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MANY MEN WHO LOVE DOING SMOKY EYES ON AN EVERYDAY BASIS

'Calling Sahasra is a pure experiment-based

as the Congress would form the government and end the rule of 'BRS Doralu.' Usually, Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao addresses people after polling, but this time he is hesitating to show his face and has sent Industries Minister KT Rama Rao. This proves that the BRS will disappear.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

the pioneer

Democracy would be revived in Telangana on December 3, when Assembly election results are announced

· Revanth Reddy, TPCC president

First-time voters exercise...

First-time voters expressed their enthusiasm in casting their votes on the polling day. Though many of them were still pondering over 'the right leader', they were excited to cast their vote to showcase their responsibility to the State. Ajit, a first-time voter from Jubilee Hills said. "This is the first time I am voting. It feels good to take a big decision." Ahmed, a final year B.Com student said, "I was looking forward to this day; there is a lot to be done. It's a big responsibility, especially for firsttime voters like me."...

Varanasi court gives 10 more...

The Varanasi district court on Thursday gave 10 more days to the Archaeological Survey of India to complete and submit a scientific survey report of the Gyanvapi mosque complex here. Taking up the plea of the ASI seeking three additional weeks to submit the report, District Judge A K Vishvesh said he hoped that the ASI would not ask for more time, according to counsel for the Hindu side Madan Mohan Yadav. The court fixed December 11 as the next

-PAGE: 5

India's GDP grows 7.6%; fastest...

India's economy grew 7.6 per cent in the September quarter of this fiscal and remained the fastestgrowing large economy, mainly due to better performance by manufacturing, mining and data showed on Thursday. The gross domestic product (GDP) expanded by 6.2 per cent in the July-September quarter of 2022-23. India remained the fastestgrowing major economy, as China posted a 4.9 per cent growth in July-September 2023. According to the National..



India need young bowlers to deliver...

India's young bowling unit, which has been under the pump, will look to better its death overs performance while utilising Glenn Maxwell's absence to its advantage in the fourth T20 International against Australia here on Friday 'India's second-string attack did not paint a good picture of itself by not defending 40-plus runs in the final two overs in the third match which the Australians won while chasing a daunting 223-run target. 'There is a possibility of a minor tweak in the Indian line-up after Prasidh Krishna gave...

BRS will win 70 seats

KTR pooh-poohs exit polls

NAVEENA GHANATE

BRS Working President KT Rama Rao said that the party led by Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar would return to power with over 70

"On December 3, it will be an egg on your face, the BRS will get nothing less than 70 seats in Telangana and KCR will lead the next government. I ask all my party workers not to go by exit polls. The national media conducts surveys by speaking to just 200 people. It is the same national media which went wrong earlier with their exit polls. Out of the five exit polls, only one got it right in 2018," he said on Thursday.

"On December 3, it will be an egg on your (media houses publishing exit polls) face and on your reputa-tion. Your institution's credibility will be at stake. When people are still queuing up to vote how can they declare 'results'? How can you publish such exit polls? It is meaningless for the ECI to revise timings.
These exit polls will affect the morale of candidates. Do you (media houses) have the guts to publish the right numbers afterwards? Do you have the courage to accept your fault? Unfortunately, you don't. I want to convey to BRS cadres not to believe exit polls. We are 100 per cent sure our government will come to power. Let us hope that we will win with bigger numbers. Once the full numbers are ment," he said.



Commissioner and asked him why exit poll results are allowed to be published when people are still waiting to vote".

out, then we can analyse. Let's hold our horses and talk about it on December 3," KTR said.

He also criticised the Election Commission for allowing exit polls to be aired at 5.30 pm while many voters were still queuing up to vote. "1 called the Chief Election

Commissioner and asked him why exit poll results are allowed to be published when people are still waiting to vote. Why not ensure exit polls are published after polling is over? We have seen these exit polls in the past too and most of them were wrong. I promise to all supporters of KCR and the BRS that we will get nothing less than 70 seats and we will form the next govern-

KCR, wife vote in Chintamadaka village

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao voted in Chintamadaka village in his native Siddipet district in Telangana on

Accompanied by his wife Shobha Rao, the BRS Chief participated in the polling process at a booth in the village. d voters with folded hands before returning from the polling

Chintamadaka village is a part of Siddipet constituency, where his nephew Health Minister T. Harish Rao is seeking re-election.



EXIT POLLS PREDICT

Edge for Congress in TS

PNS HYDERABAD

After polling in the 2023 Telangana Assembly election exit polls predicted a setback for Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's BRS and advantage for the Congress. But some polls predicted a neck-andneck fight between the Congress and the BRS.

Today's Chanakya exit polls said that the Congress will win 71 seats. It predicted 33 seats for the BRS and seven for the BJP. The majority mark in Telangana is 60 and the Congress is expected to

In Telangana, the KCR-led BRS has been in power for 10 years.

The India TV-CNX exit poll survey gave 63 to 79 seats to the Congress, 31 to 47 to the BRS, 2 to 4 for the BJP and 5 to 7 for

The Jan Ki Baat said that the Congress would get 48 to 64 seats, the BRS 40 to 55, the BJP 7 to 13 and the AIMIM 4 to 7.

The Times Now-ETG poll said that the Congress will win 60 to 70 seats, the BRS 37 to 45 seats, the BJP 6 to 8 seats, and the AIMIM 5 to 7 seats. The total number of seats is 119.

The Republic TV-Matrize exit to 68 seats, the BRS 46 to 56, the BJP 4 to 9 and the AIMIM 5 to 9.

The TV9-Polstrat exit poll predicted a close race between the BRS and the Congress. The BRS is likely to get anywhere between 48 59 seats. The BJP will get 5 to 10 forming the next government in seats and the AIMIM will get 6 to Telangana.

to 58 seats and the Congress 49 to 8 seats which can be crucial in

BJP ahead in MP, Rajasthan; advantage **Congress in Chhattisgarh**

PNS NEW DELHI

Most exit polls on Thursday put the BJP ahead in Madhya Pradesh and gave it an edge in Rajasthan while predicting that it was advan-tage Congress in Telangana and Chhattisgarh.

India Today-Axis My India, Today's Chanakya and India TV-CNX predicted a big victory for the BJP in Madhya Pradesh. While most pollsters predicted an edge for the BJP in Rajasthan, three exit polls in their upper limit forecast a Congress win in the desert state.

Pollsters also indicated that there was a possibility of a hung House in Mizoram with Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) locked in a close race with the ruling Mizo National Front (MNF). The Congress and the BJP were shown lagging behind in the northeast-

Madhya Pradesh (230 seats), the November 30 and the counting of Congress is ruling Rajasthan (200) votes would take place on and Chhattisgarh (90). In December 3. Telangana, the K Chandrashekhar Rao-led Bharat Rashtra Samithi

India Today-Axis My India, Today's Chanakya and India TV-CNX predicted a big victory for the BJP in Madhya Pradesh. While most pollsters predicted an edge for the BJP in Rajasthan, three exit polls in their upper limit forecast a Congress win in the desert state.

(BRS) has been in power since 10 years and in Mizoram, the MNF is in government.

rtions to the f While the BJP is in power in place between November 7-

Hyd drags TS polling percentage to 64.63

PNS HYDERABAD

Polling took place to elect 119 Members of the Telangana Legislative Assembly, with voters queuing up to exercise their franchise amid tight security on Thursday.The Election Commission of India said that nearly 64.63 per cent voting was reported till 5 pm. The number, however, could go up as a large number of voters were waiting at many polling stations in different parts of the State.

The highest turnouts were recorded in Medak at 86.69%, Jangaon 83.34%, Narsampet 83%, Nakrekal 82.34%, Bhongir 81% and Palakurthi 81%.

The lowest was in Hyderabad city areas like Yakutpura 27.89%, Nampally 32%, Charminar 34%, Malakpet 36.9%, Bahadurpura 39.11%, Chandrayangutta 39%, Secunderabad- 45.01%, Sanath Nagar 45.1%, Goshamahal 45 79% Khairatabad 45 5% and Secunderabad Cantonment





India's G20 presidency draws to close

PNS NEW DELHI

Induction of 55-nation African Union as a permanent member of the G20, steps to address climate change and managing to produce a leaders' declaration overcoming deep divi-sions over the Ukraine conflict were seen as major achievements of India's presidency of grouping of the world's 20 big economies.As the year-long presidency comes to an end, foreign policy experts said the one-year period saw India boosting its global standing and cementing its position as a credible voice of the Global

We are servants

Revanth confident of Congress victory

PNS HYDERABAD

TPCC President Revanth Reddy said that he is happy to defeat KCR in Kamareddy as he had been tormenting Telangana for the last 10 years and that Telangana has once again proved its dynamism.

Speaking to the media at Kamareddy on Thursday, Revanth paid tributes to the immortal Srikantha Chary who was martyred in the final stages of the Telangana movement The Telangana movement took December 3.

off after Srikantha Chary died on December 3, he said, adding that coincidentally the Telangana election results too are coming out on



He said that the first statement was made on December 9, 2009.

Tension at Nagarjuna Sagar dam

PNS HYDERABAD

Tension prevailed at Nagarjuna Sagar dam in Nalgonda district after police personnel from Andhra Pradesh allegedly took into their control half of the project and set up a fencing from the 13th gate of the project.

At around 1 am on the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday, a large number of AP police personnel reached the dam and allegedly pushed aside the special protection force of Telangana and took control from the 13th gate (out of the 26 gates) after erecting barricades and barbed wires and restrained the entry of Telangana police on the barrage, they said. The AP Irrigation into the right side canal, they said.



authorities also released water

ASSEMBLY POLLS IN 5 STATES

Seizures over Rs 2,000 cr: EC

PNS NEW DELHI

The Election Commission cracked its whip on several occasions to ensure a level playing field for all assembly polls were held even as authorities seized freebies, drugs, cash and liquor worth over Rs 2,000 crore aimed at alluring voters. Elections were held in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan and Telangana between November 7-November 30 and the counting of votes would take place on

December 3. notices and advisories to top politicians to adhere to the provisions of the model code.

It withdrew permission given to the Telangana government for disbursements of financial aid to farmers for rabi crops under the parties in the five states where Rythu Bandhu Scheme after a state minister violated the provisions of the model code by making a public announcement about it.

The poll panel had given its nod to the state government to disburse the rabi installment during the model code of conduct period on certain grounds

It had also asked the government not to carry out the prooosed Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, Acting on complaints and its mega outreach programme inputs by the local poll machin- on schemes and initiatives, in ery, the EC issued show cause these five states till December 5.

AS ELECTIONS DRAW CLOSER

Number of fraud cases tends to increase: CJI

PNS NEW DELHI

The number of "fraud cases" in the Supreme Court tends to increase as elections draw closer and the court becomes a site for political engagement, Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud said on Thursday.

Speaking at the Constitution Day function organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) in the apex court, Justice Chandrachud said we all exist together and the Indian Constitution tells us that "we either survive or we perish togeth-

"But above all, I think it is important that on a day where we celebrate the Constitution, we learn to discharge our duties to the cause of justice. Our duty to the cause of justice ranks much higher than the success

Chandrachud said after elections get over, things settle down and "as the polls come closer and closer, the court becomes a site for political engagement. That is a truth of our society. I am not looking at it with any value judgement".

"Just yesterday, I had to deal with a fraud case. The Supreme Court deals with fraud cases every day. Some courts have more than their share of fraud cases and there are some times as elections come, the number of fraud cases tends to increase in the court and we as or failure in individual cases," he judges realise it," the CJI said.

Constitution Day is celebrated across the country on November 26

Chandrachud said after elections get over, things settle down and "as the polls come closer and closer, the court becomes a site for political engagement. That is a truth of our society. I am not looking at it with any value judgement".

Justice Chandrachud, who also addressed the gathering in Hindi for a few minutes, said freedom and the Constitution have an unbreakable relationship.

Speaking about the legal profession, the CJI said it is a profession of diversity, including diversity in

terms of gender.
He said be it the judges or lawyers, all have come from different parts of the country in search of a better livelihood."But in the process of giving each one of us a better livelihood, we are also engaged in providing a better existence to our fellow citizens. That is the big power which all of you command as lawyers," he said.

Referring to the attire of judges and lawyers, the CJI said it reminds us that the "similarity of our attire is a symbol of the common existence which we share".

Henry Kissinger dies

PNS WASHINGTON

Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, the diplomat with the thick glasses and gravelly voice who dominated foreign policy as the United States extricated itself from Vietnam and broke down barriers with China, died Wednesday, his consulting firm said. He was 100.

With his gruff yet commanding presence and behind-the-scenes manipulation of power, Kissinger exerted uncommon influence on global affairs under Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford, earning both vilification and the Nobel Peace Prize. Decades later, his name still provoked impassioned debate over foreign policy

landmarks long past. Kissinger's power grew during the turmoil of Watergate, when the politically attuned diplomat assumed a role akin to co-president to the weakened Nixon.





People determined to defeat KCR: Eatala

PNS HYDERABAD

Thanking everyone who voted during the elections, Telangana BJP Election Management Committee Chairman Eatala Rajender said that the people are determined to defeat KCR.

He said that people voted thinking that Huzurabad could not be imagined without Eatala Rajender. "Huzurabad will give me a huge majority and I will fulfil people's responsibility. There is a quiet revolution in Gajwel. Survey results are inconsistent," he said.

Speaking to the media after polling, Eatala said, "The people voted indicating that they have found a leader who will not surrender to KCR's tyranny. Thanks to all BJP workers



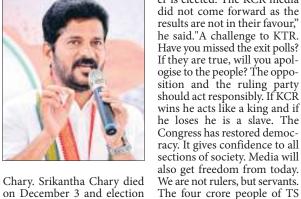
who fought like tiger cubs for 40 days. KCR fielded a psychosadist in Huzurabad. The real reason for this is KCR. KCR said that the BRS candidate in Huzurabad is like a son to him and an activist. KCR should make his position clear after the election verdict.

'KCR changes seat when he smells defeat'

PNS HYDERABAD

Reacting to exit poll results TPCC President Revanth Reddy said that KCR would change constituencies whenever he is on the verge of defeat and declared that KCR is going to be defeated in Kamareddy.

"The Congress saved democracy. Thank you for defeating KCR in Kamareddy. KCR changes constituency whenever he smells defeat. It is commendable that our people laid a trap for him and defeated him here. The voters of Kamareddy are dynamic. People defeated KCR without falling for the many temptations offered. A heartfelt tribute to the soul of Srikantha



racy. It gives confidence to all sections of society. Media will also get freedom from today. We are not rulers, but servants. The four crore people of TS results are coming out on that have allowed us to serve them. day. A Congress government is going to take charge on December 9. We have faith in Our first and last enemies are the four members of KCR's family. The BRS will not cross 25 seats," Revanth said. the people. Let's fight whoev-

Will retain power in Chhattisgarh: Deo

Says high command to decide

Chhattisgarh deputy Chief Minister T S Singh Deo on Thursday said he takes exit polls results with a pinch of salt and the Congress will retain power in the state.

The party high command's choice for the chief minister's post would be acceptable to all, he told PTI in Delhi.

A few exit polls on Thursday predicted a close race between the ruling Congress and opposition Bharatiya Janata Party in Chhattisgarh.

"As far as projections are concerned, I always take them with a pinch of salt. They are attempts by various news channels and agencies to guess what may have hap-pened in elections. We should wait for the 3rd (of December)," Singh Deo told

"In Madhya Pradesh, a Congress government should be coming (to power). In Rajasthan, we are very much there. Because it has been a traditional in-and-out format (in Rajasthan), five years one party, next five years another party, so that is the only hesitation (while predicting the party's victory)," he said. The Congress was very likely to form government in Telangana, he said, adding, "In Chhattisgarh, we are

forming the government."

Jayashankar Bhupalpalle Jogulamba Gadwal 81.20% 81.16% Kumaram Bhim Asifabad 80.82% Adilabad 79.86% 79.84% Siddipet Kamareddy 79.59% Nagarkurnool 79.46% Bhadradri 78.65% 78.24% Nirmal 78.06% Warangal 77.72% Mahabubnagai Wanaparthy 77.54% Narayanpet 76.74% Peddapalli 76.57% 76.47% Vikarabad Sangareddy Rajanna Sircilla 76.12% 76.10% Jagtial 75.59% Mancherial 74.61% Karimnagai 73.72% Nizamabad Hanumakonda 66.38% 59.94%

Yadadri Bhongiri

Janagaon

Suryapet

Mahabubabad

Khammam

Mulugu

90.03% 86.69%

85.74% 85.49% 84.83%

83.70%

83.28%

82.09%

'Welfare schemes have enriched lives of people'

PNS NALBARI

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Thursday said the various welfare schemes initiated under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi have enriched the quality of people's lives in the country.

Sonowal joined the prime minister during his virtual interaction with beneficiaries of various government schemes under the 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' at Dakhin Pakua GP Office Ground in Dev Block in

Under the dynamic leadership of the prime minister, this

welfare schemes aimed at enriching the quality of lives and at the same time enabling social apparatus towards realising his vision of an Atmanirbhar Bharat by 2047," Sonowal said.

The government aims to serve the poor, honour the marginalised and ensure the welfare of farmers with the help of various welfare schemes like 'PM Kisan', 'PM Awas Yojana', 'PM SVANidhi', 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana', 'Jan Dhan Yojana' and so many other initiatives, he

'The PM has given a clarion 'sankalp yatra' is an earnest call that the 'atmanirbharta'

attempt to make the people of of (self-reliance) of India can our country realise the various only be achieved by empowering women. For this, the government initiated various schemes like 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam', 'Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana' (PMMVY) and many others as well as correcting social evils like triple talaq to empower women towards the cause of nation-building," he said.

> The youth of the country remains the cornerstone towards realising the vision of PM's 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and implementation of the National Education Policy, Skill India initiative and other important schemes, Sonowal, the shipping minister, said.

'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' is being undertaken across the country to attain saturation of flagship schemes of the government by ensuring that benefits reach all targeted people in a time-bound manner. The prime minister also

launched the 'Pradhan Mantri Mahila Kisan Drone Kendra', which will provide drones to women self-help groups (SHGs) so that they can use the technology for livelihood assistance.He also dedicated the landmark 10,000th Jan Aushadhi Kendra at AIIMS, Deoghar in Jharkhand and launched a programme to increase the number of such facilities in the country from

Congress will win Rajasthan polls

BJP to lose in all 5 states: Gehlot

PNS JAIPUR

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Thursday said he was confident of a Congress win in Rajasthan assembly polls, and added that the BJP would not form the government in any of the five states where elections are being held.

Five state went to polls in November. While polling in Telangana will end Thursday evening, it was held earlier in the month in Mizoram, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Results of the elections will be declared on



be formed (in Rajasthan). In all five states, I feel that BJP is not going to form the government. Exit polls may say something, surveys might suggest something, but based on the feedback of people in the cities and villages, I feel that our gov-ernment should come," Gehlot told reporters in New Delhi.

He said the Congress government in Rajasthan is the only government in the country, which has no anti-incumbency factor against it. "People are saying that the chief minister has not left any stone unturned in doing development works."

Gehlot slammed the "frightening language" used by BJP leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, during the election cam-

Seizures...

56.00%

Continued from page 1

Medchal Malkajgiri

The government had made it clear that the yatra will not cover poll-going states till the model code of conduct was in force.Based on complaints from rival parties, the EC issued notices to former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, his sister and party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and BRS chief and Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao.

India walks the talk when it comes to climate action: Modi

PNS NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday called for supporting developing countries with adequate climate financing and technology transfer to enable them to deal with climate change.

As he heads to Dubai to attend the World Climate Action Summit, Modi said India has walked the talk when it comes to climate action while highlighting the importance India attached to the issue during its G20 presiden-

"During our G20 presidencv. climate was high on our priority. The New Delhi Leaders' Declaration includes numer-

ous concrete steps on climate action and sustainable development. I look forward to the COP28 taking forward the consensus on these issues," Modi said in his departure statement.

Modi will attend the World Climate Action Summit on Friday during the United Nations 'Conference of the Parties' on climate, known as

Several world leaders are set to attend the climate action summit to discuss ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and effectively combat climate change.

The World Climate Action Summit is the high-level segment of the COP28.

The prime minister is scheduled to participate in three other high-level side events as well. The COP28 is taking place from November 30 to December 12 under the presidency of the UAE.

In his statement, the prime minister said the COP28 will provide an opportunity to review progress made under the Paris Agreement, and chart a path for future course on cli-

mate action. "At the Voice of Global South Summit convened by India, the Global South spoke for the need for climate action based on the principles of equity, climate justice, and common but differentiated responsibilities, as well as a

BJP ahead in MP, Rajasthan...

Continued from page 1

In Madhya Pradesh, while 115 seats for the BJP and 105-120 for the Congress, India Today-Axis My India forecasted that the BJP will get 140 to 162 seats and the Congress 68-90.India TV CNX also gave a landslide to the BJP, pegging its seats at 140 to 159 and 70-89 seats to the Congress. Today's Chanakya forecasted that the BJP would get 151 (plus minus 12 seats) and the Congress 74

(plus minus 12 seats). While Jan Ki Baat exit poll predicted that the BJP would get 100-123 seats and the Congress 102-125, Republic TV-Matrize forecast 118-130 seats for the BJP and 97-107 for the

Congress. TV9 Bharatvarsh Polstrat said the BJP would get 106-116 and the Congress would get 111-121.

Times Now-ETG gave 105-117 seats to the BJP and 109-125 to the Congress.

Jist-TIF-NAI

Congress was enjoying 2018-like edge in Madhya Pradesh, predicting 107-124 seats for the party as against the BJP's 102-In Rajasthan, India Today-

Axis My India forecast a tight race, predicting 86-106 seats for the Congress, 80-100 seats for the BJP and others 9-18. While Dainik Bhaskar gave

98-105 seats to the BJP and 85-95 to the Congress, Jan Ki Baat pollsters forecast that the BJP would get 100-122 and 62-85 for the Congress.

TV9 Bharatvarsh-Polstrat predicted 100-110 for the BJP and 90-100 for the Congress. Times Now ETG poll predicted 108-128 seats for the BJP and 56-72 for the Congress in Rajasthan. Today's Chankaya

Hyd drags TS...

Continued from page 1

gave a simple majority to the Congress, projecting that it would get 101 seat as against the

While India TV-CNX put the

Congress' tally at 94 to 104 in

the 200-member House and the

BJP's at 80-90, Republic TV-

Matrize gave 115-130 seats to the BJP and 65-75 to the

Congress.P-MARQ pollsters

gave 105-125 seats to the BJP

in Rajasthan there would be

continuation of the state's

revolving door tradition, fore-

casting 110 seats for the BJP and

For Chhattisgarh, while ABP

News-C Voter predicted 41-53

for the Congress and 36-48 seats

for the BJP in the 90-member

House, India Today-Axis My

India forecast 40-50 seats for the

Congress and 36-46 seats for the

the Congress 70.

Jist-TIF-NAI predicted that

and 69-91 to the Congress.

Continued from page 1

freed from the rule of 'aristocrats, he said. Revanth exuded confidence

We are servants...

that a Congress government will be formed on December 9 and that the struggle of Congress workers is going to bear fruit on that day. ll exit polls say that the

Congress will come to power in TS, he said. Revanth said that it is now time to thank Soniamma as she had asked people to give the Congress a chance to fulfil the hopes of Telangana.

He said that KCR did not hold a press meet as he knows that election results would not favour the BRS.

Revanth said that if what BRS Working President KTR said is wrong he must come before the people and apologise. He said that Congress work-

Now, coincidentally on the ers don't have to wait till Thursday 7 pm they can start celebrating."The winner is not a king and losers are not slaves, he said. The ruling party and the opposition should behave responsibly," Revanth said.He said that when the Congress assumes power it would 'restore' democracy in Telangana.

"As the TPCC President I promise the people of Telangana that there will be freedom, equality and equal development. The Congress will not abuse the power given to it by the people. The Congress uses power only to solve public problems. We are not rulers but servants. Telangana's first and last enemy are the four members of KCR's family.

TODAY ALMANAC Month & Paksham: Krishna Paksha Tithi: Chaturthi: Nov 30 02:25 PM to Dec 01 03:31 PM Panchami Dec 01 03:31 PM to Dec 02 05:14 PM Nakshatram: Nov 30 03:01 PM Punarvasu: to Dec 01 04:40 PM Pushya: Dec 01 04:40 PM to Dec 02 06:54 PM

Gulika: 7:56 AM to 09:19 AM 02:06 PM to 03:49 PM Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:42 AM to 12:26 PM HYDERABAD WEATHER Forecast: Mostly Sunny

Yamagandam:

Varivam:

Temp: 30[∞]

10:42 AM to 12:04 PM

2:50 PM to 4:13 PM

01:25 AM to 03:10 AM

Humidity: 57% Sunset: 5:40 PM **Updated:** November 30, 2023 5:00 PM

India's G20 presidency...

Continued from page 1

India officially took charge as the G20 president on December 1 last year and Brazil is set to assume the prestigious position on Friday.

"India cemented its position as a prominent voice of the Global South besides enhancing its overall global standing," said former diplomat Ashok Sajjanhar.

In a significant milestone under India's G20 presidency, the African Union in September became the new permanent member of the grouping of the largest economies of the world in the first expansion of the influential bloc since its inception in

1999. India was consistently batting for inclusion of the African Union as a G20 member so as to ensure representation of the African continent in the top global

The African Union (AU) is an influential organisation comprising 55 member states that make up the countries of the African conti-

As the G20 president, India focused on issues like inclusive growth, digital innovation, climate financing and equitable global health access with an aim to benefit the Global South or the developing countries.

In an opinion piece that appeared in several newspapers on Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India's approach was defined by being "inclusive,

ambitious, action-oriented,

and decisive" and the New

Delhi Leaders' Declaration (NDLD), unanimously adopted by all G20 members, is testimony to our commitment to deliver on these principles.

"Assuming the G20 chair, India sought to offer the world an alternative to the status quo, a shift from a GDP-centric to human-centric progress. India aimed to remind the world of what unites us, rather than what divides us," he said. India's G20 presidency

marked a significant milestone in its global leadership, said Sajjanhar. Another expert said the G20 Leaders' declaration at the summit notwithstanding

deep divisions on the Russia-

Ukraine conflict was a shin-

ing example of India's lead-

Among districts, the polling percentage in Hyderabad district till 5 pm

is 40.23 per cent followed by Medchal Malkajgiri with 49.25 per cent and Ranga Reddy district with 53 per cent. These areas brought down the overall polling percentage as all other districts reported voting percentages above 60 per cent. The BRS is trying to retain power while the Congress has been fighting tooth and nail to wrest power from it. The BJP also has left no stone unturned to

win power. The BRS fielded candidates in all the 119 seats. As per the seat-sharing agreement, the BJP and the Jana Sena are contesting in 111 and eight seats respectively while the Congress gave one seat to its ally the CPI.

KCR, wife vote in Chintamadaka...

Continued from page 1

Industries Minister KT Rama Rao, Congress leader Revanth Reddy, and Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy also voted. Celebrities like Allu Arjun, Chiranjeevi and Jr. NTR also exercised their fran-

Expressing hope that the BRS would form a government for the third time in the state, KTR tweeted, "Getting reports from all over the state. CAR in Top Gear. Jai Telangana.

Political leaders including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge urged the public to exercise their franchise.

"I call upon my brothers

and sisters in Telangana to vote in record numbers and strengthen our democracy. I urge youth, especially firsttime voters, to exercise their right to vote," tweeted Modi.

Union Minister Amit Shah tweeted, "Only a corruptionfree and pro-poor government can work selflessly for Telangana. I appeal to the people of Telangana to come out in large numbers and elect a government whose priority is empowerment and not appeasement."

"No force on earth can stop an idea whose time has come," tweeted Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge urging the people of Telangana, especially first-time voters, to exercise their franchise.

Tension at Nagarjuna Sagar....

Continued from page 1

"When Telangana Police personnel were busy with election duty they (AP police) resorted to this act. It is preplanned they came to draw water without asking the Telangana Irrigation department," Telangana officials

Additional police personnel from Telangana were deployed following the incident, a senior police official said.Officials further said Nagarjuna Sagar dam, built over river Krishna, is under the control of Telangana government while the control of Srisailam project is under Andhra Pradesh gov-

ernment.

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Cyberabad CP Raveendra inspects polling centres

PNS HYDERABAD

In view of Telangana Assembly polls, Cyberabad Commissioner of Police Stephen Raveendra inspected various polling booths on Thursday.

He visited several polling centres under commissionerate, which are KPHB Colony, Kuthbullapur, Nizampet, Nanakramguda, Gowlidoddi, Gopanpally Thanda, Hafizpet, Jagadgirigutta, Jeedimetla polling centres. Malaysian Township in KPHB Colony Quthbullapur ZPHS, ZPHS in Nizampet, Nanakramguda MPPS, Gouliddi MPPS, Holy High School in New Aditya Nagar in Hafeezpet, M.H. in Gopanapalli Thanda. PPS and Jagadgirigutta CMR Model

High School polling centres.
The CP checked the polling pattern from the Public Safety Integrated Operation Centre (PSIOC) at the Command Control Centre in Cyberabad. He also visited Guru Nanak High School Polling Centre at Sikh Chavani in Rajendra Nagar Zone and Lovely High School Polling Centre at Along with the CP, Rajendranagar DCP Jagadishwar Reddy, Special Operation Team (SOT) Assistant DCP Narayana, Rajendranagar ACP Gangadhar, Attapur Police Station Inspector Yadagiri and

others inspected the centres. Meanwhile, Special Police Observer Deepak Mishra visited the Telangana State Police Integrated Command and Control Centre (TSPICCC) and observed the functioning of CCTV cameras at all polling stations.

Hyderabad Commissioner of Police Sandeep Shandilya and Special General Observer Ajay V Naik were also present at the TSPICCC. It is to be noted that 6,000 CCTV cameras were deployed to moni-tor polling stations across Hyderabad. The conditions outside polling centres was monitored through drone cameras; while the situation at critical polling centers in the city was inquired and monitored through cameras as

The polling pattern at the polling stations was also VOTING AN UPHILL TASK FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

First-time voters exercise franchise enthusiastically



PNS HYDERABAD

First-time voters expressed their enthusiasm in casting their votes on the polling day. Though many of them were still pondering over 'the right leader', they were excited to cast their vote to showcase their responsibility to the State. Ajit, a first-time voter from

Iubilee Hills said, "This is the first time I am voting. It feels good to take a big decision.

Ahmed, a final year B.Com student said, "I was looking for"The voting process went off well. The officials guided us on how to vote. The services offered by the officials at the polling centres were good."

Meanwhile, senior citizens found it difficult to cast their vote. Many complained of lack of support from the authorities.

Ghulam Ahmed from the Jubilee Hills said, "I waited in the queue for half-an-hour and now they say I can't cast vote using the digital voter ID. They are asking for the physical one which will take a lot of time for me to bring."

Ayesha Bee, also from the same constituency, said, "There is no proper arrangement for senior citizens to sit and there is a long queue. There are many

others like me who are yet to come to the polling station." Jibran Siddiqui from

Rajendranagar said, "No officials visited us in the buildup to the elections and today I found that my name is not in the voters list." Venkat Reddy from Turkayamjal said, "Drinking

water and chairs are less. It took half-an-hour for me to vote. Moreover, all my family members are from the same constituency, but in different centres."

Dayaker Reddy from Manndeguda said, "I have been waiting for two hours in a long queue. No chairs and drinking water facilities are provided to me. It's a bit frustrating to wait



Hyd leads in overall real estate launches

PNS HYDERABAD

Hyderabad leads in Q3 2023 with 71 per cent share in overall new real estate supply after Bengaluru with 80 per cent. According to Prop Tiger's 'Real Insight Residential -July-September 2023' report, Hyderabad has sold 20,480 units, compared with Bengaluru selling 14,360 units in July to September.

The quarterly report tracked eight major housing markets, including Hyderabad, Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Pune and Ahmedabad. Regarding new supply, there is a 17 per cent increase in launches across eight markets, amounting to 1,23,080 new units.

Ankita Sood, Head of Research at PropTiger said "Despite global challenges, property markets in India are looking up across cities. We are in the midst of a residential real estate upcycle, with the July-September quarter seeing

a surge in property sales by 22 per cent and new launches registering a 17 per cent Y-o-Y growth. We anticipate the festive season to further boost sales, potentially pushing annual figures to new heights."

Year on Year housing sales in Ahmedabad have risen 31 per cent to 10,300 units from 7,880 units. Hyderabad has witnessed a 34 per cent growth in sales to 14,190 units from

10,570 units. Vikas Wadhawan, Business Head of PropTiger said, "The housing markets in the top eight cities continue to gain momentum. The strong demand is bolstered by positive consumer sentiment. Factors like pent-up demand, increased disposable income, stable interest rates, and renewed investor demand as key drivers of the sales growth. In the Q3 period, 14 per cent of units sold were ready to move in, and 31 per cent of sales occurred in the above Rs

Antibiotics for childhood infections no longer effective

PNS HYDERABAD

Alarmingly high rates of bacterial resistance to commonly prescribed antibiotics used to treat children has been found in the Asia-Pacific. Drugs to treat common infections in children and babies are no longer effective in large parts of the world, due to high rates of antibiotic resistance.

The University of Sydney led study found many antibiotics recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO) had less than 50 per cent effectiveness in treating childhood infections such as stream infections) and meningitis. The findings show global guidelines on antibiotic use are outdated and need updates.

The most seriously affected regions are in South-East Asia and the Pacific, including neighbouring Indonesia and the Philippines, where thousands of deaths in children resulting from antibiotic resistance occur each year. The WHO has declared antimicrobial resistance



(AMR) is one of the top 10 global public health threats facing humanity. In newborns, an estimated three million cases of sepsis occur globally each year, with up to 570,000 deaths: many of these are due to lack of effective

The findings, published in Lancet South East Asia, adds to mounting evidence that common bacteria responsible for sepsis and meningitis in children are often resistant to prescribed antibiotics. The research reveals the urgent need for global antibiotic guidelines to be updated, to reflect the rapidly evolving rates of AMR.

bacteria.

The study found one antibiotic in particular, ceftriaxone, was likely to be effective in treating only one in three cases of sepsis or meningitis in newborn babies. Ceftriaxone is also widely used in Australia to treat many infections in children, such as pneumonia and urinary tract infections. Another antibiotic, gentamicin, was found likely to be effective in treating fewer than half of all sepsis and meningitis cases in children.

Gentamicin is commonly prescribed alongside aminopenicillins, which the study showed also has low effectiveness in combating babies and children.

Lead author Dr Phoebe Williams from University's School of Public Health is an infectious disease specialist whose research focuses on reducing AMR in high-burden healthcare settings in Southeast Asia. She also works as a clinician in Australia. Dr Williams says there are increasing cases of multidrug-resistant bacterial infections in children around

Dead persons' names pop up in voters list

be done. It's a big responsibility,

especially for first-time voters like

Gautam, a BBA second-year

student said, "There is so much

of excitement and a sense of

responsibility; I hope the vote

Ibrahimpatnam said, "I am verv

glad to cast my vote. I voted for

KCR as he has introduced many

innovative schemes for the State.

dent from Manneguda, said,

D Lalitha, an engineering stu-

V Srija, a degree student from

PNS HYDERABAD

As everyone is aware that Hyderabad turnout voting percentage is below 50 per cent, a few voters may have not voted and few of them were going from the polling booths without casting their vote because their name was not in the list, but surprisingly the names of dead people are in the list.

People are saying that we have cast our vote in the Assembly, Lok Sabha and Municipal elections for years but our name is not in the voter list. Voters who have cast their vote in 2009, 2014 2019 could not cast their vote this time as their name was not there in the voter list.

A retired Assistant Sub Inspector of police from Masab tank (Nampally constituency) said, "I have my own residence here and I have cast my vote since 2009 Assembly elections without missing. But this time my name is not there in the list. So, as a responsible person, I am very sorry that I have not

SCR to extend special trains in December

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

To clear the extra rush of passengers during December, South Central Railway (SCR) extends the run of special trains between various destinations.

Train No 07631 (Hyderabad –

Narsapur) will extend its services from December 2 to December 30 on Saturdays only while Train No 07632 (Narsapur -Hyderabad) extend its service from December 3 to December 31 on Sundays only. Train No 07481 (Tirupati – Secunderabad)

will extend its service from December 3 to December 31 on Sundays only while Train No 07482 (Secunderabad – Tirupati) will extend its service from December 4 to December 25 on Mondays only. Train No 07445 (Kakinada Town – Lingampalli)

will extend its service from December 1 to December 29 on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays while Train No 07446 (Lingampalli – Kakinada Town) will extend its service from Dec 2 to Dec 30 on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

1 crore price segment.



Exporters seek clarifications on macro-economic scenario



PNS HYDERABAD

The State Bank of India, Hyderabad Circle, in association with Commercial Clients Group (CCG) has conducted an Exporters' Meet for high-value clients on Wednesday at Taj Krishna,

Banjara Hills. Challa Sreenivasulu Setty, Managing Director, International Banking, Global Director, Markets & Technology, stressed on the role of SBI in catering to the requirements of large corporates while simultaneously handholding SMEs in export finance. He highlighted the phenomenal achievement of SBI in discrore relating to export finance and resulting improvement in market share to 18% during the last FY. He informed about the latest bank initiatives in respect of end-to-end digitization process in trade finance. He also emphasised the need for achieving US\$ 1.4 trillion exports as an integral part of the roadmap for our economy to touch US\$ 5 trillion. He requested the exporters to provide feedback on the bank's products and suggestions towards export promo-

bursement of Rs 2.60 lakh

About 150 high-value exporters of Telangana

attended the event. The top officials from major organisations such as FÍEO, FTCCI and ECGC participated in the event. GM, Network-I,

Hyderabad Circle Manju Sharma welcomed the customers, dignitaries and top executives. A presentation on Forex products was made by Global Markets team. Amitava Chatterjee, DMD, CCG and AS Paul, CGM SME & SCF, also addressed the exporters.

Many of the exporters sought clarifications regarding the bank's products, present macro-economic scenario and the uncertainties prevailing in the export market. General Debashish Mitra thanked the exporters who attended the meet in large number. Vidya Raja, GM, CCGRO, Hyderabad, Bhuvaneswari, DGM (SME) were among those present in the meeting.

The event was attended by Challa Sreenivasulu Setty, Managing Director, International Banking, Global Markets & Technology, Nand Kishore, Dy Managing Director, Global Markets, Amitava Chatterjee, Dy Managing Director, CCG, and top dignitaries from Corporate Office of the SBI, Hyderabad.

Both BRS & Cong confident of victory It was BRS, Cong all the

PNS HYDERABAD

Voting in the Telangana Assembly elections ended on Thursday after a high-voltage campaign by the top leaders of all major political parties. Now the candidates of the three major parties have to wait for the next 48 hours to know their

Thanks to the Election Commission for reducing the tension of candidates by 24 hours. In the 2018 Telangana Assembly elections, candidates had to wait for four days to know their fate.

In 2018, the elections were held on December 7 and the results were announced on December 11. This time elections were held on November 30 and the results will be announced on December 3.

Meanwhile, candidates, particularly those belonging to the BRS and the Congress, are busy urban areas in rural areas the collecting information about voting trends after the end of polling. Based on polling trends the candidates are assessing the likely outcome in their con-

In the 2018 Assembly elec-



was only 69%. There are expectations this time that the turnout may cross 75%. Compared to polling percentage was high.

As per general opinion, if the voting percentage is low it is advantage ruling party, and if the voting percentage is high it is advantage opposition. But this theory may not be correct always. Political mathematics is

As per general opinion, if the voting percentage is low it is advantage ruling party, and if the voting percentage is high it is advantage opposition. But this theory may not be correct always.

different from ordinary mathematics. In politics, one plus one

After the completion of polling, the ruling BRS is con-

fident of coming to power for the first time in Telangana. The BJP is hopeful of winning a respectable number of seats.

The 2023 TS Assembly election results would certainly impact the coming LS general elections. The winning party in the Assembly elections may have an advantage in the LS general elections which is scheduled in the next four months.

For the BJP the LS general elections are more important than Assembly elections. But for the BRS and the Congress both Assembly and general elections are important. Once the Assembly elections are over political parties will concentrate on the coming LS general elec-

If the BRS retains power a new government will be formed without delay. But if the Congress wins the formation of a new government may take some time.

The main issue in the Congress is selecting the Chief Minister and Ministers. The Congress high command will take some time to finalise the Chief Minister and Cabinet

way in Assembly polls

The atmosphere at various polling booths indicates that the fight was between the BRS and the Congress only in the Telangana Assembly elections. Clashes took place near several polling booths during the polling. The scenario at polling booths indicates the position of the BJP in Telangana.

At several places, the ruling BRS and the main opposition Congress workers clashed and the BJP was nowhere in the picture. It shows that the ballot fight was between the BRS and the Congress directly and it was not a triangular contest. Due to various reasons, the BRS and the Congress workers clashed.

The Congress and the BRS activists mainly clashed over the distribution of money near polling booths and ruling party leaders coming to polling booths indicating their party colour. Only at a few

places, the BJP workers also clashed with the BRS and Congress workers. The BRS and Congress have taken the Assembly elections as a prestigious issue and this was spread to ground level work-

Party candidates' victory depends on active participation of their respective party workers. The BRS and Congress workers competed with each other in bringing the voters to the polling booths. In this context, in several places the BRS and the Congress workers clashed. Though initially, everyone thought that there will be triangular between the BRS, Congress and the BJP, finally it turned out to be a direct fight between the BRS and the Congress, except in some places where the BJP was in a strong posi-

While the BRS and the Congress are expecting to come to power the BJP hopes there will be a hung Assembly. But there seems to be no chance for a hung Assembly. Whether it be the BRS or the Congress which wins, it will get complete majority.

Centre launches PM Mahila Kisan Drone Kendras

PNS HYDERABAD

The Central government launched the Pradhan Mantri Mahila Kisan Drone Kendras for empowerment of rural women. As part of the initiative, Rs 1,261crore is to provide drones to15,000 women Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

Expressing his views on the scheme, Marut Drone CEO, Prem Kumar Vislawath said, "Women's empowerment, especially in rural area, is part of value system of Marut Drones, we have been actively engaged in delivering drone training not only to provide certificates but to ensure that employability and financial liberty is achieved for Indian rural women. In recent



days, Marut Drones has already empowered more than 100 women from Self-Help Groups (SHGs) across various states, making the entire experience user-friendly for women in diverse linguistic communities, including Telugu, Kannada, and Tamil."

Vislawath further said, "It has been the constant endeavor of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure women led development. In yet another step in this

direction, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched Pradhan Mantri Mahila Kisan Drone Kendras for Women SHGs. Aligned with PM's vision to make agriculture profitable for Indian farmers, our mission is to empower women farmers, encouraging them to embrace drone technology as a means to enhance their livelihood. Recognising the potential challenges in drone procurement, repair, and maintenance for SHGs, Marut Drones has already simplified the process. We are aligned to the cause, programme announced by the Prime Minister and committed

to make our contributions for

making 15,000 SHGs empow-

AP Police action on N'Sagar is not proper: Kishan Reddy

Telangana BJP president G Kishan Reddy said that he will write a letter to the Central government to intervene in the matter in regard to Andhra Pradesh police action on Nagarjuna Sagar on Thursday wee hours.

While speaking to the media on Thursday, Union Minister Kishan Reddy has objected to the way the AP government has acted in the Nagarjuna Sagar case, saying it is not proper. The Union Minister said that he has no objection to providing drinking water to AP. He asked both the states to resolve the issues through discussions.



He alleged that the BRS and the YSRCP are creating tension together to get benefit. BRS and Congress parties have been accused of distributing large amounts of money to lure vot-

ers during elections. He said that the elections went smoothly across the State. Voters participated in the polling on a large scale and congratulated them for making it successful.



KCR will create history: Kavitha

PNS HYDERABAD

BRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha said that the victory of BRS in the Assembly elections held in the State is certain and KCR will create history as a hat-trick Chief Minister. She spoke to the media after visiting Peddamma temple in Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad. She said that a pink wave has been seen in Telangana in the elections.

She offered prayers in temple for well being of people. She said that the presence of active and dynamic people in that people have decided to have representatives who will benefit the people. According to the information we are getting from the field level, BRS party is known to be positive, she said.

Kavitha said that people

She spoke to the media after visiting **Peddamma temple** in Jubilee Hills, **Hyderabad. She said** that a pink wave has been seen in **Telangana in the** elections.

are going to create history by blessing the BRS party and CM KCR if they see the pink wave coming across the state. She said that despite the polling percentage, BRS's viccelebrations are already being held in every constituency and the MLAs are confident of victory. She said that many fake surveys are coming to mislead the people and this happened in the last elections

AIMIM Nampally candidate Majid detained in Ahmed Nagar

PNS HYDERABAD

Majli-e-İttehadul Muslimeen's (AIMIM) Nampally candidate Majid Hussain leading to tension in the area.

The Congress and AIMIM have entered a close contest in the constituency, leading to tensions between the cadre of

both the parties. Hussain was detained from Ahmed Nagar; The West Zone Task Force on after Congress candidate Feroz a complaint alleging that AIMIM workers were indulging in bogus voting. GHMC deployed drones to

monitor the polling situation in the constituency to ensure the smooth conduct of polls. Similarly, Majlis Bachao

Tehreek Spokesperson and



Yakutpura candidate Amjed Ullah Khan was briefly detained by the south zone police. Khan was booked under several Sections of the Indian Penal Code and Section Procedure Code.

The MBT Spokesperson objected to voter slips being allegedly printed by the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) workers at the Afreen Palace Function Hall in Dabeerpura.

Hope TS continues on path of peace, says Asaduddin Owaisi

PNS HYDERABAD

As the Telangana Assembly elections concluded on Thursday, All India Majli-e-Ittehadul Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi hoped that the State will continue to be on the path of peace and progress.

Owaisi took to Twitter and thanked the people of Telangana for casting their votes and was confident of

winning the nine seats contested by the AIMIM. "My sincere thanks to

everyone who took out time to vote for us. Grateful to all Muslimeen AIMIM workers and supportfor their hard commitment throughout a gruelling campaign. Inshallah, we will win our 7 seats and also win Rajendranagar and Jubilee Hills. I hope Telangana and Hyderabad continue on the path of peace and

Revanth alerts Cong candidates

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC President Revanth Reddy appealed to Congress candidates and agents to be alert till counting is over.

On Thursday night, Revanth Reddy said on Twitter, "I appeal to Congress candidates, election

agents and workers. Be alert till polling is over, the EVMs are sealed and they reach strong The Election rooms. Commission should disclose the percentage of polling on Thursday night. The ECI should take care not to repeat mistakes of the past."



BRS minister, MLA cast votes in party scarves

PNS HYDERABAD

Two candidates of ruling Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), including a minister, violated model code of conduct by wearing the party scarves while casting their votes in the Assembly elections on Thursday.

Minister for Law, Forests and Endowments Indrakaran Reddy was wearing a party scarf while exercising his franchise at Yellapelli village in Nirmal constituency, from where he is seeking re-election. The pink scarf he was wearing carried the party's name and an image of party president and Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao.

Another BRS MLA Durgam Chinnaiah also wore the party scarf while casting his vote at a polling booth in Bellampalli constituency in Mancherial district. Chinnaiah was seen wearing the scarf inside the polling

booth in Venkatapur village. The Congress party has lodged a complaint with the election authorities against both the minister and the MLA.

Amjedullah Khan alleges bogus voting in Yakutpura

PNS HYDERABAD

Majlis Bachao Tehreek (MBT) Spokesperson Amjed Ullah Khan on Thursday alleged bogus voting in Yakutpura constituency during Telangana elections.

Khan took to Twitter and alleged that All India Majlise- Muslimeen cadre forcibly removed ink from the fingers of a few voters. "Miscreants are removing ink from voters' fingers at the nearby Azam Pan Shop, and bogus voting is proceeding at Rasheedia Function Hall near Yakutpura Railway Station, polling Station No: 164"

Meanwhile, an independent candidate Mohammed Abdul Aziz Khan levelled allegations against AIMIM of creating bogus voter ID cards.

It is to be noted that the MBT spokesperson raised quite a few concerns regarding irregular distribution of voter slips in Yakutpura alleging that most of them were provided to AIMIM workers. He also alleged that the AIMIM pinned its pamphlets to voter slips.



NEWS FROM ANDHRA PRADESH

CM Jagan opens Tunnel 2 of Owk

Releases 20.000 cusecs of water from Gorakallu to Owk reservoir

PNS METTUPALLI

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy dedicated Tunnel 2 of the Owk project to the people by unveiling its pylon and releasing 20,000 cusecs of water from Gorakallu reservoir to Owk reservoir amid recital of hymns by Vedic pundits here on Thursday.

1,501.94 crore on Owk tunnel with Rs 567.94 crore being incurred on Tunnels 1 and 2.

Out of the 5.801 km length of Tunnel 3, an extent of 4.526 km was completed with Rs 934 crore, and the works relating to the rest of 1. 275 km are in full swing. The total cost of the third tunnel is estimated to be Rs 2019. 1297.78 crore.

Last year, the Chief Minister dedicated to the people Nellore and Sangam barrages which are the lifelines of the Penna delta, and the Handri-Niva Lift capacity level against the storage of 4 abandoned the fault zone spending a Rayalaseema will receive 2 TMC of Irrigation project that would fetch TMC of water during the TDP rule. Rayalaseema will receive 2 TMC of meagre Rs 81.55 crore following which water daily in the flood season.

APJAC -

staff issues



The government has so far spent Rs water to 77 lakes to meet the drinking and irrigation needs of the western parts of Nandyal and Kurnool districts.

compensation of Rs 1000 crore to the of the link canal and Telugu Ganga displaced persons of Gandikota reservoir in which 26. 85 TMC of water could be stored in successive years from

The displaced persons of the Chitravati reservoir were paid compensation of Rs 250 crore after which officials succeeded in storing water to its

The Irrigation Department could also maintain capacity water levels in the Velugodu reservoir from 2019 Due to the sustained efforts of the after the Government spent Rs 500 Chief Minister, the government paid a crore and completed the lining works

> The Owk project witnessed hectic activity when Dr. YS Rajasekhara Reddy was the Chief Minister as the then Government spent Rs 340.53 crore completing the major portion.

> The project was neglected between 2014 and 2019 as the TDP Government

the present government sanctioned necessary funds and completed the Tunnel 2 with Rs.145.86 crore.

With the release of water to Owk reservoir, an integral part of the Galeru-Nagari Sujala Sravanthi (GNSS) project, the Government has fulfilled the long-cherished aspirations of the Rayalaseema people.

While Tunnels 1 & 2 facilitate the daily release of 20,000 cusecs of water

into the Owk reservoir during flood season, the completion of Tunnel 3 will facilitate the release of another 10,000

cusecs daily. With the completion of the tunnels, Gandikota, Vamikonda, Sarvaraya Sagar, Mylavaram and Paidipalem reservoirs will receive an additional 1TMC of water daily for irrigating 2.60 lakh acres in the undivided Kadapa, Chittoor, and Nellore districts besides stabilising 1.31 lakh acres of ayacut and providing drinking water to 20 lakh people in 640 villages.

While it will help fill the Gandikota reservoir in 15 days through the Galeru-Nagari flood canal,

Amaravati Amaravati (APJAC seeks swift Amaravati), Bopparaju Venkateswarlu, called for the immediate settlement of outresolution of standing dues during a State sec-

retariat meeting at Revenue

Bhavan in Vijayawada on

PNS VIJAYAWADA

proceedings, addressed concerns Chairman of the Andhra regarding pending payments, including Dearness Allowance Pradesh Joint Action Committee (DA), Surrender Leaves, General Provident Fund (GPF), Andhra Pradesh Government Life Insurance (APGLI), and retire-

ment benefits owed to government employees, police personnel, and pensioners. Members of the committee

Venkateswarlu, leading the

collectively stressed the importance of swiftly addressing these financial matters, essential for meeting the future needs of employees and pensioners, such as educational expenses, marriages, and other familial require-

The Chairman highlighted the substantial financial obligation owed by the State government, expressing disappoint-

ment at the perceived lack of government interest in resolving these financial concerns. He specifically noted the absence of compensatory appointments for Zilla Parishad Teachers who lost their lives during the COVID-19 pandemic. Venkateswarlu also lamented Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's failure to disburse dues scheduled for payment by April 2022.

All rescued workers normal, can go home: AIIMS-Rishikesh

Silkyara tunnel fit to return home. Briefing the media here on their health condition, Dr Ravikant said the workers were thoroughly examined and their blood test, X-ray, and ECG reports were normal. "They are physically normal and clinically stable. We have given them clearance to return home," he said. The workers were rescued from the tunnel Tuesday night after a long-drawn operation. The doctor said as they have come out of a tunnel after 17 days, the workers might need acclimatisation. They have been advised to go to the nearest hospital after two weeks for a check-up. "On the basis of their major organ

screening, we can say they are fit to travel. As they were taken good care of during their confinement in the tunnel with regular feeding, there was no case of starvation. They are mostly quite young or of middle age. That also helped them stay fit," Ravikant said. Doctors from AIIMS-Rishikesh will stay connected with the workers through tele-medicine to monitor their mental health for the next few weeks. he said in reply to a question



BJP demands suspension of jailed WB Minister

JP lawmakers staged a walkout from West Bengal Assembly on Thursday Bdemanding a discussion on the suspension of the jailed West Bengal Minister and TMC MLA Jyotipriyo Mallick. All the about 30 MLAs of the saffron party present walked out of the Assembly hall after Speaker Biman Bandyopadhyay disallowed a motion by them demanding that they be allowed to raise the issue of Mallick's suspension from the House in view of his arrest in a money laundering

case linked to the ration distribution scam. The motion was brought by BJP MLAs Shankar Ghosh and Agnimitra Paul among others two days after senior party leader Suvendu Adhikari was suspended for the entire winter session of the House after allegations that he made objectionable remarks against the speaker and created ruckus in the House. In response to BJP leaders demands Bandyopadhyay said the issue cannot be discussed in the House



French defence major Thales opens new office in Bengaluru

rench aerospace major Thales has set up a new office in Bengaluru in sync with its focus on expanding its footprint in India. In 2019, Thales set up its Engineering Competence Centre (ECC) in Bengaluru in support of the group's ramp-up plans in India and the region. This ECC is a first-of-its-kind centre in India focusing on software and hardware capabilities in civil and defence businesses serving Thales's global needs

"Thales invests close to 4 billion Euro globally in R&D every year. This ECC, along with an additional center based in Noida, form one of the group's three major engineering competency center hubs," the company said in a statement. The new office in Bengaluru was inaugurated on Wednesday. "We are proud to mark yet another expansion of our footprint in India with this new facility in Bengaluru," said Ashish Saraf, Vice President and Country Director for



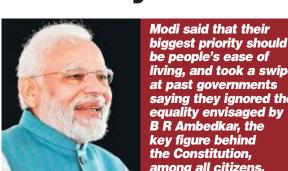
Govt policies, decisions have taken economy to new height

PNS NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said his government's policies and decisions have taken the economy to a new height, creating immense possibility for employment and self-employment generations. Speaking to newly inducted

employees in different government departments at the Centre and in some states after distributing nearly 51,000 appointment letters as part of 'Rozgar Mela', he asked them to ensure that welfare initiatives reach the most deprived people wherever they are and said this will lead to the realisation of goal of making India a developed country by 2047. Modi said that their biggest priority should be people's ease of living, and took a swipe at past governments saying they ignored the equality envisaged by B R Ambedkar, the key figure behind the

Constitution, among all citizens. A big section of society was



be people's ease of living, and took a swipe at past governments saying they ignored the equality envisaged by B R Ambedkar, the key figure behind the Constitution, among all citizens.

denied even basic facilities till 2014 when his government came to power, he said.

The prime minister said his government prioritised the marginalised and adopted their development as a mantra, asserting that it reached out to those who for decades had not got any facility from any govern-

"We have been trying to change their lives," he said.

The same bureaucracy and system are in place but the mindset and work culture has changed, changing the lives of

people, he said. Citing a report, Modi said over 13 crore people moved out of poverty in the last five years.

Many global agencies have come out of positive reports about the Indian economy, he said, adding that this also is an evidence of the immense possibility for employment and selfemployment in the coming years. The prime minister told the new employees through

video conferencing that they should make a note of any hardship they might have faced due to some government employees and ensure that they never treat anyone in the same manner.

His government, he said, has been spending lakhs of crores of rupees in building modern infrastructure, including expressways, airports and in rail sector, which have obviously created a lot of employment. India is witnessing an "infra-

structure revolution", he said. Development projects hanging fire for years and decades were accomplished by his government, he said, citing the construction of an airport in

Sikkim and Paradip refinery. Real estate sector was headed to sure shot destruction when his government came to power but it ushered in reforms through the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act to restore its good health. The sector creates a lot of employment, he noted.

Angry guests pour boiling oil on cook

PNS ■ BADAUN (UP)

Miffed at not getting "hot roti" at a wedding here, some guests allegedly poured boiling oil on the cook, who was rushed to a hospital with serious burn injūries, police said on Thursday.

The incident happened when Indrapal Pali, the groom's uncle, and a few others sat down to have dinner at the wedding of Pannalal's daughter in Moosajhag Police Station area here late Wednesday night and asked for "hot roti.'

They were told that it was not possible since it was very late in the night and the tandoor had been extinguished, police said quoting the witnesses. Angry over the refusal, Indrapal and his three friends went to the spot where the cook was busy making preparations for the next feast and

poured hot oil on him and fled. The cook named Rajesh was admitted to a private hospital where his condition is said to

India approves defence acquisition projects worth Rs 2.23 lakh crore

Aeronautics Ltd (HAL).

The DAC further accorded

Acceptance of Necessity (AoN)

or initial approval for procure-

ment of two types of anti-tank

munitions namely area denial munition (ADM) type-2 and

The top body on procure-

ment of military hardware

also cleared acquisition and

integration of automatic target

tracker (ATT) and digital

basaltic computer (DBC) for

T-90 tanks besides approving

another proposal to buy medi-

PNS NEW DELHI

India on Thursday accorded an initial approval to defence acquisition projects worth Rs 2.23 lakh crore that included procurement of 97 Tejas light combat aircraft and 156 Prachand combat helicopters, in a major move to significantly enhance the combat capabilities of the armed forces.

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, cleared the projects, at a time India is locked in a bitter military standoff with China at a number of friction points in eastern Ladakh for over three years.

The defence ministry said 98 per cent of the total procurement worth Rs 2.23 lakh crore will be sourced from the domestic industries and that the move will give a substantial boost to the Indian defence industry in achieving the goal of 'Aatmanirbharta' (selfreliance) in defence industry.

The DAC also approved a proposal of the Indian Air um range anti-ship missiles (MRAShM) for the Indian The MRAShM is a lightweight surface-to-surface missile which will be a primary offensive weapon onboard var-

ious Indian naval ships. "The DAC accorded AoNs for procurement of Light Combat Helicopter for Indian Air Force and Indian Army and Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mk-1A for IAF from Force to upgrade its Su-30 fighter fleet by state-run aerospace major Hindustan Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) under Buy (Indian-IDDM) category," the

ministry said. Though it did not mention the specific numbers, official sources said 97 Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (Mark 1A) are being procured for the IAF and 156 Light Combat Helicopters (LCH) are being procured for the Army and the Air Force.

In February 2021, the defence ministry sealed a Rs 48,000 crore deal with the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd for procurement of 83 Tejas MK-1A jets for the IAF.

Ecosystem that encouraged corruption has ended: V-P Dhankhar

PNS NEW DELHI

Vice-President Jagdeep element of patronage, an ele-Dhankhar on Thursday said India stands at the "front leagues of nations" in the domains of land, sea, air and space at a time the country has an ecosystem that encourages a level playing

field for all. He also said that while disruptive technologies have made inroads, this is the first time India is among the leading countries that is focusing on it.

Addressing participants of a course on public administration, he said India's achievements

indigenous technology was demonstrated by the launch of aircraft carrier INS Vikrant last year and the development of several indigenous defence equipment.

He also referred to the recent flight Prime Minister Narendra Modi undertook on a Tejas light combat aircraft.

"When you started your

an ecosystem which unfortunately had embedded in it an ment of corruption. People law," he said.

Now, an ecosystem exists that provides a level playing field, Dhankhar said.

In the past, Dhankhar said, the country used to wait for other nations to help in technological advance-"Now we are

in research, quantum computing, we are in the frontline our country is one of the very few countries in single digits that are focus-

ing on 6G. Commercialisation of 6G will take place from 2025 to 2030," he said.

Dhankhar also expressed concern over recent incidents of stone-peling on Vande Bharat trains and pushed for "exemplary consequences" for the culprits.

There has been at least seven such incidents in the

'I am not a rubber stamp or yes man'

■ Kerala Governor on holding back certain bills

PNS THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan on Thursday said he was not a "rubber stamp" or a "yes man" bills passed by the state Assembly without applying his mind.

Khan said when any ordinance or Bill comes before ately. But where they (governhim, he applies his mind to ascertain whether it is constitutionally and legally sound. He said that a bill or an ordi-

PNS KARJAT

come together.

nance meant for the welfare of the people of Kerala will not

Praful Patel, working president of the Ajit Pawar-led NCP, on

Thursday said it was a miscon-

ception that the two rival fac-

tions of the party would soon

Speaking at a news conference at the Nationalist Congress

Party's two-day conclave here,

he also claimed that the major-

ity of public representatives,

functionaries and workers of

the party supported Ajit Pawar's

decision to join hands with the

Praful Patel rules out two NCP

factions coming together



ment) use the power of law to destroy the institutions, universities and their autonomy and also go against the letter and spirit of the Constitution, they cannot expect me to be their

"I will dispose of it immedi-

"There should be no confu-

sion because some people in the

(Sharad Pawar-led) NCP mis-

lead people into believing that

we are again coming together.

I want to state it very specifical-

ly that we are working in the

NCP under Ajit Pawar's lead-ership for Maharashtra's bene-

fit," Patel said. On the meetings

between Ajit Pawar and his uncle Sharad Pawar, he said

they do not meet often. The

Pawar family had come togeth-

er earlier this month for their

annual Diwali get-together

(where Ajit and Sharad Pawar

The Varanasi district court on

Thursday gave 10 more days to

the Archaeological Survey of

India to complete and submit

a scientific survey report of the

Gyanvapi mosque complex

seeking three additional weeks

to submit the report, District

Judge A K Vishvesh said he

hoped that the ASI would not

ask for more time, according to

counsel for the Hindu side

The court fixed December

The court was hearing the

11 as the next date of hearing

ASI plea moved on Tuesday

in the matter, Yadav said.

Madan Mohan Yadav.

Taking up the plea of the ASI

were present), Patel said.

PNS VARANASI

"I am not a rubber stamp. I

am not," he told reporters here. Regarding the seven bills he reserved for presidential assent. Khan said he had waited for ters to come and explain the contents of those legislations.

The ministers came but could not explain," he said. Khan further said that since the government decided to go to the Supreme Court, instead of giving the explanations

sought by him, he referred the seven bills to the President. He further justified his

action by claiming that of the seven bills, four were in the nature of Money Bills as they entailed expenditure and therefore, prior permission of the Governor was required for tabling them in Assembly

Regarding the remaining three, Khan said that those bills were contrary to the UGC

His decision was criticised by Leader of Opposition in the Assembly V D Satheesan, who said that the Governor cannot unnecessarily hold back bills passed by the Assembly.

support for 2024 polls' PNS LUCKNOW BSP chief Mayawati on ingrapidly due to the narrow,

divisive issues to garner

'BJP resorting to provocative,

Lok Sabha polls and claimed that the BJP resorts to "narrow, provocative and divisive issues as it cannot get votes on the basis of its work.

At a meeting here of its Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand units, she repeated the party's stand to fight the Lok Sabha elections on its own strength.

Yearning for some "achhe deen' (good days), the 25 crore citizens of UP continue to suffer the pangs of poverty, unemployment, backwardness and migration during the BJP rule," she was quoted as saying in a statement.

The former UP chief minister called upon the party workers to contest the upcoming Lok Sabha election with all their might, and said it is going to be a "multi-cornered struggle" and her party will play an important role in it.

"All the party workers should fulfil their responsibilities with full force and honesty to secure better results in the next general elections," the BSP supremo

On the political situation in

On Wednesday, taking up

the plea of the ASI, District

ASI official from Delhi to

time, to which the ASI coun-

seek further time.

the country, Mayawati said, "The political situation is chang-Thursday predicted multi- casteist and anti-people policies and functioning of and various state governments, including Uttar Pradesh.'

"In such a situation, people seem eager to choose the path of multi-cornered struggle rather than the dominance of any one party. It is very likely that the next Lok Sabha polls will be interesting. The BSP will also play an important role in this.

"Good results can definitely be achieved by working honestly and sincerely on the important guidelines given to the party from time to time," she

She claimed that the BJP, like the Samajwadi Party and Congress, is not in a position to seek votes on the strength of its work and hence "it again needs to resort to narrow, inflammatory and divisive issues" for the

electoral gain.
The BSP contested the 2019 Lok Sabha polls in UP in alliance with the Samajwadi Party and won 10 seats. However, in the 2022 assembly elections, the party managed to secure a victory on only one seat in the state.

BJP-led National Democratic career, we had in the country recent past. Indira Gandhi, P N Haksar proved more than

a match for Nixon-Kissinger in 1971: Ramesh PNS NEW DELHI

As former US secretary of state Henry Kissinger passed away, senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Thursday recalled that in 1971 then US President Richard Nixon and Kissinger created huge headaches for India but then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and her close aide P N Haksar proved "more

than a match for them". Kissinger, who dominated foreign policy as the United States extricated itself from Vietnam, died Wednesday. He

In a post on X, Ramesh said, "Henry Kissinger has passed



away. He was as immensely consequential as he was hugely con-

In his long and eventful life he has been both celebrated and

condemned, Ramesh noted. "But there can be no doubt about his sheer intellectual brilliance and awesome charisma,'

For the last three decades, he

positioned himself as a great friend and supporter of India and indeed he was, Ramesh

"But this was not always so and in 1971 especially, President Nixon and he created huge headaches for India and thought they had us cornered. However, Indira Gandhi and P N Haksar proved more than a match for them," the former Union min-

ister said.
"I have described the Kissinger-Haksar and Nixon-Indira Gandhi encounters with archival detail in my book 'Intertwined Lives: PN Haksar & Indira Gandhi'," Ramesh

LS SECRETARY GENERAL **GETS ONE YEAR EXTENSION** Secretary General, Lok Sabha

PNS NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Secretary General Utpal Kumar Singh was on Thursday granted a further extension in tenure for one year, an official order said.

Singh, a 1986-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Uttarakhand cadre, took over as the Lok Sabha Secretary General on December 1, 2020. He was granted a two-year extension on November 30, 2021.

"The Speaker is pleased to extend the tenure of Shri Utpal Kumar Singh, IAS (retd), as

submitting the report, saying it

needed more time for the

assimilation of information

generated by different experts.

the barricaded area of the

Gyanvapi premises, excluding

its sealed section, on August 4,

following court orders to deter-

mine whether the 17th-centu-

ry mosque was constructed

over a pre-existing structure of

The Muslim side represent-

ed by lawyer Mohammad

Ikhlaq strongly objected to the

request for more time and

argued that the ASI is seeking

time to file the report again and

again without any proper rea-

son. He also argued that there

a Hindu temple.

The ASI started the survey in

the rank and status of Cabinet Secretary on the existing terms and conditions for a period of one year with effect from December 1, 2023 to November 30, 2024," the order said. Singh retired as chief secretary of Uttarakhand on July 31, 2020 and took over as Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat on September 1, 2020. He assumed the post of Lok Sabha Secretary General on December 1, 2020 after the superannuation of the then incumbent Snehlata

and Lok Sabha Secretariat...in

Varanasi court gives 10 more days to ASI

should be some end to this process of taking time again and again to file the report. The ASI be directed to file

the report positively within Ikhlaq said.

the time granted by the court, In its order, the court said it expects that within the provid-

ed time, the ASI shall positive-

ly file the report and will not

sel said that officials in Varanasi had been handling the task and would apprise the court about Earlier, the district court

had asked the ASI to submit the survey report of the Gyanvapi complex by November 28.

In its application, the ASI had stated that its experts are working on various types of data collected by archaeologists, surveyors and other experts, etc., and assimilation

of information generated by different experts and different tools is a difficult and slow Judge Vishvesh asked a senior process and it will take some more time to complete the explain the need for more report for final submission.

On November 2, the ASI told the court it had "completed" the survey but may take some more time to compile the report, along with the details of the equipment used in the survey work. The court then granted additional time till November 17 for submitting the document.

But its counsel again sought 15 more days due to the nonavailability of the technical report and the district judge then asked it to submit its report by November 28.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

The CAA scare

Amit Shah rakes up citizenship Act amid State elections, much to the consternation of minorities

nion Home Minister Amit Shah's recent statement regarding the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) has reignited a vigorous debate and speculation. The CAA, a bone of contention since being introduced in December 2019, aims to provide citizenship to persecuted minorities from neighbouring Muslim-majority countries such as Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. At the time, it faced widespread protests and criticism over its potential impact on India's secular principles and the rights of religious minorities. This time again, Shah's reiteration about the CAA's implementation has triggered doubts and discussions. Due to its association with the National Register of Citizens (NRC), the fear of potential discrimination and exclusion – especially against the Muslim community – fueled protests across the nation. The Government's response to these protests involved reassurances that the CAA was not meant to harm any particular community and



that it aimed to provide a haven for persecuted minorities from the neighbouring countries. However, the controversy surrounding the Act persisted, leading to an unspecified delay in its implementation. But due to nation-wide protests Government chose to put it on the backburner. Meanwhile other issues took over and CAA was almost forgotten. But with Amit Shah's statement it is back on the centre stage.

Proponents argue that the CAA is a humanitarian gesture, offering refuge to neighbours facing religious persecution. They contend that it aligns with India's tradition of sheltering persecuted communities and upholds the principle of religious freedom. On the

other hand, critics express concerns about the Act's potential impact on India's secular fabric. They argue that by selectively providing citizenship based on religion, the CAA undermines the principle of equal treatment for all regardless of religious affiliation. Critics fear it may set a precedent that challenges the secular foundation of the Constitution. Furthermore, the CAA has been closely associated with the NRC, a process aimed at identifying and expelling undocumented immigrants. The combination of CAA and NRC has raised apprehensions about possible discrimination and exclusion, particularly affecting vulnerable communities who may struggle to produce the necessary documentation. Shah's statement on the CAA's implementation, especially during Assembly polls, raises questions about the timing and political motivations. Elections often bring specific policy issues to the fore as leaders seek to rally support. The CAA, with its polarising nature, can be strategically used to appeal to certain voter bases. The nation does need a comprehensive refugee policy but that must not be discriminatory, to say the least. Besides, dislocating people living in India for generations would be inhumane as it violates India's commitment to uphold human rights.



chool students form 'red ribbon', Universal symbol of awareness about HIV, in Moradabad

India rising but China still ahead



India is becomeing proactive in international arena and getting good response but the China's dominance in the Global South remains undisputed

n the ever-shifting landscape of global power dynamics, India finds itself at the forefront of a compelling narrative—the quest to be the "voice" of the Global South. As it assumes the G-20 Presidency, India's ambitions to represent the diverse nations of Africa, Latin America, and Asia echo loudly, challenging its formidable neighbour, China, in a musical chairs game of influence. The ongoing great power struggle between these two nations raises crucial questions about the future trajectory of the Global South and who will emerge as its torchbearer.

In this intricate dance of geopolitics, the article ultimately raises the question of what it truly means to be the "voice" of the Global South. As the world watches the interplay between the Dragon and the Elephant, whether India's soft power and ideals of brotherhood can attract nations, contrasting with China's more robust physical and economic might.

In the late 1980s, Deng Xiaoping prophetically declared the advent of the "Asian Century" during a meeting with India's then-Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. This prediction has materialized, but the pivotal question remains: which nation will lead this Asian century? Statistical data, unequivocally, places China ahead of India in military prowess, economic size, and technological advancements. Yet, this article explores the unique strengths and potential contributions India can offer as it endeavours to become the "voice" of the Global South.

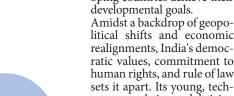
Coined in 1952 during the Cold War, the term "Third World" has evolved into the more neutral 'Global South." This term transcends through the diverse group of nations from Africa, Latin America, and Asia, evolving into a symbol of shared historical experiences of colonization, economic challenges, and a collective desire for a more equitable global order. India, currently hosting the G-20 Presidency, has taken proactive steps, hosting a virtual Voice of the Global South" summit and championing the issues of developing nations. As India positions itself as a

leader, it offers distinct advantages over China. India's vibrant democracy, commitment to pluralism, human rights, and the rule of law resonate with nations worldwide. With a young and tech-savvy population, India's scientific community has already made significant global contribu-

India's diplomatic finesse

comes to the forefront as it

navigates challenges posed by China's economic investments in neighbouring regions. Unlike China's perceived debt-trap diplomacy, India's trade relations and diplomatic acumen position it as a bridge between the Global North and South. The question lies in whether India's commitment to collaboration and building trust can outshine China's more assertive tactics. A recent report published by Pew Research Surveys has unveiled a noteworthy trend: India has greater favourability than China in the developed world. However, when it comes to developing countries (the Global South), China has an edge over India as the more favourably favoured nation. This trend can be seen because, within the Global South, many countries grapple with shared historical experiences, socio-economic challenges, and aspirations for



INDIA'S ADVANTAGES LIE IN NOT BEING PERCEIVED AS AN AGGRESSOR OR ENCROACHER, IN CONTRAST TO CHINA'S BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE VIEWED AS A POTENTIAL DEBT

and infrastructure investments, which will help developing countries achieve their

litical shifts and economic realignments, India's democratic values, commitment to human rights, and rule of law sets it apart. Its young, techsavvy population and thriving scientific community position it as a catalyst for innovation. India, with its evolving intellectual property regime, excels in process technology and manufacturing. US-based multinationals heavily invest in both China and India. The allure of less expensive skilled labour, market access, collaboration opportunities, and government incentives draws these corporations to India. In sectors such as information technology, telecommunications, transport equipment, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, and energy, India faces both opportunities and challenges. The lack of a sophisticated customer base hampers significant innovation in IT, but this gap may close in the coming decades. The growing sophistication of engineering and design services in aircraft and automotive industries positions India as a significant player in global markets. India is moving beyond replicating designs to contributing to cutting-edge innovation.

India's ascent in the Global South leadership struggle against China is not only influenced by geopolitical dynamics but also by its innovation landscape. Chinese and Indian firms are increasingly involved in early-stage research and clinical trials, showcasing a shift towards innovative prod-

uct development. India's advantages lie in not being perceived as an aggressor or encroacher, in contrast to China's Belt and Road Initiative viewed as a potential debt trap. India's trade significance and good relations globally position it as a bridge between the Global North and South. While China may have firepower, India's diplomatic prowess and cordial relations give it a better ability to lead the world.

India's journey from shadows to spotlight in the global innovation arena is nothing short of a triumph. As the dragon of China breathes its economic fire, the elephant of India is trumpeting its unique strengths on the global stage. So, as the dragon and elephant dance in this innovation duet, India's ascent is not just a rise; it's a melody, echoing across the realms of progress

(The writer is Associate Professor, centre for South Asian Studies, School of International Studies & Social Sciences Pondicherry Central University, views are personal)

Are foreign universities best bet for better education?



BIJU **Dharmapalan**

Foreign university campuses in India may be good for many reasons but improvement of higher education is not one of them

with the latest UGC notification regarding the regulations for foreign universities to be set up in India, getting a degree from a reputed foreign university may not be difficult for the privileged class. In recent times, there has been an exodus of Indian students to foreign countries for higher studies and jobs. In states like Kerala and Punjab, this trend is increasing daily. The trend is so alarming that even after schooling, students leave the mother country, and many foresee a generation of old-age couples living in posh houses.

Why are people moving to alien countries? Is it due to the lack of quality education in our country? Is it a lack of poor infrastructure in our educational institutions? Or Is it the colonial mindset that made us look at foreign countries as better than our homeland? If we analyze the issues behind this exodus, we find that there are multiple issues, and it is challenging to pinpoint one problem.

One main issue in our higher education is the unnecessary administrative procedures followed in our public sector universities and colleges. It's more challenging to tackle the administrative people of these institutions than to learn complicated sub-

Half of the productive time of students doing doctoral degrees in these institutions is wasted on tackling the people in the administration. Students must get no-objection certificates from different sections, even sections unrelated to their course. Even after awarding the PhD degree, if the student wants a NET exemption certificate, they have to repeat the complete cycle of paperwork.

What is the need for these complicated administrative procedures? Is it to protect the job of jobless staff members? Few new-generation public sector universities like the Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR) have streamlined these com-

the paperwork and completing the work within the stipulated timeline on their website. However, the majority still follow the old culture. Many students move to foreign countries to complete their degree within the specified time without hassles. The second reason for the mass exodus is their lucrative salary in foreign countries. Gone are the days when students worked jobs as service. Nowadays, for even minor assistance, a student expects remuneration. When we were students, we used to help our teachers to maintain departmental libraries and gardens. Only people from the affluent class could get admission to these universities because of the higher tuition fees. More than that, even if a student receives a degree from a foreign university having a campus in India, it won't have the same weightage as

studying in their main cam-

pus in the respective coun-

tries. The culture of a univer-

sity is directly related to the

culture followed in society. So,

even if a foreign university

tries to follow an alien culture,

the native societal culture is

plicated procedures, reducing bound to reflect on their campuses.

Even though starting foreign university campuses is a welcome step, it won't bring long-term benefits. Instead we must improve the quality of education and research in our public sector universities and attract international students to India. The presence of international students on our campuses will enhance our academic quality and bring money to the public exchequer. Since the Indus Valley civilization, education and learning have been deeply ingrained in the Indian subcontinent. Our ancient universities, like Takshashila and Nalanda, have attracted students from around the globe. We have to envision the day when students from foreign countries visit our public sector universities, and we start our university campuses in other countries. As a driving force, this will also help propagate Indian values and philosophy across the globe.

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

ALLOW DUAL CITIZENSHIP

equitable global representation.

China's ascendancy as the

preferred nation is predictable

Sir — Very often, this age-old issue about dual citizenship despite various utterances by different politicians over the years comes to the fore. It is an issue that has been of concern to many people. It would be in everyone's best interests to resolve this issue once and for all. The government and the courts need to find a solution that may resolve the issue faced by many who have obtained Portuguese and other nationalities find themselves in, many through birth and for historical reasons.

It would be prudent for the central government to allow people dual nationality or citizenship as they can have a foreign nationality and still maintain close links with the motherland. According to the World Population Review, 49% of all countries worldwide allow dual citizenship which means that a person can be a citizen of more than one country. We are living in an age where the world is a global village just like no man is an

Ramanath Krishan | Kozhikode

TELANGANA ELECTIONS Sir — Telangana sees a triangular contest between the BJP, Congress, and Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS). BRS has fielded candidates in all 119 seats. As per the seat-sharing agreement, the BJP and actor Pawan Kalyan-headed Jana Sena are contesting in 111 and 8 seats, respectively, while Congress has given one seat to its ally CPI and is fighting from 118 others. Meanwhile, Asaduddin Owaisi-led AIMIM has put up candidates in nine segments in the city. The key candidates include Chief Minister KCR, his minister-son K T Rama Rao, state Congress president A Revanth Reddy, and BJP Lok Sabha members Bandi Sanjay Kumar and D Arvind. Ahead of the polls, the state saw top national leaders, including PM Modi, Rahul Gandhi, and ruling BRS

Silkayara rescue operation



rayers from the entire nation towards rescuing the 41 workers trapped inside the Silkyara tunnel in Uttarkashi bore fruit after a 17-day ordeal. The mission that has been accomplished is a triumph of human labour over

machinery, as the rat-hole mining experts managed to manually break through the final 12 metres of rubble using only hand drills and pul-

This extensive and challenging rescue work, spanning over 400 hours, showcases the resoluteness and determination of the rescuers and the indomitable spirit of the trapped workers. It also highlights the might of our nation and the combined spirit of its people to stand united in the face of any adversity, and we can go to great lengths when it comes to the well-being of our people. But as we watched on television the hardship and struggle over the operations, questions emerged as to whether the mountainous area in Uttarakhand can withstand the level of this kind of heavy tunnelling work.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

The saffron party's campaign stressed the necessity of electing a "double engine government" and pointed to the 'family rule" of KCR and alleged corruption. The BRS's campaign centred around the previous Congress regime's failures and ongoing welfare measures for farmers, women, and other sections of society, as well as his struggle to achieve Telangana statehood. Congress's campaign focused mainly on the alleged corruption of the BRS government while highlighting its six poll guarantees. The results of Telangana will be out on December 3 along with the other four states that went to polls. It would be interesting to see which way the wind is blowing. The general elections are not very far and these results would definintely give an indication of public

Ashraf Hussain | Howrah

ALL INDIA JUDICIAL SERVICE

Sir — Since lower courts are the lifelines of the common man, picking their presiding officers with care and caution supremo K Chandrasekar Rao, wooing voters. cannot be overemphasised. At present, the jurisdictional high courts or state

governments are vested with the power to select subordinate court judges either through examination, interview, or both. At the same time, however, the process of selecting lower court judges has not consistently met the nod of approval from the know-how.

The need to have a uniform mechanism for picking judges at the entry level on an all-India basis is widely felt.President Drupadi Murmu recently pitched for an All India Judicial Service, and there are a plethora of legal experts who believe the time is ripe for such a system on the lines of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS). The generally tough IAS exams attract the best talents in India. In the same vein, an All India Judicial Service could captivate meritorious young minds that are at present not keen on the judiciary as a career. The Centre does not seem averse to the idea, but it may not easily pass muster with the judiciary because the latter's authority stands threatened.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

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FIRST COLUMN

A METAPHOR FOR INDO-**AUSTRALIAN RELATIONS**

Australian, Arnold Dix, personifies healthy Indo-Australian relationship



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

miracle occurred this week, when a joint effort of nearly 1000 peo-Apple working like a single organism and the prayers of millions, managed to move a mountain to rescue 41 trapped workers in eighteen days. While much would be written and hours of content would be created, chronicling the death-defying, Human vs/with Nature feat, there was one of the heroes who stood out like a lone lighthouse, signalling the way to large ships in the tricky geo-political waters. Arnold Dix, an international tunnel expert from Australia had been roped in earlier in the 17-day operation to assist the evacuation process.

This expert besides, providing the necessary professional help, was perhaps the most visible face of the rescue mission, offering prayers at the temple of the local deity, beaming with confidence in his interviews with the media about the success of the mission and bringing hope to millions who prayed for the trapped miners. A week earlier, most Indians or at least cricket fans would not have batted an eyelid to lambast the Australians, as they defeated India in its dream run towards a cherished world cup. A week later Arnold Dix is a celebrated figure in India due to his ingenuity in handling the crisis.

Taking a cue, leaders at the top from both nations were also busy finalising their geo-political strategy in 2+2 dialogue for greater cooperation bilaterally and at multilateral platforms. The joint statement released after the dialogue mentioned that the Comprehensive strategic dialogue between the two nations was to ensure "both countries sharing major Indian Ocean coastlines, and sharing a positive agenda of cooperation with countries across Asia and the Pacific Ocean region, their cooperation served to reinforce an open, stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific.



As the India-Australia CSP continues to deepen bilateral cooperation with a shared commitment to democracy and pluralism, rule of law, and a multifaceted bilateral agenda, the Ministers reaffirmed that gender equality is of fundamental importance and investment in the empowerment of all women and girls is critical to full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Ministers reaffirmed their support for sovereignty and territorial integrity in the Indo-Pacific, democratic values, the rule of law, freedom of navigation and flight and the peaceful resolution of disputes. The Ministers underlined the importance of being able to exercise rights and freedoms in all seas and oceans consistent with international law, particularly the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), including freedom of navigation and overflight, in addressing challenges to the maritime rules-based order, including those in the East and South China Seas. They underscored the importance of disputes being resolved peacefully by international law without threat or use of force or any attempt to unilaterally change the status quo, and that countries should exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that could complicate or escalate disputes affecting peace and stability. They expressed serious concern about the militarisation of disputed features, the dangerous use of coast guard and maritime militia vessels and efforts to disrupt other countries' offshore exploitation activities.

All was happening in the backdrop of India's close ally Sril Lanka allowing nearly \$4.5 billion Chinese investment in the strategic Hambantota port town. Hambantota is literally in India's backyard and offers strategic access to China on Indian critical infrastructure. Chinese shipping company already owns the port of Hambantota. The mention of a strong commitment by India and Australia in the joint statement was a show of recommitment to jointly address regional issues, with Chinese sharks lurking in their oceans. Perhaps Arnold was a greater symbol of what is yet to come out of the Indo-Australian relationship.

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

Employability of skilled trainees is a must



DINESH SOOD

Aligning Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana PMKVY with the industry to match local economic needs is crucial to making skilled trainees employable

he Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), launched in 2015, has trained 13.7 million candidates over seven years. However, only 18% or 2.4 million of these candidates have been successful in securing a job. This low placement rate is one of several concerning issues highlighted by a Lok Sabha standing committee. The committee also identified underutilized funds, infrastructure deficiencies, dropouts, a disconnect with industry, and insufficient state engagement as significant problems. To increase the effectiveness of the program, PMKVY must be aligned with the local economy's needs. Currently, only 2.4% of India's 530-million-strong workforce has received formal vocational education or training. This means that a vast majority of the workforce remains unskilled, making them less productive. Additionally, a quarter of India's workforce has less than primary education, further emphasizing the importance of skill development programs in reducing unemployment rates. Despite this, the latest data from the quarterly Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) reports an unemployment rate of 6.8%, with a youth unemployment rate (for ages 15 to 29) of 17.3%. The PMKVY has undergone three versions,

with PMKVY 2.0 having the highest number of trained and placed candidates, with a placement rate of 19.5%. However, this rate has since fallen to 5.8% for PMKVY 3.0, the lowest yet. Overall, approximately 11 million trained candidates have completed certification. The government must take immediate action to address these concerns, align PMKVY with the local economy, and improve the program's effectiveness.

It is imperative to note that Uttar Pradesh is the state with the highest number of candidates trained, with a staggering 1.59 million individuals, however, the placement rate in the state is only a meagre 20%. On the other hand, Telangana takes the with the highest placement rate of 35.1%, followed closely by Puducherry at 34.6%. Haryana and Punjab are not far behind with placement rates of 31.7% and 29.6% respectively. Maharashtra and Kerala, however, need to work on their placement rates, as they stand at a disappointing 9.3% and 10.4% respectively

It should be noted that NSDC primarily partnered with private vocational training providers due to the lack of private Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) at the time. However, the shorter training duration of NSDC courses (3-4 months) compared to the 1-2 year programmes offered by ITIs is a major challenge that needs to be addressed.

Poor utilisation of funds: According to government data, the programme's fund utilization was poor in 2016-17, with only 56% of the allocated funds being used. Although the number improved to 98% in 2020-21, it fell back to 72% in 2021-22. The Lok Sabha standing committee reported that the suspension of training and placement operations due to COVID-19 restrictions led to a significant drop in enrollment and certification, resulting in low disbursement and utilization of funds. However, it is expected that the ongoing training under PMKVY 4.0 since January 2023 will lead to an increase in expenditure upon its com-

Connect to industry is missing: NSDC, established in 2008, collaborates with partner trainers to conduct skill development





MOREOVER, THE ONLINE MANAGEMENT STATE-MANAGED COMPONENT WAS OPERATIONAL IN ONLY 15 STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES, AND THIS HAS AFFECTED COORDINATION WITH THE UNION

GOVERNMENT

needs to be addressed. The current skill development programmes do not align with the actual regional demand for skills, creating a mismatch between training and local economic needs. This leads to a gap between the skills imparted and the market requirements, which is unacceptable.
The quality of training and the choice of the particular skill being imparted must meet the market

programmes. However, the lack of

industry participation and a discon-

nect between NSDC and the industry is a significant challenge that

standards. Unfortunately, the skill centres are not adequately equipped for practical training, resulting in theoretical training SYSTEM FOR THE with little practical exposure. This is unacceptable, and immediate action needs to be taken to bridge this gap. The Lok Sabha's standing committee has also highlighted this disconnect and suggested surveying industry representatives to better understand their needs. It is time to take the necessary steps to ensure that the skill development programmes align with the industry needs and bridge the gap between the skills imparted and the market requirements. Candidate dropout, infra defi-

ciencies: A study conducted by the Indian Institute of Public Administration between 2016 and 2021 revealed that 20% of candidates who enrolled under PMKVY dropped out. The reasons for this were medical issues, family obligations, social challenges, lengthy commutes to training centres, marital status changes, increased livelihood demands, limited job opportunities, and perceived skill stagnation. Female candidates also dropped out due to pregnancy, marriage, and course duration.

The standing committee noted that the Ministry needs to take immediate action to address the factors that lead to candidate dropouts, such as distance to training centres and accessibility to jobs. For the female dropouts, the committee suggested that the Ministry should collaborate with ASHA and anganwadi centres to create awareness about the benefits of skilling and encourage them to resume training as soon as possible after delivery. It is unacceptable that out of 818 Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras (PMKKs) or training centres allocated in all districts of India, only 722 have been established so far. Of the remaining, 58 PMKKs were surrendered to the government by private vendors due to operational difficulties. This is a significant issue. and requires immediate attention from the government. The lack of eligible trainers is another issue that is preventing many centres from becoming operational. As a solution, the government must create a pool of National Assessors and Trainers under PMKVY 4.0. The government must take necessary actions to ensure that the PMKVY program is successful in creating a skilled workforce and reducing

unemployment in India. Limited state participation: State disparities driven by varying economic and employment histories result in limited state participation. This is a significant challenge that needs to be addressed with a sense of urgency. For instance, while some states have a significant agricultural workforce that relies on programmes like the Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Scheme, others like Maharashtra or Tamil Nadu have more employment opportunities. Therefore, it is imperative to adopt localised, demanddriven approaches that extend employment schemes from metropolitan areas to tier-2 and tier-3 cities, thus addressing specific regional challenges.

In 2016-20, PMKVY 2.0 introduced state participation to enhance support and monitoring and enable targeted training that aligns with local needs and aspirations. However, the state-managed model encountered several issues, including delays in the release of funds from the state treasury to respective departments, a shortage of trainers with the necessary eligibility criteria, a lack of available placement partners, and delayed payments to training partners. These issues need to be addressed immediately to ensure that the programme is efficient in achieving its objectives.

Moreover, the online management system for the state-managed component was operational in only 15 states and union territories, and this has affected coordination with the Union government. It is imperative to expand this system to all states and union territories to ensure that the programme runs smooth-

In conclusion, enhancing the programme's effectiveness and aligning PMKVY with the industry to match local economic needs is crucial to making skill training programmes employable. It is time to take bold steps to address the challenges facing the programme and ensure that it achieves its objectives.

(The writer is a Co-Founder and MD of Orane International, a Training Partner with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), and a Network Member of India International Skill Centres; Views expressed are strictly personal)

Leveraging the power of advanced AI in the Edtech space

As Al continues to grow, its ethical considerations must be evaluated to ensure that it provides an equitable, inclusive, and successful learning environment

s the world of education continues to evolve, technology is playing an increasingly important role in the transformation of traditional teaching methods. A particularly significant development in this field is the incorporation of Artificial Intelligence in Educational Technology. This integration can fundamentally alter how we learn, instruct and interact

with educational material. AI has made a huge impact on a lot of different industries, and it's no different in the education industry. AI is becoming more and more popular and it can be used in a variety of ways to get better and more diverse results. It can be used in schools, for professional learning and assessment, for lifelong learning or enterprise work-



force learning and assessment. Let's discuss the various ways in which advanced AI is reshaping the EdTech space and its implications for the future of education;

Personalised Learning, AI can tailor educational content to meet individual student needs, adapting to different learning styles, speeds and preferences. The increasing acceptance of personalized learning by students is revolutionizing the way learning and assessment are conducted, as it is based on the student's capacity and career objectives, which enable them to achieve their professional and personal goals. AIdriven software can analyse student performance and the content available to them and suggest tailored study plans that are based on their

strengths and weaknesses, as well as integrate data on market skill demand to provide clearer options and advice for students when they finish their

Predictive Analytics for Early Intervention: By analysing large volumes of information, AI can detect trends and anticipate potential difficulties that students may encounter. Through predictive analytics, educators can be alerted early on and provide additional support to those students who are at risk of lagging. By taking a proactive approach, educators can provide more personalised and targeted intervention, resulting in improved student performance and a decrease in dropout rates. Automated Grading: Another important aspect to discuss

here is Automated Grading. Educators may find the process of grading and assessing to be laborious and timeconsuming. Artificial Intelligence (AI) algorithms facilitate the automation of these activities, enabling rapid and precise assessment of assignments, tests and assessments. Not only does this save educators time, but it also provides students with prompt feedback, encouraging a continuous learning process. Adaptive Learning Platforms: One of the most significant applications of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the field of Education Technology (EdTech) is the creation of adaptive Learning Platforms (ALPs). AI-powered adaptive learning platforms leverage the power of machine learning

to analyse student performance data and create educational content that is tailored to the individual needs and preferences of the learner. Adaptive learning platforms are distinct from traditional adaptive learning approaches in that they offer an individualised learning experience, allowing each student to progress at their speed.

Refined Workflows: As the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the sector increases, tools will facilitate the automation of day-to-day operations and the reduction of mistakes. Schools will benefit from the elimination of redundant study materials and the assignment of appropriate learning models. Barriers and challenges associated: The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into

(EDTech) offers a range of advantages; however, it is important to consider ethical considerations and difficulties. Privacy, algorithmic biases and digital divide are some of the issues that need to be addressed. It is essential to strike a balance between the utilization of advanced AI to improve educational outcomes and providing equitable access to all students to develop EdTech solutions responsibly. Another key aspect is Enhanced Engagement, which explains that Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) applications that are powered by Artificial Intelligence (AI), can provide students with an immersive learning experience. For example, medical students

Educational Technology may be able to perform virtual surgeries; history students may have the opportunity to explore ancient civilizations. AI can also assist in developing and updating educational content based on current trends and student performance data. Advanced technological features like 'Chatbot' generate a complete lesson plan and curriculum for teachers by just asking for it. AI is revolutionizing the way students learn, providing them with personalized experiences, immersive simulations and predictive analytics. The potential of AI in EDTech is boundless, and its potential to transform education is unde-

> (The writer is the CEO & CTO, of Greatify, views are personal)

Karnataka Govt unveils 35

innovative products

ne pioneer

he Karnataka government on Thursday unveiled 35 "ground-breaking" products and Solutions developed by startups at the 26th edition of the ongoing Bengaluru Tech
Summit 2023 here. Out of the 35 startups, nine are women-led, underlining the inclusive and diverse nature of Karnataka's startup ecosystem, a press release from the state government's Department of Electronics, Information technology, Biotechnology and Science

and Technology said. Several of the startups received financial support through the state's seed funding programme, which indicates the government's commitment to nurturing entrepreneurial talent and fostering a culture of innovation, it added. A majority of the startups have flourished within Government of Karnataka-supported incubators, such as K-tech Innovation Hubs, Centres of Excellence (CoEs), and Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) and anchored by institutions like C-CAMP. NASSCOM, Jain Incubation Centre.



PVR Inox to open 150 screens next fiscal

he country's largest multiplex operator PVR Inox will open 150 screens in the next fiscal with an investment of about Rs 500 crore, a top company official has said. The company, which opened a six-screen luxury cinema at Maison Inox here on Thursday, already runs 118 screens across 23 properties in the megapolis. Overall, including its property in Colombo, it operates 1,711 screens at 359 properties across 114 cities. We are

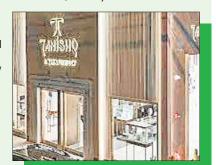
planning to add 150 more screens at an investment of around Rs 500 crore next fiscal, Sanjeev Kumar Bijli, an Executive Director at PVR Inox, told PTI here. On the Maison Inox, he said normally a screen required an investment of Rs 5 crore but given that it's a luxury collection and comes with the first attached bar (Gastby Bar), the per screen cost is about Rs 7 crore. On the company's overseas expansion plans, he said they will have more screens in Sri Lanka only and not anywhere else.



Tanishq opens two stores in Texas, expands global biz

global business expansion strategy and to cater to the growing needs of the Indian diaspora in the US. The US state of Texas, with the second largest Indian Diaspora, is now home to two of Tanishq's stores, one in Houston and the other in Frisco, near Dallas. At the inaugural event, the Consul General of India in Houston, DC Manjunath was the Chief Guest. He was joined by CK

Venkataraman, Managing Director, Titan Company Limited, Kuruvilla Markose, CEO of Titan International business and Michael McCabe, Resident Director, North America, Tata Sons. The brand is owned by The Tata Group, a Mumbai-based multinational conglomerate. "Delighted to see that Tanishq, Tata company's jewellery arm opened its 2 new stores in Texas: Houston & Frisco, thus enhancing India-US connection". Consul General Maniunath said.



India, Africa key players in peak global crude oil demand

PNS NEW DELHI

The global demand for crude oil is expected to see its peak in 2030 at 112 million barrels a day mark with India and Africa to be major contributors, according to S&P Global Commodity Insights.

The current global demand of crude oil is at 103 million barrels per day, Pulkit Agarwal, head of India Content at S&P Global Commodity Insights, said on Thursday.

The global demand for

crude oil will peak to stay in the range of 112 million barrels a day in 2030 from the present level of 103 million barrels a day, he told PTI at S&P Global Commodity Insights: Media Roundtable Outlook 2024.

India and Africa will be the major contributors to the 8.73 per cent increase in demand by 2030 as industrial activities will pick up in the region, Agarwal said.

There will be increased use of clean cooking, automotives and setting up of refinernies by various economies, he said.



However, the demand for crude oil in India will see its peak in 2040 to reach 7.2 million barrels a day from 5.2 million barrels a day at present, he said. On the price outlook he said, "In our base case, oil prices will likely hover above USD 80/barrel and can inch closer to USD 90/barrel by Q3 2024."

Gauri Jauhar, Executive Director, Energy Transitions & CleanTech Consulting, S&P Global Commodity Insights, said as India grows, it will also transition at a sustainable pace based on an underlying economic transition of mobility, urbanization and a desire for reliability. An energy transition will inevitably be a technology transition to reduce emissions, and the cleaner technology spectrum offers a range of nearterm, medium-term and longterm solutions. These cleaner technologies will need financing and policy support, globally and in India, to reach giga

scale, she said. Stuti Chawla, Associate Director, India/Middle East Chemicals Pricing, S&P Global Commodity Insights, said

India is expected to remain a bright spot in Asia for petrochemical demand in 2024, given its strong economic growth and resilient industriproduction. Greater demand, however, is unlikely to bring much relief to domestic producers struggling with pressure on margins, as prices of key bulk chemicals are expected to remain suppressed due to ample supplies and new capacities coming on stream.

The market for chemical

commodity products in India is expected to grow at around 7 per cent in 2023 and 8 per cent in 2024. The robust demand growth is being driven by a sharp pickup in India's economic activity after it emerged from COVID-19 lockdowns.

Elvis John of S&P Global Commodity Insights said India imposed a slew of restrictions on grains trade in 2023 amid rising domestic prices, fear of El Nino affecting crop production, and ahead of state elections and general elections in

Two-wheeler volumes expected to grow

PNS NEW DELHI

Two-wheeler retail sales are expected to increase by just 4-7 per cent in volume terms in the domestic market this fiscal year despite logging strong growth in the festive period, according to a report.

The festive season this year saw robust growth in twowheeler retails aided by the upcoming wedding season and some recovery in rural demand, which supported sales growth in the entry-level (110 cc) segment, the report by rating firm Icra stated.

The dealer inventory remained at near normal levels. with the OEMs (original equipment manufacturers) wary of a build-up in inventory at the dealerships, it added. "The industry is expected to record a moderate growth in volumes in FY 2024 (4-7 per cent) even as export volumes remain impacted by weak demand," Icra said. Elaborating on the passenger vehicles, Icra stated that the segment is expected to record a moderate growth in volumes in FY2024 (6-9 per cent) and reach an all-time high during the period.

India should not take new commitments at COP28 climate talks

PNS NEW DELHI

India should not take new commitments at the ongoing United Nations COP28 climate talks in Dubai and continue its green transition without additional assurances, think tank GTRI suggested on Thursday.

The climate conference is being held at the Dubai Expo City from November 30 to December 12.

The Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said that India has already made significant commitments at COP27 (Conference of Parties) and the Paris Agreement, aligning with its Long-term Low Emissions and Development Strategy. India's commitment to generating half of its electricity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030 and achieving net-zero emissions by 2070 is noteworthy

"At COP28 India need not take new commitments at COP28. Instead, it may con-



tinue its green transition without additional commitments,' GTRI Co-Founder Ajay Srivastava said. However, he added that the country's high methane emissions, especially from the agriculture sector, pose a challenge.

"Any improvement will require changing crop pat-tern which may take decades of efforts. Balancing emission reduction with the livelihood impact on the agriculture sector is crucial," Srivastava said.

The think-tank also suggested that as 70 per cent of electricity is generated from coal power here and many large industries rely on captive and not grid power.

Tata Tech makes bumper stock market debut

Stock markets eke out gains in highly volatile trade

PNS MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty settled with marginal gains on Thursday in a highly volatile trade amid the scheduled monthly derivatives expiry and muted trend in the US markets. The 30-share BSE Sensex closed 86.53 points or 0.13 per cent higher at 66,988.44, registering its third day of gains. During the day, it hit a high of 67,069.89 and a low of 66,610.35.

Despite heavy volatility in equities during the day, the combined market valuation of all listed companies on the leading stock exchange BSE continued to remain above the USD 4-trillion mark for the second day in a row. The combined market valuation of all listed companies on the BSE reached the USD 4-trillion milestone for the first time ever on Wednesday. The broader Nifty50 of the National Stock Exchange edged up 36.55 points or 0.18

Indian economy grew 7.6% in **Sep quarter**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's economy grew 7.6 per cent in the September quarter as against 6.2 per according to official data released on Thursday.

India remains the fastestgrowing major economy, as China's GDP growth in the July-September quarter this year was 4.9 per cent.

As per the National Statistical Office (NSO) data, the GVA (Gross Value Added) of the agriculture sector recorded a 1.2 per cent growth, down from 2.5 per cent in the July-September quarter of 2022-

The GVA growth of the manufacturing sector accelerated to 13.9 per cent in the second quarter of the current fiscal against a decline of 3.8 per cent a year ago.

The growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during the April-September period in 2023-24 stood at 7.7 per cent compared to 9.5 per cent in the first half of the last financial year.

The GDP growth in the first quarter of the current fiscal remained unchanged at 7.8 per cent.

DUBAI INTERNATIONAL FOOTWEAR AND LEATHER EXHIBITION

More than 60 Indian firms to showcase leather products

PNS DUBAI

More than 60 top Indian manufacturers will participate in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region's largest exhibition of such products here from December 11-13.

Dubai International Footwear

and Leather Exhibition (DIFLEX 2023) is being held in the backdrop of the demand upswing for footwear and leather goods in the Middle East and N Africa (MENA) estimated to be growing at a compound



annual growth rate of over 7 per cent and poised to touch upwards of US\$ 20 billion by

The Indian pavilion participation is under the auspices of the Council for Leather Exports (CLE), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of

India, and is aimed at boosting exports which stood at US\$ 5.26 billion in 2022-23, as per CLE

Footwear exports, both leather and non-leather exports account for over 50 per cent of the trade.

India is the second-largest exporter of leather garments, third-largest exporter of saddlery and harnesses and 4th largest exporter of leather goods in the world. Verifair, organisers of DIFLEX 2023 which will be hosted at Dubai Festival Arena, Dubai Festival.

Infosys inks pact with Shell for sustainable data centres

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

IT major Infosys on Thursday said it has partnered with energy company Shell to accelerate the adoption of immersion cooling services for data centres.

Infosys and Shell will bring energy, respectively, along with an ecosystem of partners to create an integrated offering for green data centres, the IT firm said in a statement.

"In our joint efforts with Shell, we aim to create a more sustainable future. This collaboration will leverage AI-based digital solutions that will create environmentally responsible data centres that can manage high computing loads with optimised hardware.

PNS NEW DELHI Shares of Tata Technologies,

an arm of Tata Motors, made a dream stock market debut on Thursday and ended with a huge premium of nearly 163 per cent, against the issue price of Rs 500.

The stock of which provides engineering and product development digital services, was listed at Rs 1,199.95, registering a sharp jump of 139.99 per cent from the issue price on the BSE. During the day, it zoomed 180 per cent to Rs 1,400. Shares of the company ended at Rs 1,314.25 apiece, rallying

162.85 per cent. On the NSE, it began the trade at Rs 1,200, climbing 140



per cent. The stock jumped to Rs 1,400 during the day. Shares of the firm ended at Rs 1,313 per piece, a jump of 162.6 per cent. The company's market valuation stood at Rs 53,314.99 crore.The Rs 3,042.5 crore initial public offer of Tata Technologies was subscribed 69.43 times on the final day of subscription on Friday, driven by remarkable participation from institu-

tional buyers.

This was the first company from the Tata Group to float an Initial Public Offer (IPO) in nearly two decades. Tata Consultancy Services was the last IPO from the group in 2004.The IPO of Tata Technologies was fully subopening for bidding on Wednesday last week.

'As expected, a bumper listing above our expectation respecting the legacy of the Tata brand. After witnessing a remarkable subscription demand Tata Technologies garnered significant attention in the stock market, Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research) at Mehta Equities

India's GDP grows 7.6%; fastest-growing economy

PNS NEW DELHI

India's economy grew 7.6 per cent in the September quarter of this fiscal and remained the fastest-growing large economy, mainly due to better performance by manufacturing, mining and services sectors, the government data showed on Thursday.

The gross domestic product (GDP) expanded by 6.2 per cent in the July-September quarter of 2022-23. India remained the fastest-growing

major economy, as China posted a 4.9 per cent growth in July-September 2023. According to the National Statistical Office (NSO) data, the agriculture sector GVA (Gross Value Added) growth decelerated to 1.2 per cent in the September 2023 quarter from 2.5 per cent a year ago.

The expansion in financial, real estate and professional services' GVA was 6 per cent, down from 7.1 per cent in the

year-ago quarter. The GVA in the manufacturing sector showed a growth of 13.9 per cent in the second quarter of the current fiscal compared to a contraction of 3.8 per cent in the year-ago period.

As per the data, the output (GVA) in the 'mining and quarrying' accelerated to 10 per cent in the second quarter against a contraction of 0.1 per cent a year ago.

Electricity, gas, water supply and other utility services' grew by 10.1 per cent from 6.1 per

Mkt valuation of BSE-listed firms over \$4 trn

PNS NEW DELHI

The combined market valuation of all listed companies on the leading stock exchange BSE remained above the US\$ 4 trillion-mark for the second straight day on Thursday amid an overall optimistic trend in equities. Rallying for the third con-

secutive day, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 86.53 points or 0.13 per cent to settle at 66,988.44 points despite volatile trends during the day.



In intra-day, it touched a high of 67,069.89 points and a low of 66,610.35 points.

The combined market valuation of all listed companies on the BSE reached the ÛS\$ 4 tril-

lion-milestone for the first time ever on Wednesday. At the end of trade on Thursday, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies hit an all-time peak of Rs

exchange rate of 83.30. In three days of the market rally, investors' wealth have jumped by Rs 6.88 lakh crore. It took just two-and-a-half years for the exchange to hit

the US\$ 4 trillion landmark

after the market capitalisation

3,35,60,155.58 crore, translat-

ing into US\$ 4 trillion, at the

(m-cap) of all listed companies on the BSE touched the US\$ 3 trillion-mark on May 24, 2021. The total valuation of the exchange-listed companies went past the USD 1 trillion level on May 28, 2007.

The journey from US\$ 1 trillion to US\$ 1.5 trillion was covered in 2,566 days or just over seven years on June 6, 2014. The m-cap of listed companies on the BSE reached US\$ 2 trillion on July 10, 2017 -- taking 1,130 days from the US\$ 1.5 trillion level.

Petrol, diesel price revision after oil price stabilises

PNS NEW DELHI

State-owned fuel marketing companies are likely to revert to daily revision in prices of petrol and diesel only when international oil prices stabilise below USD 80 per barrel on a sustained basis, industry

officials said. Three state-owned fuel retailers -- Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) -- which control roughly 90 per cent of the market, have kept petrol and diesel prices on freeze for a record 20th month in a row.

This is despite the raw material (crude oil) cost surging last

year, leading to heavy losses in the first half of 2022-23 fiscal year before easing rates propelled them to profitability. There is considerable

volatility in the international oil market and prices fluctuate wildly," an official said. "Oil companies can cut prices by Re per litre and everyone will applaud. But when international oil prices go up, will they be allowed to raise rates remains in doubt.

India is the world's third largest oil consuming and importing nation. It imports more than 85 per cent of its oil needs and hence domestic pricing is linked to internation-

The basket of crude oil that India buys has averaged USD



83.42 per barrel in November, down from USD 90.08 of October and USD 93.54 of September.

While at current prices, oil companies are making some money on petrol, diesel -- the

most consumed fuel accounting for almost 40 per cent of all petroleum products consumed in the country -- but it has been in a "touch-and-go" scenario in recent weeks, another official said. "On some days there is profit on diesel but on other days there is loss. There is no

consistent trend.' Three retailers had been recouping losses they incurred for holding rates when crude oil prices shot through the roof last year. In May, international oil prices and retail pump rates had come at par, but the subsequent surge widened the gulf between cost

and price realised. "For oil companies to revert to daily market based price revision, oil prices will have to come below USD 80 on a sustained basis," an official said.

Petrol and diesel prices have been on a freeze since April 6 last year. Petrol costs Rs 96.72 a litre in the national capital and diesel comes for Rs 89.62

The three firms made bumper profits in April-September -- first half of the current fiscal -- but considering the low earnings of last year, they are yet to recoup all losses, officials said.

Consider this, IOCL posted a net profit of Rs 26,717.76 crore this year as compared with a full year profit of Rs 8,241.82 crore in 2022-23

(April 2022 to March 2023). In 2021-22 (considered a normal year), the company had posted a profit of Rs 21,762 crore for the full year. Considering that to be a normalised earnings, for two years (2022-23 and 2023-24), it should make about Rs 42,000

Key infra industries' growth up at 12.1%; 5 sectors expand

PNS NEW DELHI

The output of eight key infrastructure sectors jumped by 12.1 per cent in October 2023 against 0.7 per cent expansion in the year-ago period on account of a sharp uptick in production of coal, steel, cement and electricity, according to the official data released on Thursday.

These numbers assume significance as the eight core sectors -- coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertiliser, steel, cement and electricity -- contribute 40.27 per cent to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

Growth was primarily driven by a low base effect and double-digit growth in five

sectors -- coal, steel, cement and electricity.

Infrastructure sectors grew by 9.2 per cent in September. The output growth of eight sectors was at 8.6 per cent in

April-October 2023-24 against

8.4 per cent in the year-ago

period. Coal output rose by 18.4 per cent while steel production jumped 11 per cent during the month under review as against 3.8 per cent and 5.8 per cent

in October 2022 respectively.

Cement production grew by 17.1 per cent against a 4.2 per cent contraction in the year-ago period. Electricity generation rose by 20.3 per cent in October 2023 against 1.2 per cent in the same month last

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Friday December 1, 2023

RATHIKA ROSE: I am a solo traveler; I ENJOY MY OWN COMPANY

TEJAL SINHA

Irrespective of the language that India's most controversial show, Bigg Boss, telecasts in, every episode that the show brings has its own twists and turns. And talking of the Telugu Bigg Boss, recently, with the double eviction, actress Rathika Pose had to yet again leave the Rose had to yet again leave the house

And so now, after her stint in *Bigg Boss*, any plans to travel? Why not? After all the hustle-bustle in the show, wouldn't traveling be the best rejuvenation one would need? Well, the actress is going to travel to Goa today for the Santosham Film Awards 2023, and she's going to blow our minds with her performance.

our minds with her performance. How???? She reveals to us exclusively that she's going to perform a special dance during the ceremony.

And this is not just it? After her eviction, the actress made sure to take her passport and fly all the way to Bangkok. Just like how it has been for many, traveling to different countries, different states, and even different cities is the best way to relax your body, rejuyenate your relax your body, rejuvenate your body and mind, and just live in the moment. Similar has been true for

her as well. Taking some time from her dance rehearsals, the *Bigg Boss Telugu* fame shares, "Travelling helps in making me get stress-free mentally and physically. I prefer traveling alone—a solo traveler I am. In fact, I mostly prefer night-time journeys. Every time I feel stressed and need some fresh air, I just pack my bass and go for a trip."

just pack my bags and go for a trip."
The different culture that she got to experience there in Bangkok was something worth mes-

merizing, and she says,
"I really enjoyed their
culture there because,
one, the food there is very tasty (we gig-gle). And something that I really adored about the people there was that they chose their own lifestyle and did not

bother about what's going on with the rest. The individ-uality that you get to see in people is

so heartwarming there."

In fact, she also recalls how she used to bargain with the local ven-dors there and how calmly they'd refuse to reduce the price. Hahahaha! But again, that was something she really cherished during her trip. And so, more than experiencing a staycation there, being a solo traveler, she preferred exploring the surroundings there and enjoying the beauty.

She had stayed in Pattaya for

three days, the reason being that "Bangkok is like a business hub with commercial buildings. In Pattaya, I got to explore, meet, and interact with the locals there, enjoying the beach, and of course, the hotels there gave you a glimpse at the local culture. I used to have my breakfast and used to go for a walk every day and get back to sleep. The night walks I got to do were just amazing. I majorly focused on exploring rather than staying in the hotels."

She's been one of those who does not prefer going to the same place more than once or twice. Every time she is under intense pressure, she looks to explore a new place and a new city.

new city.

new city.

The actress, who will next be ticking off Leh Ladakh from her bucket list, signs of this fun chitter-chatter on a brighter note, saying, "People might prefer traveling with their friends and families. But I'm someone who enjoys traveling solo and enjoying my own company, which gives you some mental peace. As a woman, one should not fear if they've got the zeal to travel. There are many countries and places that receive a traveler or a foreigner as their own guest, which is very overwhelming. And so, people need to explore, and once you explore, you'll get to know a lot of things. If you sit in just a corner, you'll miss out on many things. Just you'll miss out on many things. Just get up, pack your bags, and explore."

Rathika Rose, who recently was evicted from Bigg Boss Telugu 7, gets candid with The Pioneer. sharing her travel plans post-show, her recent trip, and more for our weekly segment of Travel Tales.



ANKUSH BAHUGUNA:

I know many men who love doing smoky eyes on an everyday basis

SHIKHA DUGGAL

e can all see how Ankush Bahuguna is now dominating the field of beauty. In fact, where skincare and beauty tips for men had generally been labeled as feminine, this influencer made it a talking point for all the right reasons.

Now that he has made an effort, he is the first male beauty influencer who has his own show too! Cherry on the cake? Well, Wing It With Ankush is coming up with season two. He's defying the preconceived gender biases related to the beauty ecosystem. In an exclusive interaction with us, sharing about how the notion of beauty, in general, isn't limited to just the fairer gender but has also extended itself to all men out there, he explained, "Even as an influencer, I wouldn't confine myself. My earlier introduction to the world was, Hey, I am a comedy content creator. That changed to an actor! Then I started making make-up videos. I am open to better work opportunities because I can multitask. I can't see people boxing me because it took me a lot of years and confidence to be like this. I was always in a dilemma about whether people were going to accept me or not. I am over it, finally."

Ankush illuminates further, paving the way for men to pay attention not only to their skincare and hair regimens, but also to their makeup. "I belong to a profession where even men need make-up to look good. We are entertainers. From the beginning, I normalized it. So when I went on to start a make-up feed, I didn't realize the impact would be so overwhelming. It's just make-up; there is no gender in it now. I want my reels to reach male audiences prominently so that we can dismantle these barriers. I have witnessed something very interesting: men do not pick up a product until and unless a "for men" tag is written on it. They are always looking for validation. This is just an illusion. I know of many men who love doing smoky eyes on an everyday basis, including me. On the other hand, there are women who don't

like make-up at all."

We were leading some great conversations on the importance of gender fluidity in beauty; hence, he continues, "Beauty trends are always fun to try. Let's be real: these trends get your eyeballs! Even if it's outrageous, if you want to be a part of that conversation, you will have to step into it.



You cannot be so blasé about it. Beauty hacks rely on shock values! I don't find these trends outrageous; I see opportunities. I don't want my audiences to feel inferior after watching my content, but they turn to me for guidance on skincare and beauty tips for men. I always show filterfree make-up to let them know it will cake up. A slight crease in your make-up is not bad make-up; it's something normal to

He's willing to change the mindset, and that's what is resonating with us. "I am no trendsetter. I genuinely enjoy doing this. I

see some of the other creators who immediately blend everything and apply it to their faces. In the make-up industry, experts are way too fixated on whether we are professionally trained or not. They forgot how some of the biggest make-up artists in the world are self-taught! Its a misconception that we can't learn it by ourselves; you don't have to go to a make-up studio to learn," adds Ankush.

Known for his stunning makeup looks, he spills his favorites: "Lakme is my favorite—I have done a whole season with them. I can't imagine to date that I have an IP of my own, and that too for makeup. Four years ago, I wasn't thinking of any beauty pages, and now there is a show with season two. To collaborate with a brand as big as Lakme is again a wild dream coming true. My mother has been the most supportive. I don't have any sob stories to tell! It takes my parents two and a half years to understand what I'm trying to accomplish. They wanted me to pursue architecture; they were concerned about their investment (he laughed out loud). Now that they have realized the potential of a creative field, earlier, they couldn't understand why I was walking on the ramp. When I was on the cover of Forbes Magazine, they realised the impact of what I do, or a Times of India feature on me. It was a big deal for them; they were flexing in the whole neighborhood. I feel embarrassed, but they are so cute."

On a final note, sharing his camaraderie with his closest friend, who is now a popular actress, Shibani Bedi, he shared, "We have seen each other grow and even break apart. There were times when we weren't picking up, but we were rock solid. It's not that our videos are going viral now; they were equally loved when we weren't actors in this industry. When we collaborate with each other, we are never selfish toward each other. Now that she's doing movies, I just want to see her succeed madly."

Sustainable living, a shared responsibility

resources. This is now a concern shared around the world. Sustainability is not the responsibility of a select few but a collective duty that extends to every stakeholder in society, from individuals to corporations and educational institutions.

At its core, sustainability begins with individuals. All of us play a crucial role in adopting eco-friendly practices and reducing our environmental footprint. Small lifestyle decisions can have a significant effect. Something as basic as reducing water and energy consumption at home, recycling and minimizing singleuse plastics can contribute significantly to global sustain-ability efforts. Using public transportation, cycling or carpooling instead of relying solely on personal vehicles

also helps reduce emissions and traffic congestion.

A noteworthy example is the growing trend of "zerowaste" lifestyles. Individuals are embracing the challenge of producing little to no waste by reusing, recycling and reducing. By consciously making sustainable choices, individuals can pave the way for a greener future.

Businesses and corporations are integral stakeholders in the pursuit of sustainability. In fact, ESG is an important facet of many businesses today. Many forward-thinking companies are incorporating eco-friendly practices into their operations.

For instance, major corporations are making ambitious commitments to carbon neutrality. They are investing in renewable energy projects and setting strict emission reduction targets. These steps are not just good for the environ-ment but also for their bottom lines. Sustainability efforts can lead to cost savings, greater customer loyalty and a positive public image.

One sector that holds sig-

nificant influence is educational institutions. Schools, colleges, and universities are

ustainability is no longer just a buzz word – it's also breeding grounds for future leaders and responsible global citizens. Many educational institutions around the world are incorporating susnot just centres of learning but world are incorporating sustainability into their curricula and are teaching students about environmental stewardship, social responsibility and the importance of sustainable practices. These institutions are promoting a culture of sustainability by passing on the values to the younger generation to build responsible professionals and citizens of

the world. The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a global plan for tackling pressing environmental and social issues. They have brought together nations, organizations and individuals to work together to eliminate poverty, reduce inequality and protect

the planet.

NMIMS Hyderabad is a fine example of an institution that takes its role in sustainability seriously. They have intro-duced electric buggies on their campus, which not only promote sustainability through zero tailpipe emissions but also empower women by employing female drivers.

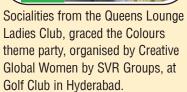
The installation of a Pad Vending Machine on their campus is evidence of their commitment to women's health and the environment. The institute also undertakes tree plantation drives which contribute to sustainability by improving local air quality, mitigating climate change through carbon sequestration and reducing the need for power-consuming air conditioners. Moreover, this initiative promotes biodiversity, beautifies the campus and

positively impacts mental well-being.
Clearly, collaboration is the way forward when it comes to implementing sustainable development, and it is through collective efforts that can make a difference to safeguard the planet for generations to come.

(Dr. N Mahesh Kumar is the Deputy Registrar of NMIMS Hyderabad.)

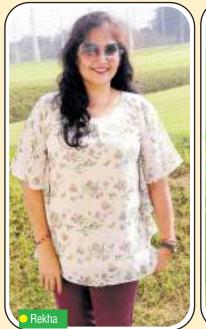
what's brewing?















LISTINGS

Abbott's campaign on blood donation

and launched the first-ever donor campaign song, Give Blood. Get Good Nibes. This song aims to inspire Indian youth to donate blood, making blood donation a contemporary, compelling approach to build a healthier India. The vocals are by Tamojit Chatterjee, aka MC Headshot, an Indian hiphop artist, rapper, lyricist, and stage performer. The company had launched the campaign in major cities across India, including Mumbai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Kochi, Nagpur, Vizag, Guwahati, Nagpur, and Nashik, with digital and physical assets, mobile donation vans, and more. These sites record approximately 300,000 annual donations, with an encouraging rise in

donations by over 20% this year. **Godrej Capital Nirmaan enhances its offering**

expanding its collaborative network. Partnerships with industry stalwarts such as DBS Bank India, Visa, Amazon, and others underscore Godrej Capital's commitment to providing growth opportunities for MSME owners. These collaborations are designed to empower MSMEs, offering a diverse array of value-added services and comprehensive support throughout their business journey. The platform aims to foster growth revolving around three critical areas for MSMEs: Expansion of customer

Bhargav stands out as a versatile artist

hargav H C, a rising star in the Indian music scene, stands out not only as a talented vocalist but also as a versatile artist—making his mark as a music composer, director, and actor. Paving his way from humble backgrounds, Bhargav achieved a remarkable feat by winning Gold at the National Republic Day Camp 2020 for both composing and singing. Recognized as a Cultural Ambassador for Karnataka and Goa Directorate, he contributed to the state's gold-winning entry in the 'best song' category with his composition Nav Bharath, aptly termed 'mothi' or pearl by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. With a track record of winning gold in over 100 singing contests across the country, Bhargav is a familiar name at college fests. His recent triumph as the Title Winner of Radio City Super Singer Season 15 opened doors to his first playback opportunity in the movie Matnee, presented to him on the finals stage by Sandalwood's acclaimed Music Director, Poona Chandira Tejaswi. Bhargav continues to refine his skills, captivating audiences through his music, theatrical performances,

Universal Sompo fosters financially secure future

he Government of India's initiative, PMSBY, launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on May 9, 2015, has proven to be a beacon of financial security for underprivileged families across the nation. Universal Sompo General Insurance Company has insured 8 lakh people in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, in the first half of the current financial year with a growth of 17% over previous year. The company has disbursed over Rs 4.5 Crores of claims in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana since inception of the scheme to the families of the insured in the entire state of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Kartik Aaryan becomes the face for House of McDowells's Glassware

riendships have a way of blossoming unexpectedly, whether it's reconnecting with an old friend, bonding with a neighbor over I random hobbies, or forming a connection with a stranger in a new city. It is what House of McDowell's Glassware calls #YaaronWaaliBaat. Yaaron Waali Baat is an expression of the heartwarming connection that goes above and beyond to constantly embrace the limitless possibilities of not just existing friendships but also those encountered on the go. Bringing alive this very emotion, is the ultimate Yaar of our generation- Kartik Aaryan. The actor embodies the very spirit of today's generational dynamics, and his presence not only enhances the appeal of the brand but allows us to forge authentic and meaningful connections with the audience. The actor, known for getting into the skin of the character, went to the lengths to learn the ISL and perfect it for the TVC.

Instashield showcases innovative MedtechWellness solutions at WCDM

yderabad based Instashield, a medtech wellness company, participated in The 6th World Congress on Disaster Management (WCDM) being held in Dehradun, Uttarakhand. The event is expected to bring forth numerous valuable insights into disaster management for various dignitaries and experts in the space, which further can be translated into practical actions to save the State from natural disasters. World Congress on Disaster Management (WCDM) brought together experts, policymakers, and industry leaders to discuss and explore cutting-edge strategies for disaster management and work towards the response. At the WCDM, Instashield had the distinct honor of hosting Honourable Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami, at its booth. Instashield's booth at the WCDM served as a hub of activity, attracting attention with its state-of-the-art solutions aimed at addressing various aspects of wellness. Attendees had the opportunity to engage with Instashield's team of experts, who provided insightful demonstrations and discussions on the company's groundbreaking products.



The youth wing of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Young Indians (Yi), unveiled the theme of its muchanticipated 20th National Summit, "Take Pride 2023," scheduled for December 21-22, 2023. The two-day conference will be hosted at ITC Grand Chola in Chennai.

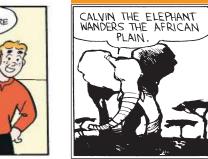
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REALITY CHECK

CALVIN AND HOBBES





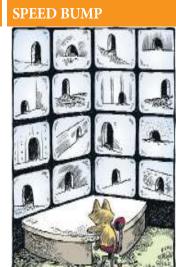




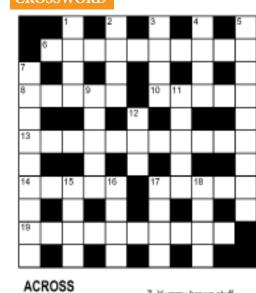








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7 Yummy brown stuff

9 A part of something

11 A house made of snow

15 Tidy and well arranged

17 An animal to ride 19 People on journeys

- Come to a halt 2 Mix black and white to
- make this 3 A throbbing pain
- 4 Make music with the voice 5 Periods of a hundred years



Hyderabad | Friday December 1, 2023

GOATLAFE

Prithviraj Sukumaran starrer The Goat Life in worldwide theatres on April 10, 2024

irected by National Award Winner Blessy, The Goat Life features Superstar Prithviraj Sukumaran in the lead role and is based on the novel Goat Days by Benyamin

The greatest ever desert film Indian cinema has seen will be releasing in theatres near you on 10th April 2024, in five languages: Hindi, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, and Kannada

Kannada The wait is finally over! After a decade-long endeavour, the greatest survival adventure, based on a true story, *The Goat Life*, starring Malayalam superstar Prithviraj Sukumaran is all set to release in theatres worldwide on 10th April, 2024. Produced by Visual Romance, directed by National Award Winner Blessy, the film also features Hollywood actor Jimmy Jean-Louis, Amala Paul, Indian actor K.R.Gokul, and renowned Arab actors Talib al Balushi and RikAby in pivotal roles. *The Goat Life* boasts of music direction and sound design by Academy Award winners A.R. Rahman and Resul Pookkutty respectively. The stunning visuals of the film have been shot by Sunil KS and the film has been edited by Sreekar Prasad. Being shot in multiple countries around the world, the film is the biggest ever venture in the Malavalam film industry, showcasing remarkable production standards,

aesthetic elements, storytelling, aspirations, and acting prowess. With its ace acting and soul-stirring background score, the film is a larger than life theatrical experience. The movie is based on

The movie is based on the novel 'Aadujeevitham', one of the most popular best sellers ever from the Malayalam literary world, which has been translated into 12 different languages, including those that are foreign. Penned by noted writer Benyamin, it follows the true story of the life of a young man Najeeb, who, in the early 1990s, migrates from the lush green shores of Kerala in search of fortune in a land abroad.

Speaking about this Indian film, which is made for a global audience, director, Blessy said, "The greatest challenge in front of me was that The Goat Life is a subject with universal appeal and I would have to stay true to its narrative style. The novel is based on some real incidents and I want to captivate the viewers with each moment that something unbelievable happens to someone. The truth has never been stranger than fiction. The scale of the movie demands to be felt within the confines of a theatre and we are excited to bring this magnum opus to audiences around the world."

The Goat Life is all set to release in theatres near you on 10th April 2024, in Hindi, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, and Kannada

tollywood
'Calling Sahasra is a pure

Actor Sudigali Sudheer interacts with *The Pioneer*, sharing some interesting tidbits about his film *Calling Sahasra* released today, breaking stereotypes and more.

experiment-based film for me'

K. RAMYA SREE

ctor-host-comedian Sudigali Sudheer's Calling Sudheer's President Sudheer himself confessed to us that this movie is purely experimental for him.

The film, starring Dollysha, is directed by Arun Vikkirala. Sudheer's previous film Gaalodu was a good hit, and he shared that he has been extremely cautious about him film.

Gaalodu was a good hit, and he shared that he has been extremely cautious about his films, so much so that he revealed having heard close to 138 scripts before signing for Calling Sahasra. "I want to come to the audience with good content. People expect something hilarious from me, but as an actor, I need to explore other genres too, and Calling Sahasra is one such experiment I did. With the release of this, I will know what the audience is 'actually' expecting from me. If the movie works out well, I will get clarity that the audience is ready to watch me do different genres, so I can choose my scripts wisely later."

To put it in simple words, Sudheer

To put it in simple words, Sudheer shared that he signed *Calling Sahasra* just to break the stereotype about him just

being able to do comedy and make the audience aware of what they can also see him do

Calling Sahasra is a suspense thriller that has many layers to it, including love, the dark web, and others. "I am still confused if I performed well or not in calling Sahasra as I attempted something new for the first time. The movie's key point is something new to me, and I felt like giving it an attempt. I felt to myself like I was watching some new person on screen," he shared about his performance in the

Shifting his career to films on the small screen, Sudheer felt the heat so much that he even consulted a doctor for extreme stress. "I feel the burden to entertain the audience," he shared.

Sudheer is popularly known for his comedy; hence, he doesn't want to sideline comedy in his films while also experimenting with other genres. He shared that his next movie, Goat, is complete out-andout commercial entertainment. However, he also confessed to us: "Apart from comedy, I like the movies that Adivi Sesh Garu does, which are into crime suspense, mystery, and thrillers. I want to try those genres," added the *Three Monkeys* star.

Speaking of his camaraderie with his co-

Speaking of his camaraderie with his costar Dollysha, he mentioned, "She is a very good actress, and she grasps things very quickly. In fact, I took some time to get into the skin of my character, Ajay Srivatsav, in the movie. She is a very competitive actress. There is a fight sequence in the end, and one will know her hard work after watching that sequence."

Lastly, asked about what the audience can expect from the movie, and he shared, "I want the audience to go to theaters without expecting anything from Sudheer. They will see Sudheer in a new way, unlike in regular comedy or dance. This is a different and new thriller film."



Adhik Ravichandran still on board for AK63

opular production Phouse of Tollywood Mythri Movie Makers, is trying to spread its wings to Kollywood. As a part of expansion, they have confirmed Ajith Kumar's film in Adhik Ravichandran's direction. But, all of a sudden Gopichand Malineni came into the picture and since the last two days reports are rife that Adhik has been replaced by Gopichand Malineni to direct AK63 busy with Vidaa Muyarchi



directed by Magizh Thirumeni, which is expected to be released soon. Adhik, who made his debut with the adult comedy *Trisha Illana Nayanthara*, is an ardent admirer of Aiith and has

times. Now, after years of waiting, Adhik has finally got the opportunity to direct his idol in AK 63, which is said to be a mass entertainer with a lot of surprises. The film is being produced by the popular Tollywood production house, Mythri Movie Makers, who have delivered several remarkable hits. The film is expected to go on floors after Ajith completes his current project, Vidaamuyarchi, which is

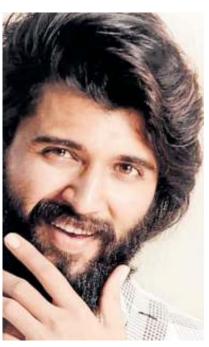
work with him several

being directed by Magizh Thirumeni.But, as it turns out, the rumours were false and Adhik is still the director of AK 63.

According to sources, Ajith Kumar's PRO Suresh Chandra denied the rumours and confirmed that Adhik isn't being replaced. Adhik Ravichandran is known for his bold and unconventional films, and known for his quirky themes. It will be interesting to see what kind of film he will make with Ajith Kumar.

Lokesh Kanagaraj's produced *Fight Club* stars Vijayakumar in lead

VD-Rashmika's pic at Hi *Nanna's* event upsets fans



t the pre-release event of *Hi*Nanna, a picture featuring Vijay
Deverakonda and Rashmika
Mandanna was displayed on the big
screen. The image was allegedly clicked
on a Maldives vacation by the duo
more than a year ago. It is known that
the Geetha Govindam pair are
rumoured dating partners

rumoured dating partners.

The image was shown in a lighter vein at the *Hi Nanna* event. However, the same hasn't gone down well with the fans of the *Kushi*' actor, who feel

that it was an attempt to needlessly publicize a private moment. Many fans of the *Arjun Reddy* actor have gotten riled up. They took out their anger on the organizers of the event, the *Dasara* actor as well as host Suma Kanakala.

As per the vocal fans of Vijay, Nani and Co. should have avoided displaying the pic when the VD-Rashmika duo has not come out in the open with their alleged relationship. Others feel that such things are par for the course in the celebrity culture. "The image has been in the public domain. What is wrong with displaying it at a public event? There is nothing cheap or crass about it," a Netizen shared.



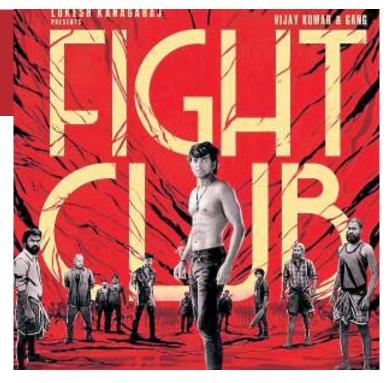
appening director Lokesh Kanagaraj, who has recently delivered blockbuster *Leo*, has launched his own production house, 'G Squad'. He announced that he will be making films with his close accomplices and friends initially, and then he will be producing movies that showcase the vision with new talent. He has already announced his first project under his banner.

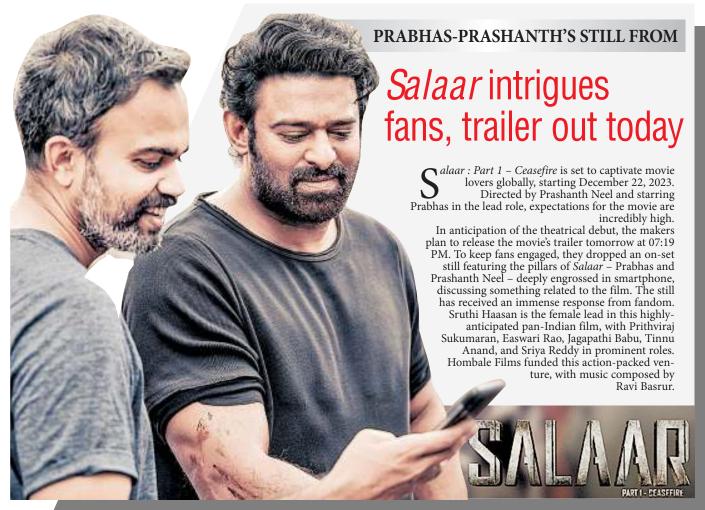
his banner.

The film is titled *Fight Club* and it is directed by *Uriyadi* films fame Vijayakumar, who also plays the lead role. The film is said to be an action thriller with a social message. The first look poster of the film was released by Lokesh Kanagaraj on X, simply wrote, "*#FightClub* - The

bravest gang will meet you all soon!" The poster shows Vijayakumar in a fierce pose with a gang a that has goal with vengeance. The film is written and directed by Abbas A Rahmat, who is also an assistant to Lokesh Kanagaraj. The music is composed by Govind Vasantha, who is known for his soulful melodies in films like 96 and Jaanu. The film is to hit the screens by December 2023.

Lokesh Kanagaraj, is currently working on his next directorial venture *Thalaivar 171*. He is currently scripting for *Thalaivar 171*, which is a standalone film without being a part of his LCU. He vouched to showcase Superstar Rajinikanth like never before.





INDIA NEED YOUNG BOWLERS TO DELIVER

India's young bowling unit, which has been under the pump, will look to better its death overs performance while utilising Glenn Maxwell's absence to its advantage in the fourth T20 International against Australia here on Friday.

'India's second-string attack did not paint a good picture of itself by not defending 40-plus runs in the final two overs in the third match which the Australians won while chasing a daunting 223-run target.

'There is a possibility of a minor tweak in the Indian line-up after Prasidh Krishna gave away 68 runs in four overs, including 21 in the final

'Deepak Chahar is back in the T20 mix and his ability to move the new ball should be considered for his inclusion in the playing XI along with death overs specialist Mukesh Kumar, who is back after one-match break.

'Both Prasidh and Avesh Khan lack variety and innovation as they keep pitching the ball at the same length. Both bowl in late 130s or early 140s but consistently pitch it back of the length and the nature of Indian tracks make it a cannon fodder for batters. 'Also not being able to use variations like conventional or wide yorkers has been the undoing of these bowlers who also didn't execute slower deliveries properly.



'In the batting line up, Shreyas Iyer's comeback means only Tilak Varma looks a candidate who could be benched as five others -- Yashasvi Jaiswal, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Ishan Kishan, skipper Suryakumar Yadav and finisher Rinku Singh select

themselves. 'India will also look to exploit the absence of a marauding Maxwell who pulled off a heist of sorts to singlehandedly bring Australia back into the five-match series with a win in a last-ball finish in Guwahati.

'But the hosts will fancy their chances with Maxwell, and other influential players such as Steve Smith and Adam Zampa not figuring in the playing XI here, having left for home after a long stay in the country where they won their sixth

World Cup title recently. Maxwell midway into the series keeping in mind their workload and fitness ahead of the T20 World

'Cricket Australia (CA) released many of its top players including

ond-string India are smarting from a classic Maxwell innings, and the home team bowlers will be relieved that he will not walk out to bat at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium.

International Stadium.
'Instead, they will probably be bowling to players such as Tim David, Josh Phillippe and big-hitter Ben McDermott, a far better proposition at the moment than challenging Maxwell, who has enhanced his reputation as one of Australia's greatest white-ball batters in the past fivesix weeks.

'The runs, and the manner and situation in which he has accumulated them, has catapulted Maxwell into a level not meant for others.

'India's bowlers, though, will still have to contend with Travis Head, on a high after his scintillating match-winning hundred in the World Cup final against India, and the seasoned Matthew Wade, who is leading the

side in the ongoing series.

'Like in Guwahati, dew could again have a say on a December evening in this part of the world, and the captain winning the toss would opt to bat second without an iota of doubt, leaving the team batting first to deal with the wet ball in the second innings.

'The reinforcements have already ioined the Australian squad and are available for the penultimate match of the series that started barely three days after their triumphant World leaving many former players surprised.

India's batting has been served well by the likes of young Yashasvi Jaiswal, Ishan Kishan, Rinku Singh, Tilak Varma and the skipper himself when

required. 'These players are expected to fire again but one man whose confidence will be sky high is Ruturaj Gaikwad, who is coming off a blazing 123 off 57 balls.

The likes of Jason Behrendorff, Kane Richardson and Tanveer Sangha could find the going tough one more time.

'So far, the unfriendly conditions meant the series has been a nightmare for the bowlers with five 200plus totals in six innings, and the trend is expected to continue in the remainder of the rubber.

Teams (from): 'India: Suryakumar Yadav (captain), Ruturaj Gaikwad (vice-captain), Ishan Kishan, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Tilak Varma, Rinku Singh, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Washington Sundar, Axar Patel, Shivam Dubey, Ravi Bishnoi, Arshdeep Singh, Prasidh Krishna, Avesh Khan, Deepak Chahar. 'Australia: Matthew Wade (capt),

Jason Behrendorff, Tim David, Ben Dwarshuis, Nathan Ellis, Chris Green, Aaron Hardie, Travis Head, Ben McDermott, Josh Philippe, Tanveer Sangha, Matt Short, Kane



Rohit will handle it with grace: Ashwin

'If Mumbai Indians make Hardik captain

Cpin stalwart Ravichandran Ashwin feels that if all-rounder Hardik Pandya is made the Mumbai Indians skipper, Rohit Sharma will "handle it with grace" as the Team India captain "does not have much ego".

'Pandya returned to Mumbai Indians recently after an all-cash deal trade-off with Gujarat Titans, the IPL side he led for

two years. 'Pandya, who had started his IPL journey with Mumbai Indians in 2015 and won four titles, moved to Gujarat Titans in 2022 and led the side to title triumph the same season, besides helping it finish runners-up in IPL 2023.

'The trade-off to bring Pandya back to the MI fold raised several eyebrows, especially in terms of the franchise's captaincy, which is currently with Rohit.

"Rohit Sharma does not have much ego. He is a great human being and a sound leader. He will handle it with grace (if Pandya is made MI leader)," Ashwin said during his YouTube interaction with former cricketer S. Badrinath.

"In the history of IPL, apart from the top four to five teams, all have released players. Mumbai and CSK have never done it. I know Hardik to an than that," he concluded.

extent. I see this move as a milestone achievement," he

"The day I lose this motivation, I know it's over"

'Asked about his retirement plan, Ashwin, 37, said the day he loses motivation, he would call it quits.

"I am not being diplomatic, but for four to five years (since 2019), I found myself in a very dark space in life, and took help for mental health as well. In the dark space, I realised I have to be ready for any eventuality," he

"I have been preparing for life after cricket for five years. But I continue to work hard on my cricket; to contribute with the bat, I went to the USA and practised baseball.

The day I lose this motivation, I feel irritated about waking up in the morning to bowl or bat, I know it is over. I will then quit immediately, say thanks to all and go on to the next chapter

'Ashwin, however, clarified that he has not yet decided on his post-retirement career.

"I am searching for something to do beyond cricket. I am interested in marketing and a lot of other things. But even if nothing else, I can't stop watching cricket. I am a cricket-tragic. I will do something in cricket and something other

Shanto's century helps Bangladesh

AP ■ SYLHET (BANGLADESH)

Najmul Hossain Shanto became the first Bangladeshi cricket to hit a century on his debut as captain as the hosts tightened its grip on the first Test against New Zealand here on Thursday. 'Shanto's

'Shanto's 104 helped Bangladesh extend its lead to 205 runs by reaching 212-3 at stumps on Day 3. Mushfiqur Rahim was batting on 43, after adding 96 runs with Shanto for the fourth wicket. The captain helped his team regain the upper hand on a spin-friendly track after Bangladesh lost two openers in quick succession to leave them on 26-2.

Left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel got the better of Zakir Hasan (17) for the second time in the match, with a delivery that spun sharply to rap him in front of leg-stump. 'Mahmudul Hasan,

scored for Bangladesh with 86 in the first innings, was run out in unluckiest manner as a drive from Shanto touched bowler Tim Southee's palm on the followthrough to hit his



'The two wickets in two overs brought the Black Caps back into the game but Shanto and Mominul Haque added 90 runs for the third wicket to give Bangladesh the edge. 'Mominul survived a leg-

before shout as New Zealand reviewed in vain but appeared to be confident against his favorite opponent, against throughout the day to frustrate which he has averaged a whopping 55.61. He was run out on 40 after hitting four

boundaries from 68 balls. 'Unlike his aggressive firstinnings 37, Shanto stayed clam

last four innings, pushing a fuller delivery of Patel past extra cover from a single. 'He then hit a boundary in the

last ball of that over, his 10th in 193 balls as bad light forced stumps for the third consecutive day.

New Zealand had resumed the day on 268-8 and was bowled out for 317, in reply Bangladesh's 310 in the first innings. 'Captain Tim Southee Southee

played the key role, scoring 35 off 62 with three fours while Kyle Jamieson added 23 off 70. With the main bowlers failing to make any breakthrough, Shanto introduced occasional bowler Mominul who wrapped up New Zealand's innings, dealing a double

'He trapped Jamieson leg-before to end a 52-run ninthwicket partnership and, four balls later, also got the better of Southee to finish on his

Left-arm spinner Taijul Islam took four wickets on Wednesday, including top scorer Kane Williamson for 104, but didn't add to his haul on Day 3 and returned figures of 4-109 from 39 overs.

"I was so nervous. Then I got

the news from Twitter that I

was picked by RCB and the

next moment Virat (Kohli) called."

'De Villiers went on to mes-

merise the Indian fans with his

stroke-making and formed a

dream combination with star



qualify for T20 World Cup, join Namibia

PTI WINDHOEK (NAMIBIA)

Uganda qualified for next year's T20 World Cup, set to be held in the West Indies and the USA, with a ninewicket win over Rwanda here on Thursday.

'It will be joining Namibia as the second side to enter the main tournament from the ongoing Africa Qualifier.

'In the regional final of the Africa Qualifier, Uganda ensured a top-two finish with the victory over Rwanda, their fifth in six matches. 'Batting first, Rwanda were all

out for 65 in 18.5 overs. In reply, Uganda completed the formality in 8.1 overs while losing just one wicket.

'Uganda will become the fifth African nation to play in the T20 World Cup.
'On the other hand, Africa

Qualifier favourite Zimbabwe failed to secure a berth. Zimbabwe are currently placed third in the regional final with six points, having won three of their five games.

'After the results of the Africa Qualifier, the slots for the 20 participating teams have been

'The main tournament is set to take place between June 4-30 next year.

'The top two sides from each group make it to the Super 8 stage, followed by the semifinals and the final.

'The qualified teams for the 2024 T20 World Cup:

'USA, West Indies, Australia, England, India, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, South

Delhi didn't keep promise to retain me: ABD recalls 2010 snub

One of the greatest batters of modern era, AB de Villiers has revealed that he was snubbed by erstwhile Delhi Daredevils after spending three seasons at the IPL franchise. 'Before making it big at the Royal Challengers Bangalore, the South African batting legend had three lukewarm season with the Delhi franchise, now known as Delhi Capitals.

But in a team meeting, also attended by explosive Australian opener David Warner, de Villiers was told that he was going to be "retained" but it happened otherwise as the franchise released him before the 2011 auction.

'Recalling the incident in his YouTube channel, 'AB de Villiers 360', the former South African skipper said: "When I played in the 2010 season, I got called into the office and was told 'you are going to get retained, young AB de Villiers." "I sat alongside David Warner in that meeting. It came as a huge surprise to me a week or two later when I realised I had

'So the communication wasn't great back in the day, that must be different these days but it's not a nice feeling," De Villiers added. 'The 39-year-old said it was a

been released.

huge blow and he was very nervous before the auction. "You're unsure of your career,



at that time in 2010 I think I only played five games in that IPL season so a lot of doubts crept up in my mind.

"But I did have a very good international season. I kept

playing good cricket and luckily for me the auction hap-pened and I got picked up by RCB, and it changed my life forever, so great memories with regards to that.

batter Kohli at the top of the order for 11 seasons.
'De Villiers said the released players should not feel disappointed as it's not the "end of the road".

"For all the released players, it's not the end of the road, keep a close eye on the auction. But if you're not picked up, it gives an opportunity to go back to the drawing board and work even harder," he added.

Africa, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Ireland, Scotland, Papua New Guinea, Canada, Nepal, Oman, Namibia and Uganda.

'Rohit, Virat were crying in dressing room after heartbreaking loss'

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Skipper Rohit Sharma and star batter Virat Kohli were in tears in the dressing room following India's heartbreaking loss to Australia in the recent ODI World Cup final in Ahmedabad, veteran offspinner Ravichandran Ashwin said.

'Australia beat India by six wickets on November 19 in the final to win a record sixth ODI World Cup title.

'After the loss, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the Indian dressing room and tried to cheer up Rohit and

'But Ashwin said the dressing room witnessed some heartbreaking scenes.

Yes, we were feeling the pain. Rohit and Virat were in tears, (and) seeing it felt bad. Anyway, (it was) not meant to be. This team was an experienced side, (and) everyone knew what to do," he told former cricketer Subramaniam Badrinath on his YouTube channel.

'Although India failed to emerge successful in the World Cup, Kohli and Rohit lit up the event up with their explosive batting. 'Ashwin heaped praise on Rohit, both as a batter and leader.



"If you take a look at Indian cricket, everybody will be telling you that MS Dhoni is the best captain. (But), Rohit Sharma is an outstanding tion. person, (and) he understands every single player in the team," he said.

"He knows the likes and dislikes of each of us and has a great understanding. He puts in the effort to know each player personally," he reck-

'Ashwin played just a game in the entire World Cup, India's opener against Australia in Chennai, finishing with figures of one for 34. 'Asked why Rohit didn't

include him in the playing XI for the final, he backed the skipper saying it's not easy to change the winning combina-

"As far as I playing the final is concerned, the team combination and all is secondary. Firstly, it's about empathy, (and) I keep stressing it a lot. "It's like standing in someone else's shoes and looking at things from his/her perspective. Had I been in Rohit's shoes, I would have thought 100 times about altering the (winning) combination," he

"It was going alright for the team, so why rest a fast

bowler for three spinners?" he wondered

'Ashwin said he was prepared for the grand finale, but was not certain about his place in

the playing XI.
"Honestly, I understood
Rohit Sharma's thought process. Playing the final is big, (and) I was preparing for three days in the lead-up," Ashwin said.

"At the same time, I was also prepared to cheer for the side and run in with energy drinks if I was not given the opportunity.

I was mentally prepared for that as well," the spinner concluded.