University Drone Academy will work closely with National Bank For Agriculture And Rural Development (NABARD), Farmer producer organisations, Community Health Centres (CHCs), NGOs to promote the adoption of drone technology in tier II and III regions in Telangana.

Dr Velchala Praveen Rao, Vice Chancellor, Kaveri University said, "Building on our experience and past efforts with Kaveri Seeds and the Centre of Excellence with Marut Drones, we're set to offer specialised agriculture training using the Marut AG365 drone, at Kaveri University."

Sai Kumar Chintala, CEO - Marut Drone Academy, stated, "In the next three years, approximately one million people are expected to use drones in their industries. However, there is a significant shortage of skilled pilots, with only 10,000 trained professionals available."

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA WANAPARTHY DISTRICT GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY									
No. 21 1204 WANAPARTHY TUESDAY DATE: 13-08-2024									
No. G/98/2024 Dated: 13.08.2024									
The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013									
As per Section -11 (1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Central Act No. 30/2013) and sub Rule (1) of Rule -25 FORM - VI (NOTIFICATION)									
PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION									
Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana / Collector, Wanaparthy that total of Ac (4-14) Gts Land is required in the village namely Gopalapur village of Pangal Mandal, Wanaparthy District and Division for public purpose namely proposed for MGILSP - Minor-3L on Major -4 of Districtary-8 of MGILSP, from K.M 0.000 to K.M 0.560 (Package No.29).									
Therefore, it is notified that for the above said canal, the village namely Gopalapur a Village of Pangal Mandal, Wanaparthy District and Division land measuring more or less Ac (4.14) Gts of standard measurement, whose detail description is as follows is proposed for acquisition.									
SCHEDULE									
Sl. No.	Patta No. / FF or Govt.	Total Extent to be acquired	Name of the Patta/ Cultivator	Boundaries					
				North	South	East	West		
1	38	00.17	Boledu/Balasaju S/o Balasah	VB	36	36	36		
2		00.16	Medde Chittababu S/o Balasah	VB	36	36	36		
3		00.07	Medde Mannelu S/o Balasah	VB	36	36	36		
4		0.0514	Marigilla Bhavananna W/o Thirupatalah	VB	36	36	36		
5		0.0514	Medde Raju S/o Balaswamy	VB	36	36	36		
6		00.07	Medde Bhichanna S/o Balaswamy	VB	36	36	36		
7	35	00.15	Medde Ramchandraiah S/o Medde Ramulu	VB	28	36	31		
8		00.15	Medde Arjaneyulu S/o Medde Balaswamy	VB					
9		00.02	Sakkal Dokaiah & Srinu S/o Narsimha						
10		00.16	Neeslam Narsimha & Krishnaiah S/o Kurmana						
11		00.12	Neeslam Chintu Rayudu S/o Neeslam Gutalaiah						
12		00.15	Neeslam Srinivas S/o Chensiah						
13		00.05	Neeslam Ravinder S/o Kanniah						
14		00.05	Neeslam Venkat Ramulu S/o Kanniah						
15		00.04	Vattalu Kashanna S/o Narsimha						
16	26	00.04	Putta Devamma W/o Bhanganiah						
17		00.04	Vattalu Kashanna S/o Narsimha						
18		00.09	1. Vattalu Dasiah 2. Vattalu Shivudu 3. Vattalu Shanabiah 4. Vattalu Srinu S/o Chintu Balasah						
19		00.10	Vattalu Venkateswara W/o Balaswamy						
TOTAL:				4.14					

Such advertisement relates to whomsoever it may concern under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Central Act No. 30/2013) and following an exemption as per the Section - 11 (1) to inform the concerned people.

The plan related to the lands and other details can be inspected at the office of the District Collector, Wanaparthy and the Special Deputy Collector (LA), RLISPI-II, Pebbair HQ at IDCC, Wanaparthy, The Telangana Government / Collector and his Staff are authorized to enter into the land mentioned in the above schedule survey and take the measurements or to dig the land to check sub-soil and lay a bore to find out the quality of the land and are permitted to take up necessary steps under Section -12 of Act.

As per Section - 11 (4), no one is permitted to do any kind of transactions such as sales/purchases/mortgage with reference to such land in the above cited schedule without the notice of the District Collector, after the date of issuance of this notification. As per Section - 11 (5) the owners of the land in the above mentioned schedule should bring to the notice of the Land Acquisition Officer / District Collector, Wanaparthy, IDCC, Wanaparthy, or the official concerned, in writing, if they have any objections with regard to the acquisition of their land, duly submitting the necessary proofs within 60 (Sixty) days of the issuance of such preliminary notification in the daily news paper.

Sd/- Special Deputy Collector (LA), RLISPI-II, Pebbair, Hq: Wanaparthy
Sd/- Addl. Collector, Wanaparthy
Sd/- Dist. Collector, Wanaparthy
DIPR No.238/LA/PP-Pub/2024-25

ACROSS THE STATES



World Bank experts praise Kerala's education reforms

In a significant boost to Kerala's efforts to revamp its higher education system, a team of World Bank experts on Monday met with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, praising the state's reforms and expressing interest in a collaborative initiative to draw international students to the state. The World Bank experts, including Nina Arnhold (Global Lead for Tertiary Education), Denis Nikolaev (Senior Education Specialist), and Ambarish Ambuj (Consultant, Education, South Asia Region), met the CM at his office here to discuss a potential partnership, according to an official release. The project seeks to attract foreign students to Kerala and improve the overall higher education system, with a focus on sustainability and social justice. "The World Bank representatives were impressed by the reforms taking place in the higher education sector."



CSL launches two anti-submarine vessels of Navy

The Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) here on Monday launched two anti-submarine warfare shallow water crafts which were manufactured here for the Indian Navy. The two ships are part of the series of eight anti-submarine warfare shallow water crafts which are under construction in CSL. After the ceremonial puja, the ships were launched in the presence of the chief guest and Southern Naval Command Chief, Vice Admiral V Srinivas. The Chairman and Managing Director of CSL, the Directors of CSL, senior officials of the Indian Navy and CSL, among others were present during the occasion. A contract for building eight vessels was signed between the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the CSL on April 30, 2019.



Jaishankar says India supports Israel-Palestine ceasefire

PNS ■ RIYADH

Describing the current situation in Gaza as India's "foremost concern", External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday said that any response must take into account the principles of humanitarian law. "We support a ceasefire as soon as possible," he added. On the larger issue, India has consistently stood for a resolution of the Palestinian issue through a two-state solution, he said. He added that India has also contributed to the building of Palestinian institutions and capacities. "Where the humanitarian situation is concerned, we have provided relief and increased our support to UNRWA," he added. The GCC is an influential grouping, comprising the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait. The total volume of India's trade with GCC countries stood at USD 184.46 billion in the financial year 2022-23. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday held a series of meetings with his counterparts from the Gulf countries during which he reviewed the progress in the bilateral relations and discussed ways to further deepen them.

Jaishankar arrived in the Saudi capital Sunday on the first leg of his three-nation tour to attend the first India-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) foreign ministers' meeting. The GCC is an influential grouping, comprising the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait. The total volume of India's trade with GCC countries stood at USD 184.46 billion in the financial year 2022-23. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday held a series of meetings with his counterparts from the Gulf countries during which he reviewed the progress in the bilateral relations and discussed ways to further deepen them.

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India, UAE can deliver more effective results: Prez

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and the United Arab Emirates have demonstrated that "women-led development" can deliver more effective results for overall socio-economic development, President Droupadi Murmu said on Monday.

Her assertion came during a meeting she had with the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Khalid bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan who had called on the President at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here.

women-led development can deliver more effective results for overall socio-economic development".

The President expressed satisfaction that during the Crown Prince's visit, "We have further expanded this partnership through several agreements in new areas of cooperation".

Murmu said people-to-people ties form the bedrock of this relationship, with more than 35 lakh Indian citizens residing in the UAE.

The President said, "Our



She also praised the UAE leadership for ensuring the welfare, particularly the special care taken during the difficult times of the Covid pandemic, of more than 35 lakh Indian citizens in the West Asian country. Murmu was also happy to note the high rate of participation and contribution of women in all aspects of Emirati society, a statement issued by the President's office said. She said, "Both our countries have demonstrated that

historic yet forward-looking bilateral relationship has been transformed over the past decade", steered by the visionary leadership of both countries.

Murmu said she was pleased to be welcoming the third generation of UAE leadership to the Rashtrapati Bhavan, continuing a long tradition of high-level engagement that is in tune with India's comprehensive strategic partnership with the UAE.

IAF helicopter makes emergency landing on paddy field near Chennai

PNS ■ CHENNAI

A training helicopter of the IAF made an emergency landing on a paddy field near Porpandal near here due to a technical snag, police said on Monday.

The helicopter, being flown by two persons, suddenly malfunctioned when it neared Porpandal area in the Salavakkam police station limits. As a result, the pilot had to make an emergency landing on a paddy field, the official

said. Shortly thereafter, another helicopter was flown to provide technical assistance to the grounded chopper. After the repairs were attended, both the helicopters returned to the base, the official said.



Rajasthan: In a first, Vice Chiefs of all armed forces fly in LCA Tejas in Jodhpur

PNS ■ JODHPUR

The Vice Chiefs of all three armed forces flew in the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas, for the first time during a multilateral exercise here on Monday, an official statement said.

Jodhpur Air Force Station is hosting the second phase of the multilateral exercise "Tarang Shakti" from August 29 to September 15.

Vice Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal A.P. Singh, Vice

Swaminathan, and Vice Chief of Army Lieutenant General N.S. Raja Subramani arrived at Jodhpur Airbase and boarded the Tejas fighter jets for the flight. During the event, Air Marshal A.P. Singh of the Air Force flew the single-seater LCA Tejas fighter jet, while the Navy and Army Vice Chiefs flew in the twin-seater trainer version of the LCA.

Air Force of eight nations including India are participating with their assets and 16 other nations are witnessing the exercise as observer countries.

According to the defence spokesperson Col Amitabh Sharma, this exercise, which is the largest multinational exercise hosted by IAF, aims at strengthening interoperability between the participating forces.

A defence expo will also be organised from September 12 to 14, wherein India will showcase its indigenously manufactured weapons and aircraft to explore the global potential of defence exports by promoting Indian manufactured assets among friendly nations.



CM pushes ...

Continued from page 1

The Chief Minister emphasised the need to transform the pre-selected areas in Mucherla, spanning parts of Ranga Reddy and Mahabubnagar districts, into a world-class Green Pharma City. He urged the officials to utilise the latest global technologies for the development of the city. Revanthy Reddy stressed that all steps should be taken to ensure that Green Pharma City is

developed in an environmentally friendly and pollution-free manner. He also expressed the need for industrial development to occur without causing inconvenience to local residents. Additionally, the Chief Minister directed that those who lose land as part of the Green Pharma City project should be made stakeholders in its development. He instructed officials to prepare plans to integrate these individuals into the project.

Joined Cong following ...

Continued from page 1

of Bhadrachalam constituency. Venkat Rao said that nothing is more important than the development of the constituency.

Reacting to the High Court

verdict on Monday, Venkat Rao said that the BRS leaders think the verdict against him is something great and that BRS leaders have no right to talk about party defections. In the last 10 years, the BRS party inducted the MLAs of all political parties, however, the same BRS party leaders are now speaking on defections as it is wrong, he said.

Venkat Rao said that they are honoring the verdict of the High Court and thinking on it as to what to do in future.

Bhatti urges cut in ...

Continued from page 1

On the issue of compensation cess, Bhatti said that once the loan amount is discharged, the cess component should be added to the State GST (SGST) component to strengthen state finances. He suggested the constitu-

tion of another GoM to review this proposal and provide recommendations for future action.

Addressing the recovery of excess ad-hoc Integrated GST (IGST) apportionments made to Telangana in previous years, Bhatti pointed out discrepancies in the proposed recovery

formula.

He requested the formation of a Committee of Officers (CoO) to analyse the situation and submit a detailed report, ensuring a fair recovery process. The Council agreed to refer the matter to a CoO, which will report back within a month.

Indiramma houses for ...

Continued from page 1

Ponguleti directed officials to help flood victims on a war footing. He said that families of the dead will be given Rs 5 lakh and Indiramma Houses. He said that 33 districts have been declared as rain-affected districts.

Officials explained to the Minister that 33 people have died so far across the state due to the heavy rains.

The Minister said that thousands of houses have partially collapsed across the state. Collectors were ordered to build Indiramma houses and give them free along with Rs 5 lakh. He said that they are providing assistance at the rate of Rs 16,500 for every house

damaged in the rains. The money is being deposited in the victim's bank accounts online.

During the flood, the Chief Minister announced that he would provide financial assistance of Rs 10,000 to every family when he visited flood-affected areas, but seeing the damage done, it was increased to Rs 16,500. Authorities have been directed to provide this help to victims from Monday.

Officials told the minister that crops on lakhs of acres have been damaged as per preliminary estimates of the agriculture department. He said that financial assistance of Rs 10,000 is being provided for every acre affected by floods. Around 358 villages across Telangana are facing the threat

of floods and about 2 lakh people have been affected, he said. He said that 158 rehabilitation centres have been set up for people in flood-affected areas. He said that 2,454 people have been saved and that 13,494 people have been shifted to safe areas. Thousands of km of roads coming under the R&B department and Panchayati Raj divisions were damaged in the rains. Temporary repairs have been carried out in remote rural areas and some roads have been restored.

Collectors have been directed to send details of anganwadis, government hospitals, schools and primary health centres fully or partially damaged to the Secretariat within 24 hours.

May speed up ...

Continued from page 1

As it stands, 16 more BRS MLAs would have to join those who have already defected to enable this move. Political observers think that some BRS MLAs may be willing to make the switch either seeking new political opportunities or aligning themselves with the momentum of the defections.

The defection process came to a brief halt after 10 BRS MLAs defected. Now after the HC verdict, Revanthy Reddy can convince the Congress high command to facilitate defections from the BRS.

BRS MLAs KP Vivekananda Goud and Padi Kaushik Reddy and BJP MLA Alleti Maheshwar Reddy filed a petition in the HC seeking the disqualification of MLAs Danam Nagender, Tellam Venkata Rao and

Kadiyam Srihari. The other BRS MLAs who defected to the Congress are Prakash Goud, Gudem Mahipal Reddy, Kale Yadaya, Arikepudi Gandhi, Bandla Krishnamohan Reddy, M. Sanjay Kumar and Pocharam Srinivas Reddy.

However, the Congress seems to be okay with the possibility of by-elections if the BRS MLAs who defected face disqualification. In such a scenario, these MLAs could contest in the by-elections, with the Congress strategizing its approach to gain from the political shake-up. However, the Speaker holds the final decision on whether to disqualify or allow the defecting MLAs to continue in the Congress. There is speculation that the Speaker may seek more time to decide thereby prolonging the uncertainty.

Speaker appoints ...

Continued from page 1

principles and disregarding legislative norms. Harish Rao, a senior leader of the BRS, strongly condemned the decision, stating, "This is a mockery of democracy. In Parliament, Congress leader KC Venugopal holds the PAC chairmanship, but here in Telangana, the Congress has handed this significant position to a defector from the BRS, violating the democratic spirit." He further criticised Rahul Gandhi's stance on constitutional values, arguing that his national rhetoric doesn't align with actions in Telangana.

BRS MLA KT Rama Rao also voiced his displeasure, echoing the sentiments of Harish Rao and adding that this decision is an affront to the people of Telangana who expect transparency and fairness.

We will approach ...

Continued from page 1

BRS has the history of merging TDLP and CLP, Srihari pointed out and alleged that the BRS party corrupted the political system and ridiculed democracy.

Srihari said that they will consider approaching the Division Bench and later Supreme Court in this regard.

Reacting to the High Court verdict on defections, Kadiyam Srihari commented that the Supreme Court and High Court gave contradictory verdicts in regard to defections in the past.

Srihari opined that democracy will be preserved if the Constitutional Bench gives verdict by reviewing the defections comprehensively by clearing the confusion.

He commented that there is no rush on the High Court verdict and there is a

Division Bench and the highest Supreme Court.

He said that a decision will be taken after discussing the verdict with party leaders and legal experts.

Srihari said, "We will study the verdict delivered by the High Court after receiving the full verdict of the High Court on party defections. We will discuss with the party leaders and legal experts and formulate the future course of action. Mainly it is a judgment given by a Single Judge. If there is a possibility of going to the Division Bench, we will examine the possibilities and make a decision. There are four weeks. The Supreme Court gave a different verdict on party defections. The Telangana High Court also gave a judgment in one way in the past and today in another way"

Govt to provide ...

Continued from page 1

Chaturvedi said the unique ID will help farmers access various agricultural schemes, including the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Kisan Credit Card programme, without much hassle.

The data gathered will also aid the government in policy planning and targeted extension services. "Presently, farmers have to go through verification every time they apply for any agri schemes. It not only involves cost but some face harassment. To address this issue, we are going to create a farmers' registry," he said.

The secretary said the current government data is limited to farm land parcels and crop details provided by states, but lacks individual farmer-wise information. The new registry aims to bridge this gap. Chaturvedi urged progressive farmers, scientists and companies to spread awareness about the farmers' registration process and encourage participation. Camps will be organised across the country for the registration drive.

The government is also working on several other technological interventions, including a Kisan AI-based chatbox system, to improve services and support for farmers, the official added.

HC directs speaker ...

Continued from page 1

Speaker to decide the disqualification pleas against Bhadrachalam MLA Venkata Rao Tellam, Ghanpur Station MLA Kadiyam Srihari, and Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender. The MLAs who defected to the Congress had won elections on a BRS ticket and BRS symbol. They joined the Congress after its government took charge in Telangana. The petitioners told the court that they had sent their disqualification pleas to the Assembly Speaker by email as per the 10th

Schedule of the Constitution. However, the speaker is refusing to accept the disqualification petitions, they said and requested the court to declare that not initiating the process for deciding the disqualification petitions as illegal, arbitrary and violates the Xth Schedule of the Constitution. Disposing of the petitions, the court said that the case would be reopened suo motu if the Speaker fails to decide the issue within four weeks. During the hearing, the counsel for the respondents said that a writ of mandamus cannot be brought against the Speaker.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

India's bravehearts

India's stellar performance at the Paris Paralympics is a testament to resilience, grit, and the unyielding spirit of Indian para athletes

Former President APJ Abdul Kalam once remarked, "dreams are not what you see in sleep; dreams are those that keep you awake until they're fulfilled." The Indian squad for the Paris Paralympics has embodied this very spirit. With unwavering determination, they've shown that no dream is too big when fueled by the indomitable human will. The performance of Indian para-athletes has once again proved that sons and daughters of India have the mettle to take on the world against all odds. With the largest-ever contingent of 84 athletes, India soared to unprecedented heights, making the world sit up and take notice of the nation's sporting prowess. Their extraordinary performances went far beyond mere medal counts—they embodied the true spirit of sportsmanship and perseverance, transcending physical limitations to achieve the impossible. India's medal tally in Paris showcased a remarkable blend of talent and hard work. Winning medals across various disciplines, including athletics, archery, and badminton,



these athletes brought pride to the nation, igniting inspiration for future generations. Archery sensation Sheetal Devi, competing without hands, captured the world's attention with her sheer determination and skill, clinching a historic gold in the women's compound archery event.

Track and field athletes, always a strong suit for India, delivered breathtaking performances. The likes of Sumit Antil, who made a world record in javelin throw and Avani Lekhara, a champion rifle shooter who overcame spinal injuries to once again stand atop the podium, proved that India's strength in adaptive sports is only growing stronger. What stands out in the Indian contingent's performance is the remarkable spirit they embody. Every Paralympian carries a story of personal struggle and perseverance, but in Paris, these stories converged into one—a collective tale of breaking barriers. From training under adverse conditions to overcoming the societal stigma, these athletes have shown the world that true strength lies not in physical abilities but in mental tenacity. Athletes like Nishad Kumar in high jump, who continued to train despite financial constraints, and Bhavina Patel, a table tennis champion who overcame her polio-induced limitations, are emblematic of the fighting spirit that permeates the Indian contingent. The success in Paris is also a reflection of the increased support and recognition that para-athletes are finally receiving. Government initiatives, corporate sponsorships, and a growing awareness of inclusivity in sports have played a key role in fostering an environment where differently-abled athletes can thrive. But the success in Paris isn't just about winning medals—it's about breaking the boundaries of what para-sports can be in India. The inspiring stories of athletes like Mariyappan Thangavelu, Devendra Jhaharia, and others resonate with the idea that disability is not a limitation. They have sparked a national conversation about inclusion, diversity, and the importance of creating opportunities for all.

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PICTALK



Army jawans perform stunts during the closing ceremony of 'Know Your Army' programme in Ranchi

Freedom for all: Breaking gender stereotypes

For decades, Indian households have upheld certain gender roles—men return to a home-cooked meal while women cook after returning home from work

My wife came across a feed on her social media. "Men come back home to a cooked meal; women come home to cook a meal. It is not the women who need freedom; it is the men who should have the freedom." The first half of the statement is something that we observe in almost all Indian households. It was the second part that I could not comprehend till I introspected. I was born in 1959, a few years after India gained independence. I was the firstborn in my generation. During those days, and even now in many parts of the country, young couples are blessed by family and friends to have a male first-born. My mother told me that my paternal aunt went to the terrace to announce my birth to the locality by banging a steel plate with a spoon. "A son is born." I was a cherished and much-loved child, and then an adult. I would not say that I was unduly pampered due to my gender, though my wife and daughters disagree. One thing was certain. I



was not expected to enter the kitchen except to fetch a glass of water, and certainly not for cooking. My mother would insist on reheating the cooked food in case my wife had to go out for some work, till she could not do it any longer due to her medical condition. I was not alone in my generation to receive special treatment. A friend would be served freshly made bread by his wife, however late he returned from the office, or however tired the lady was after a hectic day spent in the kitchen or running after the children. Almost all my friends from that era were pampered first by their

mothers, aunts, sisters, and even females from the extended family, and then by their wives and daughters. Many of us, from relatively better social milieu, have raised our children to question the age-old customs. More women are going out for work. Men are also raised to help with household chores. Young couples make efforts to take care of each other. There is no gender bias. A friend's son-in-law loves cooking, especially preparing masala tea. It is almost a ritual for him to prepare tea whenever he and the daughter visit the parents. The maid and a few others were scandalized at this blatant display of deviation from the traditional, till they had tasted the special tea. The change is slow, and only in certain sections of society. Women in many families are still expected to learn the art of looking after the household, husbands, and children, even after a tiring day at work. They are made to feel guilty for leaving their newborn child at home to resume

work. Men still do not enter the kitchen, and more often are not permitted to enter the kitchen, even if they have an interest or an inherent desire to help the wife. Men need the freedom to make their choices without being judged by people. They also need the freedom to break the shackles of gender biases. Certain gender-specific roles and responsibilities were assigned based on the requirements of the times. Many of these may no longer be relevant. It is for us to adapt to changing times, and we can. We have reached where we are because of the ability of humans to change. Welsh writer and critic Stephen Bayley expresses it well, "The assumption must be that those who can see value only in tradition, or versions of it, deny man's ability to adapt to changing circumstances." (The writer is an author, speaker, coach, arbitrator and strategy consultant and conducts workshops on creative writing; views are personal)



SANJAY CHANDRA

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The onion price and poll dynamics



SHIVAJI SARKAR

Soaring onion prices are causing concern for both consumers and politicians alike, with historical evidence showing that onion price can sway electoral outcomes

Kya pyaj rulayega – Would the onion bring tears? – is the common refrain in poll-bound states of Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir and Maharashtra. and many a time it has hit not only the common man but even the political masters. The rise in Indian onion prices is feared to spurt international prices and food bills. Could the prices come down to wipe off tears? Maybe not. Its support prices have increased manifold. The Centre is procuring onion at a price 74 per cent higher than last year in Maharashtra, the highest onion-growing state.

Last year, onion was procured at Rs 16.93 per kg. This year it is being procured at Rs 29.5 per kg through direct benefit transfer (DBT) to eliminate middlemen. The centre is not taking any chances. It is selling through NAFED outlets, mobile vans and others at Rs 35. For how long it could be sustained? Even at Rs 16.93 per kg procurement, national prices rarely came down below Rs 30 a kg. Onion prices hover around Rs 60 and 70 a kg. The overall national prices are unlikely to come down as the Maharashtra government is investing Rs 1500 crore to buy onion from the state to keep its farmers and traders happy to secure a political future. The government imposed a ban on onion exports in December 2023 to curb rising retail onion prices, ahead of the Lok Sabha election. It led to a fall in onion prices by approximately 40 per cent from Rs. 42.2 a kg in December 2023 to Rs. 24.5 kg in March 2024. On 23rd March 2024, the ban was extended indefinitely Lok Sabha election. Prices lowered. The declining onion prices continued to create uproar among the farmers and traders. The government lifted the ban with the third phase of polling on May 4 to six countries - Bangladesh, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bhutan, Bahrain, Mauritius, and Sri Lanka. Historically, high onion prices have led to discontent among consumers, whereas lower onion prices have upset a large voting bloc of farmers,



making the onion market a crucial topic for the government, especially around elections. India is one of the largest producers and consumers of onions and fluctuations in onion prices have large-scale socio-economic impacts on the domestic and international markets. In 2023-24 yield came down by 15 percent to around 25.47 million tonnes (MT), compared to the previous year's production of about 30.21 MT, according to an official release. The production may further fall this year. Traders fear that despite the lifting of the ban with 40 per cent export duties Indian onion remains highly-priced at \$ 770 per MT (Rs 64 a kg). The Egyptian onion is sold at \$ 387 per MT, almost half of the Indian price making it uncompetitive. Countries such as Egypt, Pakistan and China compete with India in the Asian onion export market. The onion has been a political game-changer since the 1980 general elections when rising onion prices contributed to the return of Indira Gandhi to power wiping out the Janata Party. Again because of high onion prices in 1998, the BJP lost to the Congress despite having changed its chief minister a few months before. In the 2024 Lok Sabha 2024 elections, the BJP has significant losses in



INDIA IS ONE OF THE LARGEST PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS OF ONIONS AND FLUCTUATIONS IN ONION PRICES HAVE LARGE-SCALE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS ON THE DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

Maharashtra's onion-growing belt. Except for one seat, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has been completely trounced in this crucial agricultural region. Out of the 13 Lok Sabha constituencies where the majority of onion farmers are concentrated, 12 have been won by the opposing INDIA bloc. This is a stark contrast to the 2019 parliamentary elections, where NDA — comprising BJP and formerly united Shiv Sena — won 11 out of these 13 seats, with BJP alone securing seven. Since the extension of the export ban, there has been simmering anger among onion cultivators of Nasik, which has the largest Asian onion market at Lasangaon. The export ban led to significant financial losses for farmers, who struggled to recover their cultivation costs as wholesale prices nosedived. Other major constituencies with significant onion grower populations, such as Dhule, Ahmednagar, Nandurbar, Baramati, Beed, Latur, Maval, Shirur, Solapur, Shirdi and Osmanabad, also saw NDA's influence wane. The government has also decided to fill in the state emergency reserves with 500,000 tonnes of onions for the 2024-25 period. This initiative aims to mitigate future price volatility and protect farmers from sudden market fluctuations. It is also planning to increase

27 per cent onion acreage during the kharif season for onion in addition to the rabi crop. According to food analyst Mintec Analytics of the UK, the BJP has historically invested more in manufacturing and infrastructural development than in agricultural growth. Agricultural exports reached \$ 48.9 billion in 2023-24, a decline of 8 per cent from \$ 53.2 billion in FY 2022-23. The export value in FY 2023-24 is significantly short of the ambitious target of \$ 60 billion set by the BJP government. Also, the agri-exports during the last 10 years grew by 1.9 per cent since 2014 against the annual average growth rate of 20 during 2004-14. The onion is a staple vegetable for the poor, indispensable to many Indian cuisines and recipes, from spicy curries to tangy relishes. "In Maharashtra, if there are no vegetables or you can't afford to buy vegetables, people eat 'kanda bhakari' (onion with bread)," says a food historian Dr Mohseena Mukadam. It is more than butter for politicians, whose success depends on how they can handle the onion. The cheers and tears of impending state elections are closely linked with onion. (The author is a senior journalist; views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FRESH VIOLENCE IN MANIPUR

Madam — Manipur is back on the boil given to fresh ethnic conflagrations that erupted between Kuki and Meitei groups have disrupted peace and paralysed normal lives. The recent rocket attack in Moirang village and brutal murder of six Meitei people after that by the suspected Kuki militants is a desperate attempt to derail the peace process initiated under the auspices of Home Minister Amit Shah who has been closely monitoring the law and order situation in the state with priority. Its been more than a year but the violence and hatred against each other still persist and so is the remedy of this conflict. The Centre and State government' must find a possible and pragmatic solution to this problem with the stakeholders without any delay but first they need to ensure the safety of the Kuki politicians including people who have lost trust on Biren Singh's BJP regime. Janga Bahadur Sunuwar | Jalpaiguri

KERALA AT THE FOREFRONT

Madam — What makes southern states a crown jewel of India than their northern counterparts is their will to take technology, growth, generate employment opportunities, to newer levels. Now, the southern most state of India Kerala is in for a major overhaul in terms of attracting foreign capital and industry which few years ago had seen a major setback. Kerala where literacy rate is high is slowly marching forward for a conducive industrial environment in terms of attracting world class industries. The recent announcement by the Ministry of trade and commerce awarding top slot in ease of doing business reforms, has put Kerala on the world industrial pedestal. Surprisingly it has overtaken Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat while Tamil Nadu, India's most industrialised state does not even figure in the list. In the sphere of Citizen centric reforms

Water woes of rural India



Residents of rural areas often face more health problems compared to those in urban areas, primarily due to the government's greater focus on urban development and well-being facilities. One of the major causes of poor health in rural regions is the

lack of access to clean drinking water. Millions of rural inhabitants are still forced to rely on contaminated water sources. The PM Har Ghar Jal Scheme, launched in 2019, is still in progress, having achieved over 50% coverage across all states and Union Territories in terms of tap water connections. Notably, 100% coverage has been achieved in 11 states, including Punjab, Gujarat, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, among others. However, the bigger issue lies in the lack of timely maintenance and repairs. Water systems often remain clogged for months or even years, which continues to create difficulties. The government should expedite the completion of this scheme and also ensure proper maintenance. This will prevent the wastage of funds and ensure that the benefits last longer. Jakir Hussain | Kanpur

like paying taxes, obtaining permits and business centric reforms like employment exchange, public distribution system, single window clearance, etc, Kerala has shown remarkable growth. From 28th to 15th and now earning the rare distinction of leading the country's economic bandwagon, this is indeed a significant milestone that sets precedence for other states to follow suit. However modern day challenges like low job growth, less incentive for private sector to grow, high migration rate of its educated people are areas that need attention. Nonetheless, high literacy rate, life expectancy, credible human right records etc has raised its stature to a developed state. To realise 21st century M.D.G's, the stage is already set. However, there is room for improvement in every sector. Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

NEERAJ PROVES HIS EXCELLENCE

Madam — Neeraj Chopra, a Javelin Juggernaut, has once again proved it. The Olympic champion has secured his

spot in the Diamond League final, the pinnacle of track and field competition. It's where the best of the best come together to battle for supremacy. And Neeraj, with his consistent brilliance, has earned his place among them. Every throw he makes is going towards the success. This qualification marks a significant milestone for Chopra and Indian athletics. Beyond his athletic prowess, Chopra has become a symbol of inspiration for countless young athletes in India. His steadfast determination and dedication have not only propelled him to the top of the global javelin rankings but also motivated a generation to pursue their dreams in sports. As he heads to Brussels, the nation is eagerly awaiting his performance, hoping for another golden moment. Neeraj is one of the sports icon with a 'never say die' spirit. Wishing him all the best! Anansha Godani | Ujjain

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FIRST COLUMN REST IS ESSENTIAL FOR A BALANCED LIFE

True relaxation extends far beyond sleep. It is a must for rejuvenation



RACHNA LAKHPATI

In today's fast-paced world, many individuals believe that rest is limited to getting a good night's sleep. That is completely incorrect. Genuine relaxation is complex. Researchers highlight the importance of six different types of rest in maintaining overall well-being. By embracing each form of rest, individuals can achieve a more balanced and energised life. Our minds are constantly bombarded with information from various sources such as work, social media, and daily responsibilities.

With this ongoing situation, the mind will eventually succumb to fatigue and stress. To find peace of mind, it is important to detach oneself from an overwhelming fixation on the thoughts in one's head. Meditation, deep breathing exercises, or even taking quiet walks are some of the simple practices that can assist in clearing the mind and enhancing cognitive clarity. Taking regular breaks can have a positive impact on your mental well-being, boost your creativity, and improve your ability to make decisions. Additionally, it involves allowing your body sufficient time to recuperate from physical exertion. Naturally, getting sufficient rest is crucial, and it complements well with gentle physical activities, stretching, or even methods to alleviate muscle strain. Physical rest can be achieved through various methods, including sleeping, engaging in yoga exercises, or taking warm baths.

It's important to prioritise injury prevention, muscle recovery, and maintaining energy levels throughout the day. We often overlook a crucial aspect: our emotional boundaries. We strive to ensure the satisfac-



tion of those in our vicinity. Emotional rest involves acknowledging and honestly addressing your emotions. It's important to listen to your body and prioritise self-care when you're feeling exhausted and on the verge of emotional exhaustion. Discussing your thoughts with close friends or a therapist can play a crucial role in finding emotional solace. This type of rest is essential for preventing emotional overwhelm and enables you to genuinely respond to any challenges that come your way. Interacting with others is essential, although it can be quite tiring. Emphasising the importance of quality over quantity, social rest involves stepping away from large gatherings and focussing on personal well-being.

Spending time alone or with a few close friends can help you maintain a strong connection with your true self. This is about creating an environment that encourages solitude or meaningful conversations, rather than the shallow interactions that often occur in crowded places. Finding moments of spiritual rest allows us to re-establish a deep connection with the essence of life and the things that bring us fulfilment. For some individuals, this may have a religious connotation, while for others, it is more focused on nature, meditation, and mindfulness.

Experiencing spiritual rest doesn't always require a specific routine or ritual. It's more about feeling a profound connection to something larger than oneself, which can bring about a profound sense of tranquility and harmony. In our modern society, it is rare for anyone to avoid the overwhelming amount of information and stimuli that bombard us through screens and notifications. Creating a peaceful environment for relaxation includes stepping away from electronic devices, dimming the lights, and enjoying some peace.

Reclaim moments of tranquillity to rejuvenate your senses: indulge in a good book, immerse yourself in nature, or bask in the blissful absence of sound. Rest is incredibly important to minimise strain on the eyes, ears, and nervous system. Discovering the harmony among these six forms of rest will enable you to rejuvenate yourself comprehensively, leading a life that is both balanced and satisfying.

(The writer is a motivator and a freelance writer; views are personal)

A roadmap for boosting India's agri-export



A S MITTAL

By incorporating cutting-edge food processing technologies and establishing globally recognised quality standards India can push its agri-exports substantially



In a bid to give impetus to strengthen the supply chain from farm to fork, foster collaboration among global and Indian food sector stakeholders, and support food processing units near farm gates to ensure better profits for farmers and reduce post-harvest losses, The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is taking the lead by hosting 'World Food India' from September 19-22 in New Delhi. In addition, the Union Budget for 2024-25 has allocated Rs 1.52 lakh crore to prioritise agricultural sector development. This funding will focus on climate resilience, productivity, innovation, and processed food exports.

This is crucial as agricultural product exports saw an 8% decline to \$48.9 billion in 2023-24 from \$53.2 billion in 2022-23. The average annual growth rate of agri-exports was just 2% during 2014-23. Notably, five products — rice, wheat, meat, spices, sugar and tea/coffee — account for over 50 per cent of total agricultural exports and sometimes face restrictions to match the domestic demands and supplies to control inflation. Only 25 per cent of our agro-exports are processed or value-added, a figure that has remained virtually unchanged over the last decade.

This is significant due to a need for more tech-based operational size and production capacity and for meeting international standards to tap the global market. However, the success of global giants like Nestle (Switzerland), with an annual turnover of \$111 billion in the processed food and beverages sector, shows us what is possible with technology and research. Notable Indian firms in domestic processed agriculture, such as AMUL, with a turnover of \$9 billion, are far behind in operational size, production capacity, and meeting international standards. Still, they can achieve similar success with the proper support and approach.

The Global exports of processed agricultural products are nearing \$1 trillion, with Germany (\$63 billion) at the top, the US (\$58 billion), the Netherlands (\$57 bil-



IN 2020, THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED AN AGRICULTURE INFRASTRUCTURE FUND OF INR 1 TRILLION TO PROVIDE MEDIUM-TO-LONG-TERM DEBT FINANCING FOR ESTABLISHING COLD CHAINS AND POST-HARVEST MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE AT FARM GATES AND AGGREGATION POINTS

lion), China (\$53 billion), and France (\$50 billion). Southeast Asian nations like Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand are also major exporters of processed agricultural products. While, India's value-added exports increased by \$6.5 billion over the last five years since the agro-export policy was introduced to boost value-added agriculture exports, taking the total to \$15 billion, it only marginally improved our global rank from 21 to 17.

This can be surely improved. The Economic Survey 2023-24, reveals that the annual output of fruits and vegetables in India is the world's second-largest at a substantial 300 million tonnes after China, yet the processing levels at 4.5 per cent for fruits, 2.7 per cent for vegetables, 21.1 per cent for milk, 34.2 per cent for meat, and 15.4 per cent for fisheries, compared to 25-30 per cent in China and 60-80 per cent in Western countries.

This deficiency in processing capacity leads to a substantial amount of produce going to waste in India. Estimates of post-harvest losses in the country vary from 18% to 25% across the entire supply chain, though they are thought to be much higher, at up to 45%, for fruit and vegetables. NITI Aayog estimated annual post-harvest losses of close to Rs 90,000 crore. To improve this situation, it is suggested to focus on proper sorting and grading near the farm gate and enhance processing capacity. Incentivizing Farmers: It's crucial to repurpose agricultural incentives to motivate farmers to reduce losses and waste on and near farms.

In 2020, the central government announced an agriculture infrastructure fund of INR 1 trillion to provide medium-to-long-term debt financing for establishing cold chains and post-harvest man-

agement infrastructure at farm gates and aggregation points. Tamil Nadu's recent unveiling of its food processing policy is a promising step toward reducing wastage and increasing the value of farm produce.

The policy encourages Farmer's Producers Organisations (FPOs) and the food processing industry to access financial support from central schemes.

However, it's important to note that Punjab has yet to make a similar move, despite the success of neighbouring states like Haryana with their dedicated Agribusiness and Food Processing Policy. Revisit the PLI Scheme: The Production Linked Incentive Scheme for the Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI) will be Rs 10,900 crore (\$1.25 billion) from 2021-22 to 2026-27, precisely to attract large globally competitive firms to produce in and export from India. This scheme aims to expand processing capacity, grow strong Indian brands, increase global market presence, create jobs, and boost farmer incomes. As of May 2024, 90% of the PLISFPI funds still need to be utilised. The government has disbursed only Rs 1,073 crore among 158 SME beneficiaries, using only 10% of the funds over half of the timeline expired.

This underutilisation highlights the need for more focused policy intervention. To achieve the twin objectives of the PLI scheme—global competitiveness and increased exports—these SMEs must form joint ventures with globally established 'anchor' firms. Over the past decade, India has attracted Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) worth Rs 50 billion, with 100% FDI being permissible. The Way Forward: Food processing is considered India's sunrise industry and plays a crucial role in the transformation to ben-

efit farmers effectively, a multi-pronged approach combining MSP, value addition and industry integration is essential for agricultural development due to its strategic importance in providing food security.

As the world's most populous country, we exert significant environmental pressure on Earth, resulting in ecological issues such as soil degradation, loss of biodiversity, and water depletion. Within the broader food systems, waste reduction stands out as one of the leading climate change mitigation solutions, contributing to reduced emissions throughout the food supply chain from farm to fork. By incorporating cutting-edge food processing technologies, establishing globally recognized quality standards, and opening up access to international markets, this focused strategy to attract anchor global firms will help achieve our goals. Apple serves as a prime example of the success of this targeted approach in the electronics sector; it manufactures 14 per cent of the world's i-Phones in India. Electronics exports, mainly intelligent mobile phones, have surged from under \$3 billion in 2020 to \$15.6 billion in 2023 and have led to the creation of over one lakh jobs. This same model should be replicated across various industries. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries should roll out a time-bound outreach program to attract anchor global firms and facilitate their partnerships with Farmer's Producers Organisations (FPOs) and SMEs.

(The Author is Vice-Chairman of Sonalika IITL Group, Vice-Chairman of the Punjab Economic Policy and Planning Board, Chairman of ASSOCHAM Northern Region Development Council; Views expressed are personal)

Ravenshaw University renaming: A step toward decolonising India's education system

While the move may appear symbolic, it reflects the Govt's broader aim to reclaim India's intellectual heritage by dismantling British-era frameworks

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's proposal to rename Ravenshaw University in Odisha has sparked a much broader discussion about India's educational system. Though the suggestion might seem symbolic on the surface, it indicates a larger governmental intent: reclaiming India's educational heritage and aligning it with Bharat's civilisational knowledge. The renaming is part of a wider effort to challenge the enduring influence of British-established institutions and the colonial educational framework that has shaped the country for over a century. The proposal is not without complexity. While a name change may grab headlines, the true challenge lies in the com-



PADMALOCHAN DASH

prehensive realignment of India's education system—a goal that can only be achieved through the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The success of this shift hinges on integrating the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) into modern educational practices, ensuring that India's rich intellectual heritage takes its rightful place at the core of the system.

Colonial Legacy in India's Education: India's education system continues to carry the imprint of its colonial past. British institutions like Ravenshaw University were not designed to foster intellectual growth or cultural preservation but to serve the Empire's administrative needs. The British created educational institutions to produce clerks and bureaucrats who could operate within the colonial system. Unfortunately, this utilitarian approach to education persisted even after India gained independence. The leaders of the newly formed nation failed to envision an alternative model that could replace the colonial framework with a system aligned with India's civilisational goals. As a result, the Indian educa-

tion system has remained tethered to its colonial roots, prioritizing skills for a global market over intellectual, spiritual, or scientific growth. This narrow focus undermines India's holistic knowledge traditions, reducing them to exercises in skill development rather than the broader pursuit of knowledge and self-reliance. The debate over renaming Ravenshaw University, therefore, becomes symbolic of a larger struggle: breaking free from the colonial mindset that continues to shape India's educational and intellectual landscape. **The British Model: A Tool for Control:** The British education system in India was never intended to develop the intellect or spirit of the Indian people. Instead, it was designed to



produce a workforce literate in English and skilled enough to support the colonial administration. Lord Macaulay's infamous education reforms focused on turning India's vast and diverse traditional knowledge systems into utilitarian skills that could be exploited for colonial profit. As a result, India's once-thriving intellectual and cultural traditions were marginalized, forced into obscurity to serve the needs of the British Empire.

Even decades after independence, the colonial model remains entrenched. India's education system continues to prioritize skill development over fostering creativity, innovation, and intellectual growth. While skill development is undoubtedly important, the singular focus on it raises concerns about the broader vision and purpose of India's educational objectives. **Moving Beyond Skill-Building:** To truly break free from its colonial past, India must shift its focus from mere skill-building to fostering holistic individual growth. Education should nurture creativity, intellectual curiosity, and the inherent potential of every individual, paving the way for self-reliance. A system that prioritizes intellectual

vibrancy over skill production will help India reclaim its rightful place as a leader in global thought and innovation. The British colonial mindset has left a lasting impact on Indian society, one that is deeply embedded in the psyche of its educational institutions. The British aimed not only to advance their economic interests but to reshape the very thought processes of the Indian population. Their goal was to replace India's ancient knowledge systems with Western paradigms, thus weakening the cultural and intellectual foundation of the nation. In this context, renaming institutions like Ravenshaw University becomes a step toward decolonizing the Indian mind. **A Forgotten Imperative:**

Decolonizing Indian Minds The question arises: has India taken sufficient steps to decolonize its education system? The colonial indoctrination of Indian minds has lasted for generations, and its effects are still visible today. If India is serious about reclaiming its intellectual sovereignty, what concrete steps are being taken to dismantle the remnants of this colonial education system? The ultimate goal should be to create an educational framework that aligns with India's civilisational values and promotes intellectual independence. *(The author is an ICSSR-Post Doctoral Fellow, School of National Security Studies, Central University of Gujarat. The views expressed are personal)*

IN BRIEF



SBF keen to set up office in Bengaluru

The Singapore Business Federation (SBF) on Monday expressed interest in setting up its office in Bengaluru during a meeting with Karnataka Large and Medium Industries Minister MB Patil, officials said. The high-level delegation, led by Prasoona Mukherjee, Vice Chairman of SBF, assured the minister that they could create a "Singapore in Bengaluru" if the state government extended its cooperation, they said. The delegation emphasised that SBF has the necessary expertise and investment potential to make this vision a reality, officials said. Responding positively to the SBF leaders' proposal, Patil said that the government would provide all the required infrastructure, including land, water, power, and connectivity. "We will stay in continuous touch with SBF to facilitate their investment in the state," he said. The minister also invited the entrepreneurs associated with SBF to participate in Karnataka's flagship event, 'Global Investors Meet', scheduled to be held from February 12-14, 2025.



Raft Cosmic EV to Invest Rs 50 crore in Bengal

Raft Cosmic EV, a subsidiary of a Kolkata-based group, plans to invest Rs 50 crore to establish a new manufacturing plant for electric scooters at Domjur in West Bengal's Howrah district with an annual capacity of 12,000 two-wheelers. The Kolkata-based Cosmic Birla Group, which previously focused on manufacturing components for electric two-wheelers, entered the complete electric e-scooters segment in 2023 by acquiring Raft Motors in Maharashtra for Rs 40 crore. "While we are currently selling e-scooters from our Maharashtra plant acquired in 2023, our new EV plant in Domjur will be operational by October," said Aditya Vikram Birla, Chairman and Managing Director of the Cosmic Birla Group. "The new plant will feature two manufacturing lines with a combined capacity of 12,000 e-bikes per year," he said.



Oben Electric plans to launch 4 new models

Bengaluru-based electric bike maker Oben Electric is looking to launch four new e-two-wheeler models over the next six months to cater to the diverse customers' needs as well as tap more than two-thirds of the electric motorcycle market that remains untapped. The models will be launched at different price points, ranging between Rs 60,000 and Rs 1,50,000, the company said on Monday. This strategic move is aimed at offering affordable, high-performance EV solutions tailored to diverse consumer preferences across segments, the company said. "Oben Electric is gearing up for its next phase of growth. As part of this, the company plans to launch four new electric two-wheelers over the next six months, with prices starting as low as Rs 60,000 and going up to Rs 1,50,000," the two-wheeler maker said. With the electric vehicle market primed for rapid expansion, Oben Electric aims to tap into the significant potential of the two-wheeler sector, catering to an untapped 70 per cent of the motorcycle market, it said.

GOYAL TO AUTO COMPONENT MAKERS

Boost production, cut imports, target \$100 bn exports

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Monday asked Indian auto component makers to explore ways to cut reliance on imports and boost local manufacturing to make the country a net exporter of these products.



The minister also urged these companies to target USD 100 billion in exports by 2030. Addressing the auto component industry here, he expressed his concern over the continued reliance on foreign suppliers and encouraged domestic manufacturers to enhance local production capabilities.

"Many of our component manufacturers still import, I do not know whether (due to) any compulsion or voluntarily, their needs of inputs from Korea, Japan, Taiwan and one of the neighbours."

"I do not understand why even two or three levels down, we cannot plan to become indigenous suppliers and man-

ufacturers so that we can then start supplying those components to other countries," Goyal said.

With the huge Indian market and global opportunities, the industry can increase the exports to USD 100 billion by 2030 from USD 21.5 billion at present, he added.

The minister added that the government is developing 20 smart industrial cities with the complete ecosystem that an industry requires and the component sector can explore opportunities in these indus-

trial townships.

The auto component makers can take a full township and develop it to suit "yourself and your collaborators", he added.

"I would urge some of you to examine and see if you want me to dedicate one or two (of the townships) to your industry, I am happy to do that. I have offered it to Singapore, for example, that we (India) will create a Singapore for you in India. We can have restaurants, hotels, schools and colleges for them (in the city)," he

said.

Further, talking about free trade agreements, Goyal said in so many FTA discussions and negotiations, the commerce ministry has to struggle with the Indian industry to try and get them on board, to try and make them understand the benefits of these pacts and open markets.

These agreements also benefit Indian industry as the pacts bring modern technologies, and improve efficiencies.

"But very often many sectors are not able to understand that easily, some did not understand ever, but I must acknowledge that the auto component manufacturer is one sector that has been really bold when it comes to world competition from anywhere in the world and has been proactive in all FTA negotiations," he noted.

He also asked the auto sector to formulate a roadmap to reach on top from the third-largest auto market in the world at present.

India fine tuning FTAs to suit domestic industry: Prasada

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India is revising FTAs with South Korea, Malaysia and various other ASEAN countries to benefit the domestic industries, Union Minister of State for Ministry of Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada said on Monday.

At the 64th annual session of ACMA (Automotive Component Manufacturers Association) here, he noted that the free trade agreements (FTAs) with the UK and the European Union are being spearheaded by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"It will play a great role for the auto components industry," the minister said. He further said: "We are also revising and reworking our FTAs with Korea, with Malaysia, with ASEAN countries, which will be fine-tuned to the demands of our industry."

Gold slumps Rs 700; silver plummets Rs 2,000

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices slumped Rs 700 to Rs 73,500 per 10 grams in the national capital on Monday amid a decline in precious metal rates in the global markets.

The yellow metal had closed at Rs 74,200 per 10 grams in the previous close on Friday.

Tracking gold, silver prices also plummeted Rs 2,000 to Rs 83,800 per kilogram on Monday on subdued offtake from industrial units and coin makers, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

In the previous session, the silver metal had finished at Rs 85,800 per kg. Meanwhile, gold of 99.5 per cent purity also plunged Rs 500 to Rs 73,350 per 10 grams from Rs 73,850 in the previous close.



Domestically, traders attributed the decrease in prices of the yellow metal to lacklustre demand from local jewellers amid weak trend overseas.

Globally, Comex gold is trading at 0.07 per cent lower at USD 2,522.90 per ounce.

"Gold moved lower on Monday as mixed US jobs data increased doubts about the size of the Federal Reserve's upcoming interest rate cuts," Saamil Gandhi, Senior Analyst, Commodities, at HDFC Securities, said.

According to Manav Modi, Senior Analyst, Commodity Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services, gold price eased towards the end of last week, retreating from a record level after a mixed jobs data and comments from a few Fed officials casting doubts on an interest rate cut in the next meeting.

India needs Rs 30 lakh cr investment for 500 GW renewables

PNS ■ GANDHINAGAR

Union New & Renewable Energy Minister Pralhad Joshi on Monday said as much as Rs 30 lakh crore is required to meet the target of 500 GW by 2030.

He also announced that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 4th RE-INVEST 2024, a global summit for renewables.

The fourth edition of the Global Renewable Energy Investors Meet & Expo (RE-INVEST) 2024 is scheduled from September 16 to 18 at Mahatma Mandir Convention & Exhibition Centre in Gandhinagar, Joshi told reporters in a curtain raiser press conference here.

He said that India requires Rs 30 lakh crore investment to meet the ambitious target of having 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030.

Earlier three RE-INVEST conferences were organised, including one in virtual mode and two in Delhi, he added.

This is the first RE-INVEST to be held in

Gujarat.

"We thought that Gujarat is the right place to organise the conference to achieve the 500 GW renewable energy target by 2030," he said, citing the example of Vibrant Gujarat.

He also informed that India presently has 203GW of renewable energy capacity.

The minister stated that there will be a session on startups.

The 4th edition of RE-INVEST will explore the future of renewable energy by delving into key trends, emerging technologies, and policy frameworks that are shaping the global renewable energy landscape.

This prestigious event will feature approximately 40 sessions, including a Chief Ministerial Plenary, a CEO Roundtable and technical sessions.

RE-Invest is recognised globally as a leading platform for bringing together key stakeholders in the renewable energy sector, including government officials, industry leaders, investors, researchers and policymakers.



UAE's Adnoc to supply LNG to IOC for 15 years

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (Adnoc) will supply one million tonne per annum of liquefied natural gas to Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) - the third LNG supply deal signed with the UAE firm, the company said Monday.

Adnoc will supply 1 million tonne of LNG from its Ruwais NG project for 15 years, the Abu Dhabi media office said.

This is the third LNG supply deal between Adnoc and Indian state-owned firms in just over a year. In July last year, Adnoc Gas signed an agreement with IOC for export of up to 1.2 million tonne per annum of LNG "valued in the range of USD 7 billion to USD 9 billion over its 14-year term".



Separately, state-owned gas utility GAIL (India) Ltd signed a deal with Adnoc Gas to buy 0.5 million tonne of LNG annually for 10 years starting 2026.

The latest LNG supply deal was signed during the visit of Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi to India.

Long-term LNG contracts play an important role in bal-

ancing out the inherent volatility of the spot LNG market and thus make it an affordable and reliable LNG supply.

Adnoc Gas is the national oil and gas company of the Abu Dhabi government and is the oldest supplier of natural gas from the Middle East.

Adnoc also signed an agreement with Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves (ISPRL) for exploring the UAE firm's participation in additional opportunities for crude storage in India and the renewal of their storage and management agreement on mutually acceptable terms and conditions.

This MoU builds on Adnoc's existing involvement in crude storage at the Mangalore Cavern of ISPRL since 2018.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The civil aviation ministry is looking at the issues being faced by SpiceJet and address them as the efforts are aimed at having a balance that will allow operations of more airlines amid the high demand in the Indian market, Union minister K Rammoohan Naidu said on Monday.

The airline is grappling with multiple issues, including financial and legal woes. On August 29, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) decided to place crisis-hit SpiceJet under enhanced



surveillance that will entail increased spot checks and night surveillance to ensure the safety of the airline's operations.

"We are looking at SpiceJet...with the demand we have, we need more airlines to operate. So we are trying to

have a balance and address the problems and (ensure the) airline runs properly," the minister said. He was responding to a question about concerns regarding the budget carrier.

To a query about air ticket prices, the minister said airfares are market-driven and it is being monitored by the ministry. In case there is a steep rise in airfares, then the ministry will make suggestions to the airlines.

He was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a conference organised by industry Ficci in the national capital.

Govt notifies deal threshold value under competition law

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Monday notified the provisions related to the deal value threshold under the competition law, wherein companies will be compulsorily required to seek the Competition Commission's approval for mergers and acquisitions beyond certain thresholds.

Besides, the clearance of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) will be needed if the target company has substantial business operations in India, according to notifications issued by the corporate affairs ministry.

The latest move will help the fair trade regulator to keep tab on mergers and acquisitions. Vaibhav Choukse, Partner, Competition Law at JSA, said introduction of an additional deal value criterion for assessing whether an M&A deal requires mandatory approval from CCI.

ADANI IN 2028, AMBANI IN 2033: REPORT

Elon Musk may be world's first trillionaire by 2027

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Elon Musk, the charismatic CEO of electric car maker Tesla and rocket manufacturer SpaceX, may become the world's first trillionaire by 2027, while Indian tycoon Gautam Adani may attain that status in the following year, and Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani may do so in 2033, according to an Informa Connect Academy report.

For Musk, the richest in the world with USD 237 billion net worth, to become the world's first trillionaire needs to grow at an average annual growth rate of 110 per cent, the report said.

Adani, who is ranked 13th



on the world billionaire index with a wealth of just under USD 100 billion, maybe the second trillionaire (net worth equal to at least one trillion US dollars) if his ports-to-power conglomerate was to continue growing at the current 123 per cent average annual rate, it

added. Rival Ambani, now ranked Asia's richest with a net worth of USD 111 billion, may achieve the same status in 2033, according to the report.

His oil-to-telecom-and-retail conglomerate is slated to hit trillion-dollar market cap sta-

tus in 2035. Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd is the only Indian company projected to hit that mark.

The companies that will hit the trillion-dollar market cap mark include Taiwan's semiconductor maker TSMC, which has a market cap of USD 893.7 billion now and is expected to achieve that status in 2025.

It will be closely followed by Berkshire Hathaway, pharma giant Eli Lilly, technology company Broadcom and electric automobile firm Tesla.

The report said, "No one in the world has claimed trillionaire status - at least not yet. However, there are some likely candidates. The following are

multi-billionaires who will probably become trillionaires sooner or later".

After Elon Musk and Gautam Adani, NVIDIA founder Jensen Huang, Indonesian mogul Prajogo Pangestu, French businessman Bernard Arnault, and Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg come next as prospective trillionaires.

Currently, there are only a handful of companies that have crossed the USD 1 trillion in valuation. This includes Microsoft, Nvidia, Apple, Alphabet, Amazon, Saudi Aramco, and Meta. The most recent case is that of Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway in late August.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA STATE MISSION BHAGIRATHA DEPARTMENT E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

e-Procurement Tender notice no. 01/SE/MB/KNR/2024-25, Dt:05.09.2024 of the Superintending Engineer, MB Circle, Karimnagar; No. of Calls: 1st Call

Name of the work: "Providing Mission Bhagiratha water supply to 2 BHK Colonies at Rampalli and Chandapalli of Peddapalli (M) in Peddapalli District., ECV: Rs. 26,78,647.00. Tender Documents are available in e-Procurement Market: 09.09.2024 04:00 PM to 23.09.2024 up to 03:00 PM., Tender accepted dates: 09.09.2024 04:00 PM to 23.09.2024 up to 04:00 PM., Technical Opening Date: 23.09.2024 at 5:00 PM., Financial bid opening Date: 26.09.2024 at 03:00 PM., Officer Concerned: Superintending Engineer, MB Circle, Karimnagar. Telephone Number: 9100122213. The bidders are requested to furnish their experience and other details in Zip format. Further details can be obtained from e-procurement market place on <https://tender.telangan.gov.in>. Sd/- Superintending Engineer R.O.No: 2864/PPCL/ADVT/12024-25, Dt: 05-09-2024 MB Circle, Karimnagar

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION QUOTATION NOTICE

Quotation Notice No.EE/UP/LS/HMC/2024-2025/11 Dated: 09-09-2024

Sealed Quotations are invited from registered firms, which should be received to undersigned on or before 12-09-2024 up to 03:00 PM. The quotation will be received on or before 12-09-2024 upto 3.00 P.M. and the same will be opened at 4.00 P.M. on the same day; other particulars can be obtained from the Executive Engineer, during the office hours.

S. No.	Description of Item	Qty	Unit	Amount
1	Supply and installation of Mosquito Shape ground inflatable with printing and blower with packing and transportation of size 13'X8' including all charges etc., complete.	1	Each	
2	Supply and installation of Litter free Hydrated Shape ground inflatable with printing and blower with packing and transportation of size 13'X8' including all charges etc., complete.	1	Each	

CONDITIONS:

- The quotations should be received on or before 12-09-2024 upto 3.00 PM, and the same will be opened at 4.00 P.M. in the O/o, Executive Engineer, Uppal Circle-2, GHMC.
- The Executive Engineer, Uppal has the reserve right to cancel the quotations without assigning any reason.
- For detailed Description of the items please contact the Office of Executive Engineer, Uppal Circle, GHMC.

Address of concerned officer: Executive Engineer, Uppal Circle-2, GHMC, Hyderabad. R.O.No: 2802/PPCL/ADVT/12024-25, Dt: 09-09-2024 Sd/- Executive Engineer, Uppal Circle-2, GHMC.

Reviving melodies of the south with Agam

Renowned for their dynamic shows and heartfelt interpretations, Agam's music seamlessly combines the depth of Carnatic heritage with the vitality and passion for music. The lead vocalist of the band, Harish Sivaramakrishnan, speaks to *The Pioneer* about their music and being an inspiration to many budding musicians



TEJAL SINHA
tejal.sinha30@gmail.com

Amalgamating the sounds of Carnatic music with progressive rock, the Agam band has created a niche for themselves, so much so that their music is very much beyond labels and still enjoys a great fanbase.

The band, which was formed in 2003, comprises Harish Sivaramakrishnan (vocals), Swamy Seetharaman (keyboards and lyricist), T Praveen Kumar (lead guitar), Aditya Kasyap (bass guitar and backing vocals), Sivakumar Nagarajan (ethnic percussions), Jagadish Natarajan

(rhythm guitar) and Yadhunandan (drummer). The band is influenced by both traditional Carnatic music and progressive rock groups like Dream Theater. The design of their logo is influenced by the traditional art form Theyyam from North Kerala. The band takes its name from the Malayalam/Tamil term 'Agam' which refers to the 'heart, soul, or inner soul'.

Agam is all set to mesmerise its Hyderabad audience on September 21 at Odeum by Prism. Led by Harish Sivaramakrishnan, the vocalist speaks to *The Pioneer* in an exclusive chat as we discuss the troupe, their music and a lot more.

Since its inception 17 years ago, the Indian music independence scene has significantly expanded and improved, with an increasing number of artists joining the same.



"Many artists have been inspired by Agam Soundscape and are involved in Carnatic rock and Carnatic progressive rock," shares an ecstatic Harish, as he goes on to add, "I believe Agam complements this scenery perfectly, blending tradition with a modern twist, which is adored by audiences. And I think this is a space that we will continue to explore and expand."

Rangapura Vihaara, Dhanashree Thillana, Swans of Saraswati, Koothu over Coffee, Malhar Jam, Saagara Shayana Vibho and Rudra, among other mesmerising songs, are to their credit. Agam has gained popularity nationwide among music enthusiasts for its distinctive mix of metal, Carnatic classical and progressive rock genres.

The band members have known each other for longer than they have known Agam. "We're friends first and that comes through in our music as well as live performances. Many of us are also dualists, where we have a full-time job as well as a music

career. So you will find us doing many things apart from our work and Agam."

How if you wondered? Harish is an evangelist for design that moves the world forward. Aditya and Swamy, in their leisure time, advise many companies and start-ups on how they can grow faster and Jagadish records for Tamil movies.

Giving us an exclusive revelation, the lead vocalist shares, "We are super excited about our third studio album. We are in the process of recording, mixing and mastering it. This is going to be the Agam you know and also the Agam you are not aware of. We want to push the boundaries and this one's going to be super exciting. So watch out for the 3rd album from us this year."

Many fans first discovered Agam through their perfor-

mance of the now-iconic track *Malhar Jam* on *Coke Studio*. Harish considers how instrumental the platform was for Agam's early career. *Coke Studio* provided them with an excellent advantage from the beginning. The band participated in the second season, which provided them with the opportunity to connect with viewers across India. For artists like Agam who work independently, it was difficult to promote their music, making *Coke Studio's* platform very important.

"A big thumbs up to musicians who look up to us and want to pursue a music career," shares Harish with great regards. "A lot of us in the band have a full-time job and also play and compose and *Aaragam*. We actively also advocate and are evangelists for people who think that they can be dualists in life where they have a stereotypical career and also a career in music. Whatever your view or passion is, completely go for it and take inspiration from us. We're with you!"

Harish believes that Agam as a band, "Our job is to make each live performance super engaging for the audience. They are there to listen to the songs they love and also take back a piece of Carnatic music with them. Our preparation is intense for these shows, where we think through what facet of Carnatic music we want the audience to learn, explore and join us with. We prepare for that before each live show where we think through either a new raagam or a new set of things that the audience can sing with us. Therefore, it is something that we give a lot of time to in the journey of making Carnatic music accessible simple and, you know, more contemporary for our audiences."



COOKING UP CHANGE

PNS/HYDERABAD

With a career spanning over five decades, Chef Davinder Kumar has become a prominent figure in the Indian culinary world, seamlessly blending respect for tradition with innovative approaches to cooking. As President of the Indian Culinary Forum (ICF), he has played a crucial role in nurturing emerging chefs and elevating Indian cuisine on the global stage. His transition from a commerce student to one of India's most esteemed chefs reflects his relentless drive, creativity and steadfast dedication to his craft. Currently serving as Vice President of F&B and Executive Chef at Hotel Le Meridien, Chef Kumar founded the annual Chef Awards more than two decades ago. As he prepares for the 21st Chef Awards, scheduled for October 17, 2024, he reflects on the origins of this prestigious event. When Chef Kumar launched the awards, his objective was clear: to honour culinary excellence and highlight India's exceptional homegrown talent.

Chef Davinder explains, "The whole objective of introducing these awards is to recognise the talent and skills of participants and to honour chefs for their contribution to hospitality. We aim to honour chefs by creating a platform where they can showcase their knowledge, skills and unique styles and be rewarded based on a

As the 21st Chef Awards approach this October, Chef Davinder Kumar, President of the Indian Culinary Forum and the driving force behind the event, speaks to *The Pioneer* about the awards' evolution, current culinary trends and the pivotal role of sustainability in the kitchen

strict and transparent set of criteria. That's why our awards are designed to be straightforward and merit-based. We don't hand out awards lightly—our process is rigorous, ensuring that only those who truly excel are recognised. These awards are by chefs, for chefs, reflecting the high standards of our industry."

Since their inception in 2004, the Chef

Awards have seen significant growth in recognition, acceptance and participation. "We have continuously evolved the awards over the years," Kumar notes. "Initially, the focus was solely on recognising chefs, but in 2012, we introduced the Knowledge Summit to emphasise education. I believe the enduring success of these awards over 21 years speaks volumes about their significance and impact on the industry."

Transitioning from studying commerce to becoming a leading chef, especially in a time when foreign chefs largely dominated Indian kitchens, posed considerable challenges. When asked about these hurdles, Kumar reflects, "One major challenge was the lack of societal recognition for this profession. It wasn't widely seen as a legitimate career path. Another challenge was acquiring professional skills from seasoned masters. These mentors, although highly skilled, often lacked formal education and were quite protective of their craft, making the learning process challenging." This scarcity of local expertise motivated him to travel abroad, specifically to France, to master the art of French cooking.

Today, Indian cuisine has moved from the periphery of global gastronomy into the heart of the culinary mainstream. No longer defined solely by its hallmark curries, biryanis, or tandoori staples, the vibrant and diverse flavours of India are now recognised as a treasure trove of inspiration for chefs worldwide. Kumar, a Golden Hat Award recipient, highlights current trends: "There is a growing appreciation for traditional and lesser-known regional cuisines,

such as those from Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, which are finally receiving the attention they deserve."

In recent years, technology has also had a profound impact on the culinary world and with the rise of AI, its influence is expected to reshape the future of cooking in unprecedented ways. Chef Kumar is keenly aware of this evolution, observing how modern kitchens are becoming more reliant on technological advancements to streamline processes, enhance precision and maintain consistency.

The 12th Knowledge Summit, held alongside the Chef Awards, will focus on "Culinarians in the AI Era—Tiptoeing the Fine Line." Chef Kumar sheds light on this evolving topic: "For instance, AI tools like ChatGPT can now compose recipes tailored to specific dietary needs, such as for diabetic patients, by utilising vast data sets on ingredients and nutrition. Additionally, AI has the potential to revolutionise kitchen management by optimising workflows, reducing food wastage and enhancing the overall dining experience."

Additionally, Chef Davinder Kumar has always been passionate about minimising food waste, especially focusing on the often-overlooked scraps generated during food preparation. In his book, *Second Meals*, he has shared recipes that use vegetable scraps, promoting sustainable and creative cooking. Excited, we ask him, "How do you incorporate sustainability into your day-to-day cooking practices and what changes would you like to see in the industry regarding waste reduction?"

He responds, "Having been in the industry for so many years, we've refined food to such an extent—there's been so much innovation, so much creativity. But over the years, we've often overlooked the issue of food waste. It's something I'm quite passionate about. On one hand, we see the sheer volume of food waste and on the other, we see hunger—an urgent, persistent issue that requires our attention. As chefs, we are in a unique position to make an impact and I thought, Why not contribute in a meaningful way?"

Chef Kumar started noticing that a lot of what we consider "food scraps" are full of nutrition. "Take beans and seeds, for example—the germ, the stalks. Let's look at a pear. You peel it, discard the skin and often throw away the core. But these so-called scraps are highly nutritious. Yet we continue to discard them."

"Cooking with scraps can turn waste into culinary treasures. For instance, a chutney made from coriander roots, which would normally be discarded, can surprise with its depth of flavour. Similarly, those same roots can be transformed into vibrant pesto. Even peels, often overlooked, can serve a purpose—detox water infused with mint and coriander roots or orange peels adds a refreshing, nutrient-packed twist. Instead of tossing these kitchen scraps, they can become key ingredients in dishes that are both sustainable and delicious," shares Chef Kumar.

Kumar, who has travelled extensively, underscores the importance of travel for chefs: "Travel exposes chefs to diverse culinary traditions, techniques and ingredients, offering inspiration and broadening their palates." Describing his visit to Kashmir, he shares, "Encountering traditional dishes like the aromatic *Kashmiri Pulao* and the creamy *Gushtaba* offered profound insights into Kashmiri cooking, showcasing India's diverse and rich culinary experiences."

'We've challenged misconceptions that sci-fi doesn't work in India'

Guneet Monga Kapoor, the acclaimed producer known for her groundbreaking work in Indian cinema, has once again pushed the boundaries with ZEE5's original series *Gyaarah Gyaarah*. As a visionary who brought home an Oscar for *The Elephant Whisperers*, Guneet's foray into the sci-fi genre marks a significant milestone in her illustrious career.

The show, an intense crime-investigation series that skillfully weaves together elements of the past, present and future, has captivated audiences, pushing the boundaries of Indian entertainment. With over 50 crore+ watch minutes, *Gyaarah Gyaarah* has claimed the top spot on ZEE5 and proved that Indian audiences

are ready to embrace complex, time-bending stories.



When asked about the challenges of tackling sci-fi genre in *Gyaarah Gyaarah*, Guneet Monga Kapoor shared, "Making a sci-fi and playing with past, present and future has been one of the most interesting concepts to explore in cinema. However, to make it resonate with mass audiences in India was a huge challenge. It was the brilliance of director Umesh Bist, along with writers Puja Banerjee and Sujoy Shekhar, that brought this vision to life. Even when we were making *Gyaarah Gyaarah*, I used to be so excited about the cliffhangers at the end of each episode and I would eagerly anticipate the twists and turns. The meticulous editing, masterful direction, and stellar perfor-

mances have culminated in a project that we're immensely proud of—truly a feather in our cap."

She further emphasised the significance of the show's success, stating, "There's long been a misconception that sci-fi doesn't resonate with Indian audiences. While *Mr India* broke ground years ago, for *Gyaarah Gyaarah* to achieve such widespread acclaim is a monumental achievement."

Set in Uttarakhand, *Gyaarah Gyaarah* spans three timelines: 1990, 2001 and 2016. The series follows Yug Arya, a 2016 police inspector who connects with Shaurya Anthwal from the 1990s through a mysterious walkie-talkie at 11:11 PM nightly. Together, they solve cold cases across decades, creating a gripping experience brought to life by stellar performances from Raghav Juyal, Kritika Kamra and Dhairya Karwa.

● Sravanthi

● Srivani Naidu

● Greeshmaa

● Katyayani

● Nayani Pavani

Sravanthi Chokarapu, along with Nayani Pavani and Priyanka Chowdhary, attended the date announcement event of Hillife Jewels, which will showcase top jewellery brands. The exclusive show will kickstart on September 14 and end on September 16 at HICC-Novotel in HITEC City.

● Rinku Reddy

● Juhi Sanghi, Komal, Charul and Manisha

● Sanskriti Gupta

● Jayanti and Shagun

● Paridhi and Anu Mehta

● Ruchika Agarwal

PARTY

Dharampal Satyapal Group (DS Group) announced the introduction of the Swiss chocolate brand, Läderach to Hyderabad. Renowned for its exceptional quality and Swiss craftsmanship, Läderach marked its introduction to the city's consumer base. The exclusive preview, tailored for Hyderabad's consumers, was hosted at FEU—Desserts, Bar & Kitchen.

NAIR SERVICE SOCIETY HYDERABAD TELANGANA

The leading sociocultural organisation of the twin cities, the Hyderabad Nair Service Society, celebrated Onam with eclat. The NSS Onam celebrations started with the "pookkalam" and paying tributes to the people of Wayanad who lost their lives and property in the recent landslide. The scion of Travancore Kingdom and trustee of Sree Padmanabha Swamy temple, Prince Sree Aditya Verma, attended the event as the chief guest.

The Governor Jishnu Dev Varma, as the Chief Guest, attended the Graduation Day Ceremony of Avinash College of Commerce, which was organised by the Avinash Group of Institutions, at Shilpakala Vedika in HITEC City.

Air India to elevate passenger experience at Hyderabad Airport with city side check-in and baggage drop facility. This new service, located close to the parking zone at the ground level, offers easy access to passengers and removes the need to carry baggage to the departure level.

COMPANY DAY 2024

ADP India celebrates its 25th year of operations in India. This marks a landmark year for the company's journey towards innovation, growth and transformative business impact. The event at HICC Hyderabad was filled with zeal as nearly 5000 of its associates gathered to celebrate success, recognise achievements and witness energetic cultural performances that were displayed by kids supported by Tarang – ADP India CSR Program and by ADP's talented associates who form the ADP Studio, ADP Dancing Stars and Dhol!

FUN

ARCHIE

CALVIN AND HOBBS

GARFIELD

NANCY

GINGER MEGGS

REALITY CHECK

SPEED BUMP

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8	9	10	11	
		12		
13				
14	15	16	17	18
19				

SUDOKU

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

Yesterday's solution

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

Rules

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

ACROSS

- Speed up
- Elephant tusk material
- Leather belt
- Performer
- Keep your money in this
- Large group of singers
- Avalanches

DOWN

- Sound bouncing back
- Extremely
- Fewer
- Head covering
- Not permanent
- A tropical fruit
- These tall grass-like plants grow in or near water

SOLUTION

R	O	B	B	E	R	C	O	M	
A	A	S	V	R					
G	R	L	C	H	E	S	E		
E	R	G	I	E					
R	E	V	O	L	V	E	Z		
A	S	P	A	R	E				
U	S	P	A	R	K	E			
T	E	A	S	M	I				
H	O	N	E	S	T	B	O	R	
R	O	P	E	B	E	A	T	E	N

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Prabhas enjoyed a lot after watching the trailer: Sri Simha

SURESH KAVIRAYANI
sureshkavirayani@gmail.com

Popular music director Keeravani's younger son Sri Simha is coming up with another film, *Mathu Vadalara 2*. This is a sequel to the earlier hit one with the same title and it also happened to be Simha's debut film as lead actor. After that, he did a few films but was not successful at the box office. Now again, he is banking on the same film in which he made his debut.

Now, again, he is basking on the sequel of the film, in which he made his breakthrough. "You can see more action sequences and more fun in this second one," said Sri Simha. He added that it took quite a time to come up with a sequel because of the director, Ritesh Rana. "When *Mathu Vadalara* became a hit, the director had some other thoughts and it was only last year that he came up with this sequel," said Sri Simha. "We can't force the director to do the sequel until he has a proper story. As soon as he is ready with the story, that's when the sequel works begin," he added.

The teaser and release date announcement of *Mathu Vadalara 2* came up as a surprise to the audience as soon as the team completed the film's shoot. "Yes, it's part of the promotional strategy only. If we announce the film initially, people will think for a few days and may forget about it. So we wanted our film to be in the audience's minds. We started promotions after we decided the release date. After the teaser and trailer, people are now talking about our film and our plan worked out pretty well," he said. Actor Prabhas had released the trailer for the film. Speaking of it, Sri Simha said, "After watching the trailer, he enjoyed it a lot and actually he watched all the promotional videos and spent a lot of time with us."

Simha and Satya had played the characters of the delivery boys in the first part and now in the second part, they play the characters of agents. "We have shown the story

MM Keeravani's younger son, Sri Simha, needs a break and is preparing for his upcoming film, *Mathu Vadalara 2*. He discusses the film, Prabhas and his uncle Rajamouli



of how we both became agents in a little bit," he said about the story. He added that the story has come out organic and has not forced any unwanted scenes in it.

There is no pressure when making the sequel because the first part became a big hit, he shared. "The second part is also equally matched to the first part and the fun is more than the first one in this. So, I am confident that the audience enjoys the sequel very much," said Sri Simha.

For this film, they have regular language in the film. "There are no cuss words or double meaning words; how the present youth are using some words, we used them only. We didn't use words against anyone; we used the regular words. It's only then that it would connect to the people," he said.

"We have used the memes, but we are not completely dependent on them. We have a strong story and content and after that comes these memes. If any person is not using the internet and doesn't know social media, they can also enjoy this film after watching. If you are on social media, you'll enjoy it even more," he said about memes.

Talking about his uncle Rajamouli, who had also shared the trailer of this film on his social media and supported it. "If he likes the trailer or teaser, then only he will post; otherwise, he doesn't. Whether it's my film or my brother's film, if he likes, it's only then that he will support it," said Sri Simha about his uncle SS Rajamouli.

Talking about Vennela Kishore, who appears different in the second part trailer, Simha said they changed his character in the sequel. "He is the lookalike person of the first part and his character also changed. He is a big star in this second part," he said.

His earlier two films didn't do well at the box office. So is this something that he discusses at home? "Yes, I will analyse those films and where they went wrong and how to take care about them in the upcoming films. There are a few minor mistakes that we thought would appeal to the audience, but they misfired somewhere," he said. He added that in the coming days he wanted to do a character-driven story. "First, I want to concentrate on *Mathu Vadalara 2* film release and the promotions. I wanted to do film after film; at present I don't have anything; I have to listen to a good script and then I decided about my next film," said Sri Simha about his upcoming projects.

Dileep Prakash, who made his debut with the Kannada film *Crazy Boy*, is now coming up with his second film, *Utsavam*, after six years. The actor talks about his co-artist Regina Cassandra and other senior actors in the film. His challenge, the film's backdrop and many more.



'Utsavam is based on theatre artistes and plays,' says Dileep Prakash

Dileep Prakash's debut film *Crazy Boy* is a Kannada film, which was an above-average one. It was released in 2016 and now Dileep is coming up with a Telugu film titled *Utsavam*. The story of the film is based on theatre artists and plays, mostly called *Surabhi Natakalu*. "When I was in school, I took part in cultural events. I used to write plays and demonstrate them. I used to write on *Panchatantra*, *Birth of Christ*, *Ramayana* and many more. After school, I studied engineering B.Tech and then completed my MBA in marketing," said Dileep. Initially, he played a small role in a film and later played the lead actor in *Crazy Boy*. "At the success of that film, I met director Arjun and he narrated *Utsavam* story," said Dileep.

He added that he travelled with Arjun Sai for nearly six years. "When he narrated the story, I felt that it's a respectable subject and in this film the story is the hero." Many senior actors like Prakash Raj, Rajendra Prasad, and Nassar Ali have been a part of this film. "It is an honour for me to work with them, because they are all very seniors and have acted in hundreds of films. It's also a challenging task to work with them, but I enjoyed the process," he said. "He (Prakash Raj) is one of the best actors and also knows eight languages. So, when I have scenes with him, I will prepare well to face him. After the film was completed, Prakash Raj sir patted my back, which made me feel very happy about his gesture," said Dileep. Regina Cassandra plays the female lead in this film. "She is the sweetest co-artist and very senior to me. So, she used to

give me some tips when I faced the camera and also in acting. I learned a lot from her," said Dileep.

Director Krishna Vamsi's *Ranga Marthanda* was released a while ago and it didn't do well at the box office, but the film's subject is mostly based on the theatre artists. "I have seen the film; it is more on emotions, but in my film, apart from emotions, the story is narrated more in an entertaining way. My film's story is based on theatre artistes, plays like *Surabhi Natakalu*. Theatre is the starting point for entertainment and from theatre, the cinema started. In this film, the protagonist wanted to bring back the age-old tradition of theatre plays now," said Dileep. He added there is also a family entertainer in it. "There is not only about plays; there is also a family drama, romance, songs and much more," he added.

The film shows a lot of Telugu tradition and culture. "If there was no theatre, Cinema wouldn't have been there. How the theatre is back once again is shown in this film. People will also support those art forms once again," he said.

Many popular and senior actors acted in the film; more than that, the film is going to be released in Telugu by Mythri Movie Makers and in Kannada by the popular Hombale Films, which produced the *KGF*. "I am lucky that I am getting good support and it all happened because of my producer, Suresh Patil," he said.

Dileep Prakash said his mother hails from Hindupur and his father is a Kannadiga. Thus, he speaks Telugu fluently. He added that he will announce his next project soon as he is working on it.

Sudheer Babu now banking on *Maa Nanna Superhero*

Despite his films not being successful at box office, Sudheer Babu doesn't miss out on bringing up different kinds of subjects and characters. His earlier one, *Harom Hara* was an actioner, but now, he has come up with an emotional film titled *Maa Nanna Superhero*. Directed by Abhilash Reddy Kankara known for his *Loser* web series, the film was announced and is also hitting the screens this Dasara. They started the promotions by unleashing the film's first look poster on Monday.

In this first look, Sudheer Babu is in a typical middle-

class guy avatar riding a scooter laden with vegetables, and he is seen greeting the school-children on his way home. His warm smile adds a perfect touch to the poster. The makers also announced that they are releasing the teaser of this film on September 12.

Maa Nanna Superhero is a heartfelt father-son drama that delves into the profound themes of love and connection. Aarna stars as the leading lady opposite Sudheer Babu.

Sunil Balusu is the producer. Sudheer Babu is now banking on this film to get a good break.



Dulquer Salmaan's new film *Kaantha* begins

Popular actor Rana Daggubati these days seemingly is concentrating more on production. Recently he was involved in a small film *35 Chikka Katha Kadu*; now he is producing a multilingual film with Malayalam Super Star Dulquer Salmaan. The film officially started on Sunday in Hyderabad.

Rana Daggubati's Spirit Media, in collaboration with Dulquer Salmaan's Wayfarer Films, marked the beginning of their most-awaited multilingual film project *Kaantha* with a puja at Rama Naidu Studios in Hyderabad. Directed by Selvamani Selvaraj, the film stars Dulquer Salmaan, Bhagyashree Bhorse and Samuthirakani and the filming also began on Tuesday.

Set in the evocative backdrop of 1950s Madras, *Kaantha* is a cinematic journey that explores the complexities of human relationships and societal change during a dynamic period in history. Bhagyashree Bhorse plays the female lead opposite Dulquer Salmaan, while Samuthirakani is cast for a crucial role.

"Partnering with Wayfarer Films for *Kaantha* adds a new dimension to this project. Their commitment to quality cinema aligns perfectly with our vision at Spirit Media. *Kaantha* is the ideal film to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Suresh Productions and mark the beginning of a new era with Spirit Media," said Rana Daggubati. Dulquer Salmaan, founder of Wayfarer Films

and lead actor in the film, said, "I am excited to embark on this journey with Spirit Media and get started with *Kaantha*. This is a beautifully layered story that captures the depths of human emotions and gives an actor a lot of scope to perform. I am thrilled to get started and bring this film to life."

Director Selvamani Selvaraj, whose storytelling expertise brings unique authenticity and depth to this period drama, adds, "Collaborating with such talented producers and creative teams has been a privilege. With *Kaantha*, we aim to transport audiences to a bygone era, capturing its essence while telling a story that resonates with contemporary emotions," said Dulquer Salmaan.



Indraganti's *Sarangapani Jathakam* wraps up its shoot

Director Indraganti Mohanakrishna, who is looking for a break, with his upcoming film *Sarangapani Jathakam*, has completed its shooting. Comedian turned actor Priyadarshi is playing the lead character and the makers announced the title *Sarangapani Jathakam* a few weeks back. Sivalenka Krishna Prasad is producing this film under Sridevi Movies and this is his third collaboration with Indraganti Mohanakrishna.

"On Priyadarshi's birthday, the first look and title poster were released. They received an amazing response. *Sarangapani Jathakam* is a perfect comedy film and we are glad that the filming part has now been completed. We finished the film in five schedules in Hyderabad, at Ramoji Film City, and in Visakhapatnam," said producer Krishna



Prasad. He added that they will start the dubbing programs from September 12 onwards. "I have always wanted to make a full-fledged entertaining film. I aspired to make a film under the direction of Jandhyala Garu, but unfortunately, it didn't happen. He wrote dialogues for two of our successful films, namely, *Chimmodu-Peddodu* and *Aditya 369*, but couldn't direct any film. Finally, the void is behind us. We are delighted to be doing a complete entertainer with Mohanakrishna Indraganti, who has made two successful films under our banner. *Sarangapani Jathakam* will be a memorable movie from Sridevi Movies. We are making this film without compromising on the budget and technical quality," said the producer. Roopa Koduvayur of *Mr Pregnant* fame will be seen playing the female lead opposite Priyadarshi.

India beating Australia in last two Test tours Down Under has made rivalry more intense: Khawaja

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India beating Australia in the last two Test series in the latter's backyard has made the rivalry between the two teams more intense, feels senior batter Usman Khawaja ahead of the five-match battle beginning November 22.

India had beaten Australia on their last two tours of Australia (2018-19 and 2020-21) with an identical 2-1 margin.

In fact, India have won all the last four series of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, taking into account their home wins in 2016-17 and 2022-23 -- both also 2-1 results in a four-match contest.

"For Indians it's always been the case to beat Australia. And more recently, you know, since the rise of India and IPL and everything else that happened, it's the same way with Australia against India," Khawaja said.

"And particularly since India's beaten Australia in Australia the last two times they've come out of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. It just means a little bit more," he told Star Sports.

The 37-year-old left-handed opener said that the rivalry between the two teams is huge. "We're world number one, world number two teams really over the last two years. We were there at the last World Test Championship together.



The rivalry has always been huge," said Khawaja who has 5451 runs from 71 Tests after making debut in 2011. "I take it as a sign of respect and I know it that Indians love beating Australia in any sort of form of cricket. And the

tradition that Australia has had over so many years as being one of the dominating teams in world cricket has staked that reputation."

The first Test begins in Perth on November 22 while fifth and the last will be played in Sydney from January 3. Another senior player Mitchell Marsh talked about "great friendships" complementing intense rivalry with Indian players.

stuff. And I think that when it's back and forth like that, it builds that rivalry within yourselves. There's great friendships in the Indian team with our team, so there's no hatred. But it's a great on field rivalry, both teams want to win.

"And Australia versus India, it's another opportunity to grow the game of cricket. Not that cricket needs growing in India, but worldwide. People tune into these big series," said all-rounder Marsh, who has been vice-captain of the team and currently skipper of the T20 side.

Fast bowler Josh Hazlewood admitted that it's always a great challenge playing against India, especially since they are so used to the conditions Down Under.

"Their top order, no matter who's playing, is unbelievable, their top six or seven. I played them in my debut series, obviously, and we got the win, that might have been the last time. A lot of the same players are still playing, I think I got Virat that game.

"So a lot of our players, I guess, haven't beaten India in a Test series. The guys were playing, such as Travis Head, Cameron Green, guys like that. So, yeah, huge summer for us coming up and hopefully get that trophy back."



Pant on course to become all-time great in Tests Needs to improve in shorter formats: Ganguly

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Former India captain Sourav Pant is on course to become an all-time great in Test cricket but at the same time, the southpaw needs to raise his game in the shorter formats. Pant on Sunday returned to the Test side for the first time since his life-threatening car accident in December 2022. He is expected to start the first Test against Bangladesh beginning in Chennai on September 19.

Since his return earlier this year following the accident, Pant has played T20s and ODIs and has done well. "I consider Rishabh Pant one of India's best Test batsmen. I'm not surprised that he's back in the side, and he will continue to play for India in Tests," Ganguly said at a promotional event here.

"He will be an all-time great in Tests if he keeps performing like this. For me, he needs to get better in the shorter formats. With the talent he has, I'm sure with time, he will become one of the best."

Indian selectors have opted to give Mohammed Shami more time to recover from an ankle surgery and have named uncapped left-arm pacer Yash Dayal and Akash Deep in the squad. Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj are the two frontline pacers.

"I know Mohammed Shami is missing because of injury, but he will be back very soon since India is going to Australia. It's still a very good attack," Ganguly said.

"In India, you will see a lot more spin. In Chennai, you will see a lot more bounce. Ashwin, Jadeja, Axar, and Kuldeep are the four best spinners in the world at the moment -- it won't be easy. When you play in India, spinners have a lot more say in the game. But India are a very good team."

"I am looking forward to their tour to Australia; that, for me, will be the real test for the squad. Then, when they tour England in July, these are the two most important tours, to be honest. I think the pace bowling department, with Bumrah and Siraj, and once Shami comes back, will be strong."

He also hailed Bengal pacer Akash Deep and said he's one to watch out for. "Akash Deep is an outstanding young fast bowler. He runs in, bowls quick, and will bowl for long periods. I've seen him play for Bengal, taking wickets."

"He will be as quick as Siraj and Shami, hitting high 140s. He is one to watch out for," he added.

TOUGH CHALLENGE VERSUS BANGLADESH: Having conquered Pakistan, Bangladesh's next assignment will be a two-Test series in India. Ganguly said Rohit Sharma and Co will be a different "kettle of fish".

"Going to Pakistan and beating them is never easy, so congratulations to the (Bangladesh) players. But India will be a different kettle of fish; India, whether at home or away, are a fantastic side

with a very strong batting unit. "I don't see Bangladesh winning; India will win the series. But India must expect good and tough cricket from Bangladesh because they are coming into the series with a lot of confidence after beating Pakistan in Pakistan," he added.

GENUINE DEARTH OF TALENT IN PAKISTAN: With Pakistan hitting a new low with a Test series loss to Bangladesh, Ganguly feels there is a "genuine dearth of talent" in the country and they are far from the glory days when players like Javed Miandad, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, formed the backbone of the team.

"I see a genuine dearth of talent in the country. Every time we think of Pakistan, we remember Miandad, Wasim, Waqar, Saeed Anwar, Mohammad Yousuf, and Younis Khan."

"That's the memory of Pakistan for us, but that doesn't win matches in the modern generation of cricket. Every generation has to produce outstanding players to win, and when I look at Pakistan in world cricket -- I saw them in the West Indies World Cup, in India during the World Cup, and now after the Bangladesh series loss -- there is a dearth of talent in that country."

"The people connected with the sport in Pakistan will have to look into it. I'm not saying this with disrespect. Pakistan of the old had some great cricketers, which I don't see in this squad," Ganguly said.

For Vaishali, Global Chess League is opportunity to learn from Anand and visit London Eye

PTI ■ LONDON

Set to make her debut in the Global Chess League alongside the great Viswanathan Anand, Indian Grandmaster R Vaishali says doing well in the star-studded event is not the only target on her mind when she lands in the British Capital next month. Taking a ride on the London Eye also figures quite high on the agenda. The 23-year-old Grandmaster was among the top picks at the league's player draft held in August. The event's second edition will be held here from October 3 to 12 at Friends House. Speaking about playing alongside five-time world champion Anand for Ganges Grandmasters and against her brother R Praggnanandhaa's team, Alpine SG Pipers, Vaishali said, "This will be a very special event for me to play alongside Vishy sir in the same team." "It is a wonderful opportunity for me. My brother Pragg is on Magnus



Carlen's team, which is great as well. Of course, we won't compete against each other, but our teams are different."

Anand has had a huge role to play in mentoring both Praggnanandhaa and Vaishali. In the tournament, each team will play a total of 10 matches in a double round-robin format, with the winner of each match being decided in a best-of-six board scoring system. Vaishali described it as an interesting and unique format. "To have many strong players in one team, we get to discuss a lot about the game and share ideas. It will definitely help players improve individually," she added.

Away from the game, Vaishali has already planned her off-the-board adventures in the city.

"The last time I visited London was five years ago. Back then, I missed going to the London Eye ride, so it's the best opportunity for me to visit this time," she signed off.



New Zealand-Afghanistan Test: Opening day called off without a ball bowled

PTI ■ GREATER NOIDA

No play was possible on the opening day of the one-off Test between New Zealand and Afghanistan due to a wet outfield here on Monday.

The match officials conducted multiple inspections through the day but the conditions were not fit enough for players to take the field. There was no rain on Monday but the ground, lacking a modern drainage system, has been impacted by heavy rain through the last week. With rain and thunderstorms forecast throughout the week,

it remains to be seen how many days of the Test is impacted.

This is the first-ever Test between New Zealand and Afghanistan who got their Test status in 2017.

Afghanistan, who have played 10 Tests so far, have endured defeats in their last three matches against Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Ireland. For New Zealand, this will be their first Test since March and it will kick off a busy couple of months in the subcontinent ending with a three-Test series against India in October-November.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The health of Indian motorsport has improved significantly over the past five years but a lot more can be done in terms of infrastructural support, says JK Tyre motorsport head Sanjay Sharma. Sharma's organisation has been supporting Indian motorsport for close to three decades. The tyre maker is running its national racing championship for the 27th consecutive season but seeing the bigger picture, this year the company has partnered with RPPL for the Indian Racing Festival (IRF). RPPL is the promoter of the FIA-sanctioned Formula 4 championship in India and could bring Formula 3 to the country as soon as next year. "The health of motorsport is improving considerably. If you just compare how things

have changed in the last 8 to 10 years, everything is crystal clear. It's very unfortunate that in terms of infrastructure, we do lack a lot of support," said Sharma following round two of IRF. MotoGP hosted its inaugural race at the Buddh International Circuit last year but the round was dropped for the 2024 season and is expected to return in March next year. The premier two-wheel race needed changes to the track that hosted Formula 1 for three editions and now it needs to be homologated again for four wheel racing. Sharma lamented the state of affairs in this context.

"The only big F1 track which hosted MotoGP last year now even doesn't have a homologation to do car events. And they have their own set of little problems, but whatever they are, they are

not available for the sport.

"So this is one of the very major kind of setback, because even to our championship, because one of the reasons that we got together (RPPL and JKTyre) two like-minded people, was that we will come back with a package that was worth BIC standard with fast cars and good turnout.

"However, having said so, if you see there are more promoters, more sponsors, more patronage for drivers, things are looking really good. In terms of government, I would say from the era where they didn't recognize us as a sport, we have come a long way. They are very receptive.

"And the live example of that is street races in Hyderabad and now Chennai (held earlier this month)," said Sharma. The tyre major had brought Formula BMW to

India back in 2011 but a decade and more later, Sharma feels the current Formula 4 championship in the IRF is a better package.

"On paper, the Formula 4 does look a little better. But safety-wise, there is a whole lot of difference. These new generation cars are far ahead, carrying all the latest safety norms. Then coming to the program of the FIA, if you follow it also helps you later for the super license."

"The structure is more formalised by the FIA (the world body). Unlike in the past, we don't need to race outside India anymore. Now everything is available in your own backyard, in your own pocket size."

"With the kind of vigour and vision that our partner RPPL has, I think the story which now will unfold will be the best that India can ask for," Sharma added.

'Health of Indian motorsport has improved significantly over past five years'



Meghalaya's Myngken to meet Manipur's TGES in junior Subroto Cup final

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Banganson's hat-trick powered Myngken Christian HSS, Meghalaya's 7-0 rout of Govt. Secondary School, Arunachal Pradesh and their entry into the final of 63rd Subroto Cup junior boys international football tournament here on Monday.

They will face T.G. English School, Bishnupur, Manipur in the summit clash at the Ambedkar Stadium on Wednesday.

The TGES qualified for the final after edging Sri Lanka Schools Football Association by a solitary goal.

Myngken were in cruise control from the start but it took them 21 minutes to break the deadlock through a fine solo run and finish by Banganson.

The goal opened the floodgates as Banganson doubled the advantage in the 36th minute and three minutes later, Mebanlamiyinit made it 3-0 from a deadly counter attack. Alicestar scored the fourth in

the 44th minute after the striker slotted the ball into the empty net.

Banganson completed his hat-trick in the 46th minute with a neat finish after stealing the ball from a defender. Alicestar piled on the misery for the Arunachal side, scoring his second goal and the team's sixth with a powerful left footer. Substitute Menatskheng completed the rout in the 65th minute, foxing two defenders and the goalkeeper to slot the ball into the empty net.

In the second semifinal, Heroba's 27th minute strike against the Sri Lankan side was enough for TGES to enter the final.

RESULTS: Myngken Christian HSS, Meghalaya - 7 (Banganson 21st, 36th, 46th, Mebanlamiyinit 39th, Alicestar 44th, 51st, Menatskheng 65th) beat Govt. Secondary School, Yazali, Arunachal Pradesh - 0. T.G. English School, Bishnupur, Manipur - 1 (Heroba 27th) beat Sri Lanka Schools Football Association - 0.