









# Getting cab to Old City a tough task

MOHAMMED BALEEGH  
■ HYDERABAD

Getting cabs to the Old City from the Hyderabad airport seems to have become a tough task. Cab drivers have pointed out low fares and passengers' attitude as major reasons for denying service.

Addressing the challenges while booking a cab from the airport to Talab Katta, Fahad, a customer said, "It was hard to find a ride to Talabkatta where I live. Most cab drivers cancelled on me after knowing the destination and the fare for it."

Stating reasons for the denial of service to Old City residents, Shaik Salaudhin, founder and President of Telangana Gig and Platform Workers Union said, "The lanes and roads in Old City are narrow which may cause scratches on the cab and then the drivers will have to face the music from the owners. The cab from the airport to Old City is merely Rs 300-400, which is cheaper as compared to the fare



for autos and bikes." "The other reason why most cab drivers refuse to take Old City rides is the recently concluded festivals and the traffic congestion caused by them. Most passengers demand to be dropped on the doorstep, which is impossible." "Even though the TGPWU has carried out a 'Low Fare- No Air' demonstrations in the past and continues to do so, no major steps have been taken to increase the fare except for meager increments in the days following the demonstration.

Speaking of the issue Nayeem

, a cab driver said, "Those taxi services which deploy carpooling can function at such low fares. However, it is not advisable to carry passengers by carpooling since the driver may drop them off at random locations. It is also a threat to the driver's and passenger's safety alike."

Santosh, another cab driver said, "A major reason why rides to the Old City are denied is that route maps don't function properly; passengers ask us to take routes which are impossible to reach even on autorickshaws."



## TSRTC arranges 5,265 special buses for festive season

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) on Sunday announced that 5,265 special buses have been arranged for ferrying passengers during the upcoming festive season.

The special buses will operate from October 13 to 25. Speaking of the services, TSRTC Managing Director VC Sajjanar said, "Advanced reservation facilities are available for 536 services among these special buses. On October 22 Saddula Bathukamma, 23 Mahanavami and 24 Dussehra, there is a possibility of heavy traffic. Special buses will be plied from Hyderabad and Secunderabad

to all parts of the State as well as to the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra."

The TSRTC will run special buses from major bus stands such as MGBS, JBS and CBS, along with KPHB Colony, Uppal Cross Roads, Uppal Bus Stand, Dilsukh Nagar, LB Nagar and Aramghar. City buses will be available every 10 minutes on MGBS-Uppal, MGBS-JBS, MGBS-LB Nagar routes during the festival."

Advance reservation must be done on the company's official website. It is advised to contact TSRTC call centre numbers 040-69440000 and 040-23450033 for complete information regarding Dussehra special services.

# Facial attendance app fails to aid govt teachers

RASHMI BHUMIREDDY  
■ HYDERABAD

Though technology aids people in various ways, sometimes it doesn't meet the expectations. In regards to facial attendance, the Telangana government has failed to aid government teachers.

The newly implemented initiative has failed to complete full registration of students across all government schools of the State and added new troubles to the teachers.

Mutyala Ravindar, a teacher at a govt school in Nallakunta, said, "Though the app is looking experimental, it is not convenient. It needed many updates. So far, registrations are not complete. Moreover, the number of students in Faceapp is not visible."

"I do not see any advantages except to know the exact attendance of students. It can count and give net strength to the schools and may be convenient to plan various budget allocations for schools. But it wastes much of teachers' time. For bigger classes, it may take



about 15 minutes. As there is no landscape mode working, teachers need to take the smartphone to each student to capture. It also consumes a huge amount of Internet data. Syncing between the web portal of the app with the phone app is very poor."

According to Mohammad Ahmed Khan, a teacher at GBHS, Darechemata, Charminar, the website is not showing a complete student list. Many students' names are missing due to the Aadhaar issue, and new enrollment is also not available on the website. Strength as mentioned in the register is

different from what is shown online. "Website data should not be linked with Aadhaar as per the Supreme Court guidelines. Using Aadhaar is not mandatory. So, complete school data can be synchronised with the website, so that we can register 100 per cent and then we can implement it properly," he said.

"Instead of using app-based facial attendance system, we can install a face recognition machine at the entrance of each school so that it will capture all students' faces one by one. It will be hassle-free and no extra efforts are required for teachers," he added.

# Shramdaan offered on Gandhi Jayanti

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) and Young FICCI Ladies Organisation (YFLO), with their parent organisation Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) on Sunday, organised Swachhata Hi Seva initiative at Government Degree College for Women, Begumpet.

FLO and YFLO members, FICCI staff, and 58 NSS volunteers of the Government Degree College for Women, Begumpet, did a one-hour shramadhan on Sunday morning.

"We did this activity as part of our national initiative. FLO national body has given a call for all our chapters across India to



participate in the initiative in response to the call given by

Prime Minister Narendra Modi," said Ritu Shah, Chairperson of

FLO. "We did this as part of the Ek Tareekh, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath' Campaign, a mega cleanliness drive to mark the celebration of Gandhi Jayanti," she added. "A garbage-free India is more than just picking up litter or cleaning up our streets. It's a call to consciousness, to embrace cleanliness, sustainability as a way of life, and not just a civic duty," said Arthi Shah, YFLO Chairperson.

Phani Raj Julakanti, Head, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh State Councils of FICCI; Chandrashekhar Rao and Mary; Dr Narsimha and Dr D Saritha, NSS programme officers have also participated in the programme.

# City colleges organise Swachhtahi Seva

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



On the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), in collaboration with colleges, organised the Swachhtahi Seva programme in all wards of the GHMC across the city on Sunday.

Along with GHMC Commissioner Ronald Rose, film actress Akkineni Amala, film lyricist Suddala Ashok Teja, Zonal Commissioner Venkatesh Dotre, AMOH Bhargav Narayana, and sanitation staff participated in the programme at Prasad IMax Theatre.

The officials cleaned the road at three vulnerable points and the garbage was moved to a secondary collection point by Swachh vehicle.

They moved the trash bags to collection transfer points with the aid of Swachh vehicles. College students including NSS volunteers actively took part in the programme.



# Pak cricketers relish Hyderabad cuisine

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Pakistan Cricket team on September 30 enjoyed Hyderabad cuisine for dinner. The team is in the City for warm-up matches ahead of the Cricket World Cup.

A video shared on the official Twitter handle of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) shows Pakistani cricketers, including Babar Azam, Shaheen Shah Afridi, enjoying a

meal at the Jewel of Nizam amid heavy security.

Following the dinner, the cricketers were also seen taking pictures with fans. Pakistan is scheduled to play two league stage matches in the city. In its first match, Pakistan will face the Netherlands on October 6, followed by a match against Sri Lanka on October 10. The team will then travel to Ahmedabad to face arch-rivals India on October 14.



# Milad-un-Nabi processions pass off peacefully in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Milad-un Nabi processions conducted on Sunday passed off peacefully through Hyderabad in which hundreds of devotees took part.

The procession commenced from Mecca Masjid in the afternoon amid heavy security. It passed through various historic locations in the city, including Gulzar Houz, Pathergatti, Chhatta Bazaar, Purani Haveli, Etebar Chowk and Bibi Bazaar, before concluding at Moghalpura before

Asar prayers.

Tight security measures were adopted to ensure peace and avoid untoward incidents during the procession. Earlier, the Markazi Milad Juloos Committee, which comprises several Sufi orders, dargahs and religious figures, announced that the procession would take place on October 1.

Milad-un-Nabi procession in the city is held on the 12th Rabi' al-Awwal. This year, it was observed on September 28. However, as the date coin-

cided with Ganesh Visarjan, the organisers decided to hold the procession on October 1.

The rationale behind this decision was to avoid any untoward incidents which could have occurred due to processions by two communities. The committee's decision was also lauded by Commissioner of Police CV Anand who commended the city's Ganga Jamuni Tehzeeb and appealed to citizens, especially the youth, to exercise utmost caution during the celebrations.

# Yash Bharwani nominated as JNHTS president



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society (JNHTS), known for the prestigious Nehru Senior Hockey Tournament, nominated Yash Bharwani, the grandson of the founding father of the Society, Inder Mohan Kapur, as its 7th president on Sunday.

JNHTS was formed in 1964 in memory of Pandit Nehru by Inder Mohan Kapur and other eminent citizens from across the country.

Yash Bharwani carries forward the legacy of luminaries and past presidents of the society. He is the Executive Director of the Hyderabad-based Gooncha Group. The group has co-executed the 57th Senior

Hockey Tournament and has entered into a five-year sponsorship agreement for the grand-old tournament.

Yash was nominated as the President of the society at the investiture ceremony attended by the Who's Who, at a star hotel in New Delhi. He will be holding the post of the President of the society for two years.

General secretary Vijay Kumar Singh, Minister of State for Civil Aviation, Road Transport and Highways, Government of India; was the chief guest. Kukoo Walia, Secretary General, JNHTS; Pinky Anand, former Additional Solicitor General of India; Ajit Pal Singh, Arjun Awardee and Padma Shri Olympian; Gurbux Singh, were among those present.

# KTR launches Telangana Model book

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development KT Rama Rao on Sunday launched a book entitled *Telangana Model* at Pragathi Bhavan on Sunday. The book was edited by Telangana Sahitya Academi Chairman Juluru Gowri Shankar.

At the launching of the book KTR said, "This book reflects KCR's vision towards developmental activities and his government's achievements. It has recorded all the achievements and successes of the government to be a lesson to the future generations and as a model for other states."



He said, "It shows how a government should rule and take care of people to help them by introducing different developmental schemes. Our government is a responsible government which works for the welfare of the people. We have struggled and agitated to achieve separate Telangana and played a

vital role in each and every movement during Telangana agitation."

He also mentioned that each and every page of the book is an epitome of the government's welfare schemes in terms of agriculture and irrigation projects like Kaleshwaram, the biggest project in India.

## DALIT BANDHU SCHEME

# Silt carting vehicles to be distributed

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Apart from providing employment to many families across various constituencies under the Dalit Bandhu Scheme, the Telangana State government has decided to make more families benefit by providing silt carting vehicles run by the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) on Monday. The main objective of this scheme is to provide livelihood to Dalit families and keep the city clean. Due to this, there is a possibility of financial stability for the respective families as well as genetic enrichment. HMWSSB has taken similar measures in the past. Sewer jetting machines that were intro-



duced in 2017 has provided work to make many workers. The State government thought that providing the silt carting vehicles to Dalits would benefit their families. As a part of that, these vehicles will be given to them through the Dalit Bandhu scheme.

Officials have selected 162 people from Hyderabad, Ranga

Reddy, Medchal-Malkajigiri and Sangareddy districts. Out of 162, 88 from Hyderabad, 35 are from Ranga Reddy, 37 from Medchal-Malkajigiri and two from Sangareddy.

The selection process of the beneficiaries was done under the supervision of the Collectors of the respective districts as per the approval of the respective MLAs.

Each of them will be provided with 162 vehicles each. Additionally, the board will bear the labour and maintenance expenses. It pays rental charges on a monthly basis for the removal of garbage and transportation to designated locations. As per Annual Maintenance Services (AMC) norms, vehicle checking and service charges are paid to the vehicle manufacturer once in every three months to keep the vehicles in good condition. It also provides security equipment worth Rs 3,000. In the initial period, vehicle insurance was contracted to be paid by the vehicle manufacturer. Rs 1.2 lakh income is given to the beneficiaries if the family members are drivers and staff of these vehicles.

# Businessman dies after being attacked by robbers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In an incident reported from Gudimalkapur on Saturday, a businessman died after robbers attacked him and stole gold ornaments from him.

The victim was identified as Chinna Chowdry Anji Reddy (76) owner of GR Convention. He was attacked in the parking lot of the store while trying to get into his car. Reddy's relative Ravi Devinaini found the victim lying unconscious near his car and informed his family members. The family members reached the store and informed the police that Reddy suffered injuries to



his eyes and face adding that two gold rings and a gold chain were missing from Reddy's body. The Gudimalkapur police reached the spot and rushed the businessman to Gandhi hospital, where he succumbed to injuries.

The police registered a case and are examining the CCTV footage as part of the investigation.



# Monday Mirchi

## SOCIAL MEDIA HAS AN EDGE

Social media has an edge when it comes to communication from the Police Department. In Telangana, the Director-General of Police boarded a chopper for an aerial survey of the Ganesh procession. He himself filmed portions of it and said: "Send it (the video clip) to the press". Hyderabad CP C V Anand accompanied him. But his team created a reel and included it in the immersion overview. The buzz is that both are quite active on social media platforms, especially X (formerly Twitter). Anand is going out of the way in posting and his posts are reaching lakhs. In general, some IPS officers are known to be media friendly, but now the big wigs have become distinctly social media friendly.

## DANCING COPS SHOW JHALAK OF FRIENDLY POLICING

Cops are known to approach crowds in a menacing manner with their lathis, regardless of whether the people in the crowd are resting or restive. However, during the Ganesh Immersion procession in Hyderabad dancing cops stepped into people's hearts. In Hyderabad's Central Zone, DCP M Venkateshwarlu, Saifabad ACP Sanjay Kumar, and Khairatabad Inspector Bala Gopal led the jigs. Not to be outdone, Warangal CP AV Ranganath did his part, bagging the 'coolest dancer' tag among CPs in the state while maintaining law and order. But his jhalak on foot was marred briefly as followers of the Majilis party as well as the BJP created a tense atmosphere near MP Bandi Sanjay's home.

## LESSONS FROM AND FOR TEACHERS

Praveen Prakash, principal secretary to the AP government's School Education Department, must be delighted with the responses he has been getting for his YouTube videos. He has been running a series titled 'From the Desk of Principal Secretary', aired initially in English and of late in Telugu. In his latest episode, he shared that every week he visits a district as party of 'reality check' concerning his work. The officer shared that he was 'humbled' by the comments of the teachers' responses. A wag, talking of reality, commented: "While many of the comments seemed very genuine positive feedback, there were also some that appeared as if they were contrived."

## JAINS CROSS 'LAKSHMI REKHA'

Bureaucrats rarely highlight the traits of people belonging to their respective community. Rajarshri Shah, District Collector of Medak, however, spoke glowingly about the Jain community to which she belongs. Traditionally a business community, Jains are known for their business acumen. They say it runs in their genes. Rajarshri Shah amplified that these days Jains are getting also into administration, judiciary, police, and the service sectors. "I am an example of Jains getting into administrative services. The major philosophy taught in Jainism is to keep tradition to heart". She went on to say that Jains, constituting less than 0.5% of India's population, are among the highest contributors to personal income. Besides, Jains are the only minority community in the country who have never sought any favours/reservations for being a minority group.

## A POST VALUED QUINQUENNIALLY

Babus are quite important in state administration, be it as a cog in the wheel or the most sought-after Chief Secretary or Special Chief Secretary or, better yet, Advisor post-retirement. Still, none of them can garner as much attention as the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) at the time of elections. The CEO is in the limelight quinquennially, albeit

for a brief period. Ahead of the elections, the CEO is the go-to person, with all government officers, even those working directly under the Chief Secretary, also under his operational control. He thus seems more powerful than the Chief Secretary, with all political parties, including the one ruling the state, making complaints only to him against their perceived opponents. In the Telugu states, the CEOs are calling the shots right now as they need to report only to the Election Commission. It is a different matter that some babus call it a 'punishment' post. For, some CEOs retire or are transferred without any elections being conducted during their tenure. Come elections, they are any day busier than any of the other officers on non-election duties. A CEO, however, must walk the razor's edge when it comes to dealing with warring political parties and wily politicians; otherwise, he or she could court controversies. Whatever it may be, conducting elections smoothly will bring lasting laurels to a CEO.

## AP CAPITAL SHIFT TO BEGIN ON DASARA?

Is the long wait for the shift of the executive capital of Andhra Pradesh to Visakhapatnam over? The answer seems to be in the affirmative, going by the recent one-day visit of Andhra Pradesh Chief Secretary KS Jawahar Reddy to the port city, where he took stock of ongoing activities. There are indications that Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy will initiate the process of shifting offices to Vizag on Dasara. A bird little bird revealed that the CS met key officials during the visit and discussed the possible locations for offices and residences of the officials. The capital shifting plan had been on hold for various reasons since the announcement regarding it in December 2019.

## BLURRING THE LINE BETWEEN VOTER AND PARTY WORKER

Of late, retired babus have been voicing their informed opinions through civil society organization such as 'Citizens for Democracy'. For example, former AP State Election Commissioner Nimmagadda Ramesh Kumar recently underlined the necessity for free and fair elections as well as correct voter lists in a democracy by recounting that he himself had to fight for restoring his voting right in his native village in Duggirala. He pointed out that only after knocking on the doors of the Court he could get his name registered as a voter. For good measure, Ramesh Kumar added that electoral staff must adopt a humanitarian attitude while removing from the voters' lists the names of those who had migrated for employment vis-à-vis those who happened to be not at home during staff visit as part of the revision process. Further, according to Ramesh Kumar, there is a question mark over the impartiality of the election process, considering that leaders of the ruling party, during their speeches, are calling volunteers as their 'party workers'.

## DRIVING HOME THE POINT EFFECTIVELY

Greater Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Corporation Commissioner Saikhan Varma recent opted to travel to his office by an APSRTC bus during the observance of 'vehicle-free day'. He drew accolades from environmentalists and healthcare experts. Leading by example, the Commissioner called upon citizens to use public transportation once a week—on Monday—to help contain pollution caused, inter alia, by vehicular exhausts. If people heed his call, cyclists and pedestrians -- otherwise endangered species -- can breathe easy at least on Mondays.

-- Yours truly

# Modi's promises empty rhetoric

The Minister for Finance asserted that the Prime Minister never translated his campaign rhetoric into action

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

Minister for Finance T Harish Rao on Sunday came down heavily on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and characterised his promises as "empty rhetoric."

"Modi came to Mahabubnagar and showered promises. No amount of rhetoric can help the BJP make headway. Modi recited promises parrot fashion. He never translated his campaign rhetoric into action" the Minister pointed out.

Harish Rao questioned the Prime Minister as to why the Prime Minister did not make any promise on the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme (PRLIS) and about the dispute over sharing of Krishna water between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

The Prime Minister failed to assure the people that he would once and for all ensure a permanent solution to the dispute between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh over sharing



Minister for Finance T Harish Rao speaking at a meeting in Kalwakurthy in Nagarkurnool district on Sunday

Pradesh over sharing Krishna waters. He also did not promise to accord to national project status to the PRLIS.

The Union government led by Modi could not make any headway in fulfilling promises incorporated in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act for the last nine years. "What he will do if his party is given power for five years?" he asked. As far as the tribal university is concerned, it was incorporated in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act. It took nine years for the Prime Minister to

announce the establishment of the tribal university. The BJP was still trying to deceive people. The Telangana people would not fall prey to false promises, he asserted.

Meanwhile, the Minister for Agriculture Minister S Niranjan Reddy alleged that Modi, during his tour of Mahabubnagar, was silent on the demand for national project status for the Palamuru-Rangareddy LI Scheme.

In a statement released here, the minister sought to know from the Prime Minister whether the promise made during

the BJP election campaign in 2014 to provide the national project status to the project was only an eyewash. Denying the national project status to the Palamuru-Rangareddy LI scheme was tantamount to cheating the people of Mahabubnagar district, he said.

The highway with toll plazas have been inflicting an unbearable financial burden on common people.

He demanded that the Prime Minister explain who benefited from tolls being collected on highways. He

recalled that the promises the Prime Minister made during the election campaign in Bihar remained unfulfilled. He promised to ensure that a turmeric board was

set up at the campaign during the Lok Sabha elections. But he went back on his promise. He made the same promise now in Mahabubnagar, he said.

## PM promises hollow

PNS ■ HANAMKONDA

While making derogatory remarks against Telangana and the way it was created, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has strangely showered promises and boons on people during his visit to the State, said Minister for Panchayat Raj Errabelli Dayakar Rao on Sunday. He accused the Prime of insulting the sentiments of Telangana people by saying that "the child was taken out by killing the mother." The Central Minister Piyush Goyal insulted Telangana people by asking them to eat broken rice, he said. "Today Modi at a street-corner meeting showered

promises. The Central government led by Modi, inflicted injustice on Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) workers. The Turmeric Board should be have established in Telangana long ago. Though the State allotted land for tribal university long ago. But the Centre sanctioned tribal university for Andhra Pradesh though the varsity was housed in rented buildings, the Centre did not sanction it." he pointed out. The Centre did not fulfil the promise of establishing the Bayyaram steel plant and the railway coach factory was shifted to Gujarat, he observed.

# India's first solar cycling track opened for public

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development KT Rama Rao inaugurated India's longest and first solar rooftop's bicycle track on Sunday at Narsangi, Hyderabad. This is world's second solar rooftop's bicycle track after the one in South Korea.

At the inauguration he said, "Physical fitness is very important. In today's world people are getting lifestyle diseases. Everybody talks about encouragement of non-motor transport, that particularly is cycling."

He said that the track is



Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development KT Rama Rao speaking after inaugurating India's longest and first solar rooftops bycycle track at Narsangi on Sunday

covered with solar roof that generates 16 MW power.

This translates to 32,000 streetlights or 800 km of streetlighting. It otherwise requires 52 acres of land to generate 16 mw. This track has five access points that provide amenities such as car and bicycle parking, food stalls, cycle repair and rental stations and rest areas.

"The power generated will save power costs to HMDA. The cost of the solar panel is recoverable in six years and the overall project in 15 years. The CCTVs of the track are connected to the Cyberabad police command centre for 24X7 monitoring," he added.

The entire 23 km track

(46 km round trip) is open 24X7, 365 days. There are two line stretches, which are Pink and Blue. The Pink line stretches from Nanakramguda to TSPA spanning 8.5 km and the Blue line stretches from Narsinghi hub to Kollur spanning 14.5 km.

He mentioned that some cycling enthusiasts of Hyderabad, are Hyderabad Cycling Revolution (HCR) and Hyderabad Cyclists Group (HCG).

Minister for Information and Public Relations Mahender Reddy and other leaders attended the inaugural programme.

# Minister lays foundation for medical college

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Minister for Health T Harish Rao on Sunday laid the foundation stone for a new medical college at Kandukur under Maheshwaram mandal. The college building will be built at a cost of Rs 180 crore.

Minister for Educational Minister Sabitha Indra Reddy and Chevella MP Ranjith Reddy. Harish Rao expressed their happiness over the government sanctioning a medical college in the constituency.

Speaking on the occasion, Harish Rao came down heavily on the opposition parties for criticising the government. He said that the State made rapid strides in development under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao.

The Chief Minister gave top priority to the health sector.

The State government established more number of medical colleges in the State under the leadership of the Chief Minister, he said.

# Foundation stone laid for Buddha Bhavan reconstruction

PNS ■ WARANGAL

Government Whip Dasayam Vinay Bhaskar has recalled the great history of Buddha Bhavan at Kumarapalli in Hanamkonda and expressed his gratitude to the people of the region.

He laid the foundation stone for the reconstruction of the Buddha Bhavan at Kumarapalli in Hanamkonda on Sunday.

Later addressing the gathering, VinayBhaskar said that the Buddha Bhavan thrived as a Centre for the dissemination of knowledge and described it as a "Chaitanya Vedika".

Stating that the Buddha Bhavan is a great source of energy, he said. The Buddha Bhavan is being rebuilt for the benefit of the people at a cost of Rs 50 lakh.



Dasayam Vinay Bhaskar

# Youth commits suicide by jumping under train

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

A youth committed suicide by throwing himself under a running train near Akkannapet railway station under Ramayampeta mandal in Medak district on Sunday.

Local people informed Kamareddy Railway Police that a youth, identified as Jangam Sagar (24), who hailed from Akkannapet village, had committed suicide by jumping under a train on Sunday morning. He left home on Saturday night and did not return.

The reason behind the youth taking the extreme steps is yet to be ascertained. The railway police reached the spot and registered a case.

# GITAM varsity takes part in Ek tareekh ek ghanta ek saath

PNS ■ PATANCHERU

GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad announces its active participation in the nationwide cleanliness drive, "Ek Tareekh Ek Ghanta Ek Saath," initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The university, in collaboration with the National Cadet Core (NCC) cadets and National Service Scheme (NSS) volunteers,

undertook extensive cleaning activities on Sunday.

To pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called upon citizens from all walks of life to engage in shramdaan for swachhata, a voluntary contribution towards cleanliness. As part of this initiative, GITAM, Hyderabad, took the lead in organizing a large-scale cleaning campaign within its

campus surroundings and the Zilla Parishad High School (ZPHS) premises. The event witnessed the active participation of GITAM Resident Director DVVSRVarma, Rudrarani Surpanch P Sudheer Reddy, Upa Sarpanch Yadaiah, Secretary Rajkumar, ward members, Panchayat Staff, MPO Hari Shankar, School Head Master Sujata, and NCC Officer Shankar, along with their cadets.

# KTR to inaugurate IT hub in Nalgonda today

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Local MLA Kancharla Bhupal Reddy has said that Minister for Information Technology KT Rama Rao would inaugurate the IT Hub here and other development works worth Rs 913 crore on Monday.

Disclosing this to media here on Sunday, the MLA said the Nalgonda Assembly constituency witnessed unprecedented development thanks to the support of Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao.

The integrated vegetarian and non-vegetarian market would be inaugurated by KT

Rama Rao.

The foundation stone would be laid for development of Udayasamudram cable suspension bridge at a cost of Rs 234 crore, development of temples, Kalabharati Auditorium, he said.

A Pragati Nivedana Sabha would be held at NG College Grounds on Monday evening with the participation of KT Rama Rao, Energy Minister G Jagadish Reddy. He appealed to the people to turn out in large numbers and make the event a

grand success.

To sustain the current rate of development, once again the BRS flag should fly high on the soil of Nalgonda, he said assuring the people to take Nalgonda forward further under the leadership of KCR.

## IT hub in Suryapet to open today

PNS ■ SURYAPET

Minister for Information Technology KT Rama Rao on Monday will inaugurate IT Hub but on the premises of the old Collectorate here. The Minister will also inaugurate

sewage treatment plant also. The plant was built at a cost of Rs 118 crore. He will also declare open Municipal Shopping Complex constructed at a cost of Rs 4 crore. KTR also lay foundation stone for underground drainage works to be take up at a cost of Rs 316 crore and

laying drinking water pipelines to villages which were merged with Suryapet municipality. He will later address a public meeting on the grounds of junior college. He will distributed ownership documents to 804 doubled bedroom houses beneficiaries.

# OFMK celebrates AVNL Formation Day

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

Ordnance Factory Medak (OFMK), a unit of AVNL, celebrated its second Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL) Formation Day in a grand manner at Sarath Community Hall within the OFMK estate on Sunday. The event was attended by K Sudhakar, IOFS, Chief General Manager, as chief guest, along with other senior officers from OFMK.

To kick-start the festivities and motivate OFMK employees, a morning "rally" was organised starting from the senior club and culminating at the Sarath Community Hall. The programme commenced with the hoisting of the AVNL



Officials conducting cleanliness service (Swachhata Hi Seva) on the occasion of AVNL's second Formation Day at Yeddumailaram village in Sangareddy district on Sunday

flag by chief guest, singing of national anthem, and then address by S S Prasad, IOFS, Reading out CMD's Message by Praveen Kumar, GM/HR

and further Special address by Chief General Manager of OFMK on 2 AVNL day Celebrations

As a part of this programme,

OFMK showcased models of BMP-II, CMT, Armoured Ambulance, and CRN-91 that are being manufactured at OFMK.

The chief guest distributed the prizes for the winners and runners of essay and drawing competitions held as a part of AVNL Foundation Day.

Following the main event, OFMK also initiated "Special Campaign 3.0" on 1st Oct 2023 as per the directives of the Ministry of Defence, Government of India. As a part of this, a special cleanliness drive took place at Yeddumailaram village in Sangareddy district where chief guest, top management and employees of OFMK Srinivas Rao, District Rural Development Officer Malla Reddy, Sarpanch of the Yeddumailaram village and local villagers also participated in this initiative.

# 2BHK housing colonies' inaugural today

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The inauguration of 2BHK housing colonies will be held on Monday. The event will be inaugurated at various venues simultaneously by the Ministers allocated at the said locations.

Home Minister Mahmood Ali will inaugurate the programme at Dundigal of Quthbullapur Constituency. A total of 3,142 beneficiaries are invited at the venue.

Minister for Education Sabitha Indra Reddy will inaugurate the event at Mansanpally of Maheshwaram constituency, and a total of 2,099 beneficiaries are invited to the venue. She will also inaugurate the

event at Abdullapur in Ibrahimpatnam constituency and a total of 472 beneficiaries are invited to the venue.

P Mahender Reddy, Minister for Mines, will inaugurate the event at Shankarpally in Chevella constituency. A total of 1,361 beneficiaries are invited to the venue.

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi will inaugurate the programme at Narsingi in Rajendranagar constituency and a total 356 beneficiaries are invited to the venue.

Harish Rao, Minister of Health and Finance, will inaugurate the event at Kollur-II

in Patancheru constituency, and a total of 6,067 beneficiaries are invited to the venue while Chamakura Malla Reddy, Minister for Labour and Employment, will inaugurate the event at Ahmedguda in Medchal constituency and a total of 1,965 beneficiaries are invited to the venue.

Talasani Srinivas Yadav, Minister for Animal Husbandry, will inaugurate the event at Rampally in Medchal constituency, and a total of 3,214 beneficiaries are invited to the venue while T Padma Rao Goud, Deputy Speaker, will inaugurate the programme at Nallagandla in Serilingampally constituency and a total of 344 beneficiaries are invited to the venue.



INDIA CORNER

## AFSPA extended in four districts in Assam

The Assam Police on Sunday said the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act or AFSPA has been extended in four districts of the state for six more months. At the Assam Police Day 2023 celebrations here, DGP Gyanendra Pratap Singh said the 'disturbed area' tag, which allows enforcement of the AFSPA, has, however, been withdrawn from four other districts. "From today, only four districts in Assam will have AFSPA. These are Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Sivasagar and Charaideo," he said. The AFSPA has been withdrawn from Jorhat, Golaghat, Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao with effect from October 1, Singh said. The Assam government had last extended the 'disturbed area' notification under the AFSPA for another six months with effect from April 1 in these eight districts. The AFSPA empowers security forces to conduct operations and arrest anyone without any prior warrant, besides giving immunity from arrest and prosecution to the forces if they shoot someone dead.



## 40 NGOs, rights groups take part in rally against animal cruelty

People from different walks of life participated in a rally to raise voice against cruelty to animals at Jantar Mantar on the eve of the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. During the rally, signatures for a petition addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking his attention on the issue were also collected, an official statement from the organisers said. The rally was organised by India Unites For Animal Rights, a citizen-led movement. As many as 43 NGOs and animal rights groups, including People for Animals (PFA) and Perroyayuda Welfare Foundation, were part of the event. "Our aim is to spread awareness about the plight of animals in the country and demand strict action against people who torture them. Through this rally we also wish to guide on how to manage pets and prevent dog bites which have become a tool to justify crime against animals," Sanjay Mohapatra, founder of House of Stray Animals, an NGO participating in the rally, told PTI.



## Govt official, wife sentenced in corruption case

A government official and his wife were sentenced to two years in jail by a court in Odisha in a 14-year-old corruption case. The special vigilance court sentenced N Prakash Patra and his wife N Santoshini Patra to two years in jail after convicting them in the corruption case. It was alleged that the couple amassed assets worth Rs 12.19 lakh when Prakash was posted as a junior clerk at the Patrapur community health center in Ganjam district about 14 years ago. He is at present posted at the Patrapur Sub-Divisional Hospital. Special vigilance judge Arun Kumar Sahoo also imposed a fine of Rs 10,000 on each of the two. Delivering the verdict on Saturday, the judge said that they will undergo imprisonment for another three months if they fail to pay the fine amount, according to public prosecutor Surendra Panda. The court convicted the couple after examining 25 witnesses, and analysing his properties found in raids at his houses, office quarter and chamber, he said.



# PM for blending well-being and health with cleanliness drive

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday pitched for blending fitness and well-being with cleanliness as he led a nationwide 'Swachhata hi Seva' campaign that saw thousands participate in an hour-long 'shramdaan' across the country.



Wielding a broom, the prime minister took part in the drive along with fitness influencer Ankit Baiyanpuriya. Sharing a four-minute video on his official 'X' account, Modi said, "Today, as the nation focuses on Swachhata, Ankit Baiyanpuriya and I did the same! Beyond just cleanliness, we blended fitness and well-being also into the mix. It is all about that Swachh and Swasth Bharat vibe!"

People from all walks of life, from politicians to students, took up brooms and participated in the campaign in response to the prime minister's appeal for the cleanliness drive.

According to the Union

Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry, more than 9.20 lakh sites across the country have been adopted for the mega drive.

In a recent episode of "Mann Ki Baat", Modi appealed for "one hour of shramdaan (or voluntary labour) for swachhata" on October 1 by all citizens, saying it would be a "Swachhanjali" to Mahatma Gandhi on the eve of his birth anniversary.

Several Union ministers, including Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, R K Singh, Piyush Goyal and Hardeep Singh Puri, participated in the mega cleanliness drive.

Shah took part in the drive in Ahmedabad, while BJP chief

J P Nadda participated in it in Delhi's Jhandewalan area.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh led the "shramdaan" activities, including a cleanli-

ness drive, beautification of the common area and a plantation drive, at the premises of the Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA) in Delhi

Cantonment.

In a post on 'X', Singh said that in recent years, awareness towards cleanliness has increased throughout the country and become a mass movement.

Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri led the cleanliness drive at Princess Park on Copernicus Marg in Delhi. Sanitation workers, students and residents of the area, along with senior officials from his ministry, attended it.

### AFTER PM'S APPEAL People across country respond to cleanliness drive

People from all walks of life, from politicians to students, participated in an hour-long "shramdaan" on Sunday, responding to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal for a nationwide cleanliness drive. According to the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry, more than 9.20 lakh sites across the country have



been adopted for the mega drive. In a recent episode of "Mann Ki Baat", Modi appealed for "one hour of shramdaan for swachhata" on October 1 by all

citizens and said it would be a "Swachhanjali" to Mahatma Gandhi on the eve of his birth anniversary. Wielding a broom, Union Home Minister Amit Shah participated in a cleanliness drive in Ahmedabad. BJP chief JP Nadda also took part in the drive in Delhi's Jhandewalan area.

## One has to face consequences for mistakes

### Jharkhand Governor on CM's mining lease case

PNS ■ RANCHI

Jharkhand Governor C P Radhakrishnan on Sunday said one has to face consequences for one's actions, referring to the mining lease case involving Chief Minister Hemant Soren.

In an interview to PTI, Radhakrishnan also stressed on the need for stern action against organised crime and Maoists in the state, expressing strong displeasure over the manner in which crim-

inal gangs were "operating from jail" and security personnel were being killed by rebel.

He termed criminal activities from prisons and the killing of security personnel by communist ultras as "worrisome" and "painful".

The governor asserted in his interview that "one should be ready to face the consequences for their actions", stating that "sensational issues cannot be addressed in haste" while



He termed criminal activities from prisons and the killing of security personnel by communist ultras as "worrisome" and "painful".

talking about the illegal mining case involving Chief Minister Hemant Soren.

A controversy broke out over Chief Minister Hemant

Soren allegedly misusing his power to allot a stone mining lease to himself.

BJP leader Raghubar Das accused Soren of wrongdo-

ing last year and sought his removal under Article 192 of the Constitution. The matter which was raised through a formal complaint by the state BJP unit was referred by the then Governor Ramesh Bais to the Election Commission.

The courts of law are also hearing cases connected to the allegations, while a money laundering probe has also been launched by the Enforcement Directorate against the chief minister.

## 'Mahatma's strong, vibrant ideology will always remain relevant'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Sunday said Mahatma Gandhi's strong and vibrant ideology will always remain relevant for the world and asked people to follow his values and teachings for the welfare of the country.

"Gandhiji ideals of truth and non-violence paved a new way for the world. Gandhiji not only fought for non-violence throughout his life but he also took up the cause of cleanliness, women empowerment, self-reliance and farmers' rights and fought against untouchability, social discrimination and illiteracy," she said in a message on the eve of Gandhi Jayanti.

Gandhiji inspired the nation to participate in the freedom

struggle and led a huge movement that changed the course of history and got Independence, Murmu said.

"On behalf of all citizens, I pay my humble tribute to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, on his 154th birth anniversary," the President said.

She said Martin Luther King Jr, Nelson Mandela, Barack Obama and many other politicians of the world were influenced by Gandhiji's ideas.

"Gandhiji's strong and vibrant ideology will always remain relevant for the world. On the auspicious occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, let us pledge to follow his values and teachings in our thought, speech and action to dedicate ourselves to the welfare of the country," Murmu said.



## Cauvery: Karnataka files petition before CWMA seeking review

### Deputy CM expresses respite with increase in inflow

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Sunday said the state has filed a petition before the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) seeking a review of its order on the release of river water to neighbouring Tamil Nadu.

CWMA on Friday asked Karnataka to release 3,000 cusecs of water daily to Tamil



Nadu till October 15, despite the state stating that there is not enough water.

State Water Resources Minister Shivakumar, howev-

er said the inflow of water to reservoirs in the Cauvery basin increasing to 15,000 cusecs, is a sign of respite.

"On Saturday afternoon itself we filed a petition before the Management Authority (CWMA) seeking a review, following the suggestions given by senior former Judges including M N Venkatachalaiah (Former Chief Justice of India)," Shivakumar said.

## Pollen data helps decode first humans' migration into Eurasia

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Pollen grains analysis helps understand how the first humans migrated from Africa across Europe and Asia, research in Science Advances says.

The pollen data showed that warming temperatures supported forests that expanded into Siberia and facilitated early human migration there, researchers from the University of Kansas, US, said in their study.

They compared Pleistocene vegetation communities around Lake Baikal in Siberia, Russia, to the oldest archaeological traces of Homo sapiens in

the region. Pleistocene period is considered two million to 11 thousand years ago and as the time of human evolution.

In this study, the researchers use the "remarkable evidence" to tell this migration story from about 45,000-50,000 years ago.

"This research addresses long-standing debates regarding the environmental conditions that early Homo sapiens faced during their migration into Europe and Asia around 40,000 to 50,000 years ago," said co-author Ted Goebel, professor of anthropology at the university.

"It provides critical insights into environmental conditions



at Lake Baikal, using pollen records to reveal surprising warmth during this period,"

said Goebel.

Dispersal of people occurred during some of the highest

temperatures in the late Pleistocene, which also would have featured higher humidity, the ancient pollen record suggested, said the researchers, adding it also showed that coniferous forests and grasslands characterised the region, supporting foraging and hunting by humans.

However, the environmental data, combined with archaeological evidence, tell another story, said Goebel.

"This contradicts some recent archaeological perspectives in Europe," said Goebel.

"The key factor here is accurate dating, not just of human fossils and animal bones associated with the archaeology of

these people, but also of environmental records, including from pollen.

"What we have presented is a robust chronology of environmental changes in Lake Baikal during this time period, complemented by a well-dated archaeological record of Homo sapiens' presence in the region," said Goebel.

The researchers also connected the pollen data to evidence in the archaeological record of early human migration.

Goebel said the emergence of full-fledged Homo sapiens in the archaeological record corresponds to changes in culture and behaviour.

## BJP sharpening election strategies

### Senior leaders meet at Nadda's residence to discuss plans for Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh polls

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP's top leaders met at party chief J P Nadda's residence here on Sunday to discuss plans for the upcoming assembly polls in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, both currently ruled by the Congress.

At the meeting, sources said, the BJP's core group leaders, who are engaged in preparing the party's poll strategy, discussed a range of issues and the names of candidates who could be fielded against the Congress nominees in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh assembly polls due to be held later this year.

The meeting at Nadda's residence came ahead of the BJP's central election committee meeting that is scheduled to be held in the evening to deliberate on the draft list of party candidates for the elections in the two states.

Union minister and BJP's election incharge for Rajasthan Pralhad Joshi, co-incharge for Rajasthan polls Kuldeep Bishnoi, former Rajasthan chief minister Vasundhara Raje and party state unit chief C P Joshi were among those who



attended the meeting that was presided over by Nadda to discuss preparations for the Rajasthan polls.

Union ministers Arjun Ram Meghwal and Gajendra Shekhawat, and BJP national general secretary and incharge for Rajasthan Arun Singh were also present at the meeting.

In the BJP's core group meeting for the Chhattisgarh polls, Union minister and party's state election incharge Mansukh Mandaviya, state unit president Arun Sao, state

organisation secretary Nitin Naveen and Leader of Opposition in state assembly Narayan Chandel were present.

Home Minister Amit Shah

attended both meetings.

The outcome of the two meetings will be discussed at the BJP's central election committee meeting. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Shah, Nadda and several other Union ministers are part of the apex committee that takes the final call on the party candidates.

## BSP to maintain 'complete distance' from NDA and INDIA bloc: Mayawati

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

BSP chief Mayawati on Sunday reiterated her stand to maintain "complete distance" from the ruling NDA and the opposition INDIA bloc for next year's Lok Sabha elections and said that the party has to move forward by working on its own strengths.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, the UP unit of the BSP said, "BSP chief and former UP chief minister Mayawati held a discussion with senior and responsible people of the party regarding the preparedness of the party for upcoming Lok Sabha polls, the preparedness of the party in Uttar Pradesh and in Uttarakhand, and to increase the party's mandate."

"During the discussion, she once again made it clear that Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has to work by strengthening itself, while maintaining complete distance from the ruling NDA and the opposition INDIA bloc," the statement said.

Mayawati urged party members to be alert to fake news, and said that anti-BSP elements are still engaged in propaganda and political conspiracy. "So, precaution has to be taken at every level, so that



"During the discussion, she once again made it clear that Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has to work by strengthening itself, while maintaining complete distance from the ruling NDA and the opposition INDIA bloc," the statement said.

our election preparedness is not affected," she said.

In the meeting, Mayawati took note of BJP government's "new election strategy" but said that people are still facing issues such as inflation, extreme poverty, unemployment, decrease in income, bad condition of roads, law and order, and poor health and educational facilities.

But it is unclear if these problems will become serious election issues, she said.

### Amid rain, J'khand Guv sweeps ground

PNS ■ RANCHI

Braving incessant rain in Ranchi, Jharkhand Governor CP Radhakrishnan on Sunday took part in cleanliness drive 'Swachhata Hi Seva'.

He wielded a broom and swept the ground on Ranchi University campus along with other university students, and then joined volunteers in picking up garbage from the ground.

Speaking on the occasion, Radhakrishnan said, "No country can be clean unless there is an urge among people to keep the surroundings clean. We need to make India clean and green."

The governor said that 'Swachhata Hi Seva' campaign is a service to the society, and it also focuses on promoting sanitation and cleanliness practices among the people.

Senior BJP leaders, including party state president Babul Marandi, participated in the drive in different parts of the state.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Resilient

Taking on challenges from the West, India walks with confidence to strengthen ties with the US

Amid the diplomatic brouhaha following the killing of India-branded terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada, India has embarked on a determined and nuanced offensive to present its side of the story on the global fora. During an interaction with Indian journalists in Washington DC, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar criticised Canada for "normalising" violence, threats and intimidation against our diplomats and missions. Tensions between India and Canada have escalated following Justin Trudeau's allegations of Indian involvement in the killing of Nijjar, a Khalistani extremist. Jaishankar highlighted ongoing issues with Canada's "permissiveness" toward terrorism and extremism, as well as the lack of response to extradition requests. He emphasised the need to address the larger issue, rejecting the idea that threats and intimidation should be justified as freedom of speech. The Minister, at an Indian community event in Washington DC, also highlighted the resilience and growth of the India-US relationship, emphasising the need for continued collaboration between the countries. He underscored the unprecedented trajectory of the India-US partnership, describing it as "desirable, optimal and comfortable". Jaishankar expressed optimism regarding the future of bilateral ties, drawing a parallel to India's historic Chandrayaan mission. He praised the US for its "invaluable support" in ensuring the success of the G20 Summit. The Minister said he believed that the partnership would continue to soar, "possibly even beyond the moon".



Amid diplomatic discussions, he dismissed Trudeau's allegations of the Indian Government's involvement in Nijjar's murder as "inconsistent with India's policy". Jaishankar's stance sought to vindicate India's position on the matter. In a separate meeting with US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin, the two explored avenues for strengthening bilateral defence ties, including the co-production of defence items. Meanwhile, across the Atlantic, a meeting of the Indian High Commissioner with the Indian community was disrupted by a few persons with anti-national credentials, bolstering Jaishankar's claim that hardline anti-India elements have taken roots in the West and they get all the leverage to carry out activities against India's interests in the name of freedom of speech. The West must realise that such elements are not fighting for anybody's rights or freedom, they have amassed ill-gotten wealth and wield significant power by claiming to fight for a "just cause" against India. But the fact is that their ideology is based on exclusion, intimidation and violence and that they have no support base in India. An ordinary Punjabi does not identify with them or subscribe to their views. The West must be wary of their presence and activities as these go against its own democratic principles. The Indian External Affairs Minister is doing the proper thing in taking up the cudgels to unmask these elements and show the world that they are just a bunch of desperadoes masquerading as freedom fighters.

### PICTALK



A sand sculpture created by sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik on the 'Swachhata Pakhwada at Puri beach

# Gandhian approach to world peace

Mahatma's ideas of nonviolence act as lighthouse in the modern day world where storms of hatred and factionalism rage

In a world marked by conflict and division, the pursuit of global peace remains an enduring aspiration of humanity. It is a quest that has been championed by leaders, thinkers, and activists throughout history. One of the most prominent figures in this quest was Mahatma Gandhi, whose philosophy of nonviolence continues to inspire people around the globe. The concept of nonviolence stands as a beacon of hope and a path toward sustainable peace.

As the world commemorates the International Day of Nonviolence and celebrates Mahatma Gandhi's birthday on October 2, it is crucial to move beyond the celebration and understand it as a solemn commitment that global leaders must undertake (read acknowledgement) for the betterment of humanity, which in future can offer a transformative vision that should guide us through the turbulent waters of our times.

Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy, of Satyagraha (truth-force), emphasized the power of truth and love to transform societies and resolve conflicts. Gandhi's influence extended far beyond the borders of India, leaving an indelible mark on the global struggle for peace. Historian Eknath Easwaran captured Gandhi's significance when he wrote that "Gandhi's teachings on nonviolence and his fearless commitment to justice resonate not as relics of the past but as timeless lessons for a world still grappling with violence and injustice."

The universality of Nonviolence stems from the fundamental recognition of human dignity and the shared aspiration for peace. Drawing inspiration from diverse religious and philosophical traditions, Gandhi synthesised the principles of 'Ahimsa' (non-harm) and 'Satyagraha' (truth force) into a powerful tool for social and political change, demonstrating the efficacy of nonviolent resistance.

Gandhi's influence resonated globally, inspiring figures like Martin Luther King Jr., who championed Civil Rights in the United States. King's commitment to nonviolent resistance was deeply rooted in his Christian



faith and the teachings of Gandhi. In his famous "Letter from Birmingham Jail," King wrote, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere," underscoring the interconnectedness of humanity and the necessity of nonviolent action in the face of injustice. He went on to state that "Nonviolence is a powerful and just weapon which cuts without wounding and ennobles the man who wields it".

Similarly, Nelson Mandela had unquestionable faith in the power of nonviolence. To him, "Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence and the truth is the only lasting legacy we have. All other political systems have failed. Ours is the only approach that can guarantee world peace because it is the only approach that can guarantee that mankind will be relieved of the curse of war."

Further, Desmond Tutu's struggle against apartheid in South Africa showcased the transformative power of non-violence. Tutu emphasized that nonviolence was not just a tactic but a way of life. To him, "Forgiveness and reconciliation are not just ethereal, spiritual things. They have concrete, pragmatic applications." The International Day of Nonviolence observed on the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, serves as a reminder



THE  
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PEACE

of the global significance of this philosophy. The United Nations, recognising the importance of nonviolence in resolving conflicts and promoting peace, has actively championed this day. The UN has recognised the intrinsic connection between peace and sustainable development in its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In a world grappling with complex geopolitical tensions, the efficacy of nonviolence as a strategy for conflict resolution cannot be overstated. Peace activist and granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi, Ela Bhatt underscored this connection. She believes that "Without peace, development is impossible, and without development, peace is not achievable."

In recent years, nonviolent movements have emerged as powerful forces for change in various parts of the world. From Rosa Parks, who refused to give up her bus seat, to Malala Yousafzai, who stood up for girls' education in the face of violence, to 'The Arab Spring' in the Middle East, to 'The Umbrella Movement' in Hong Kong, and the global climate strikes led by Greta Thunberg are examples of how nonviolent resistance remains relevant in contemporary global struggles. The protests, fuelled by a desire for

democracy, social justice and environmental concerns for leaders to awake from their slumber, demonstrated that the collective power of non-violent action could challenge established norms and demand change.

The birthday of Mahatma Gandhi and the International Day of Nonviolence is a clarion call for action. In a world grappling with diverse challenges, the principles of non-violence offer not just a historical legacy but a roadmap for the future. As Mahatma Gandhi himself had declared, "Nonviolence is the greatest force at the disposal of mankind."

Without exaggeration, it can be said that education stands as a formidable tool for nurturing the values of nonviolence from an early age. Nelson Mandela's insight, from his "Long Walk to Freedom" that people must learn to hate but can also be taught to love, underscores the transformative potential of education. Curricula that incorporate teachings on conflict resolution, empathy, and understanding lay the foundation for a more peaceful and tolerant world.

(The writer is a programme executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti; views are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### TROUBLE OVER POETRY

Sir — Rashtriya Janata Dal MP, Manoj Jha, is under attack for the mere recitation of the poem, "Thakur ka Kuan," during the recently concluded special session of Parliament. Poet Om Prakash Valmiki laments, "Oven is made of mud, mud is from the pond, the pond belongs to the Thakur." Munshi Premchand's story by the same title was the inspiration for poet Valmiki. The main character in the story, Gangi, a lower caste, makes a vain attempt under the cover of darkness to fetch some 'clean' water from a Thakur's well for his ailing wife, Jokhu. Manoj Jha read the poem to capture the upper caste dominance over all aspects of life in a village. We read Thakur is a title used by feudal landlords in the past.

It is a fact that cruelty towards people belonging to lower castes is on the rise in new India. Social ostracism and discrimination based on caste refuse to disappear. It was reported recently that in Kantasan village in Patan district of Gujarat, a ration shop owned by a Dalit faced a boycott from the Thakur community. In an inaugural function in a temple in Kannur district of Kerala, a priest refused to pass on the small lighted lamp to Kerala Minister for Temple Affairs, K Radhakrishnan, who belongs to the Scheduled Caste community, to light a bigger traditional lamp. RJD MP Professor Manoj Jha's recital of the poem in Parliament and the DMK Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin's caustic comment on the prevailing social injustice and inequality in Sanatana Dharma emerged from a multitude of such incidents in the country. Mahatma Gandhi wanted to dismantle the caste system "root and branch."

Haridasan Rajan | Kozhikode

### RBI EXTENDS DEADLINE FOR 2K NOTES

Sir —The recent decision by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to extend the deadline for the deposit and exchange of Rs 2,000 denomination banknotes until October 7, 2023, is a welcome move. This decision comes after the initial deadline of

## 'Annadata' Dr Swami Nathan is no more



The progress in agriculture should be measured not on the basis of agricultural income or growth, but on the basis of the increase in the income of the farmers. Dr Swami Nathan Commission maintained this opinion. In 1966, Nathan created a high-yielding wheat variety by hybridizing wheat seeds from Mexico with local wheat from Punjab. Similarly, the cultivation of improved varieties of rice, the staple food of India, was always striving for the economic upliftment

of poor farmers. Poverty disturbed by the failure of farmers' agriculture due to inadequate credit and the vagaries of nature, the commission headed by Dr. Swami Nathan, concerned with the suicide of farmers in debt, said that the progress in agriculture should be measured on the basis of farmers' income and not on the basis of agricultural income or growth. Dr. Swami Nathan aimed to achieve the objectives of food security, easy supply to agriculture, development of dryland farming, increase in profit by increasing agricultural productivity, reduction of imports, adjustment of prices of agricultural products to the global market, and preservation of the environment and ecosystem, among other things. His efforts were valuable. Dr. Swami Nathan was truly the "Annadata" of Indians.

Dattaprasad Shirodkar, | Mumbai

## Tourism as a green investment for the future



BIJU DHARMAPALAN

Green investments in the tourism sector are needed for sustainable economy that strikes a balance between growth growth and environmental protection

Tourism is intricately connected with aesthetics. Aesthetics in the context of tourism refers to the appreciation and experience of beauty, whether it's in natural landscapes, architectural marvels, cultural expressions, or artistic creations. It is the only sector where the public wants nature to be preserved, unlike other sectors where people support the destruction in the name of development.

Tourism is the pillar of our economy. In the year 2021, the travel and tourism sector in India made a substantial contribution of approximately 178 billion US dollars to the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In the year 2017, the nation experienced the arrival of more than ten million international tourists, resulting in a substantial influx of foreign currency amounting to approximately 27.31 billion USD. The power of tourism is enormous. In many states tourism is the backbone of the rural economy generating employment opportunities for thousands. But many



times tourists act as a destructive force in polluting the environment. We can see plastic bottles and bags floating in the Dal Lake.

To promote global awareness of the importance of tourism and its social, cultural, political, and economic value World Tourism Day is celebrated on September 27th under the auspices of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

Each year, World Tourism Day is celebrated on a specific theme, chosen by the UNWTO, to highlight different aspects of the tourism industry. These themes often revolve around current global issues, trends, and challenges facing the tourism sector. The designated theme for the year 2023 is "Tourism and Green Investments". This emphasises

the necessity for increased and more precise allocations of resources towards the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN.

When we mention green investment in tourism, we're talking about building and taking care of places that are friendly to the environment. This involves things like eco-friendly hotels and lodges, and using less polluting vehicles like electric or hybrid cars. Tourism and green investment are interconnected in several important ways. Green investment in the context of tourism refers to allocating financial resources towards sustainable and environmentally friendly practices within the tourism industry.

This can involve initiatives that aim to minimize negative environmental impacts, conserve natural resources, and promote sustainable development.

Tourism and biodiversity conservation are closely linked, and when managed responsibly, tourism can play a significant role in the protection and preservation of natural ecosystems and biodiversity. For this, we have to

take the local community into confidence. Usually, people in rural places want their place to develop like a metros. They forget that changing the geography will badly affect their economic prosperity. Engaging local communities in tourism activities can lead to a sense of ownership and stewardship over natural resources. When communities see direct benefits from conservation efforts, they are more likely to be supportive.

Ultimately, green investments in the tourism sector are necessary for the creation of a sustainable and resilient economy that strikes a balance between economic growth, environmental protection, and the well-being of local communities. It incentivises a change towards more environmentally conscious and socially responsible tourism practices that are beneficial to both the natural world and the sustainable growth of the tourism industry.

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

rency note in 2016 and the cessation of its printing in 2018-19 provides valuable context for readers. It highlights the RBI's goal to ensure an adequate supply of currency in other denominations.

Maimul Safui | Howrah

### HC STOPPED FROM HOLDING MEETING

Sir — High Commissioner, Vikram Doraiswami, was reported to have been stopped from entering a Gurdwara by Khalistani extremists in Glasgow. It is shocking and outrageous. It is an insult to us. Of late, the rising of anti-India forces on foreign soil is a matter of concern. Reports of desecration of temples in Canada, Australia, the USA, and the UK are on the rise. The breeding of terror on foreign soil is unacceptable. It needs to be condemned. Respective governments should not allow such unlawful activities on their soil. India should take up the matter at the highest political level.

Sravana Ramachandran | Chennai


Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

MAGIC OF MUDRA PRANAYAMA

The science of ‘mudras’ is intrinsically related to the esoteric knowledge of Yoga




RAVI VALLURI

The Yoga Sutras of Patanjali is a collection of sutras on the theory and practice of yoga as elucidated in his treatise. The sutras are known for their reference to Ashtanga or the eight elements of practice culminating in samadhi. The eight limbs are yama, niyama, asana, pranayama, pratyahara, dharana, dhyana and samadhi. Pranayama is the fourth principle of Ashtanga Yoga as delineated by Maharishi Patanjali. Pranayama should be coupled with mindful eating and breathing.

**The yogic science of mudras**

Lord Krishna in the Bhagavad Gita says, “There is nothing as sacred as knowledge.” Knowledge can be acquired by the human mind through the 5Ds- dedication, determination, dynamism, devotion, and discipline and one H- Humility. The human mind can harness this potential only if it is in the present moment. By practising proper breathing techniques, like Sudarshan Kriya and Nadi Shodhan pranayama and through regular meditation the mind becomes alert to delve deep into knowledge. It is indeed efficacious to learn about mudras. The practice of mudras is not just in the domain of dancers, painters, and artists, even stock individuals who have nothing to do with the art world ought to learn about mudras.

The science of mudras, is intrinsically related to the esoteric knowledge of yoga and which can be further segregated into the five elements, the five life forces (or subtle forces of energy called the pranas) and the three doshas. The five elements are namely – Akash (ether or space), Vayu (air), Agni (fire), Jal (water) and Prithvi (earth), and the five life forces or pranas are prana, udana, samana, apana and vyana and the three doshas are vata, kapha and pitta. Humans unconsciously practice mudras. For instance, a young child begins learning to walk with his thumbs raised



which is called the Meru Dand mudra. An infant in a deep slumber, his index finger would involuntarily touch the thumb and the other three fingers are on the base of the palm (Chinmaya mudra). The universe in its auto-mode conjures these processes to take place. We are oblivious to the occurrence. Some other mudras which need to be practised are:

**(a) Jnana mudra**

This is performed to increase brain power, improve memory and for the removal of negative thoughts. Thereby one attains peace and bliss.

**(b) Prithvi mudra**

This helps in balancing the five sense organs, improves blood circulation and enhances our energy levels. Practising this mudra assists in increasing our alertness.

**(c) Apana mudra**

This facilitates an improved elimination process, revitalizing the digestive system, improving the gums and strengthening immunity.

**(d) Prana mudra**

This mudra addresses the problem of fatigue; it provides essential vitamins to the body besides increasing stamina and vigour. It also helps in maintaining the health of our eyes.

**(e) Dhyana mudra**

Essentially, this mudra helps in making us mindful and wakeful. Over a period, we attain peace of mind.

**(f) Shunya Vayu mudra**

The practice of this mudra helps in combating problems of flatulence and gastric ailments. The gut houses our solar plexus, which is also referred to as the second brain. We need to take adequate care of our abdomen as most human ailments arise from this part of the body. Thus, there is enormous merit and wisdom in the adage, that your health is in your hands.

*(Ravi Valluri is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. and is a faculty of the Art of Living; views expressed are personal)*

# India’s space Odyssey: To Moon and beyond



UTTAM CHAKRABORTY

India has taken a formidable lead in Moon exploration, though it would be a while before Moon’s resources would be available for development purposes

India is riding high on the success of India's Chandrayaan-3, which scripted a glorious history worldwide. It is not only a matter of national pride but has larger implications on varied dimensions. It has opened up further deliberations on technological capability, resource exploration, international collaboration, scientific contributions, space exploration and diplomacy, geopolitical landscape, global leadership and cooperation.

The success of Chandrayaan-3 has redefined the relationship between national prestige and technological capability. Successfully launching and operating a lunar mission showcases a country's technological prowess and capabilities. It can boost national pride and reputation on a global stage, potentially influencing how other countries perceive and engage with that nation. International collaboration is now buzzing around. Lunar missions often involve collaboration with other countries and space agencies. The use of space missions, including lunar explorations, as a means of advancing diplomatic ties is referred to as space diplomacy. The development of international partnerships for space exploration can open up chances for discussions, disagreements, and alliances with other nations, potentially having more significant geopolitical repercussions. These partnerships can foster diplomatic ties and strengthen international relationships, leading to potential geopolitical advantages.

**SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS**

Without scientific contributions, India's mission could not have been possible. Lunar missions contribute to scientific advancements by conducting experiments and collecting data about the Moon's geology, atmosphere, and other characteristics. Sharing such data and findings can position a country as a leader in scientific research and innovation. Resource Exploration is another area that can be discounted in India's journey in space. If future lunar missions, including Chandrayaan missions, discover valuable resources on the Moon, such as rare minerals or water ice, they could have significant economic implications.

**SPACE VOYAGE & GEOPOLITICS**

Control or access to these resources could influence a country's geopolitical standing. The ability to conduct space missions, including lunar missions, can be used as a tool for diplomacy. It can open channels for negotiations, discussions, and partnerships with other nations interested in space exploration, which can have broader geopolitical implications. Furthermore, a long-running space race may pick up speed in response to the successful lunar mission, which follows Russia's failure. India became the first nation to land a spacecraft on the south pole of the moon. As the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft successfully touched down on the lunar south pole last week, India became just the fourth nation to perform a soft landing on the moon. That area of the moon has not yet been visited by any other country. The trajectory of the Chandrayaan-3, which blasted off from southern India more than a month ago, has captured the attention of the Indian public and dominated headlines for days.

Soft Power Projection is something that India is going to capitalize on. Successfully



conducting ambitious space missions can enhance a country's soft power – its ability to influence others through cultural, technological, and scientific achievements. The successful completion of ambitious space missions has the potential to increase a country's soft power, which is defined as its ability to sway others through achievements in the arts, sciences, and technology. This phenomenon can help to shape how people view the country and have an effect on how well-known it is abroad. This can create a positive image of the country and influence how it is perceived by the international community.

Launching lunar missions requires the development of advanced technology, infrastructure, and skilled workforce. These developments can have a positive impact on the country's overall technological capabilities and economic growth, indirectly affecting its geopolitical position. Precisely, this achievement will enhance the infrastructure and capability building. Now, global leadership and cooperation have come to the fore for further discussions. If a country like India successfully conducts lunar missions, it could position itself as a leader in space exploration, especially within the developing world. This leadership role can lead to collaborations and alliances, shaping geopolitical dynamics. A nation like India has the potential to become a leader in space exploration if its lunar missions are carried out successfully, especially among developing nations. This particular leadership position has the potential to promote alliances and partnerships.

A long-running space race may be accelerated by the Chandrayaan-3 mission, ushering in a new stage of great power competition. Russia and India, who are allies on Earth, have been vying to be the first nation to set foot on the lunar south pole; a Russian attempt was a failed one. The presence of water raises the possibility that other nations could use the region of the lunar south pole as a base for further space exploration in the future. The United States established the Artemis Accords in 2020, which seek to foster space cooperation through shared rules and principles, possibly in anticipation of such competition. Several allies and partners, including India, joined. Russia and China have not. The way people on Earth view the moon—and beyond—could change as geopolitical competition in space is set to heat up.

**MOON ECONOMY**

Limiting climate change's harmful effects and ensuring a transition to sustainable energy sources have become the two biggest problems the world community has been facing recently. The lack of critical minerals, which are crucial elements of the transition to renewable energy, as studies suggest, makes the transition less seamless than anticipated. Considering the moon economy's importance and potential sources for these essential minerals is necessary in this context. Along with this, a country typically gains a tactical advantage from a space mission when operationalizing satellite communication, in addition to a variety of other benefits. This includes enabling and supplying consistent satellite data, which aids in forecasting many things, including the monsoon and can greatly aid defence forces in maintaining surveillance on other nations.

The moon is a rich source of raw materials, so it should be noted that this will be a geopolitical region where future conflict and cooperation may occur. It is necessary to take a comprehensive look at the essential minerals that have grown in significance recently. According to an ISRO study, the Moon, especially the South Pole, is currently home to enormous amounts of water. A significant amount of hydro-energy could be produced if this were to be investigated.

Similar to this, a report by Popular Science Magazine titled “The elements we might mine on the moon” suggests the presence of other critical minerals, including plutonium and helium 3, which can be used for the fusion of nuclear energy, as well as cobalt, lithium, titanium, and other critical minerals. In a similar vein, the Energy Information Administration, in its numerous reports, has made predictions of these vital minerals that can be sourced for the RE sector.

The countries that establish bases on the moon first will have the first-mover advantage to benefit from a variety of space projects and businesses on and around the Moon. The geopolitics of lunar colonialism are still unknown, but we do know that they will have an impact on world politics. In a few decades, India may be one of the few nations in charge of the largest portion of the moon economy. A PwC report states that the lunar economy encompasses all of the activities involved in the production, use, and exchange of lunar resources on the Moon's surface, in lunar orbit, and on Earth.

The United States, Russia, China, Japan, and France are just a few of the nations that have congratulated India on Chandrayaan-3's successful landing. These nations are all interested in space exploration and are probably closely observing India's development.

These responses demonstrate the widespread acclaim and admiration that India has received for its performance on Chandrayaan-3. It is a significant accomplishment for India and evidence of its expanding space exploration capabilities.


Other nations may be inspired to pursue their space exploration programs as a result. Now, the moon is India's ventured place. Let's wait and watch on the world's relations with India to shape up the journey in the space.

# Growing need for awareness about mental health

Approximately every fifth person across the globe experiences mental health issues at some point during his lifespan

In 1992 the World Federation of Mental Health recognised the need to be more vocal about mental health issues as people with mental illness often suffer silently, fearing social stigma, lack of understanding and discrimination.

Approximately every fifth person across the globe experiences mental health issues at some point during their entire lifespan. While Depression and Anxiety disorders are the most common mental health conditions, suicide is one of the leading causes of premature and untimely deaths. It is a serious concern for mental health professionals for timely intervention. The spate of student suicides in Kota (Rajasthan) speaks volumes of the gravity of the situation and



RC JILOHA

*(The writer is a retired professor of psychiatry from the University of Delhi and Jamia Hamdard, views are personal)*

the urgent need to address the issue.

Mental health refers to overall mental well-being, a holistic concept that is also about physical and social well-being. Promotion of mental health through understanding, support, and access to mental health resources is crucial to de-stigmatizing mental illness and breaking down the negative attitudes and beliefs surrounding it.

Unfortunately, public health developments during recent years have adversely impacted the mental health of elderly and the children alike. It becomes important to make children understand that sound mental health is vital to their emotional development. It is evident from the studies that since the COVID-19 pandemic began, more children are reporting higher levels of anxiety and depression than ever before. That makes now the perfect time to break down the stigma connected with mental illness by openly discussing the issue.

The recent United Nations Human Rights Report highlights that people with mental health conditions and those with psychosocial disabilities experience disproportionately higher rates of poor physical health and reduced life expectancy. Discrimination, harmful stereotypes and stigma in the community, family, schools and the workplace prevent meaningful relationships, quality social interactions and the inclusive environments needed for the well-being of individuals with mental illness. These issues hurt a person's ability to cope with life situations.

There is a need to educate the public to create a society where everyone feels comfortable seeking help and support without prejudice and discrimination. It is the responsibility and obligation of the State and the global organizations to ensure access to mental health services, which can no longer be ignored. Access to better living conditions, security, food, shelter and housing are all human rights issues necessary for people's mental health. Mental health is a universal right of all citizens of the world and consistent with the 1948 founding principles of the World Federation of Mental Health (WFMH).

Mental Health Day reaffirms every year the commitments made and the action taken. While last year's World Mental Health Day theme was 'Make mental health and well-being for all a global priority', 2023's theme is to celebrate the power of community kindness.

Mental Health Day 2023 is an opportunity for people and communities to renew their commitment to the theme 'Mental health is a universal human right' to improve knowledge, raise awareness and drive actions that promote and protect everyone's mental health as a universal human right. Mental health must be placed in a human rights framework to re-cast the aspiration for sound mental health as a fundamental human right.

By doing so a better, more

accepting and supportive society can be created where the mentally ill stay included in the larger society with comfort and confidence. Active participation in the events that support World Mental Health Day such as walks, runs, workshops, or panel discussions helps create awareness and clarify misconceptions that often prevent people from seeking available help. Donations to the organization or charity that provides resources and support to those struggling with mental health issues must be made. Devoting and investing time and working voluntarily with the welfare organizations that support mental health can go a long way in creating awareness within a community. Money is needed to carry out these activities for which funds can be raised by organizing one's event or participating in a fund-raising challenge.

One also needs to self-educate about mental health and the various issues surrounding it through reading books, attending workshops, or simply having conversations with others or following some of the social media accounts that provide genuine information.

This year's theme highlights a range of issues to involve a variety of stakeholders and global citizens to work together to ensure that a clear message is delivered and an effective campaign to support World Mental Health Day 2023 is carried out on 10th October, particularly when we celebrate WFMH's 75th Anniversary year.



MONEY MATTERS

## Department of Fisheries organises ‘swachhata’ campaign

Department of Fisheries on Sunday organised a campaign to clear garbage and scrap piled up outside the office of National Federation of Fishers Cooperatives Ltd (FISHCOPFED) at Sarita Vihar here and the surrounding market place. The department comes under Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying. "In pursuance of Government's vision of 'Garbage Free India', Department of Fisheries organized a Swachhata (Shramdan) Campaign under the Programme 'Swachhata Hi Seva' (SHS) 2023" outside the office FISHCOPFED," an official statement said. The shramdan programme was led by Abhilaksh Likh, Secretary, Department of Fisheries along with Sagar Mehra, Joint Secretary (DoF) and Neetu Kumari Prasad, Joint Secretary (DoF). Officers/officials of Department of Fisheries, FISHCOPFED and citizens from neighbouring areas participated in the activities. "About 200 persons participated in the programme and cleaned the garbage/scraps piled up around the office and the market place."



## Tata Motors total sales in domestic mkt up to 80,633 units

Tata Motors Ltd on Sunday reported a 2 per cent rise in its total domestic vehicle sales at 82,023 units in September, as against 80,633 units in the same month last year. Passenger vehicle sales in the domestic market, including electric vehicles, were down 6 per cent at 44,809 units last month, as compared to 47,654 units in September 2022. Tata Motors said in a regulatory filing. Electric vehicle sales, including in international markets, were at 6,050 units as compared to 3,864 units in the year-ago month, a growth of 57 per cent. "Passenger vehicle sales remained strong in Q2 FY24 driven by new launches and pre-festive offtakes. Tata Motors posted quarterly sales of 1,38,939 cars and SUVs in Q2 FY24, about 2.7 per cent below our highest ever quarter, Q2 FY23," Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd Managing Director Shailesh Chandra said.



## Hyundai reports highest ever monthly sales

Hyundai Motor India on Sunday said its total wholesales increased 13 per cent year-on-year to 71,641 units in September, its highest ever in a month. The country's second largest carmaker had dispatched 63,201 units to dealers in September last year. Domestic sales last month rose to 54,241 units, up 9 per cent from 49,700 units in September 2022, Hyundai Motor India said in a statement. Exports were higher at 17,400 units last month from 13,501 units in September 2022, an increase of 29 per cent. "While the industry grew by 2 per cent last month, our domestic dispatches were up 9 per cent. The share of SUV sales in our overall volumes continues to grow," Hyundai Motor India COO Tarun Garg told. The ongoing festive season has resulted in strong sales momentum, helping the automaker achieve 9 per cent growth, he added.



# Reserve Bank to retain benchmark rate at 6.5%

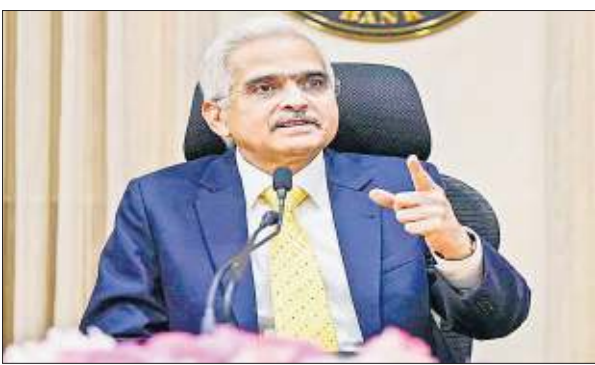
PNS ■ MUMBAI

Interest rates for retail, as well as corporate borrowers, may remain stable as experts expect the Reserve Bank to retain the benchmark rate at 6.5 per cent at its forthcoming bi-monthly monetary policy review, scheduled later this week, in view of elevated inflation and global factors, say experts.

The Reserve Bank started increasing the policy rate in May 2022 in tranches, in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine war and took it to 6.5 per cent in February this year. Since then, it has kept the rate unchanged in the last three successive bi-monthly monetary policy reviews.

The RBI Governor-headed six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is scheduled to meet for three days beginning October 4. Governor Shaktikanta Das will announce the decision on Friday (October 6).

"The credit policy this time will most likely continue with



the existing rate structure as well as policy stance. Hence, the repo rate will be retained at 6.5 per cent with the stance of withdrawal of accommodation," opined Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist, Bank of Baroda. He further said retail inflation is still high at 6.8 per cent and expected to come down sharply in September and October, but there is still some pessimism on Kharif output especially relating to pulses which has the potential to push up prices further. "But as the inflation trajectory

is downwards a rate hike can be ruled out. However, we may have to wait for a longer time for the MPC to cut the repo rate," he said.

Karthik Srinivasan, Senior Vice President & Group Head - Financial Sector Ratings, ICRA Limited also expects the MPC to maintain status quo on the policy rate as well as the stance. "The significant tightening in liquidity that was seen in the second half of September is unlikely to sustain, particularly with the release of liquidity

from incremental CRR imposed in previous policy," he said.

He further said, the RBI is likely to remain cautious on sharp rise in interest rates in developing economies since the last policy review and the impact it may have on the capital flows, forex reserves and the exchange rate as well.

The Reserve Bank has been mandated by the government to ensure the Consumer Price Index (CPI) based retail inflation remains at 4 per cent, with a margin of 2 per cent on either side. President of realtors' body association NAREDCO Rajan Bandelkar said the RBI's accommodative stance is expected to persist during the October MPC meeting.

"While there has been a lengthy pause (on repo rate), there is a pressing need to shift our attention towards the real estate sector, especially during the ongoing festive season. Positive actions by the RBI at this juncture could play a pivotal role in achieving our housing targets," he said.

GST mop-up rises 10% to over Rs 1.62L cr in Sep  
Crosses Rs 1.60 lakh cr mark 4<sup>th</sup> time in FY24  
PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Helped by improved compliance, GST collections increased by 10 per cent to over Rs 1.62 lakh crore in September, crossing the Rs 1.6 lakh crore mark for the fourth time during current financial year.

Gross GST revenue collected last month was Rs 1,62,712 crore. Of this, Central GST was Rs 29,818 crore, State GST was Rs 37,657 crore, Integrated GST was Rs 83,623 crore (including Rs 41,145 crore collected on import of goods) and cess was Rs 11,613 crore (including Rs 881 crore collected on import of goods).

The revenue in September 2023 was 10 per cent higher than the GST revenue of Rs 1.47 lakh crore in the same month last year, the finance ministry said in a statement on Sunday. "During the month, the revenues from domestic transactions (including import of services) are 14 per cent higher than the revenues from these sources during the same month last year."

## India, Bangladesh discuss steps for FTA talks

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and Bangladesh have discussed preparations to start talks for a free trade agreement between the two countries to promote economic ties, an official statement said on Sunday.

It was discussed during an official-level meeting of the Joint Working Group on Trade (JWG) between India and Bangladesh, which was held last week in Dhaka.

The meeting "discussed a host of bilateral issues such as removal of port restrictions, ground work on commencement of Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), harmonization of standards, and mutual recognition of standards, supply of essential commodities to Bangladesh," the commerce ministry said.

CEPA is a kind of free trade agreement, under which two trading partners significantly reduce or eliminate customs duties on the maximum number of goods traded between them.



Besides, they also ease norms to promote trade in services and investments.

They also deliberated upon issues related to development of road and rail infrastructure, regional connectivity through multi-modal transportation and creation/strengthening of infrastructure in Land Customs Stations/ Integrated Check Posts, border haats.

These meetings are held on an annual basis to discuss key trade related issues and explore opportunities for economic and technical col-

laboration, promotion, facilitation, expansion and diversification of trade between the two countries.

"These meetings play a vital role in quick resolution of bilateral issues by removing trade barriers, simplifying customs procedures, improvement of infrastructure, logistics, and transit facilities to facilitate smoother cross-border trade," it said.

The bilateral trade has dipped to USD 14.2 billion in 2022-23, from USD 18.13 billion in 2021-22.

## Markets to focus on RBI's interest rate decision

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

RBI's interest rate decision, macroeconomic data, global trends and trading activity of foreign investors are the crucial factors to drive equity markets in a holiday-shortened week ahead, analysts said.

Markets would remain closed on Monday for Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti.

"While global cues will continue to dictate trends in local markets, focus will shift to RBI's monetary policy announcement on Friday. Although the market is expecting a status quo on interest rates, global concerns like rising US dollar index and bond yields coupled with surging crude oil prices continue to weigh on investors' minds. "Further, persistent FII selling in emerging markets, including India, in September has taken a toll on markets," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd.

Markets will closely monitor the Reserve Bank's monetary policy committee (MPC) meeting, which is scheduled from October 4-6, 2023, Pravesh Gour, Senior Technical Analyst, Swastika Investmart Ltd, said.

Market participants will be keeping an eye on the movement of the rupee against the dollar and crude oil prices. Investments by Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) and Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) will also be monitored.

"Market participants will be keeping an eye on the movement of the rupee against the dollar and crude oil prices. Investments by Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) and Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) will also be monitored," Gour said.

Among domestic macroeconomic numbers to be announced this week are PMI (Purchasing Managers' Index) data for the manufacturing and services sector.

Auto companies would also remain in focus amid monthly sales data announcement.

FPIs (Foreign Portfolio Investors) turned sustained sellers in September, said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

## FPIs turn net sellers after 6 months of investment

Withdraw Rs 14,767 cr in September  
PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After sustained buying in the last six months, FPIs have turned net sellers and pulled out of over Rs 14,767 crore from Indian equities in September, primarily due to dollar appreciation, steady rise in the US bond yields, and a spike in crude oil prices.

Going forward, the outlook for FPI flows in India is uncertain, as it will depend on the performance of the Indian economy, the RBI's October monetary policy, and the outcome of the September quarter earnings, Mayank Mehra, smallcase, manager and principal partner at Craving Alpha, said.

According to data with the depositories, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have sold shares to the tune of Rs 14,767 crore in September.

The latest outflow came after FPI investment in equities had hit a four-month low of Rs 12,262 crore in August. Before the outflow, FPIs were incessantly buying Indian equities in the last six months from March to August and brought in Rs 1.74 lakh crore during the period.

## India has scope for 130-150 more wide-body aircraft

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's fast-growing civil aviation market has the scope to have 130-150 more wide-body planes as airlines expand their operations and there is also the potential for more such aircraft to be deployed in dense domestic routes, GE Aerospace South Asia CEO Vikram Rai said.

GE Aerospace, a leading aircraft engine maker, sees a "great potential" in India, which is also the world's third largest aviation market and domestic airlines have nearly 1,500 aircraft on order.

While emphasising that "India is a focus market and a priority market for GE Aerospace", Rai said that in his view, domestic airlines would consider having more wide-body planes in their fleet and also deploy them in dense domestic routes.

"I see wide-body aircraft as a growth path for us and the airlines which is a win-win (scenario)," he told PTI in a recent interview.

Currently, India has around 700 commercial planes in operation and out of them, there are only about 50 wide-body air-



craft. Air India has around 49 wide-body aircraft in its fleet while IndiGo has two wet-leased wide-body planes in operation.

In the current wide-body

## DHFL BRANCH AUDITS NFRA penalises 18 auditors; debars them for 6 months to 1 year

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) has imposed penalties on 18 auditors and also debarred them for varying periods for lapses with respect to audits of financial statements or internal audit of the functions and activities of any company or body corporate.

Out of the 18 auditors, 4 have been debarred for 6 months and the remaining 14 auditors have been restrained for 1 year.

orders passed by the regulator.

Also, they have been debarred for a period of six months to one year from "being appointed as an auditor or internal auditor or from undertaking any audit in respect of financial statements or internal audit of the functions and activities of any company or body corporate". Out of the 18 auditors, 4 have been debarred for 6 months and the remaining 14 auditors have been restrained for 1 year.

## Electronics industry body seeks PLI scheme for non-semiconductor sectors

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Electronics industry body ELCINA has requested the government to come up with a production linked incentive scheme for non-semiconductor or computer chips sector which is dominated by imports, a senior official of the organisation said.

According to Electronic Industries Association of India (ELCINA) report, total elec-

tronic component market in the country was estimated to be around USD 39 billion, of which 68 per cent requirement was met through imports in 2021-22.

While speaking at 48th ELCINA Award Ceremony, organisation's new President Atul B Lal said that the government's scheme for devices has been hugely successful and the incentive scheme for semiconductor sector is seeing a lot of

traction and some investments have started flowing in.

"Our humble submission and perseverance is going to be to do the same for non-semiconductor component sector also. For which we request government's intervention," said Lal, who is Vice Chairman & Managing Director of Dixon Technologies.

ELCINA is the oldest electronics industry body of the country established in 1967.

# India a 'big hub' for blue collar economy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Fountain, a provider of hiring automation software for front-line workforces, considers India as one of the "big hubs" in this space, a top company official said.

The company is present in the US, Western Europe - UK, France, Germany as well as in South Africa, India, New Zealand and a few other countries. "The big hubs are India, UK and France," Founder and CEO of the company Sean Behr told PTI.

"Fountain focuses exclusively on the blue collar and gray collar workforce. A vast majority of people ... don't ...do PowerPoint or Excel, they do things on the frontlines of our economy," Behr said, adding that hiring and retaining workers in the blue and grey collar

economy has never been more difficult.

India is the "most natural place" to invest, and to expand as there is a huge opportunity and growth rate in the blue/grey collar market, Behr noted.

"China has some similar dynamics, but obviously there's geopolitical challenges, while in India you have a bigger population and a very good place for technology to invest in this market," he said.

Behr pointed out that India has more people in the workforce with a payment-enabled smartphone as compared to the 330 million total population of the United States.

"With 8 million manual informal processes, there is absolutely no way to scale to 25 million workers and still be using manual processes. You



"In Germany, you really only need one language, here that doesn't work. You have to have technology that is smart enough to know that... if I'm recruiting in Karnataka, or Delhi, I may (be) interacting with an applicant (and) need to have the ability to switch languages."

need to bring technology that will standardize the process for these workers and it benefits both the worker and actually more importantly the company."

Fountain aims to bring standardised technical processes to

an "informal, disorganised, spreadsheets - forms and paper" system.

Behr said Fountain hired over 3 million blue and gray collar workers in 75 countries using 35 different languages in 2022.

He pointed out that a country like India poses scale and complexity problems owing to the diversity aspect here.

"In Germany, you really only need one language, here that doesn't work. You have to have technology that is smart

enough to know that... if I'm recruiting in Karnataka, or Delhi, I may (be) interacting with an applicant (and) need to have the ability to switch languages," he said.

Behr also outlined IPO plans for Fountain, which marks his fourth entrepreneurial venture after starting up in e-commerce, advertising and car riding business.

"It's a couple of years away for us it's an incredible investment. You have to hire lots of people build all the right financial reporting, legal which takes you away from building the business," he said.

The company last raised funds in Series C round in 2022, amid a challenging environment for late-stage startups, and said "there's enough cash in the bank" for now.

## India's share in global exports in labour-intensive sectors declining

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's labour-intensive export sectors such as apparels, marine products, plastics, and gems and jewellery are showing a "troubling pattern" as the country is experiencing a decline in global market share across these segments during the last five years, a FIEO report has said.

Apex exporters body Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) also said that a note of caution is warranted regarding a distinct spike in export growth of roughly USD 40 billion as this particular surge is likely attributed to a rerouting of crude oil trade routes via India to Europe. This phenomenon may not be sustainable in the coming years, it said. It added that the most "pressing concern" regarding the negative export growth is the "poor" perfor-



mance of labour-intensive sectors. In a country like India, these sectors hold immense significance not only for their job creation potential but also for their substantial contribution to net high-value addition.

"Addressing this challenge requires a proactive approach that delves into the underlying factors contributing to the loss of market share. It calls for a comprehensive analysis of the dynamics at play, ranging from maintaining the competitive advantage, reducing the production costs and increasing efficiency to quality and innovation," the report said.



## DIVYANI GANDHI

## BY AND BY I AM BEING NOTICED NOW

Actress Divyani Gandhi, who recently enraptured hearts in the recent show *Bambai Meri Jaan*, gets candid with *The Pioneer* about getting the right acknowledgment, her character in the show being her manifestation, and more.

SHIKHA DUGGAL

Another iteration of the oft-told story of the rise of Bombay mafia don Dawood Ibrahim in the 1970s, and his flight from the city a decade before it became Mumbai, Amazon Prime Video's *Bambai Meri Jaan* is the first web show that fictionalises the gangster's early life.

The actress Divyani Gandhi also appears in this thrilling historical crime drama. Not just her, but the whole cast was exceptional and she brought authenticity cum that high-voltage power performance. Her ten-episode retelling of a saga does a reasonable job of presenting an account of a megalopolis' turbulent past. She was electrified! Well, we had an exclusive interview with the *Kaafir* fame and she squeaks — "This was my second web series. Finally, I am being noticed! My Instagram DMs are full. It's been so long since I had been looking for so much acknowledgment. Eventually, I did something right."

Produced by Excel Media & Entertainment, and created by Rensil D'Silva, the show's director rustles up a cocktail of organized crime, violence, and vengeance and delivers it in a manner that focuses as much on the bloody gang wars on the streets and dockyards of Mumbai as it does on the emotional dynamics that are at work in the life of a boy determined to change his and his family's fortunes. The actress continued, "This character was my manifestation. Despite being a part of *Kaafir*, I was rather interested in Dia Mirza's role. I was so motivated because of Dia that I took the present role. All of us have experienced the emotions of betrayal but to portray it on-screen is a different feeling and craft altogether. Even if my role was so little, it was a privilege to be a part of this fictional world. It was like why not?"

Lit and lensed, Divyani pits up god-fearing patriarchy. That's how she bamboozles her way into a life of crime. We needed more details! "So grateful to the casting team that they could sink in me. Auditions were very simple but the

interesting part was, that I was called for another character role. I think my life saga is as simple as that rabbit tortoise story. Slow and steady wins the race! It's okay for me to move to a leisurely place in this industry. I need not be sorry about it. Actresses like me come from small towns, and all of us want to do meaningful roles. Supporting parts are also fine but don't make us the side-kick."

She was six years old when the actress and the entrepreneur strictly decided to be on the television sets. "I was wearing my school uniform, sitting on the couch and my grandmother was cooking. I saw Kareena Kapoor Khan on screen! As a child, I was wondering who is this woman and why is she looking so glamorous. It was my mother who motivated me to be an actress. Little does everyone know my father also wanted to be an actor. I am fulfilling his dream," adds the Miss India Chandigarh title holder.

One of the key characters in the series, Divyani dishes some more anecdotes, "Being an actress is not the only career I have. I run a business of my own! I sell scented candles and exclusive perfumes. Both professions satisfy me equally. All my unsaid emotions come out on the screen, a better outlet. Whereas my entrepreneurial skills let me delve into so much creativity. I am always scratching my head for a new inventory!" There are no dream roles for her, she wants to play that every character coming her way. But she's obsessed with playing gangster, badass roles somehow! She wants to shoot and be powerful. Even as a viewer, she loves watching crime-genre movies. "Women are hardly explored in negative connotations, as an anti-heroine in our industry," she said.

Well, on the work front, up next is her Netflix series with the creator of *Mirzapur*.



## Preventing the recurrence of fungal infections

Fungal infections, previously regarded as mild irritations, have been on the rise in recent years, posing major health hazards to people of all ages. Although typically not life-threatening, fungal infections can cause discomfort, agony, and occasionally major health issues if left untreated.

Recognizing the causes of this increase and adopting preventive measures to prevent fungal infections is critical for sustaining good health.

According to the journal Open Forum Infectious Diseases, over fifty million Indians are infected by significant fungal diseases, 10% of which are caused by potentially hazardous mould infections.

**Experts at three Indian teaching hospitals:** AIIMS in New Delhi, AIIMS Kalyani in West Bengal, and PGIMER in Chandigarh, in collaboration with The University of Manchester, predict that 57 million individuals, or 4.4% of India's 1.3 billion inhabitants, are likely to be affected.

### THE SURGE OF FUNGAL INFECTIONS

Mould infections impacting the respiratory tract and brain were the primary cause of death, involving approximately 250,000 people. More than one million individuals are believed to have potentially blinding fungal eye disease, and over 200,000 have mucormycosis. According to the National Centre for Biotechnology Information, this study comprised 103 cases of clinical dermatophyte infection. There were 66 female patients (64%) and 37 male patients (36%). Sixty-three percent (61%) were young people (18–40 years old).

### FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE GROWING:

#### PREVALENCE OF FUNGAL INFECTIONS

Due to causes such as stress, poor diet, and underlying medical disorders, an increasing number of people have weaker immune systems. A weakened immune system is less capable of protecting the body from fungal invaders.

Climate change, such as increased humidity and higher temperatures, creates excellent circumstances for fungus growth. This can increase the probability of fungal infections, especially in areas where these illnesses are common.

### TREATMENT WITH HOMEOPATHY

By reinstating natural healing mechanisms that aid in the battle against fungal infections, homeopathic therapies for fungal infections thrive.

Homeopathy relieves rashes and symptoms like itching, burning, discharges, and discomfort.

Sepia is a homeopathic medicine used to cure fungal infections, particularly ringworm of the skin (tinea corporis), and Tellurium is the ideal therapy to use when many ring-shaped lesions are connected together, forming intersecting rings that press over each other. Graphites is quite effective for fungal infections in skin folds, and Silicea is the finest remedy for fungal infections in the foot.

### LIFESTYLE CHANGES

- Wash your hands frequently and keep your body clean.
- In hot and humid conditions, consider breathable fabrics like cotton to lessen the risk of fungal skin infections.
- Make sure your home is well-ventilated, and use dehumidifiers to reduce humidity levels if necessary. This can aid in the prevention of mould and mildew growth.
- Maintain clean and dry feet, especially in regions prone to athlete's foot. Wear breathable shoes and replace your socks on a regular basis.

By taking these precautions, health professionals at Dr. Batra's share that one can protect themselves and communities from the growing threat of fungal infections in an increasingly interconnected world. Always prioritize your safety and well-being by seeking adequate medical attention and following the advice of a qualified homeopath.

## From Naseeruddin Shah's tutelage to Sahil Vaid crafting his own legacy

TEJAL SINHA

Mastering his skills one at a time, Sahil Vaid has made a mark in the industry with his in a class of its own spark into any project. Well, there's really something about him that makes him a one-of-a-kind actor.

But as we rang a call to him for a fun chat, a reason we noticed for the actor today that he is, surely credits—family. Having grown up in a family of businessmen and soldiers, Sahil was always surrounded by people who've been an inspiration to not just him, but also many. So of course, there was huge pressure, but his dad kept pushing him to be the best and get him out of his comfort zone. Basically, he says, "I was happy with doing theatres in Delhi, but my dad sent me to a film school, which was expensive for us. He always told me getting out of my comfort zone is going to be difficult, but once it's done you're going to be your own man. I'm glad he pushed me out of the house and pulled me out of the theater in Delhi. I still do continue theatre here but I now do it in a different way. Life for me has somewhat changed since 2007."

Now cut down the lane, he recently added another remarkable performance in his repertoire with his character in *Bajao*. And now for him, he says things have been so effortless. Why not? It wouldn't be wrong to say that he is a product of Dharma Productions, and Yash Raj Films. He even recalls how after watching the series, people have called him down saying how his character in *Bajao* is a 'Stupido version' of Poplu (*Humpty Sharma ki Dulhania*). From imagining himself as someone who

would do theatre, and Anurag Kashyap spotting him for a part in *Gangs of Wasseypur*, today he's glad Anurag Kashyap, who knows of him, really hopes to work with him someday!

Quite a journey he's had! But did you know, while a lot of preps go behind to get into the skin of the character, the *Humpty Sharma ki Dulhania* on the other hand, had to unprepare a lot. Because, "Before *Bajao*, I was shooting with Nagesh Kukunoor, and working with him is not easy. He is fun but a taskmaster. He makes you go through the basics of preparation. When I was shooting for the, I would call it a 'Nagesh Kukunoor show', there I'm this very realistic person who is a police officer and the reason he cast me in the show was that I looked exactly like him. He was a Punjabi guy who could speak Tamil. Life became very easy for me on set. In my wildest dreams, I never thought I would be cast by someone who is such serious about his craft. Coming from there on to *Bajao* was like, I had to let go of a lot of stuff, especially when you're doing things to entertain people. There they are shooting a very documentary style of filmmaking, very real, and having conversations that are very intelligent. On the contrary, here I am playing Kuki the strongest character who comes up with some great observations."

The Jio Cinema series had also marked the well-loved rapper Raftaar's acting debut and Sahil was all praised for his co-star. Working with Raftaar, he says was a 'Charm'. "One has this preconceived notion that rappers might be this rude person. Not at all! Raftaar is like a brother now. I didn't feel like I was working with a rapper but with an actor. Although he claims

in all the interviews that we are his seniors but to be very honest with you, that man is very sorted in life. He knows what he wants, he knows how to do it. I remember meeting his dog in Delhi when we were shooting in Connaught Place, my god the time we spent. Lovely guy lovely bunch of friends he has and I'm glad now I'm a part of his friends' gang. We look up to him, he looks up to us."

Having built a repertoire of films over the years, something that we looked up to was the screen space that this adroit artist has, seems like that doesn't really affect him much. Is it true, we ask, and he says, "I have been acting for 27 years now. But I can tell you with all honesty that breaking into this industry is not a walk in the park. I am okay with doing all kinds of roles, if you go back and look at the repertoire, none of my roles match with others. What I am trying to do and what my strategy tries to speak is to do as many different kinds of roles and hope somebody spots me and says he's an amazing actor, we want to experiment with him." True that, it was the casting director Shanoo Sharma, who saw him in *Humpty Sharma ki Dulhania* and cast him in *Bank Chor*. Though the film didn't work, "Whoever watches it tells me that we did not expect this from you. An actor is only good at the opportunities he gets. I'm trying my best to grab opportunities so I can show people what I have prepared in these 27 years. I have played several roles on stage. What I'm trying to do with the different kinds of roles is create a sense of what my teacher Naseeruddin Shah had done; play different kinds of roles and make a place for himself. My current co-actor Manoj Bajpayee also did something similar. There were friends of mine who were far better actors than me but they were nowhere there because they refrained from doing roles as I did in *Humpty* or with less screen time. I would also do the project if I just had one scene to do there is this Sriram Raghavan film coming in December you'll understand what point I'm trying to make and how much I love working."

He even recalls a mishap situation where he was

misquoted for regretting doing *Shershaah*. "So this reporter wanted to take my interview and I was like I hardly have a role in it. Later on, the WhatsApp group that I was in with the team was agitated saying 'What did I even say!' I had never said that I regretted doing *Shershaah*, and I even told the same to Karan Johar at the success party. It was my third Dharma film," he recalled adding what the whole chaos was about saying, "I met the director right before the shooting and said sir if you can cast me in the part where I get to wear the uniform. Basically, let me share with you, that I wanted to play Shiv Pandit's role since I knew about the soldier and had been following the Kargil war like a hawk. I really wanted to play a soldier. But the director had decided in his head that he wanted me to play Sunny. He was like 'You're surely going to play a soldier in your life, and I don't have anybody to play Sahil. I was disappointed but that was not with the film or story. I was fine with it. I never regret doing anything. I worked on a film *Happi* when I was in film school, which we shot in 2008, but it was released in 2019 in Zee 5. If I had that in me I would have given up long back."

On the work front, he has completed shooting for *Silence 2*, and he says, "It's a different story this time, but the same team solving the case. Show by Nagesh Kukunoor's *Trail of Assassin*, and I hope there might also be a part in Shubhash Ghai's next film, soon to be announced."

Actor Sahil Vaid, who has created a niche for himself, gets candid with *The Pioneer* about his craft, working with Raftaar, making different roles as his opportunity, and more.







Shilpa Reddy



Kanthi Dutt



Pragya Ayyagari



Sudha Reddy

Renowned celebrities including Kanthi Dutt, Sudha Reddy, Shilpa Reddy, and Pragya Ayyagari, among the rest, graced the special premier of Tritiyaa Fine Jewellery and the launch party, held the store at Jubilee Hills, Road no: 36.



Deepika



Nikita



Sowjanya



Sailaja



With an aim to create a significant impact on women's health and safety, an HRX Pink marathon was organised in the city, which was kicked off at the Gachibowli stadium.



Jasmine Rath



Namrata Shirodkar



Peddiraju



Sitarra ghattamaneni

Actress Jasmine Rath, along with Namrata Shirodkar and Sitarra Ghattamaneni, graced the month-long Dussehra festivities campaign of Max Fashion, during which giant 30 by 50-foot Bommaala Koluvu was inaugurated at the Nexus Mall, Hyderabad.

Aamir Khan and Sunny Deol's film receives a massive offer from an OTT giant

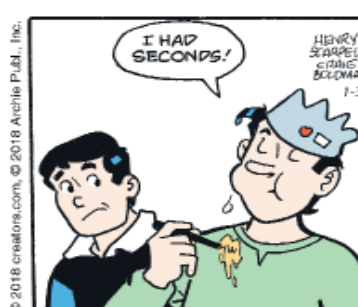
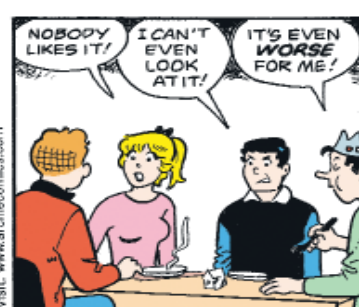
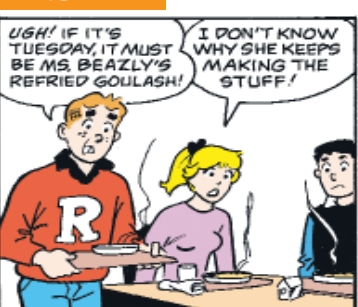
Despite just being in theatres for five days, *Gadar 2* is making a splash. With daily record-breaking earnings of 524.75 crore, the movie has surpassed Shah Rukh Khan's *Pathaan* and is closing in on *Jawan*. And Sunny Deol's career has benefited from this enormous success. Sunny Deol's 22-year career is at its pinnacle right now, and he deserves it. Although Sunny Deol's next movie, which is being produced by Aamir Khan, has received a whopping offer of Rs 95 crore from a major OTT player, this is still a completely bizarre experience for Sunny Deol.

According to reports, the OTT juggernaut has promised the movie's producers close to 100 crore, although work on the movie hasn't even begun yet, and Sunny Deol hasn't even approved the script or set a release date. Nevertheless, everything works out as planned. The shooting could start in 2024, the next year. And Sunny Deol, not Aamir Khan, will play the lead role in the movie.



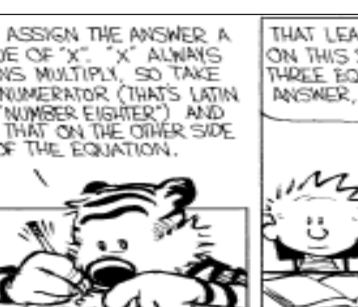
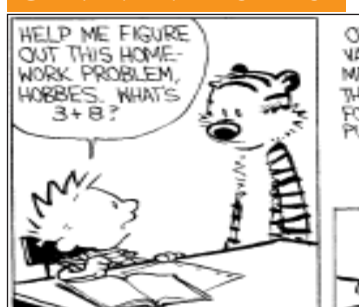
During his visit on the Aap Ki Adalat chat programme, Sunny Deol, who is overjoyed by the enormous popularity of *Gadar 2*, was even seen sobbing as he expressed his wish to make *Gadar 2* a big success.






ARCHIE




CALVIN AND HOBBS




GARFIELD



REALITY CHECK





SPEED BUMP



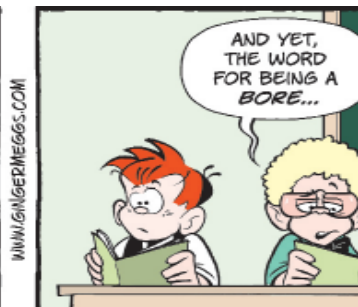


CROSSWORD

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| 9  |    | 10 | 11 |    |
| 12 |    |    | 13 | 14 |
| 15 |    |    |    |    |
| 16 | 17 |    | 18 |    |
|    |    |    |    | 19 |

NANCY



GINGER MEGGS



SUDOKU

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 8 | 3 |   | 1 |   |   |   | 4 |
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|   |   | 9 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 8 |   |   |
|   | 7 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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Yesterday's solution

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

Rules

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

ACROSS

1 Train stops

5 Tell a fib

7 Tumble over and over

8 People unknown to you

9 A tall type of building

10 The late part of the day

11 A feeling of rage

14 A machine that can record television programmes

16 Instructions for cake making

18 The part along the side or end of something

19 Always ready to give away or share what you have

DOWN

2 A thing with handles for carrying an injured person

3 Let

4 Complete quiet

6 A type of blood vessel

15 Poise

SOLUTION

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| K | V | E | T | U |
| I | N | V | I | T |
| P | O | E | R | N |
| E | L | B | O | W |
| S | K | Y | G | R |
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| L | V | E | N | E |
| D | A | R | E | S |





# Prabhas called unprofessional by fans for clashing with SRK

**S**alaar starring Prabhas is the most-awaited film of the superstar, and the constant delay was leaving his fans upset. A few days ago, it was announced that Salaar would be releasing in on December 22 2023, and since then, the clash between Salaar and Dunki has been making headlines on the internet. This will be the clash of titans, as it is the first time Shah Rukh Khan and Prabhas will be opposite each other, and the netizens are very keen to see who wins at the box office.

Having said that, Shah Rukh Khan fans are mighty upset with this clash and are slamming Prabhas for the same and calling the makers and everyone connected with the film unprofessional due to the fact that, despite knowing that Dunki is releasing on the same date, the makers chose the same day.

One user on Reddit slams Prabhas and commented, “Very unprofessional of Salaar makers to do so out of nowhere. If the same thing was done by SRK/Dunki makers then all hell would’ve been broken and people would’ve called SRK names.” Another user wrote, “Stupidity by the makers of Salaar. Unfortunately both the movies will be affected”.

Earlier, Salaar was supposed to release ahead of two weeks of Jawan, and it was claimed that the makers were worried about box office numbers getting affected, which is why they postponed, and now they are being questioned about why they are clashing with Dunki.

Prabhas and Shah Rukh Khan are the real box office kings, but going by the past, the Baahubali star hasn’t had mega hits, and this release is a box office litmus test for the superstar, but now that the film is releasing with Dunki, we wonder that it will affect the box office numbers as Shah Rukh Khan has been ruling and overpowering all the films at the box office with his latest release Jawan.



## Renu Desai makes a comeback as Hemalatha in Tiger Nageswara Rao

## Allu family inaugurated Allu Business Park in honour of Dr. Allu Ramalingaiah

One of the most well-known families in Telugu cinema is the Allu family. They have three generations of experience in the entertainment industry, business, and politics. Dr. Allu Ramalingaiah, a renowned actor and comedian who appeared in more than 1000 films, founded the family. Although he passed away in 2004, his children and grandkids continue to carry on his legacy.

Allu Aravind has been a successful producer and distributor who has been the man behind Geetha Arts, one of the top production companies in Tollywood.

Allu Arjun, one of the most paid and most well-known actors in Telugu films, is his son. Allu Arjun is well recognised for his fashionable and multifaceted characters, and his most recent movie, Pushpa, was a tremendous success all over India.

The megastar and politician Chiranjeevi, who has appeared in more than 150 films, is another son-in-law of Dr. Allu Ramalingaiah. Ram Charan, another notable actor and producer in Tollywood, is his uncle as well. Nagendra Babu and Pawan Kalyan, Chiranjeevi's brothers, are both producers and actors, and their offspring are also creating a name for themselves in the movie business.

Allu Sirish, an actor and host, Niharika Konidela, an actress and producer, Sai Dharam Tej, an actor and singer, Varun Tej, an actor and model, and Kalyaan Dhev, an actor and businessman, are just a few of the many other members of the Allu family that are engaged in various industries. The Allu family is celebrating the 101st birthday anniversary of Dr. Allu Ramalingaiah on Sunday, October 1st, 2023. They've done two things to honour his life and accomplishments: they opened the Allu Business Park, a brand-new business park that will give many people jobs and opportunities, and they unveiled a bronze monument of Dr. Allu Ramalingaiah at their Hyderabad home. Allu Ayaan, the son of Allu Arjun and Sneha Reddy, unveiled the statue. All members of the family were present, with the exception of Allu Arjun, who was busy filming Pushpa 2. They remembered the contributions that their beloved patriarch had made to Telugu cinema as they paid their tributes to him.

Dr. Allu Ramalingaiah has been honoured by the Allu family on the anniversary of his birth as a sign of their love and gratitude. By being outstanding in their various industries, they have additionally demonstrated their dedication to upholding his legacy.

Renu Desai, who has been an actor, producer, and director, is set to return to the film industry. Her last acting role was in the movie Johnny, alongside her ex-husband Pawan Kalyan. Following her divorce with Pawan Kalyan, she ventured into directing and producing Marathi films.

Now, she is making a comeback as an actor in the pan-Indian film Tiger Nageswara Rao, starring Mass Maharaja Ravi Teja. This film, directed by Vamsee, features Nupur Sanon and Gayathri Bharadwaj as the heroines alongside Ravi Teja. After a significant hiatus from the film industry, Renu Desai is making her comeback in this highly anticipated project. ON Sunday, the filmmakers revealed the first look of Renu Desai from the film.

In Tiger Nageswara Rao, Renu Desai portrays the real-life character of social reformer and writer Hemalatha Lavanam, as revealed in a character poster. She is seen wearing a white saree, holding a small baby, sporting large glasses, and wearing a bright smile. Tiger Nageswara Rao is a pan-Indian project with a substantial budget, produced by Abhishek Agarwal of Abhishek Pictures. The movie's trailer is set to release in Mumbai on the 3rd of this month, followed by a pre-release event in Hyderabad on the 15th of this month.

## Kannada actor Nagabhushana arrested after his car hits couple on footpath, woman dies

Nagabhushana, a well-known Kannada actor, was detained after his automobile struck a couple in Bengaluru who were using the pavement. According to reports, the collision happened on Saturday at 9:45 p.m. on Vasantha Pura main route. According to reports, the actor had a FIR filed against him for speeding and careless driving. It's unclear if the car in the trending social media images is related to the same event.

The actor who was granted station bail has not yet spoken out about the incident. According to reports, the actor was heading from Uttarahalli to Konanakunte when he first collided with the couple and then a power pole. According to the account, the actor personally drove the couple to the hospital. Prema, a 48-year-old lady, died on the way to the hospital, while Krishna, a 58-year-old man, was hospitalised with injuries to his knees, head, and stomach. Partha, the victim's son, filed a complaint against the actor. According to reports, he



said, "I work at a company and my parents stay with me. On September 30 around 10 pm I was on Kanakapura road when I got a call from a person staying in my apartment. My parents have met with an accident. They said that a car hit them both." He added that his mother passed away with severe injuries on her face and head.

## Kiran Abbavaram: The film has been made to make you all laugh

Rules Ranjann is slated to hit the cinemas on October 6. At its pre-release event, presenter AM Ratnam described the film as a "pleasantly entertaining" one, adding that its songs have already been received well by the audience. He spoke about his journey in brief.

Speaking on the occasion, Kiran Abbavaram said that the film is a thorough entertainer. The song 'Naalo Nene Lenu' from the movie is his most favourite, he added. "From the first day, Neha Shetty has been very friendly. Our song Sammohanam is surely going to be loved by the audience on the big screen. My biggest joy is crossing paths with and working with good people. Director Rathinam Krishna and presenter AM Ratnam are among them. Thanks to this project, I have got to work with the likes of the warm and supportive Hyper Aadhi, Vennela Kishore, Nellore Sudharshan, Viva Harsha, and Goparaju Ramana, among others. It was incisive to learn about their journeys. This film has been made to make you all laugh. Please watch our movie with your families on October 6. In the last few years, I have seen both highs and lows," Kiran added.

Director Rathinam Krishna said that the scenes between the male lead and his onscreen friends are the most entertaining portions of Rules Ranjann. He suggested that the 2021 blockbuster Jathi Ratnalu has served as an inspiration for his latest movie. "Most of the technicians who have worked on this movie are not even 30 years of age. I am older in comparison. Right from the cinematography to the music and dance choreography, everything is refreshing here," he added.

It was revealed that Vennela Kishore is the film's second hero. The last 30 minutes of the movie will crack the audience up, the makers added. "Neha Shetty insisted that there should be a dance number because she hasn't done one before. Sammohanam was conceived and the song is such a big hit already," the director said.

Producer Divyang Lavanya attributed the project's successful completion to his team. Producer Murali Krishna Vemuri described presenter AM Ratnam as a legend. He added that director Rathinam is diligent and meticulous. Producer Ambika Krishna was present as a guest.

Hyper Aadhi delivered a speech with viral moments by speaking about the unique greatness of almost all Telugu heroes since the time of NTR to the present young generation. Music director Amrith said that Kiran's energy and timing are wow. He also said that Neha is amazing in the movie. Amrith is the son of yesterday actress J a y a Chitra.



## SHRUTI HAASAN ECSTATIC WITH HER H'WOOD DEBUT THE EYE BEING NOMINATED



Actor-singer Shruti Haasan is really excited for her next film The Eye. She used Instagram to express her opinions on the movie, which has been receiving positive reviews at a number of important international film festivals. She writes a passionate statement that makes it clear how proud she is to have been a part of this movie.

"The Eye! Sometimes you get to be a part of something magical, emotional and truthful - this was that special movie for me - I can't wait for all of you to see it The Eye has been nominated for best director @daphneschmon and best dop @jameschegwyn at the Greek international film screenings - nominated for best film at the London independent film festival The Eye was filmed in corfu and made with love and care for the environment as well , the entire cast and crew worked toward reducing the environmental and carbon impact using the green shoots sustainability platform," she wrote on her Instagram page.

The Eye, according to reports, is about a young widow who returns to her home island to scatter her husband's ashes. But when she discovers the circumstances surrounding her husband's passing, her life takes a drastic turn, and she is compelled to face the evil powers that reside within her. As the widow is given the option to bring her husband back, the supernatural element of the story also seems to be present.

The film's presentation was overseen by Shruti Haasan earlier this year at the Cannes Film Festival. She admitted that Diana was the most powerful character she had ever played when discussing the role.



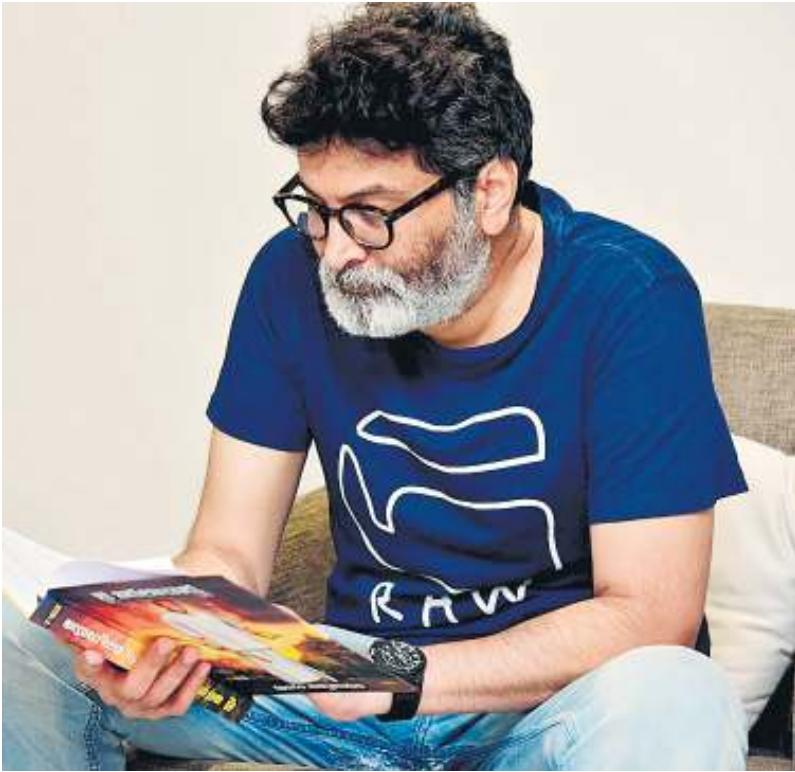
## Trivikram congratulates Pulagam Chinnarayana, says, 'He should write more books like 'Jai Vittalacharya'

Janapada Brahma B. Vittalacharya's folklore films are known to one and all. Telugu movie lovers hold the yesteryear filmmaker in high esteem, thanks to his tireless work that has been admired by people down the generations. Senior journalist and writer Pulagam Chinnarayana, a passionate film lover himself, has written a book named 'Jai Vittalacharya' to introduce the legend's style and cinematic treatment to the new generation. The book encapsulates Vittalacharya's journey comprehensively and meticulously. Zeelan Basha Shaikh has published this book under the auspices of Movie Volume Media.

The book launch event was held on Sunday in the presence of star director and 'Matala Mantrikudu' Trivikram Srinivas on Sunday. The first copy was received by Ravi Padi, the senior civil servant and bureaucrat with the Indian Railways.

Speaking on the occasion, Trivikram Srinivas appreciated Pulagam Chinnarayana, whom he has known for years. "I have read his earlier books as well. Vittalacharya is the Father of Telugu Mass Cinema and the Father of Folklore Cinema. Before the VFX era, he was a great technologist who made adventurous and ambitious films in his heyday. Neither his immense success ratio, nor the reach of his movies, nor his popularity is known to the present generation. Most of today's generation doesn't know him except because of YouTube or the satellite channels that broadcast old movies. I wholeheartedly appreciate the efforts by Chinnarayana to bring out his life and works. Congratulations to him, Ravi and publisher Zeelan Basha Shaikh. Bringing such books is not a profitable business. It shows their love for the cinema. As a person who loves books, I hope that such efforts will increase a book-reading culture among people. In Telugu writing, recording history is not widespread. The history of Telugu cinema is an area that has not been explored thoroughly so far. Pulagam Chinnarayana should write more books. He has that energy and interest. So, I sincerely want to write books like this," the director-writer said.

Pulagam Chinnarayana said, "I wrote this book as fast as Vittalacharya used to make movies. Superstar Krishna garu, Kaikala Satyanarayana garu, Jamuna garu, Vani Sri garu, Rajasree garu, Jaya Malini garu, and Narasimha Raju garu, among other titans, have been introduced for this book. Also, I talked to the family members of Vittalacharya and learned about him personally. I have prepared this book with behind-the-scenes features of 39 movies directed by the iconic filmmaker. Besides, several interesting anecdotes and pieces of info have been documented for the first time ever. I am very happy that this book launch program has been held in the presence of Trivikram, who is very fond of movies and Telugu literature."





# Sable becomes 1st Indian to win 3000m steeplechase title

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

Avinash Sable became the first Indian man to win the gold medal in 3000m steeplechase at the Asian Games while shot-putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor defended his title with an amazing final throw to beat back the challenge from his Saudi Arabian rival here on Sunday.

Sable, the 29-year-old national record holder, earned India its first gold medal in athletics, completing the race in 8:19.50 seconds.

Sable rewrote the previous Asian Games record of 8:22.79 held in the name of Iran's Hossein Keyhani set at the 2018 Jakarta Games.

Sudha Singh had won a gold in women's 3000m steeplechase in the 2010 Asian Games in Guangzhou.

Toor, the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games gold medallist, came up with a mighty throw of 20.36 metres on his sixth and last attempt to overhaul his Saudi rival Mohamed Daouda Tolo's distance of 20.18 metres.

Toor, however, could not break his own Asian Games record of 20.75m set in 2018 Jakarta. But the 28-year-old's final throw was way too good for his Saudi rival to overhaul in his final attempt.

In the 1500m for women, India's Harmilan Bains won a



silver while Ajay Kumar Saroj and Jinson Johnson won silver and bronze respectively in the men's 1500m.

Earlier, the toast of the nation in the last edition, Indian heptathlete Swapna Barman's one "last shot" at

glory at the Asian Games turned into a nightmare as she struggled with injuries to virtually go out of medal reckoning after the javelin throw event.

The defending champion, who boasts of a personal best

of 52.55m in javelin throw, managed a throw of just 45.13 in the penultimate event of the gruelling two-day competition.

Javelin throw was one of the two events Swapna had won in 2018 en route to

becoming the first Indian heptathlete to win an Asian Games gold.

Overall, Swapna was ranked fourth with 4840 points, 11 points behind her nearest rival Jingyi Liu of China ahead of the 800m

## India floored by China in basketball; qualify for quarterfinal

PTI ■ HANGZHOU (CHINA)

The Indian women made it to the quarterfinal despite being pummeled by China in their 5x5 basketball final group-stage match in the ongoing Asian Games here on Sunday.

Indian team suffered a crushing 53-111 defeat, which was its maiden loss in the sport this term, having won the previous two matches versus Indonesia (66-46) and Mongolia (68-62).

The quarterfinal qual-

ification in the sport is earned by the combined ranking of the teams in the tournament post-completion of the group stage, i.e. The top eight-ranked sides, where the Indians are currently ranked sixth.

It is India's fifth appearance in the competition in this sport, having finished ninth in the previous edition in Jakarta-Palembang 2018, whereas its best performance came in its first appearance in New Delhi 1982, finishing fifth.

race, which is the last segment of the seven-event competition.

The other Indian in the fray, Nandini Agasara notched a personal best of 39.88m in javelin throw that took her overall ranking to fifth place.

Earlier in the day, Swapna Barman leapt 5.71m in the long jump, while Nandini Agasara had a season-best

5.94m jump.

With her career ravaged by a spinal injury, the six-toed Indian athlete had contemplated retirement last year. But she took one last shot at glory and came to Hangzhou in her title defence bid.

This year she won the Inter-State meet and also bagged a silver medal in the build-up to the Asian Games. She also avoided surgery so as

to ensure that she does not miss her training despite a bad back.

"But her body condition could not cope up and she failed to get a good start," her coach Subhash Sarkar told PTI.

"She was expecting a good result in high jump but a fourth place finish shattered her and she couldn't recover from there," he added.

Swapna had a jump of 1.70m, which was nowhere close to her personal best of 1.87. "The poor start has affected her morale and it showed in today's javelin throw event. It's as good as over," Sarkar said of Swapna's prospects this time.

Earlier, India's Amlan Borgohain finished at the third position after clocking 21.08 seconds in the men's 200m heats and advanced to the semifinal.

The first three athletes in each heat make the cut for the semi-finals. The top four times from all the heats who have not made the cut will also advance to the semifinals.

The sprinter from Assam, currently the country's fastest, holds both the men's 100m and 200m national records.

However, Jyothi Yarraji failed to make the cut for the women's 200m final. The Indian had a timing of 23.78s.

Yarraji, however, is in contention for a medal in women's 100m hurdles.

# India sign off with first-ever team silver after losing to China

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

Injured HS Prannoy's absence hurt India as they went down fighting 2-3 against badminton powerhouse China to sign off with their first-ever silver medal in the men's team championships at the Asian Games here on Sunday.

After world No. 7 Prannoy was ruled out due to a back injury, Lakshya Sen produced a gutsy show in the first singles and doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty then bossed over their opponents to put India 2-0 ahead.

So, it was once again left to Kidambi Srikanth to carry the team on his shoulders. The former world No. 1, who had produced a gritty show against South Korea in the semifinals, couldn't go the distance this time despite a healthy lead and multiple game points as China fought back to make it 1-2.

The defending champions then won the remaining two matches to maintain their hegemony in the Asian Games. With Prannoy missing the summit clash, Sen was handed the responsibility of leading the Indian charge. Sen recovered from a mid-game



slump to erase a five-point deficit in the decider and put India ahead with a 22-20 14-21 21-18 win over world No. 6 Shi Yuqi in an 83-minute opening slugfest.

World No. 3 men's doubles pair of Satwik and Chirag then went on a smashing spree to outclass world No. 2. Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang 21-15 21-18 in 55 minutes to extend the lead to 2-0.

Srikanth, however, squandered an 18-14 lead and multiple game points in the first game to go down 22-24 9-21 against All England champion Li Shifeng in the third singles to expose India's weakest link -- the second doubles and third singles matches.

Scratch pair of Dhruv Kapila and Sai Pratheek Krishna Prasad then lost 6-21 15-21 to world No. 8 Liu Yu Chen

and Ou Xuan Yi, while Prannoy's replacement Mithun Manjunath, ranked 53, went down 12-21 4-21 against world No. 20 Weng Hong Yang in the third singles as India finished second best. Despite the loss, it is a creditable performance from the Indian team as it sealed India's second silver medal in badminton at the continental championships with two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu winning the first in women's singles in the 2018 edition.

The last time the Indian men won a badminton medal in the team championships was at the 1986 edition in Seoul where Sen's mentors Prakash Padukone and Vimal Kumar played a crucial role.

India now has 11 badminton medals in the Asian Games, including three individual singles medals, one silver and three bronze in the men's team, two women's team bronze and one medal each in men's doubles and mixed doubles.

Up against Shi Yuqi, Sen dictated the pace of the rallies to lead 11-6 at the interval. The duo played some exciting rallies with Sen keeping the pressure on his Chinese rival with his resolute defence to lead 15-10.

## Nikhat signs off with bronze

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

Two-time world champion Nikhat Zareen's long winning streak came to an end as she signed off with a bronze medal while Parveen Hooda grabbed a Paris Olympic quota at the Asian Games here on Sunday.

Competing in the women's 50kg category, Zareen lost a fiercely contested 50kg semifinal battle 2-3 to two-time world championships medallist Raksat Chuthamat of Thailand.

Parveen, who won the bronze medal in the 63kg at the 2022 World Boxing Championships, moved past Uzbekistan's Sitara Turdibekova by unanimous verdict to move the 57kg semifinal and confirm India a medal.

The in-form Zareen, who has dropped down from her preferred 52kg weight class as it doesn't feature in the Paris Olympic, hasn't lost a bout since October's National Championships in 2021. She had even out-punched Chuthamat at the world championships earlier this year.

But on Sunday, Chuthamat



came well prepared for the Indian pugilist, who has stamped her authority in the international arena.

After losing the first round on three cards, the Thai boxer cramped Zareen and resorted to clinching every time the Indian tried to mount an attack.

Zareen has enjoyed an incredible run in the past couple of years, winning the prestigious Strandja Memorial boxing tournament, two world championships and the Commonwealth Games.

She returns home with not only a bronze but also an

Olympic quota.

Parveen and wins quota, Jaismine crashes out.

Parveen, the reigning Asian champion was in her elements from the word go, using her long arms to throw punches from a distance and control the proceedings.

She switched between the left jab and the right cross to unnerve the 21-year-old Uzbek. Parveen fought a strategic bout as after going on the offensive in the opening round, she waited for Turdibekova to come forward, only to pummel her with accurate scoring punches.

# Slow bowling issue but can't rule them out

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Never judge a book by its cover and rule out an Australian cricket team from title contention at your own peril, are the two old concrete jungle sayings.

The five-time ICC ODI World Cup champions, at least on paper, can't be rated ahead of India and England during this edition of the tournament.

But the quality of this team is such that one won't be surprised if it pulls a rabbit out of the hat at some point in time during the tournament.

Australia begin their campaign against India in Chennai

on October 8.

Here's the SWOT Analysis

**STRENGTH**  
The strength of this Australian team is certainly its batting, which does have a lot of depth with capable hitters right down till No. 9 in the line-up. David Warner is no doubt playing his last ODI tournament and has been in ominous form during the pre-cursor against India.

The maverick southpaw would like one final hurrah and a second 50-over silverware in his cabinet before calling time on his illustrious career. Travis Head's injury has given Mitchell Marsh a chance to

open and the big all-rounder has taken to the role like fish to water. Steve Smith, Cameron Green, Glenn Maxwell and Marcus Stoinis are all big hitters and good players of spin bowling, which is an advantage.

**WEAKNESS**

The real weakness of this side is the spin bowling department which only has one specialist spinner Adam Zampa. Missing Ashton Agar's restrictive wicket to wicket bowling in sub-continental conditions is going to affect them on tracks where there would be some turn on offer and the odd ball will be gripping off the surface.

Maxwell's part-time off-



spin is likely to come in handy as it was evident in Rajkot during the third ODI last week. But expecting 10 overs on most days from Maxwell will be a bit too much and Zampa's form

since the tour of South Africa has tapered off a bit. He has been pretty expensive in the past few games.

**OPPORTUNITIES**

The number of all-

rounders in the Aussie ranks gives them the chance to create opportunities like no other team. Green, Stoinis, Maxwell, Marsh (if he bowls) give the team a multi-dimensional look and there remains a lot of cover in case one of them has an off-day. Not to forget when Travis Head gets fit, he can also bowl some part-time spin. Also the experienced skipper Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood is possibly on par with Pakistan and India if not better. Left-armers Starc could be inconsistent but the day he gets deliveries to dart in, most top batters find him unplayable.



## India, South Korea play out 1-1 draw in women's hockey

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

The Indian women's hockey team was held to a 1-1 draw by South Korea but the Savita Punia-led unbeaten side still continued to lead its pool in the Asian Games here on Sunday.

Navneet Kaur (44th min) scored the equaliser for the higher-ranked India after Cho Hyejin (12th) had put South Korea ahead at the Gongshu Canal Sports Park Stadium.

Thanks to the draw, the Indian team, currently ranked sixth in the world, held onto the top spot in Pool A by goal difference over 12-ranked Korea.

The top two teams from each pool will qualify for the semi-finals.

India crushed Singapore 13-0 in the opener before notching a 6-0 win over Malaysia.

Both teams looked to score from the word go but the Koreans had the first opportunity of the match when Cho Hyejin shot at the goal.

However, Deep Grace Ekka effected a fine save to keep India from going behind.

The Koreans, though, took the lead minutes later as Cho Hyejin scored off a penalty stroke after she was fouled by Uditia inside the circle.

The first quarter ended with Korea 1-0 ahead with the Indians lacking the finishing skills upfront.

Desperate to find the equaliser, India earned a few penalty corners but none of them resulted in a goal as the first half ended with South Korea leading by a goal.

The third quarter also went along similar lines until Navneet found the back of the net off a penalty corner.

The two teams tried hard to take the lead in the fourth and final quarter but their efforts did not translate into goals, as they shared honours.

India failed to convert a penalty corner towards the end and they also had a play-er advantage at that stage of the game.

## Floored by Rohit's talent, fascinated by Singham: Shadab

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Tackling a marauder like Rohit Sharma is right at the top of leg-spinner Shadab Khan's check-list but when the Indian skipper doesn't occupy his mind-space, the Pakistan vice-captain doesn't shy away from expressing his love for Bollywood movies and local food.

Ajay Devgn would have little clue about how big an impression he had made on Shadab.

Glancing at the top cop from Hyderabad police manning the media conference room, the leg-spinner couldn't help saying: "Singham bhi aaye hain yaha pe. (I see Singham is also present here)."

The reference of super-hit



Bollywood cop movie wasn't lost on anyone as Shadab spoke with a lot of warmth about how the 'City of Nizams' have received their cricket team

with open arms.

"The welcome was fantastic at the (Hyderabad) airport and also a lot of people have been thronging the team hotel

and hospitality wise it's been really good," Shadab told media-persons during the first official media conference organised by the team.

Hyderabad food is meant to tickle everyone's taste buds and Shadab is no different.

"The food has been really tasty and the support staff (all South Africans) are worried that we end up increasing our fat percentage (laughs). Hope, we get the same love in Ahmedabad where we play India (laughs)," said Shadab referring to his team's much-awaited clash against the arch-rivals on October 14.

As the discussion turned towards cricket, the reverence for Rohit was there to be seen. He also picked up Kuldeep Yadav as the most dangerous

Indian bowler.

"I admire Rohit Sharma a lot and among the leading batsmen in the world he is the most difficult to bowl to. Once he gets set he becomes very dangerous. Among the bowlers, since I am a leg-spinner, it will be Kuldeep Yadav given his recent form," said Shadab.

"We have learnt from our Asia Cup mistakes"

Pakistan failed to defend 346 against the New Zealand and have plenty to think about in the bowling department including the form of premier spinner Shadab who did not bowl in the warm-up but had a forgettable Asia Cup. The next warm-up game is against Australia on October 3.

His form is key for Pakistan