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Ram Pothineni wants to tap unconventional **MATTERS**



QUOTE OF THE DAY the pioneer KCR insulted me by not giving me an appointment for the last six months. I used to meet Chief Ministers NTR and Chandrababu Naidu easily. But KCR is not giving me time. KCR is a man who cleans his house with cow urine if a **Dalit enters** his house

- Mothkupally Narsimhulu, BRS leader

TS agriculture sector's...

Minister for Information Technology and Industries KT Rama Rao received an invitation to share his views as a speaker on Telangana's exceptional success story in the agriculture sector at the "2023 Norman E. Borlaug International Dialogue" which will be held from October 24 to 26 in Des Moines, Iowa, USA. More than 1,200 in-person guests and thousands of virtual participants from around the world will take part in the dialogue to elevate food and agricultural..

Climate change, landslide push...

The nightmare of a landslide that buried an entire village and the dread of watching a mammoth boulder on an unstable slope, fearing every day that it will roll down and kill them all. That's how it is for thousands of people in Maharashtra's Raigad area, even two months after 84 people were killed when the hillside around Irshalwadi village literally crumbled on the July 19 night of incessant, heavy rain. The trauma lives on for those in Irshalwadi who escaped and live in makeshift container homes just down... -PAGE: 5



Percentage of Indians appearing...

The percentage of Indians appearing in TOEFL to pursue secondary education and certifications abroad has seen a gradual increase over the years while those taking the test for according to Educational Testing Service (ETS). The Princetonbased ETS, which conducts the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and Graduate Record Examination (GRE), said the trend reflects the shifting aspirations of the younger demographic...

-PAGE: 8

Nikhat begins Asiad campaign

In a rematch of World Championship final, top Indian boxer Nikhat Zareen outclassed Vietnam's Thi Tam Nguyen 5-0 to move to the women's 50kg prequarterfinals while Preeti Pawar (54kg) sealed a place in the quarterfinals of the Asian Games here on Sunday. Two-time world champion Zareen defeated the two-time Asian Champion Nguyen by unanimous decision...

-SPORTS

Gauging mood of people

Survey agencies in the reckoning for Asssembly polls

SNCN ACHARYULU HYDERABAD

As the Telangana Assembly elections are fast approaching, survey agencies are becoming busy. All these days the political parties have engaged the survey agencies to know the prospects of their parties in the coming Assembly elections.

Now the punters are engaging the survey agencies for their betting in the coming Assembly elections. The betting trend is more in Andhra Pradesh than in Telangana. But the betting trend is expending in Telangana also. During the elections some crores of rupees change hands in the betting. The punters in Andhra Pradesh are showing interest in Telangana Assembly elections for their betting.

The punters are engaging the survey agencies to conduct surveys in various angles like which party is going to win in the Assembly elections, how many seats will be won



by the BRS, Congress and the BJP. Apart from punters some betting agencies located in Mumbai are also conducting surveys.

Some punters are conducting surveys on some individual Assembly constituencies where prominent political leaders are going to contest. The punters are conducting surveys in some constituencies to know how much majority will

some top politicians will get. While the punters are conducting surveys on the victory of the prominent leaders from the opposition parties, they are conducting surveys on prominent BRS leaders on how much majority they will get, leaders like Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, ministers T Harish Rao, KT Rama Rao and others. CM KCR is contesting from two Assembly con-

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

to give monthly survey reports. stituencies from Gajwel and Kamareddy. The punters are conducting surveys on these two constituencies to know in which constituency CM KCR will get a major-

> Meanwhile, some candidates are conducting surveys on their respective constituencies to know their prospects in the coming Asembly

Cong probably winning in TS: Rahul

Meanwhile, some

candidates are conducting

surveys in their respective

constituencies to know

their prospects in the

coming Asembly

elections. Some

candidates are engaging

the survey agencies till polling and asking them

Names of final 5 soon O BRS to announce candidates for

remaining constituencies

K VENKATESHWARLU ■ HYDERABAD

The BRS will announce its candidates for the remaining four constituencies and Malkajgiri in a week. The party has finalised names for Jangaon and Narsapur and is waiting for the lists of the Congress and the BJP to finalise its candidates for Malkajgiri, Nampally and Goshamahal.

The party finalised Palla Rajeshwar Reddy for Jangaon and Sunitha Laxma Reddy for Narsapur. It is learnt that the party has hinted to Labour Minister Ch. Malla Reddy's son-in-law Marri Rajashekar Reddy to be ready to contest from Malkajgiri as its candidate Mynampally Hanumantha Rao had quit the BRS.

The party may soon announce the names of its Goshamahal and Nampally candidates along with the candidates for Jangaon, Narsapur and Malkajgiri in case the BJP and the Congress announce their can-



AP settlers hold key in 30 seats: Mothkupally

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS leader Mothkupally Narsimhulu said that settlers from Andhra Pradesh can decide election results in 30 Assembly constituencies in Telangana.

Speaking to the media on Sunday, Revanth Reddy said that the BRS would not be able to win a single seat in erstwhile Nalgonda district without his

India seal series

Gill, Iyer script 99-run win

Shubman Gill showed his insatiable

hunger for runs with fifth hundred

of the year while Shreyas Iyer hit

a timely ton under pressure to set

up a series sealing 99-run win for

Australia here on Sunday. Gill (104 off 97 balls) and Iyer

(105 off 90 balls) shared a stroke-

filled 200-run stand off 164 balls

before Suryakumar Yadav (72 not

out off 37 balls) unleashed carnage

to fire India to 399 for five, the

dia in the second ODI

PNS ■ INDORE

Cong deploys 'ChatGPT' to counter BRS 'Bard'

K VENKATESHWARLU

Political parties have been using all available platforms to criticise their rivals and are not letting go of any option to attack their opponents.

The war between the BRS and the Congress has peaked and the social media warriors of both parties have been making all-out efforts to attack and counter-attack through all possible ways. Now political parties are finding

innovative ways to attack their opponents

On Sunday, one step ahead, the ChatGPT to criticise Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister KT Ramarao of the BRS.

The Congress said that its ChatGPT is dropping truth bombs and shedding light on the unfulfilled



promises delivered by the #FatherSon duo #Shameonthem #BveBve KCR.

ChatGPT, which stands for Chat a large language model-based and language.



BJP indulges in such tactics to distract from the demand for a caste

rious in.

Generative Pre-trained Transformer, length, format, style, level of detail



He asserted that the opposition is adapting and working together and the BJP is "in for a surprise in 2024"

general elections.

referred to the row over BJP MP

Ramesh Bidhuri's derogatory

remarks against BSP leader Danish

Sabba alleging that the



He asserted that the opposition is adapting and working together and the BJP is "in for a surprise in 2024" general elections. Une Nation, Une Election was aimed at distracting from real issues of the people.

Assam, Gandhi also said the idea of of the people.

Speaking at a conclave organised 'One Nation, One Election' was by the Pratidin Media Network of aimed at distracting from real issues

by enthusiastic school children and

hoards of people with elected rep-

resentatives addressing functions

Choudhary and Rajasthan BJP pres-

ident C P Joshi boarded the Vande

Bharat Express train at Udaipur and

travelled till Chhittorgarh where a

huge crowd of BJP workers raised



minister Kailash

hosts' highest total against Australia in ODIs. Skipper K L Rahul chipped in with 52 off 38 balls.

Rain stopped play for the second time in the game when Australia were 56 for two in nine overs. With the revised target of 317 in 33 overs, they fell further behind in the game and ended with 217 all out in 28.2

David Warner (53 off 39), who batted right-handed against R Ashwin (3/41), and Sean Abbott (54 off 36), had a good hit in the

main players in the squad was a big boost for India ahead of the World Cup at home.

strength India squad is expected to play, will take place in Rajkot on Wednesday.

middle. The series win without their five

The final game, in which a full

B KRISHNA PRASAD HYDERABAD

¬he thrust given to engineering colleges about 15 years back in the combined Andhra Pradesh (now riven as Telugu States) subsequently spawned so many engineering colleges and their graduates that today few people and organizations value their degrees with the result that most of these grads, due to lack of proper and gainful employ-ment, have drifted to other available livelihood opportunities and have willy-nilly become delivery boys, cab drivers or taken up other jobs not even remotely connected to their qualifications. The YS Rajasekhara Reddy government then took the lead and was credited with contributing to the proliferation of engineering colleges, inter alia, by offering scholarships and fee reimburse-

ments to these students. Today, with TS Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao

HMDA to build five four-lane bridges over Musi, Esa

rivers

chatbot developed by Open AI and launched on November 30, 2022. It enables users to refine and steer a

conversation towards a desired



Scale of progress matching aspirations of Indians

PNS NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the speed and scale of infrastructure development matched the aspirations of 140 crore Indians as he flagged off nine Vande Bharat Express trains connecting religious and tourist destinations across 11

Flagging off the Vande Bharat Express trains via video conferencing, Modi also slammed the previous governments for not paying adequate attention for modernisation of railways and assured that the "day is not far when Vande Bharat will connect every part of the country".



Governors, chief ministers, Union ministers and elected representatives were present at the nine railway stations from where the indigenously

built semi-high speed trains were flagged off.

stations where they were welcomed already travelled in them.

The trains stopped at various

en route.

Union

the slogans of "Vande Mataram" and "Bharat Mata ki Jai' as the train chugged into the station.In his address, the prime minister said the popularity of Vande Bharat trains was rising constantly and more than 1.11 crore passengers have

Is medical education going the way of engineering?

and AP Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy launching 14 medical colleges in one go; let us fast forward 15 years and we will witness the same kind of dilution of standards in the medical field with underqualified and inexperienced doctors, a shade better than quacks, endangering people's lives. For, each of these 14 colleges in Telugu states will churn out 1,400 to 1,600 medical grads per year or about 60,000 in all, thus making a doctor with just a basic qualification available everywhere around us but with no experts having hands-on training anywhere around us.

Experts agree that today the crux of the problem is not about the number of medical colleges or the number of doctors churned out every year, but the availability of competent faculty in medical colleges and



The spree of opening new medical colleges has begun, with Telugu states being the latest example, though it comes bundled with a crisis: shortage of teachers. According to doctors' professional bodies, teachers, and healthcare organisations, this has negatively impacted the quality of medical education with grave implications for the public health system in the

universities as well as proper infrastructure for training the medical students to become experts before they set up their practice.

A look at the vital statistics in the medical field will make the impending reality clear. As for MBBS seats, today there are 1,08,148 MBBS seats (56,268 in Govt. /Semi Govt. Institutions & 51,880 in private/deemed medical colleges across India). This being so, even after three rounds of MBBS counselling by the Centre's Medical

Counselling Committee, at least 1,641 MBBS seats, including 483 in Tamil Nadu, are lying vacant across the nation.

Nearly half the vacant ones

are All-Índia Quota (AIQ) seats. Besides, 872 All-India Quota (AIQ) seats and 44 seats from central institutions such as AIIMS, JIPMER and Aligarh Muslim University are vacant. Only two-fifths of the vacant seats (679) are paid seats in deemed universities and an additional 44 seats, reserved for the NRI category, are lying

unfilled.

Parliament was informed recently that, thanks to the Centrally-Sponsored Scheme for the establishment of new medical colleges attached to existing district/referral hospitals, there has been an 82% increase in the number of med-

ical colleges in the country--up from 387 before 2014 to 704 now -- and a 110 % increase in the number of MBBS seats - up from 51,348 to 1,07,948, during the same period. Further, there has been an increase of 117 % in the number of post-graduate (PG) medical seats in the country -- from 31,185 before 2014 to 67,802 as of now.

That is, the spree of opening new medical colleges has begun, with Telugu states being the latest example, though it comes bundled with a crisis: shortage of teachers. According

isations, this has negatively impacted the quality of medical education with grave implications for the public health system in the long term. The delayed and tiresome recruitment process is one of the main factors for faculty shortage, going by the public statements of some of AIIMS' faculty members. According to them, there are enough doctors who would be willing to teach but job insecurity, low salary, no facility on contractual appointment, a lengthy hiring process, and indefinite wait for regular vacancy advertisement keep them away. Things have come to such a pass that all 19 opera-tional All India Institutes of

Medical Sciences are function-

ing with half the faculty they

need – 50.7 per cent – and

to doctors' professional bodies,

teachers, and healthcare organ-

AIIMS Delhi, India's premier medical college, is facing a faculty shortage of 36 per cent, going by official data. Out of the total 5,340 sanc-

tioned faculty posts, 2,547 are

Three more AIIMS are set to start. Media reports suggest that rare and reduced interaction between faculty and students is causing mental health problems among students. A few years back, a batch of say 50 students at a government medical college in Kota, Rajasthan had professors who knew them all by name and face. Now, those colleges are expected to cope with 250 students and faculty members hardly know 7 or 10 of their students.

In the light of such aberra-tions in the medical and higher education fields, it is high time well-meaning authorities arrested the trend of positioning doctors everywhere around us with experts nowhere in





BJP committees want Sanjay back as TS chief

The BJP's Telangana booth committee members have made it clear to the party that they want Karimnagar MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar back as the Telangana BJP unit presi-

The booth committee members demanded that the party should remove current TS party president G. Kishan Reddy immediately and appoint Sanjay as the president of the Telangana BJP unit.

The booth committee members said that the party has

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

lation, he said.

TPCC Election Campaign

Committee Chairman and

Screening Committee mem-

ber Madhu Yashki Goud said

that elections will not be held

based on surveys. Parties have

He demanded that the

Congress should allot 34 seats

to BCs as assured by the

TPCC. Madhu said that the

party has to stick to the word

that was given during the meetings of the TPCC Political

Affairs Committee (PAC) and

the TPCC Pradesh Election

Gauging mood...

Some candidates are engaging

the survey agencies till polling and asking them to give

The BRS has selected the

candidates on the basis of sur-

is also selecting the candidates

on the basis of survey reports.

When both BRS and the

Congress select the candidates

on the basis of survey reports

which candidate is going to

win is creating interest. For the

BRS, it's candidate will win and

for Congress it's candidate will

win. But, in fact between these

two candidates only one can-

didate will win the elections.

So, some candidates are con-

ducting surveys to know their

future. Some candidates are

asking the survey agencies to

tell in which aspects they have

to improve for their victory.

Conducting the surveys has

become a new trend in the

recent days. The survey agencies are also making money

Sukla Paksha

Sep 25 07:56 AM

Sep 26 05:01 AM

Sep 24 01:41 PM

Sep 25 11:55 AM

to Sep 25 11:55 AM

to Sep 26 09:41 AM

7:38 AM to 9:08 AM

10:38 AM to 12:07 PM

03:32 PM to 05:00 PM

12:15 AM to 01:42 AM

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:44 AM to 12:31 PM

Forecast: Scattered Thunderstorms

Updated: September 24, 2023 5:00 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

1:37 PM to 3:07 PM

to Sep 26 05:01 AM

to Sep 27 01:45 AM

during the elections.

TODAY

ALMANAC

Tithi:Ekadashi:

Dwadashi:

Nakshatram:

Shravana

Rahukalam:

Varjyam:

Yamagandam:

Amritakalam:

Temp: 29°°

Humidity: 67%

Sunrise: 6:09 AM

Sunset: 6:06 PM

Uttara Ashadha

Month & Paksham:

Continued from page 1

monthly survey reports.

to allot seats based on popu-

Elections will not be held

based on surveys: Madhu



become clumsy after appointing Kishan as the president of the Telangana BJP.

They advised the party brass to bring the issue to the notice of the high command. They also made it clear that

Speaking to the media after

the Telangana Congress OBC

leaders meeting at the Gandhi

Bhavan on Sunday, Madhu

recalled that former AICC

president Rahul Gandhi had

demanded that OBC, SC and

ST reservations would be

implemented in the reserva-

tions for women during the

debate on the Women's

Reservation Bill in the Lok

Sabha. He said that bahujans

have a major role in strength-

ening the party and that it is

not possible for the Congress

to form a government without

AP settlers...

Continued from page 1

the party will get back its form if Sanjay is reappointed as the president of the Telangana

They also made it clear that the party was losing ground due to Kishan. The State BJP office received

phone calls from booth committee members making the above demand when the State BJP office made phone calls to the leaders of booth committees across the state to pay tributes to Deen Dayal and plant saplings on September 25 marking Deen Dayal's birth anniversary.

Mothkupally

Congress by

may join

Sept-end

PNS HYDERABAD

end, it is learnt.

Some senior BRS leaders and

former Minister Mothkupally

Narsimhulu would join the

Congress before this month-

Discussions are going on

between the Congress and

Mothkupally. Sources said

Mothkupally would join the

Congress after getting an

assurance regarding his MLA

ticket or any other assurance

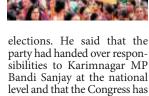
from the Congress high com-

BJP to announce its first list in a week

The Telangana BJP's election in-charge, Prakash Javadekar, said that the party will announce its first list of candidates in a week and that the party will launch continuous programmes in Telangana from October 1 onwards.

He said that Prime Minister Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president JP Nadda will extensively participate in the election campaign in Telangana.

Speaking to the media on Sunday, Javadekar said that the party has perfected many strategies to face the Assembly



He said that the BRS and the

sibilities to Karimnagar MP Bandi Sanjay at the national level and that the Congress has been campaigning that there is an understanding between the BRS and the BJP.

Congress are working together as per an internal under-standing.

Cong deploys...

Continued from page 1

The Congress Social Media wing on Sunday asked the ChatGPT, "Hey ChatGPT why can't KTR fix our roads, can you explain why our city's potholes have become a local attraction? #PotholPuzzle"?

The ChatGPT answered, "I know the potholes remind us of moon craters, but what else can we expect from a minister who is busy chatting with celebrities and is more concerned about his Twitter DP! I guess it is high time to choose an alternative.

Then the Congress asked the ChatGPT, "What do you mean by an alternative?" and the ChatGPT answered, "Based on my expertise, I recommended the Congress

Naidu's remand extended till Oct 5

The Congress used ChatGPT while countering BRS' social media warrior Santhosh Rao Menneni, who used the bard.google.come (Bard is a conversational generative artificial intelligence chatbot developed by Google, based initially on the LaMDA family of large language models and later the PaLM LLM).

Santhosh Rao Menneni asked bard.google.com to answer the question, "Why Rahul Gandhi is called Pappu?'

Then bard.google.com replied, "Rahul Gandhi is often called 'Pappu' by his opponents in a derogatory manner. The term 'Pappu' is a Hindi word that means 'Child' or 'Immature Person'. It is used to mock Rahul's perceived lack of intelligence and

Cong high command keeping tabs on PEC, Screening Committee meetings

K VENKATESHWARLU

The Congress high command is analysing on its own Pradesh Election Committee (PEC) and Screening Committee meetings regarding the selec-tion of candidates for the Telangana Assembly elections. The high command has been keenly observing the filtering process of these committees, it is learnt.

It is learnt that the high command has been observing the selection of candidates and comparing its own fieldlevel survey reports, the survey reports of Sunil Kanugolu, the recommendations of the 29member PEC and the debates in the Screening Committee.

The high command is also keeping an eye on Screening Committee meetings to know the pulse of Telangana Congress leaders and their working style through the arguments of Screening Committee members to ensure

that there are no blunders in selecting candidates, it is learnt. It is learnt that the high command is serious about the tampering of the names of

some hopefuls. The high com-

mand is also serious about

changing the priority list of candidates given by PEC mem-Coming to know about such moves in finalising names in the list of candidates, the leaders who are likely to be denied tickets are getting ready to quit been taking place in Khanapur, Medak, Mahbubnagar and some other constituencies.

It is learnt that the high command is keenly observing these developments and that the addition or deletion of names will take place after the Screening Committee's list comes to the Central Election Committee (CEC).

It is learnt that the Screening Committee has finalised 72 names unanimously. However, the Screening Committee has not yet submitted the list to the CEC.

Cong probably winning in TS...

the Congress, it is learnt. These unexpected developments have

Continued from page 1

"It's one of the BJP's distraction strategies," he asserted. The main issues in India are concentration of wealth, huge inequality in wealth, massive unemployment, huge unfairness towards the lower caste, OBCs, and tribal communities, and price rise, he said.

"Now, the BJP can't contest those. So 'let's have Mr. Bidhuri make a statement. Let's get together and sort of have elections together. Let's change the name of India'. This is all a distraction. We know it, we understand it. And we're not

going to let them do it," he said. He asserted that his party not winning any of the states in the upcoming state polls is out of the question.

uled to take place in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram. Asked about the party's chances, Gandhi said, "I would say, right now, we are probably winning Telangana, we are certainly winning Madhya Pradesh, we are certainly winning Chhattisgarh. Rajasthan, we are very close, and we think we will be able to win. That is what it is looking like, and by the way, that is also what the BJP internally is say-

ing."
The Congress learnt a very important lesson in Karnataka that the BJP wins elections by "distracting and not allowing

us to construct our narrative and so we fought the polls constructing our party's narrative".

"What you are seeing today, this gentleman Mr Bidhuri and then suddenly Mr Nishikant Dubey, all this is the BJP trying to distract from the idea of caste census. They know that the caste census is a fundamental thing that the people of India want and they don't want to have that discussion," the former Congress chief said.

"Every time we bring a point on the table, they use this type of stuff to distract us and we have learnt now how to deal with it," he said.

"What we did in Karnataka is we gave a clear vision for the state, this is the social security programme that we are going to set up for you' and

then we control the narrative. "If you look at the Telangana polls, we are controlling the narrative, the BJP is not even in the narrative, it is gone. The BJP has been decimated and it is over in Telangana," Gandhi said. He claimed that the Congress is controlling the narrative in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh in the runup to the polls there.

'If you speak to people in Rajasthan on what is the issue in terms of anti-incumbency, they will tell you they like the government," he said.

"We are adapting in a situation where the BJP controls the media. Don't think the opposition is not capable of adapting, we are adapting, we are working together, we are 60 per cent of India's population. BJP is in for a surprise in 2024 (Lok Sabha polls)," he said.

Gandhi also said that the women's reservation bill can be implemented "tomorrow morning" and all that is required to be done is to state that 33 per cent of the seats will be reserved in the Lok Sabha and assemblies.

There is no connection between women's reservation and census or between women's reservation and delimitation, he argued.

Gandhi also claimed that the government came up with the idea of a special session to distract from media reports in newspapers suc Financial Times on the Adani matter. "The first thing they were planning to do was to change India to Bharat but there was a huge backlash, they realised people will not like this, so put that in the background and came up with this," he claimed.

The government is basically saying that women will reap benefits of the reservation bill after 10 years but the Congress wants it now, he added.

Talking about the 2024 general elections, Gandhi said the opposition is thinking about this election in a fundamentally different way than any other election before it.

remand till October 5, in the THE ACB Court in wake of the two-day police custody ending at

growth of the Congress party in State, Mothkupally said that the Congress gained strength only because of Revanth Reddy, he said and added Revanth is like his brother. He also made it clear that he has no enmity with Revanth. While targeting CM KCR,

While responding to the

Mothkupally said that he was deceived by Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao. He said that KCR had inducted him in the BRS party by himself inviting him but had kept him away since then. "KCR insulted me by not

giving me appointments for the last six months. I used to meet Chief Ministers NTR and Chandrababu Naidu easily. But KCR was not giving me time. KCR is a man who cleans his house with cow urine if a Dalit enters his house," Mothkupally said.

Names of...

Continued from page 1

■ Hearing on bail plea today extended Naidu's judicial

ed TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu's judicial remand in the Development Corporation Scam case till

October 5, following the expiry of judicial remand and police custody. The order came after a team

of Andhra Pradesh Police CID officials on Sunday concluded its two-day interrogation of in the Skill Development Corporation case Rajamahendravaram Central Prison.

Special Public Prosecutor Y N Vivekananda, representing the CID, said that the Vijayawada ACB Court has

Sunday.

He noted that the CID is likely to file a separate petition seeking Naidu's custody on Monday. Further, the former chief

minister's bail application and two more CID prisoner transit (PT) warrant petitions in the AP FiberNet and Amaravati Inner Ring Road cases are expected to come up for hearing on Monday.Meanwhile, Naidu has already moved the

Supreme Court in connection with the Skill Development Corporation Scam case. The Anti-Corruption Bureau Court had on Friday

granted the CID two days' custody of the 73-year-old TDP chief for interrogation in the case, which expired on In compliance with the

court's orders, Naidu's questioning by CID officials was allowed from 9:30 AM to 5 PM on both days (September 23 and 24) with regular fiveminute breaks given to him to consult his lawyer.



India seal series...

Continued from page 1

If not, it is learnt that the BRS may keep at least Goshamahal pending for some time as the party is expecting leaders of the Congress or the BJP in long injury lay-off. Goshamahal who did Iyer, who was fighting for a not get tickets may join it. Then it will

It may be recalled that the BRS had announced candidates for 115 constituencies on August 21. However, Malkajgiri candidate Mynampally Hanumantha Rao quit the party on September 22 as he was unhappy with the BRS for not giving a ticket to his son Rohit

finalise its candidate

in Goshamahal.

Rao in Medak.

While Gill extended his sensa-

tional run with a fifth ODI hundred in 2023, runs were more than welcome for Iyer who missed the majority of Asia Cup with a back spasm soon after returning from a

spot in the middle-order with Ishan Kishan, might have settled the debate for now. However, Surya has emerged as another contender for that one spot with an explosive knock. The Holkar Ŝtadium tends

and Sunday's game proved no exception. Gill's peerless form is an ominous reminder to rivals ahead of next month's World Cup. It was a second consecutive ODI hundred for the 24year-old at this venue, having hammered 112 off 78 balls against New Zealand earlier this year when India ended

to produce high-scoring games

with a match-winning 395. Unlike Iyer, Gill began slowly on Sunday, collecting nine off his first 19 balls before going after the Aussie bowlers with disdain.

He was unstoppable after his first strike which was a straight six off pacer Abbott in the ninth over. Cameron Green tried a short

one against Gill who was happy to pull him away for a six over fine leg. But the rain caused a 40-minute delay, putting a temporary halt to the entertainment. Both Gill and Iyer, who struggled with cramps towards the end of his innings, continued to find boundaries after resumption.

The highlight of Gill's knock was how frequently he danced down the track against the fast bowlers while Iyer's aggressive intent from ball one stood out in a scenario where he was desperately searching for runs. Both Iyer and Gill got their half-centuries with straight

sixes, off debutant Spencer Johnson and Green respectively. Conditions were ideal for the batters but the Australian attack, missing the likes of Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins, looked short on ideas. Lead spinner Adam Zampa too could not stem the flow of runs.

(31 off 18) played some bold strokes to up the scoring rate. Survakumar, who had to

Iyer was the first to complete a century, his third in ODIs, while Gill got to the milestone, his sixth in the format, 19 balls later. When both the batters departed, Rahul and Kishan

change his game in the previous match to adapt to the needs of ODI cricket, came out to bat in the 41st over.

In the T20 context, it was an ideal time for him to come and explore his 360 range from ball one. He did just that to power India to a formidable total. His innings included four

sixes in a row off Green in the 44th over. The towering pacer conceded 103 runs in his 10 overs, so symbolic of their wretched outing with the ball on the day. Australia were never in the run chase after losing their first two wickets off successive deliveries from pacer Prasidh Krishna in the second over. Both Matthew Short and Steve Smith fell chasing wide deliveries.

Telangana BJP state chief Kishan Reddy attacks BRS over ties with 'anti-women' AIMIM

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana BJP President G Kishan Reddy on Sunday attacked Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao asking how the BRS can maintain a friendship with the AIMIM which voted against the Women's Reservation Bill in Parliament.

Though the issue of women's reservation has been a part of public discourse in the country for many decades, no party or leader has been able to take the issue to its logical end, he told reporters.

"Modi is the leader who took revolutionary decisions on pending issues, including taxation, Article 370, Ram Janmabhoomi and construction of toilets for poor in the last nine years," he said. The bill -- which allocates

one-third of the seats in Lok Sabha, State legislative assemblies and the Delhi assembly for women -- was passed in the new Parliament building as per the Centre's decision, he said. Unfortunately, Hyderabad-

based AIMIM was the only

party to vote against the

Women's Reservation Bill in Parliament, he pointed out. Describing AIMIM president Asaduddin Ŏwaisi as tĥe "guru" of CM KCR, he said KCR should answer to the people "how he

(BRS) is functioning as a friendly party of the party (AIMIM) which is against women". Pointing out that three Congress MPs from Telangana

too did not participate in voting on the bill, he said it is a matter of shame for Telangana that the AIMIM and the three Congress MPs are from the state.

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HMDA to build five four-lane bridges over Musi, Esa rivers

The government of Telangana has initiated proposals for the construction of bridges across the Musi River from Narsingi to Gowrelly to ease the traffic congestion in the core city of Hyderabad in a stretch of about

Accordingly, a study has been conducted for the requirement of additional bridges on Musi River taking into consideration the traffic projections and new develop-

The Hyderabad Metro Development Authority (HMDA) proposes to construct five bridges with four lanes across the Musi River. The administrative sanction has been accorded by the Government for an amount of



Rs 168.00 crore and the details of the bridges being proposed to be taken up by the HMDA are: 1. Bridge-I at Budvel IT Park (on Esa), 2. Bridge-II at Budvel IT Park (on Esa), 3. Bridge at Manchirevula (on Musi), 4. Bridge at HMDA layout Uppal Bhagayath (on Musi) and 5. Bridge at Pratap

Singaram (on Musi).

Tenders have been invited for the five bridges in a single package on EPC mode for IBM value of Rs 139.00 crore and the works are to be taken up soon. The period of completion for the construction of the bridges is 15 months. KT Rama Rao, Minister for MA & UD, is expected to lay the foundation stone for all the five bridges at a single location at Uppal Bhagayath September 25.

'Govt schemes should reach farmers, not land owners'

PNS HYDERABAD

Former CBI Joint Director VV Laxminaryana said that farmers should enjoy the government schemes but not those who have own land. The position of the farmers should be high in the per-spective of the students as well as people, he added.

He was speaking at a felicitation function of 25 farmers for their innovative techniques used in the farm sector at Haritha Plaza on Sunday, which was organised by Youth for Anti-Corruption (YAC). He said, "During the Covid time also every sector had been backdropped but not agriculture sector. Innovation and organic farming has resulted in an increase in farm yield and made agriculture a lucra-



tive profession attracting young and educated youth

One of the awardees Ujwal, Australia-returned, said that he has been into the farming sector for over half a decade. He has over 300 cows and supplies 500 litres of milk. He grows millets, ginger, tomatoes and onions in his farm. He provides employment for 35 individuals at his farm. Former RTI Commissioner Venkateshewarlu, Retired VC Prof Jayashankar, Agriculture University, Praveen Rao, retired Agriculture Officer and Ashok Kumar, Aries Agro Limited, southern attended the felicitation pro-

Telangana region head

Durgam Cheruvu STP to be opened by KTR today

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister for Municipal Administration & Urban Development KT Rama Rao (KTR) is going to inaugurate Durgam Cheruvu sewage treatment plant (STP) on Monday.

The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewage Board (HMWS&SB) has completed the construction of the STP, with a capacity of seven million litres (MLT) efficiency, which has completed a trial run. It's among the total 31 STPs sanctioned across Hyderabad. These STPs have been initiated for cleaning of 100 per cent of the city's sewage water.

The Government is spending Rs 3,866.41 crore for these 31 STP plants and the efficiency of these STPs is 1,259.50 million litres These 31 STPs are built in three packages and five circles. The STPs will have modern sequencing batch reactor technology. Hyderabad is the first city to be 100 per cent sewage cleaning city in South Asia after completing these 31 STPs.

Hyderabad urban agglomeration daily produces 1,950 MLTs of sewage water. As of now, 46 per cent of the sewage water is being cleaned by 25 STPs. These 31 STPs will clean sewage water till 2036. The HMWS&SB has planted flower gardens which have 22 types of flowers and landscaping works near the STPs which are near to the res-

idential localities. Package details:

Package-I: Rs 1230.2 crore is 402.50 MLTs.

is spent on 6 STP's in Rajendra Nagar and LB Nagar. These capacity is 480 50 MLTs

Package-III: Rs 1,280.87 crore is spent on 17 STPs in Kukatpally, Quthbullapur and Serilingampally circles. These STPs efficiency is 376.50 MLTs.



PNS HYDERABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the Kacheguda Yesvantpur (Hyderabad -Bengaluru) and Vijayawada -Chennai Central Vande Bharat Express trains on Sunday through virtual mode. The Prime Minister has flagged off nine Vande Bharat trains across the nation, including two services in the SCR jurisdiction.

Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of Railways, Communications, Electronics and Information Technology, and other dignitaries also participated in the programme through virtual mode.

Narendra Modi stated that flagging off nine Vande Bharat trains is an unprecedented occasion of modern connectivity in the country. The Vande Bharat trains are a symbol of a new enthusiasm of new India. He expressed happiness about the growing popularity of Vande Bharat in India as he informed that more than one crore eleven lakh passengers have travelled in Vande Bharat trains so far.

Further, the Prime Minister informed that 25 Vande Bharat trains are already serving people in different states and union territories and today nine more are being added.

The Cyberabad Police on

Sunday announced that 12,000

abandoned vehicles were auc-

tioned in 13 installments so far:

said, "Three notices have also

been issued regarding 5,750

vehicles, which will be

auctined under the jurisdiction

Cyberabad

fetching Rs 6.75 crore.

A comfortable journey the train crossed over some

PNS HYDERABAD

There will be no sounds of Choo...Choo...chuk...chuk...an d jerks while the train begins. You will miss the nostalgic ride while travelling on the Vande Bharat Express. Taking part in the inaugural run of the Vande Bharat Express from Kacheguda railway station to Mahabubnagar has given me a new experience with its infrastructure and facilities.

As soon as you board the Vande Bharat train, you will feel like you are sitting in a flight. The coaches of the train give you a striking modern infrastructure. The seats are comfortable but are not too comfortable if you want to take a nap!!

There are no beds in the In between the coaches you will find doors operated

by sensors just like metro trains. These doors are also used at the entrance of each boggy.
While the train is moving,

you will also not experience any kind of shaky move-

The length of Vande Bharat Express is short when compared to normal trains. Moreover, other than its infrastructure and services, the speciality of the train lies in its speed. Within an hour it covers over 100 kms. The train began its journey from Kacheguda railway station at 1 pm and reached Mahabubnagar by 2:15 pm.

Additionally, other than passengers, approx 20 schools and a few colleges took part in the inaugural run. Even Youtubers and social media influencers have taken part in this fun ride.

Amisha, a student from Kendriya Vidyalaya, said that it is a nice and comfortable ride. She will prefer to go by Vande Bharat rather than the normal trains due to its good facilities and services.

Shankar, a faculty from Railway College, said that the quality of services is excellent and they are better than normal trains where cleanliness and proper sanitation are

City girl appreciated by PM Modi in Mann ki Baat



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi appreciated the efforts of Akarshana Satish, a seventh grade student from Hyderabad in the Mann ki Baat programme on Sunday.

Akarshana has established seven libraries on her own by gathering

books from neighbours, classmates and members of her families. She was able to collect 5,800 old books which she has utilised to establish seven

libraries in Hyderabad. Praising the unique is tiative by Akarshana, PM Modi said that her work to shape children's future is an inspiration for

spent on 8 STPs in the circles of Alwal, Malkajgiri, Kapra and Uppal. These STPs capacity is

Package-II: Rs 1,355.13 crore



Cyberabad Commissioner Commissionerate.'

cles are currently placed under the jurisdiction of Cyberabad Commissionerate in Law & Order and Traffic police stations. Notices regarding them 9490617317.

All the details regarding the vehicles have been specified on

the Cyberabad police website. Those who object to the auction are advised to contact the police station officials concerned with the verification vehicles within six months.

For details please contact Revenue Inspector MTO-2, N Veeralingam at Cell No:

IITH students get exposure at Japan Career Fair-2023

External Trade Organisation (JETRO) and IIT Hyderabad (IITH) co-hosted "Japan Career Fair 2023", the sixth edition of "Japan Day" on Sunday. In all, 20 distinguished Japanese companies attended the career fair, which is the largest number of participants since the event started in 2018. The companies, comprising startups, SMEs and large corporates, participated in promoting their businesses/cutting-edge technologies to attract students from

Toshihiro Mizutani, Director General, JETRO Bengaluru, said, "Interest in India's engineering and scientific talent is growing among Japanese companies. As a result, we are welcoming double the number of Japanese companies as compared to last



Japan, several businesses are eager to employ motivated Indian expertise. The participating Japanese companies antici-pate that IITH students will play key roles in emerging technological innovation and global strategies.

Prof. BS Murty, Director of IIT Hyderabad, said, "Japan Day, which has been organised annually since 2018 at IITH, is a unique and important event that greatly helps our students to develop an understanding and confidence about the job, work culture, life and a career path in Japan. Many Japanese companies will also get exposure to the excellence and potential of IITH students through an active interaction with them. We are indebted to Jetro, for its amazing support in connecting IITH with prominent Japanese firms. We have cherished our bond with Japan this year by observing the first edition of Japan Week. I wish to see this participation increase

Buddhavanam SO visits Sri Lanka Spot where Tripitaka was scribbled

PNS ANURADHAPURA (SRI LANKA)/HYDERABAD

Buddhavanam team consisting of Mallepalli Laxmaiah, Special Officer and Dr E Sivanagireddy, Buddhist Expert Consultant, visited the 3rd century BCE Buddhist rock-cut caves at Mathale located on Columbo-Kandy route in Sri Lanka on Sunday where the teachings of Lord Buddha were scribbled for the first time on palm leaves. Laxmaiah said, "The Buddha's

teachings called Tripitaka viz., Sutr, Vinaya and Abhidhamma pitakas, which were transmitted orally until that time, were written on pal leaves under the auspices of Sri Lankan King Devanampiya Tissa, contemporary of Asoka the great and after that event only we got the Buddhist literature in India.' He added that Acharya



Buddhaghosha, the famous Theravada Buddhist philosopher, lived in these caves for some time and wrote Visuddhimagga. He appreciated the Mathale Buddha Vihara for running a school in the name of Acharya Buddhaghosha even today as a token of respect to his scholarship. Dr E Sivanagireddy, Buddhist Expert Consultant

Buddhavanam Project an Archaeologist and CEÓ, Pleach India Foundation, thoroughly studies the rock-cut caves, the monastery and antiquities recovered from the surroundings, datable to the period between 3rd century BCE and 5th century CE and the Buddhist connection between the two Telugu States and Sri Lanka.



Focus on cyber and health safety

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Society for Cyberabad Security Council (SCSC) on Sunday held its annual general meeting which focused on cyber and health safety.

Addressing the gathering, Cyberabad Police Commissioner and the hon-orary Chairman of the SCSC, Stephen M Raveendra said, "The launch of Centre of Excellence - Telangana State Police Centre of excellence for cyber safety was set up in record speed of less than six months and shared the ground breaking work done by COE in all these months and appreciated the contribution by the IT industry for setting up of the same."

Listing the priorities for the next year, SCSC Secretary General, Ramesh Kaza said, 'The aim is to intensify the cyber safety awareness programmes to reach a much larger audience. Another priority would be to create a lot of awareness on health safety for the IT workforce, as the only way to do this is prevention, as a majority of the IT workforce is leading a sedentary lifestyle.

Dr Chinna Babu, head of Oncology of Yashoda Hospital Hi-Tech city and Dr Rajiv, Head of Cardiology for AIG hospitals would be working as a team to create these health awareness programmes for the benefit of IT and ITes work-

Boy steals laddu from Ganesh pandal

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A school student on September 23 allegedly stole a laddu from a Ganesh pandal at Ghansi Bazar.

The incident was captured on CCTV camera near the pandal. In the video, a group of boys could be seen entering a Ganesh pandal located at Ghansi Bazaar and running away with one of them carrying the laddu

The pandal organisers who noticed the laddu missing from the pandal checked the CCTV footage and after viewing the footage, informed the Charminar police. The police launched an investigation into the theft. The laddu weighs about 21 kilograms

Earlier, a 11-kilogram laddu was stolen from a pandal at Miyapur.

Repealing GO 111 in violation of SC order, says expert **PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

multi-fold in years to come."

A report by Hyderabad-based People's Scientific Committee revealed that the attempts to remove Government Order 111 which protects Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar is in contempt of the Supreme Court

It is to be noted that the Supreme Court had upheld the protection of lakes in 2000. Addressing the issue, committee representative Sagar Dhara "The Telangana government could see to it that all activities in the protected area

comply with the Supreme Court order. A committee should be set up to oversee the activities in the GO111 area. Activities violating the Supreme Court order must be acted

Dhara further said, "Removal of the restrictions will allow all sorts of industries to come within the 10 km radius of the Himayat Sagar and Osman Sagar. This will result in contamination of lakes and emergence of health hazards for senior citizens.

He further said, "There is no law in India which focuses on



CLU the ecosystem services which water provides us. It is concerning to know that water bodies

not understood what nature is, which is a fundamental problem. Globally, such an issue is viewed similar to land. termed as ecocide (similar to genocide). Basically, it is treated as land "Once the GO 111 is containing water. People have

repealed, there will be heat stress leading to death of large number of people above 60 years. The attempt to repeal the order is not new. Previous governments had also attempted to

the previous governments attempted to fill up the Hussain Sagar lake and sell the land. The plan is to discard the two lakes, develop the land around it and create something similar to the Delhi farmhouse area in order to make it exclusive for the rich," Dhara explained.

do away with the GO. In fact,

"In the times ahead water will become scarce and lead to conflicts, which is already evident from the Karnataka-Tamil Nadu conflict regarding Kaveri river and Karnataka-Goa conflict regarding the Mahadayi river," he stressed.

Monday Mirchi

Filling a coveted position is a taxing job, more so if there is a commercial angle to it! An interesting question was posed to Yours Truly by those eager to find out who is the Commercial Taxes Commissioner. Well, the department has been headless for quite some time. In sarkari style of course, the websites of the Telangana government, except one, still list Neetu Kumari Prasad as the Commissioner of Commercial Taxes. For newbies, Neetu Kumari Prasad has been posted as Joint Secretary, Department of Fisheries, Government Of India with effect from 26 July 2023. While orders relieving Neetu Kumari Prasad of the post were issued, S Krishna Aditya was posted as Member Secretary, TS Pollution Control Board. Although many babus have since been angling for the post vacated by Neetu, there has been no word till date about who is going to helm the Commercial Taxes Department. That such a 'fetching' post is headless has become a hot topic of discussion among unabashedly ambitious babus.

ROOM WITH A VANTAGE VIEW, BUT...

The BRKR Bhavan, despite the hustle and bustle around it, has islands of soothing calm and serenity. One example is the office of the Chief Electoral Officer Vikas Raj. Ahead of the shift of the ad-hoc Secretariat to the new buildings, BRKR bhavan's 9th floor was renovated for the Chief Secretary. Vikas Raj is presently using a cabin that is situated at a vantage point, offering a panoptic view of the Tank Bund, Martyrs' Memorial, and the new Secretariat. The larger question is: Why was the Chief Secretary not using this prized cabin with a view? Nonetheless, the 9th floor of BRKR Bhavan obviously did not work out for former CS Somesh Kumar. Luckily Santhi Kumari moved out to the new Secretariat. Hopefully, at least the CEO will get his due and space to conduct the upcoming elections smoothly without the hassles that visited his predecessor Rajat Kumar, who used to sit in the D block of the old Secretariat in 2018.

HAS JANARDHAN REDDY HAD ENOUGH?

TSPSC chairman B Janardhan Reddy seems to be done and dusted with his post, beset as he is by trouble after trouble and wheels within wheels. A little bird told us that when he is hard-pressed by the ramifications of the leaks of TSPSC examination papers amid perceived shortage of staff, opposition parties are demanding his scalp. Janardhan Reddy seems to be upset about the latest

twist to the paper leak case. After paper leak, came Group-2 exams issues and now TSPSC Group1 exam has been cancelled again. He reportedly shared with his aides on whether he needs this headache now, and that too at a time when he stays overnight in office. There is a very serious discussion going on about his impending resignation. He is reportedly weighing various options as resignation now could send a wrong signal.

SILENT, BUT ACCOUNTABLE

There are people in the world who choose to adorn a castle with the stones you throw at them. Ronald Rose, as shrewd Commissioner of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, knows how to do the balancing act without hurting his political bosses. The Commissioner is invisibly active on social media, acting on complaints and grouses quietly. Municipal administration per se is a thankless job and this IAS officer getting trolled if garbage is not lifted is nothing if one considers what all Minister KT Rama Rao faces from irate members of the public. A little bird told us that Ronald has taken a conscious decision not to reply to trolls, while remaining accountable in the background. In fact, a top official working under him remarked: "Working with this Commissioner is different and better".

BABUS UNDER PRESSURE FOR POLL-RELATED TARGETS

Come elections, politicos fall back on their implemented promises and babus on the time and resources available for their implementation. It is expected that the Election Commission may announce the schedule of the Telangana Assembly elections in the first week of October. So, right now bureaucrats are facing the double whammy of meeting targets that reflect community benefits as well as benefits at the individual level well before the Model Code of conduct sets in.

Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has directed officials to complete the pending works by the end of this month. The Chief Minister and his cabinet colleagues, during their visits to districts, give assurances to people. If those assurances are not implemented pronto, it will have a devastating effect on the ruling party in the elections. The babus must often make a difficult choice between individual benefits and community benefits. For, they don't know which way the wind blows when their political masters are involved in election campaigns.

-- Yours truly

Dissidence erupts in BRS in Kodad constituency

PNS SURYAPETA

A group of BRS leaders who are disenchanted with Kodad MLA Bollam Mallaiah Yadav held an Atmeeya Sammelan on Sunday and appealed to the party leadership not to renominate the sitting MLA. They threatened not to cooperate if ed Mallaiah Yadav.

Former MLA Venepalli Chander Rao said that the party leaders ensured the victory of Mallaiah Yadav in the 2018 elections after Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao directed the party leaders and activists to work for the



BRS dissidents holding an Atmeeya Sammelanam in Kodad on Sunday

success of the candidate. Kodad Assembly con-

stituency BRS former incharge Sasidhar Reddy threatened to contest as a BRS rebel candidate if the leadership failed to change the candidature of Malliah Yadav.

He wondered how the MLA

get re-elected if the party leaders and people were to go against him.

The party leaders sought a BRS ticket to Sasidhar Reddy. When Mallaiah Yadav contested the elections as an independent candidate, he polled only 11,000 votes.

'Contraception is

not just women's

Birth control plays an impor-

tant role in avoiding unwant-ed pregnancies and improv-

ing spacing between preg-nancies to have a healthy mother and baby. As per sta-

tistics, 40 per cent of women

have not been using contra-

ceptive methods in our coun-

try. September 26 has been

pronounced as 'World Contraception Day' to

increase awareness on differ-

ent contraceptive methods.

Consultant Obstetrician

Harika said that contracep-

tion emphasises the impor-

tance of increasing the aware-

ness among both men and

women's responsibility, she

Contraception is not just

She said that there are different types of contraceptive

methods available which can

be roughly divided into tem-

porary methods, permanent

methods and emergency con-

be used as long as birth con-

trol is needed, which includes

by knowing cycle length, not-

ing change in body temper-ature, use of male and female

condoms and diaphragm.

But the failure rate is very

include tubectomy in women

and vasectomy in men.

Permanent methods

Temporary methods can

Children's

traception.

Apollo Cradle &

hospital,

responsibility'

PNS HYDERABAD

BJP accuses BRS councillor of grabbing land

PNS BHADRADRI KOTHAGUDEM

The BRS local councillor has encroached on 2,000 yards of land allotted to the poor in old Kothagudem under Kothagudem municipality, according to KV Ranga Kiran, a member of the State executive committee of the BJP

here on Sunday. He visited the area where the councillor allegedly grabbed the land. He alleged that 30 acres of land, worth crores of rupees, was grabbed by influential people and grew grass on the land.

Ranga Kiran said that he had met the Mandal Revenue Officer and lodged a complaint with him regarding the grabbing of the land. He demanded that the government take action immediately and do justice to the poor. He also urged the government to invoke the Preventive Detention Act and Land Grabbing Act against the land

state representative Srinivas and others were present.

grabbers. He regretted that the officials failed to act despite his complaint to the MRO. The BJP demanded that the land be Chunchupalli mandal party unit president Rayudu Nageswara Rao, SC Morcha



BJP leader KV Ranga Kiran speaking to the media in Kothagudem on Sunday

TS agriculture sector's success story to be showcased in US

Minister KT Rama Rao has been invited to the Norman E. Borlaug International Dialogue in the USA to speak on TS's farm sector

Minister for Information Technology and Industries KT Rama Rao received an invitation to share his views as a speaker on Telangana's exceptional success story in the agriculture sector at the "2023 Norman E. Borlaug International Dialogue" which will be held from October 24 to 26 in Des Moines, Iowa, USA. More than 1,200 in-person

guests and thousands of virtual participants from around the world will take part in the dialogue to elevate food and agricultural solutions that can increase the quality, quantity, and availability of food for all.

In the invitation, Ambassador Terry E. Branstad, president of World Food Prize Foundation said, "Your perspective and voice will add unmatchable value to the Borlaug Dialogue. It would be an honour to feature you at the



guests and thousands of virtual participants from around the world will take part in the dialogue to elevate food and agricultural solutions that can increase the quality, quantity, and availability of food for all.

More than 1,200 in-person

dialogue as we gather dynamic paradigm shifters who improve global food systems and allevie global food insecurity."

KTR expressed his happiness over receiving the invitation. He stated that this would be a great platform for showcasing the exceptional success story of the Telangana agriculture sector under the able leadership of Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao.

Along with Minister KTR, Agriculture Minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy was also invited to speak at the

Following the 2022 emphasis on feeding a fragile world amidst food systems shocks, the stage is set for a futurefocused convening centred around nourishment, regeneration, innovation, resilience, empowerment, and mobilisa-

The 2023 theme, Harnessing Change, is both an acknowledgement of previous success and a call to action inspired by the legacy of Dr Norman Borlaug, The World Food Prize Foundation has honoured those who harness change and

positively shape the future of global food and agriculture, including World Food Prize Laureates, Borlaug Field Award registrates and more

recipients, and more.

Norman E. Borlaug
International Dialogue, also known as the "Borlaug Dialogue," brings together individuals from more than 65 countries to address cuttingedge issues related to global food security and nutrition. Global leaders, experts, educators, and more will join the 2023 Borlaug Dialogue to discuss transformative solutions to achieve a sustainable, equitable, and nourishing food

KTR to open IT hub on Oct 2

PNS NALGONDA

Minister Municipal Administration KT Rama will inaugurate IT hub in Nalgonda on October 2.

Nalgonda MLA Kancherla Bhupal Reddy and District Collector RV Karnan, accompanied by officials, inspected the IT hub to ensure that the works on it are completed speedily.
The IT hub was

built at a cost with an investment of Rs 100 crore. Six companies have already set up their units and even completed recruit of skilled workforce.

The Minister also inaugurate the Integrated Vegetale and Meat Market and Mahatma Gandhi Engineering College

building. KTR would lay foundation stones for development works to be taken up with an investment of Rs 750

"Today, I brought the medical college to Nagarkurnool. I will get engineering college too to Nagarkarnool," he

A check-dam on Dumdubhi

promised.

Do not give credence to Congress party's guarantees'

PNS ■ NAGARKARNOOL

Local BRS MLA Marri Janardhan Reddy has appealed to people not to give credence to the promises made by the Congress. The grand old party has made unrealistic promises and it failed to deliver on promises in Karnataka. He wondered how the Congress, if voted to power, can implement the guarantees given by it to the

MLAvisited CharlaItikyala and Tummala Sugur villages in Taduru mandal as part of his Praja Prasthanam padayatra on

DCCB director Jakka Raghunandan Reddy, BRS secothers accompanied the MLA.
Turning tables on the
Congress, the MLA accused it
of not bothering to take care of the welfare of the families of the migrant workers.

In the past, there was no irrigation facility. The government did not procure the agricultural produce. No input subsidy was given to the farmers and also no insurance cover for the families of the farmers in the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh. Also, the supply of seeds and fertilisers was not timely. In the past, successive governments laid the foundation stone for irrigation projects, but they all remained incomplete.

In the new State of Telangana, Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao intro-



BRS MLA Marri Janardhan Reddy interacting with people during a tour in the constituency on Sunday

duced several welfare programmes for the poor. The BRS government turned agriculture into a profitable profession. It extended the input subsidy to the farmers under

coverage under Rythu Bhima. The farmers were provided free power 24x7, irrigation facility, seeds and fertilisers on time. Moreover, the govern-

ment procures the produce at

a minimum support price, he

stream in Tadur mandal would be built, he said. He promised to develop BT roads from Charla Itikyala to Tummal Sugur and took steps to develop CC roads and drainages in Tummala Sugur village. He claimed that the constituency witnessed unprecedented development in nine years that could not have taken place in six decades. He said that two of his rivals came together to defeat him in elections. He expressed confidence that the

people would elect him once

Mueller dotkonnect promises to impart training to youth

PNS MAHABUBNAGAR

provides end-to-end setup, maintenance and management of the entire Finance and Account function, has chosen to impart training to youth at IT Park in Mahabubnagar.

Minister for Prohibition and Excise V Srinivas Goud on Sunday expressed his happiness over the Mueller dotkonnect deciding to train the youth in professional accounting skills. Mahabubnagar witnessed rapid transformation after the formation of Telangana State. Now, the Mueller dotkonnect came to impart training to youth in Mahabubnagar district, he said.

Mueller dotkonnect president Phani Ilapakurthy said that 1,500 youth would be imparted training by next year. After completing the training for the first batch of students, the company would take up further action, he said.



Minister for Excise V Srinivas Goud speaking at a meeting

been investing in Telangana because of the availability skilled workforce. There is also a talent poll in the State and also in Mahbubnagar, he

Srinivas Goud said that the Muller dotkonnect has decided to set up its unit in the IT Park on recognition of the talent pool The IT park has been constructed on a sprawling 4 acres at a cost of Rs 40 crore. He assured the company management that

American companies have the government would extend all support to it. Parents worked hard to provide the best possible education to their children. The children have the responsibility of fulfilling their parents' dreams, the Minister said. The Minister handed over the certificates to 140 students who underwent training Mueller dotkonnect.

Mueller dotkonnect management officials Bhanu Prakash, Shushant, Sandeep, Sarat and others were present.

3-day musical nite to be held in Mahabubnagar from September 25

PNS MAHABUBNAGAR

Tourism Department will organise cultural programmes on a large scale on Tank Bund here on September 25, 26 and 27 in connection with World Tourism Day on September 27, according to Minister for Tourism V Srinivas Goud on Sunday.

The Minister, who took part in a programme held at IT corridor in Divitipally on Sunday. While speaking to the media, he said that the three-day celebrations are planned not only in Hyderabad but also in all districts as part of the World Tourism Day celebrations.

As part of this, a music

and dance programme of playback singer Sravana Bhargavi and DJ Tillu has been arranged here on September 25.

Similarly on September 26, Krishna Chaitanya and his team and Master Govinda would present cultural teams.

The events would be held daily from 7 pm to 9 pm during the three days and exhorted the people to make the events a grand success with their participation.

He said that the tourism department is being developed on an unprecedented level like restoration of historic places and structures.

Efforts are under way to develop and revive the historic structures.



ACB Deputy Superintendent of Police Ramanamurthy showing the "tainted money" recovered after trapping Tahsildar and Revenue Inspector at Mavala in Adilabad district on Sunday

Tahsildar, Revenue Inspector land in ACB trap

PNS ADILABAD

The Anti-Corruption officials on Sunday claimed to have caught a Tahsildar at Mavala in Adilabad district while accepting a bribe from a farmer.

The ACC Deputy Superintendent of Police Ramanamurthy told the media that the officials laid a trap and caught Tahsildar Arif Sultana red-handed while accepting a Rs 2 lakh bribe from a farmer. The ACB officials raided the

Tahsildar office based on the complaint by farmer Yetendranath Yadav. The Tahsildar and Revenue Inspector demanded a Rs 2 lakh bribe to issue a passbook pertaining to his 14 acre agricultural land. The ACB officials said that

they had caught the Revenue Inspector when the farmer was handing over the bribe to the former. Both the officials were taken into custody and they would be produced before the ACB court on Monday.

Heritage Run held in Warangal city

PNS WARANGAL

A heritage walk was organised on Sunday from Chintal Grounds to Khilla Warangal to create awareness among the people and students on the right to vote and in connection with World Tourism Day and the Swachchata Hee Seva programme.

Earlier, Collector P Pravinya and Greater Warangal Municipal

Commissioner Rizwan flagged off the walk. The rally culminated at Khilla Warangal. It explained the significance of Tourism Day, the right to vote in forthcoming elections. The participants carried placards containing slogans on the objective of the heritage walk.

Addressing the participants at the Khilla Warangal, the Collector said that the Warangal



Warangal Collector P Pravinya taking part in Heritage Run in Warangal on Sunday

district has a rich historical and inaugurated at Bhadrakali cultural heritage. Bund.

Shaik Rizwan Basha exhorted the people to celebrate World Tourism Day with the participation of all stakeholders on Sep 27, which coincided with

the celebration of NSS Day. On the occasion of World Tourism Day on September 27, a boating unit will be

Corporators Uma Damodar Yadav and Bhogi Suvarna Suresh, Chamber of President Commerce Ravinder Reddy, Tahsildar Nageswara Rao, NSS co-ordinator K Srinivas Rao, guide

Ravi Yadav and others took

Mamata at SSKM Hospital for health check-up

day after returning from her 12-day tour of Spain and Dubai, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday evening went to the state-run SSKM Hospital Ahere for a health check-up, an official said. Banerjee, the official said, is being seen by doctors in Woodburn Block of the SSKM Hospital. "She is here for a routine check-

up. At the moment doctors are seeing her," he told. Sources close to the chief minister said that Banerjee was having some uneasiness in her leg which was injured earlier this year when she was alighting from a helicopter that made an emergency landing at Sevoke airbase due to bad weather. She had suffered a ligament injury on her left knee and had to undergo microsurgery. Banerjee returned to the city on Saturday evening after a 12-day official trip to Spain and Dubai to attract investments for the state.



Himachal varsity to showcase natural farming techniques

ow-cost natural farming techniques adopted by Dr. Y S Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni is expected to get global exposure at a 15-day international conference in France. The conference being held from September 24 to October 8 is convened by French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment in France. Representatives of

eleven countries and fifteen institutes are participating in the conference on 'Natural Farming, Agroecology and Regenerative agriculture' and India is being represented by Horticulture and Forestry University, Nauni (Solan). The conference would have several rounds of discussions on theme project named "Plant protection in Agroecology" and Nauni University, which has done extensive work in natural farming is representing India, said Rajeshwar Chandel, Vice Chancellor of Dr. Y S Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry



46 pilgrims injured after private bus hits rock in Gujarat

Il 46 pilgrims travelling on a private luxury bus were injured after the vehicle moving Adown a slope hit a rock on the roadside near the temple town of Ambaji in Gujarat's Banaskantha district on Sunday, police said. Eighteen of the passengers were shifted to a civil hospital in district headquarters Palanpur, while the remaining were being treated at a

government hospital at Ambaii town. local police inspector Dhaval Patel said. The victims were returning on the bus after offering prayers at the shrine located in the Arasur hills. "A private luxury bus carrying 46 pilgrims from Kanjari village in Kheda district met with an accident after the driver lost control of the vehicle on a hilly slope. The bus hit a rock flanking the road on the wayside, after which its roof got ripped off," the police official said. The bus was moving down the slope when the accident occurred, he said



Affordable healthcare road map for healthy India, says Jitendra

PNS ■ KATHUA/JAMMU

Asserting that India has taken a lead in the production of vaccines for the prevention of malignancies like Cervavac, Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Sunday said affordable and accessible healthcare is the road map for a "healthy India".

He said India has moved from a sectoral and segmented approach to health service delivery to a comprehensive need-based healthcare service and is now seen as a role model in crisis management and preventive healthcare.

The minister of state in the Prime Minister's office was speaking at the launch of Jammu and Kashmir's first ever state-of-the-art cancer care facility affiliated to Tata Memorial Centre (TMC), Mumbai in the new block of Government Medical College

"India has taken a lead in the production of vaccines for the prevention of malignancies like cervavac the country's first quadrivalent human papillomavirus vaccine to fight cervical cancer. The Biotechnology sector is growing by leaps and bounds

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which is evident from the fact that more than 260 new medical colleges have been established in the country with a 79 per cent increase in MBBS seats and 93 per cent in PG seats in nine years besides approving of 22 AIIMS."

"Affordable and accessible healthcare is the road map for Healthy India' under

With increasing lifespan, changing lifestyles and environmental factors, the prevalence of cancer is assuming epidemic proportions and cancers of all nature and all organs are happening everywhere. A Tata satellite cancer care facility in Kathua will therefore prove to be a great boon for the region.

as India is set to achieve USD 150 billion Bio-economy by 2025, which stood at over USD 100 billion in 2022," he

"Affordable and accessible healthcare is the road map for Healthy India' under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which is evident from the fact that more than 260 new medical colleges have been established in the country with a 79 per cent increase in MBBS seats and 93 per cent in PG seats in nine years besides approving of 22 AIIMS," he

Singh thanked Modi for bringing Preventive Health Care' into focus in the country for the first time which is the reason that in just a span of two years, India could produce two DNA vaccines and one nasal vaccine.

Referring to the launch of the cancer care facility in Kathua, the minister said he felt pained to receive calls every day from different parts of the region from desperate family members pleading to arrange admission of cancer patients at Tata Hospital Mumbai or arrange accommodation for the attendants.

Singh said he then decided to start the facility at Kathua and moved the papers to the Department of Atomic Energy which is the controlling authority of Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai.

"With increasing lifespan, changing lifestyles and environmental factors, the prevalence of cancer is assuming epidemic proportions and cancers of all nature and all organs are happening everywhere. A Tata satellite cancer care facility in Kathua will

therefore prove to be a great

boon for the region," he said.

Under the leadership of Modi, he said, satellite hospitals and the facility of Tata Memorial Centre have been started in different parts of the country and in Guwahati, even Ónco DM and MCh super speciality courses have been started, which could be contemplated for Kathua as

Protest at Jantar Mantra against Trudeau

Hindu Front accuses him of supporting Khalistanis

PNS NEW DELHI

A group of people on Sunday staged a protest against Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at the Jantar Mantar here, accusing him of supporting Khalistani separatists.

The protesters led by United Hindu Front chief Jai Bhagwan Goval also submitted to authorities a memorandum addressed to the prime ministers of Canada and India, the outfit said in a statement.

"Since several months, the Canadian prime minister has been openly supporting and protecting anti-India Khalistanis. Despite repeated objections from the Indian government, the Canadian prime minister has not responded," Goyal

"If the Canadian prime minister loves anti-India Khalistanis so much, why doesn't he give a part of Canada and create a new Khalistan nation? We will be the first to recognise it,"

Proposed criminal laws to provide justice rather than punishment

PNS NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said the three proposed criminal laws are people-centric, have the flavour of Indian soil and their main purpose is to protect the constitutional, human and personal rights of citizens.

Addressing International Lawvers Conference organised by the Bar Council of India here, Shah also said the approach of the three bills is also to provide justice rather than mete out punishment.

He appealed to all lawyers in the country to provide their suggestions to the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS-2023), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS-2023) and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA-2023) so that the country can have the best laws that benefit all.

The three bills, which were introduced in the Lok Sabha on August 11, will replace the Indian Penal Code, 1860, Criminal Procedure Act, 1898, and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 respectively.

"India's criminal justice system was imprinted with colo-

Centre luring voters with women's quota Bill



introduction of three laws and three systems, we will be able to remove the delays in our criminal justice system in ess than a decade.

India's criminal justice system was imprinted with colonial law. All three new bills do not have colonial imprint but have the flavour of Indian soil. The central point of these three proposed laws is to protect the constitutional and human rights of citizens as well as their personal rights.

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three initiatives have also been taken by the government to create a law-friendly new system. Along with new

These laws are coming after

completely new approach and new

system. Along with new initiatives,

almost 160 years with a

well as their personal rights," Shah said the initiative has been taken to comprehensively change the criminal laws keeping in mind the present-day demands.

These laws are coming after almost 160 years with a completely new approach and

initiatives, three initiatives have also been taken by the government to create a lawfriendly ecosystem," he said.

The first is e-courts, the second inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS)and the third is adding new technology to these three proposed laws, Shah said.

"With the introduction of three laws and three systems, we will be able to remove the delays in our criminal justice system in less than a decade, he said.

Govt has 'mismanaged'

economy across all

sectors: Congress

PNS NEW DELHI

Use of simple language required in legal profession: SC judge



Supreme Court judge Justice Sanjeev Khanna on Sunday stressed the need for using simple language in the legal profession to enable the citizens to take informed decisions and avoid unintentional violations.

Justice Khanna, speaking at the valedictory session of International Lawyers' Conference organised by apex Bar body Bar Council of India, said laws were meant to resolve disputes, not become disputed themselves.

He said the question of simplicity of law, i.e., use of language that is understood by common man, required greater attention.

"Is law required to be demystified? Should law be a puzzle that needs to be solved? Laws are meant to resolve disputes, not become he said.

disputed themselves. Law should not be mystery to the common man. Law is not the legal experts. They apply and govern almost every-thing in our daily lives and therefore use of simple language is required. This enables the citizens to take informed decisions and avoid unintentional violations. This equally applies to our decisions and judgements," he said. He said commercialisation of litigation and legal professions were of utmost

"Escalating cost of litigation exorbitant fees are formidable barrier to access to justice to ensure, and we must ensure that the justice remains accessible to all," Justice Khanna said. As prime stakeholders of the profession, he said, it was imperative for the lawyers and judges to introspect and address the issue of the declining interest in litigation as a career choice.

"We must all survive to revive and preserve certain tradition of the legal professions which means court litigation should be mater of first choice and not the last,"



Vande Bharat train a vision of new India: **Union minister Darshana Jardosh**

PNS SURAT

Vande Bharat train is the vision of new India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed to fulfilling the Railways' pledge to embrace new technology and new speed, Minister of State for Railways Darshana Jardosh said here on Sunday.

Earlier in the day, the prime minister flagged off nine Vande Bharat Express trains via video conferencing, connecting religious and tourist destinations across 11 states.

Jardosh, who was present at Surat railway station, said the launch of Vande Bharat (VB) trains for different destinations, including the one connecting Ahmedabad to Jamnagar, was "a proud moment for the country."

Quota benefit only possible in 2034, savs Kapil Sibal

Hitting out at the Modi government, former Union law minister Kapil Sibal on Sunday said the earliest the women's reservation can come into effect is 2034 Lok Sabha elections, alleging it was brought with an eye on the upcoming state and Lok Sabha polls.

The Rajya Sabha MP made the remarks in his new 'Dil Se' initiative under which he will sation with a journalist on important issues.

In the first episode he posted on social media, Sibal took questions on the women's reservation bill, the row over BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri's derogatory remarks against BSP MP Danish Ali, and his views on the new



Parliament building.

Asked about Bidhuri's remarks, Sibal said the BJP MP must be

"expelled" from parliament. I have not seen this in my 30-year-long career in parliament. Never seen such foul lan-

even surprised and shocked by the person presiding, who said I would look at the record and then delete it. I just don't understand this," Sibal said in an apparent reference to Congress' Suresh who was in the chair when the incident happened in the Lok Sabha last week.

The Congress on Sunday alleged that the government has mismanaged the economy across all sectors and since it is "too inept" in fixing issues such as unemployment and price rise, it is distorting the data instead.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said now that the special session of Parliament is over, it is clear that the Modi government was trying to "distract and divert" the nation from some critical issues "the Adani scam, the caste census and especially the rising unemployment, growing inequality and the economic distress"

In a statement, he said no matter how much the Modi government hides the data, the reality is that the vast majority of people are suffering. He claimed that some of the facts reported last week are being "brushed under the carpet".

India carrying out lot of construction activities at China border: BRO DG

PNS NEW DELHI

India has been carrying out a lot of construction activities at the China border in the last three years, BRO Director General Lt General Rajeev

Chaudhry said on Sunday.
The DG was here to inspect the ongoing construction work of an air dispatch unit of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), touted to be the world's largest 3D concrete printed

Chaudhry said the government of India is fully supporting the BRO for carrying out infrastructure development projects by way of increasing the budget and new technology. The government of India has "increased our budget by 100 per cent in the last two years", he added.

When asked if China is carrying out big infrastructure development near the border areas of India, the DG said that a lot of construction activities have been being carried out by the BRO and other agencies at the China border in the last three years.

The DG said that around 300 BRO projects worth Rs 8,000 crore were completed during the last few years. "In the last three years, we

set up 295 road projects, bridges, tunnels and airfields which were dedicated to the nation," Chaudhry said.

"In four months, our 60 more projects will be ready and the pace of our work has increased," he added.

Masked men loot jewellery shop in Delhi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Four masked men allegedly looted a jewellery shop in Delhi's Rohini area, police Delhi's Kommesaid on Sunday.

48-year-old
ident of

shopowner -- a resident of Pitampura -- said in his complaint at Vijay Nagar police station that he was calculating the day's collection on Friday when a man wearing a mask and a helmet entered the shop around

Climate change, landslide push Raigad villagers to despair

PNS IRSHALWADI (MAHARASHTRA)

The nightmare of a landslide that buried an entire village and the dread of watching a mammoth boulder on an unstable slope, fearing every day that it will roll down and kill them all.

That's how it is for thousands of people in Maharashtra's Raigad area, even two months after 84 people were killed when the hillside around Irshalwadi village literally crumbled on the July 19 night of incessant, heavy rain.

The trauma lives on for those in Irshalwadi who escaped and live in makeshift container homes just down the road and for those in other villages around. Climate change, say experts and long-time residents, has come to their doorstep with extreme weather events that have led to hillsides get-



ting increasingly fragile and maybe dangerous.

According to Prakash Gajbhiye, director, Geological Survey of India (GSI), Pune, rainfall has almost remained the same but the span has reduced and intensity of precipita-

tion increased. "When there are high (heavy) rains in a shorter span, saturation of soil and rocks leads to sudden landslides. This is exacerbated by manmade activities like deforestation, slope cutting for construction of roads, houses and agricultural fields and changing natural drainage that results in deformation of slope forming material and this triggers landslides," he explained.

As experts analyse broad trends, the villagers of the hill district of Raigad cope with their uncertain today and unknown tomorrow, wondering of and when when they will have to move.

On the face of it, Manisha Yashwant Dore's temporary home in a container close to the Irshadgad fort is better equipped -there are two fans, decent flooring, cooking gas and tap water.

Dore, who lost seven members of her family, including her 18-yearold daughter, survived the massive landslide on July 19. And realises that nothing can ever replace their lives in the hill village of Irshalwadi.

"Although it was an arduous climb of an hour from the approach road

to Irshalwadi, life was good when we lived up there. We did not need fans, we drew water from our well and we ate vegetables we grew and also the ones we got from the forest," she said. Dore's voice trailed off and her eyes welled up with tears. The memory of her daughter Kanchan crying for help comes back to haunt her. Her brother who had come as a guest that night, her mother-in-law, step mother-in-law, father-in-law, brother-in-law and sister-in-law also died. Recounting what had happened, the 35-year-old said there was first one landslide that buried some homes, including the house where her

daughter Kanchan was sleeping. "We rushed to help and started digging in a bid to rescue her. In minutes, there was another landslide and mounds of earth swallowed the entire hamlet," added her husband Yashwant.

Nationwide cleanliness drive to be conducted on October 1: MoHUA

PNS NEW DELHI

A nationwide cleanliness drive will be conducted on October 1 responding to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal for "one hour of shramdaan for swachhata", the Ministry of Housing and

Urban Affairs said on Sunday. In a statement, the ministry said that in the run up to Gandhi Jayanti, a unique call has been given by the prime minister to fellow citizens.

In the 105th episode of 'Mann Ki Baat', the prime minister appealed for "one hour of shramdaan for swachhata" at 10 am on October 1 by all citizens collectively, and it will be a 'swachhanjali' to Mahatma Gandhi on the eve of his jayanti, it said.

"This mega cleanliness drive calls upon citizens from all walks of life to join in actual cleaning activities of public places like market spaces, railway tracks, water bodies, tourist locations, religious places etc," the statement said.

"Every town, gram panchayat, all sectors of the government like civil aviation, railways, information and technology etc, public institutions will be facilitating cleanliness events led by citizens," it said.

It also said that NGOs, resident welfare associations and private organisations interested in organising cleanliness events can also apply online on the portals of urban local bodies or district administrawww.dailypioneer.com

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

-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Make believe?

India must put the lid on US' Canada envoy's allegation on Nijjar's killing

he killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a pro-Khalistan Canadian of Indian descent, by alleged Indian agents has taken the India-Canada relations to their lowest ebb. As the situation unravelled, Canada expelled a senior Indian diplomat and India reciprocated. The visa services to Canada in New Delhi have been suspended. Though Nijjar's killing is the trigger for the current spat, the relationship between India and Canada has remained strained for quite some time now. Canada has a sizeable Indian population from Punjab and many of them are vocal Khalistan supporters. India has repeatedly asked Canada to rein in such rogue elements but the demand has fallen on deaf ears. This is an unfortunate situation as both countries have historically enjoyed friendly ties. Now, yet another episode has exacerbated the situation. The allegations made by the US Ambassador to Canada regarding India's involvement in Nijjar's killing have indeed harmed India's image. While these allegations have not been substantiated, they



have cast a shadow over India's international standing and strained its relations with Canada. Allegedly, the said report prompted Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to make in the Canadian Parliament his controversial accusation of a "potential" connection between the Indian Government and Nijjar's murder on June 18. India has vehemently rejected Trudeau's claims, labelling them "absurd" and "motivated".

However, recent allegations by US' Canada Ambassador David Cohen, quoting the Five Eyes network, have put India in a precarious position. The Five Eyes intelligence network, comprising the US, the UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, has been

a cornerstone of global intelligence sharing. But David Cohen's comment marks the first acknowledgement by a US Administration official of intelligence sharing with Canada within the Five Eyes alliance. Secretary of State Antony Blinken has expressed deep concern over Prime Minister Trudeau's allegations against India and emphasised that the US is closely coordinating with Canada on the matter, aiming for accountability through a thorough investigation. It is indeed a serious situation for India. Our Government must counter it most vigorously as the onus now lies on India to prove its innocence. It must let the world know that though Nijjar --- officially designated as a terrorist by India in 2020 --- was a proclaimed offender who celebrated Beant Singh's assassination and openly advocated armed struggle against India, our nation does not support extrajudicial killing and had asked the Canadian Government on several occasions to check anti-India activities on its soil but with no luck. While Trudeau desperately tries to resurrect his falling ratings by playing in the hands of Khalistan supporters in Canada who wield certain influence and power there, he must realise that it would be counterproductive in the long run as history is replete with examples where extremists have bitten the very hand that fed them.



Tribal youth perform a cultural programme on the eve of Karma, a harvest festival, in Ranchi

China's Afghan plan against India, US



KS TOMAR

In case China succeeds in cultivating relations with the Taliban regime, it will be easier to exert its authority in these troubled areas

hina is at it again. Nothing can deter it from indulging in Anti India and Anti US grandiloquence besides projecting itself as a certain replacement of America as 'Super Power' hence making relentless efforts to enhance its relevance and area of influence in Asia as well as other countries in

Against this backdrop, undaunted by the image of the Taliban infamous for its medieval mindset, anti-women dictate, tendency to harbour terrorists etc. China is poised to adopt a new strategy and long-term plan to create trouble for India and the United States which is evident from its recent decision to open a new mission in Kabul with immediate effect.

China recently has announced the appointment of Zhao Zhaohui as full-time ambassador to Afghanistan which makes it the first country in the world to establish a direct relationship. Several nations including India had embassies in Kabul but the volatile situation changed after the Taliban took over this troubled country.

China is eyeing mineral wealth
Experts say that China has ignored world opinion to have any official diplomatic relations with the Taliban but posting of a full-time ambassador amounts to indirect recognition and such a step could not be taken even by neighbouring Pakistan which used to claim the 'Savior' of the Kabul regime. China has been adopting a Soft policy towards the Taliban which was aimed at alluring the new regime in its debt trap to exploit immense mineral wealth. China's company Gochin expressed its willingness on April 13, 2023, to invest 10 billion USD in Afghanistan's Lithium deposits which had been confirmed by the Taliban's Ministry of Mines and petroleum.

The Chinese assured the Taliban regime that it will create 10 lakhs indirect and 120,000 direct jobs in this country. Similarly, Xinjiang Central Asia Petroleum and Gas Co (CAPEIC) signed a \$540 million deal to extract oil from northern

Afghanistan's Amu Darva basin In January 2023 which is under the plan to go for a bigger kill of vast mineral wealth valuing about one trillion. As per calculations of a joint team from the Pentagon, US Geological Service and USAID, Afghanistan's mineral deposits are worth at least \$900bn. As per data, vast mineral wealth in Afghanistan is untapped so far which includes Gold, Copper, Iron, Graphite.

China targets the US

China is keen to send the message to the world that it can spread its influence in other nations like the United States which is under its ambition to become a superpower. It intends to expand its China-Pakistan-Economic-Corridor through Afghanistan which may create security concerns for several neighbors. China may soon start oil exploration.

Analysts opine that it will not be easy to succeed in Afghanistan which is known as the "graveyard of empires" and witnessed defeats of several nations including the United States. The Soviet Union was defeated in the 20th century though China's entry was based on its policy to exploit minerals hence it is trying to create an impression of subsequently benefiting the people of Afghanistan in the job sector besides earning huge revenues.



CHINESE MUSLIMS ARE FLEEING OWING TO PERSECUTION IN THEIR HOME **PROVINCE** XINJIANG TO SEEK SANCTUARY

IN AFGHANISTAN

China has abandoned Pakistan and is directly trapping the Taliban regime which has already fallen to its prey. Taliban's desperate effort to survive is also a contributory factor in developing close ties with China which has pounced upon this rare opportunity. China will target Afghanistan to expand its Belt and Road initiative which involves an investment of billions of USD and the Taliban may accept it as a possible methodology for generating employment and a path of development that may prove to be a Mirage.

Given a wishful thinking of Pakistan, efforts were made to sell to the world that it would dictate the Taliban regime hence it manipulated to keep India out of the Doha dialogue which prepared a roadmap of US troops withdrawal from Afghanistan. But turmoil and strained ties between Pakistan and the Taliban have changed the entire scenario. Pakistan has been at the forefront since 2021 when the Taliban assumed its 'iov-ride' to needle India proved to be 'short-lived' as the former has accused the latter of promoting and supporting Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan(TTP) which killed 179 people in Pakistan in 2022. Piqued over the grand

EDITO

Row with Canada

China may like to capture the Taliban who desperately need dome protector following their failure to get international recognition though two years have elapsed since they took over the reign of power in Kabul on August 15, 2021. Xi's absence at the G20 did not make much difference and India produced the Delhi declaration which was unanimity thereby enhancing its stature in the world diplomatic arena. Due to a huge investment of about Rs 22,350 crore in various projects, education and social sectors, India faces the unimaginable challenge of dealing with the Taliban if they walk into the trap laid by China. Second, India's northsouth corridor may be affected after the active involvement of China in Afghanistan. Taliban have appreciated India's investment in Afghanistan in the past but nothing is certain about future investment. Chinese Muslims are fleeing owing to persecution in their home province Xinjiang to seek sanctuary in the reign of power in Kabul but Afghanistan. In case, China succeeds in cultivating relations with the Taliban regime then it will make it easier for China to exert its authority in these troubled areas.

success of G20 in New Delhi,

(The writer is political analyst and senior journalist; views are personal)

New school education



New India faces new challenges, especially in the field of education and skill development, which must be addressed

n a rapidly evolving global landscape, the education sector is experiencing a profound transformation. This transformation is especially critical for a country like India, where education plays a pivotal role in shaping the future of its burgeoning population. Burlington English, in collaboration with ScooNews, recently released a groundbreaking report titled 'Unlocking Success: Turning Policy and Frameworks into Real-World Action.' The report presents a compelling roadmap for the implementation of the National Curriculum Framework in India. By drawing insights from educators across the nation and offering practical toolkits, it has the potential to transform the school education landscape in India, making it more inclusive, innovative, and future-ready.

This report sheds light on the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) implementation roadmap, drawing insights from the experiences and perspectives of over 1000 school teachers across six states in India. The key findings of this report discuss how it has the potential to revolu-



most compelling insights is its emphasis on embracing the 'Scope for Failure' as a crucial element of the learning journey. This perspective encourages a shift in the way educators and students perceive failure, turning it into an opportunity. This mindset shift is fundamental in preparing students for the challenges of the future. Besides, it acknowledges the importance of English and treats it as a skill that helps employability in India and abroad. The report suggests a two-language set up to take load off the students. One of the strengths of the report lies in the extensive research con-

ducted. The insights gathered

from over 1000 teachers,

understanding of the challenges and opportunities system. This diverse sample recommendations are grounded in the realities faced rooms into dynamic learning by educators at all levels. The report addresses several key themes that are crucial to shaping the future of education in India:

The concept of 'Future Schools' explores the need for educational institutions to adapt to the rapidly changing technological landscape. It emphasises the importance of incorporating innovative teaching methods and cutting-edge technologies to prepare students for a world that is vastly different from what it was a decade ago.

Recognising that teachers are the backbone of any educational system, the report delves into the importance of providing teachers with the necessary resources, training, and professional developopportunities. Empowering teachers is key to improving the quality of education. To translate these key themes into actionable spanning the K-12 domain, steps, the report provides

provide a comprehensive eight essential action points and three project toolkits designed for classroom implewithin the Indian education mentation. These practical tools equip educators with the size ensures that the report's resources and strategies needrooms into dynamic learning environments. This hands-on approach bridges the gap between policy and practice, ensuring that the NCF is implemented effectively.

The report is particularly well-suited for the educational landscape of 'New India,' which is characterized by its aspiration for innovation, inclusivity, and excellence. The report aligns with NCF as the report directly addresses the NCF, aligning its recommendations with the national education policy framework. This ensures that its insights can be seamlessly integrated into the existing educational structure. The emphasis on adaptive assessments and teacher empowerment promotes inclusivity in education, catering to the diverse needs of students in a

(The writer is CEO of Burlington Group, India & Asia-Pacific; views are personal)

country as diverse as India.

ARE SENIOR CITIZENS A BURDEN?

Sir — Senior citizens possess the potential to influence government policies and should, therefore, be respected for their wealth of life experience. To support seniors, numerous schemes should be implemented. While the government allocates substantial funds for welfare programs, senior citizens face dwindling incomes due to declining bank interest rates. Some may receive meager pensions, which are still subject to income tax. Hence, senior citizens deserve certain privileges, including concessions in train and air travel, as well as essential medical assistance. It's disheartening that Indian senior citizens are ineligible for medical insurance after the age of 75, denied loans on EMI terms, and even refused driving licenses. They have faithfully paid taxes and insurance premiums throughout their working years, and it is unjust that they have now become a burden on society.

Jayanthy CK Maniam | Chennai

UNPARLIAMENTARY BEHAVIOR

Sir —In response to the obscene communal statements made by BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri, a prominent political figure issued a statement, expressing remorse "if" the Opposition felt hurt by the member's remarks. The use of the word "if" distinctly implies that the BJP/NDA feels no regret for Bidhuri's offensive comments, suggesting they find nothing objectionable about them. This stance is framed as an act of magnanimity and liberalism on the part of the party and government, conditional upon the Opposition's feelings. It reflects the divisive philosophy of "Hindi Hindu Hindustan" that has firmly rooted itself in national politics.

This attitude indicates that, within Parliament, the ruling party MP's offensive words should concern only the Opposition, along with the targeted religious community outside Parliament. It appears that there is no expectation of shame or concern from the MPs of the rul-



ed tensions by levying unjustified accusations against the Indian government. Canada, known for being a hub of Khalistani activities, not only supports these organizations for political gain but also justifies their reprehensible actions as a form of freedom of expression. In light of these developments, it is advisable for India to reconsider its political and commercial ties with Canada, Just two months ago, Khalistani supporters demonstrated their autocratic tendencies by displaying the assassination of former PM Indira Gandhi in Canada, an act that was shockingly labeled as an expression of freedom. Consequently, India should adopt a firm stance in its dealings with Canada.

Jahangir Shaikh | Mumbai

in response to the worst possible comments made within the legislative body. The onus of protest is unfairly placed solely on the Opposition and Muslims. This demonstrates a moral failing on the part of the heavyweight politician and his party/government.

Kajal Chatterje | Kolkata

OBC'S STRUGGLE FOR FAIR DEAL

Sir — As we analyse the available data, it becomes evident that there is a significant underrepresentation of individuals from Other Backward Classes (OBC) in the leadership positions of our country's central universities. To illustrate, out of all the Vice-Chancellors in these universities, merely five belong to the OBC category. Similarly, when we examine the position of registrars, only three are from backward communities.

Shockingly, a mere 4.5 percent of the reserved professorial positions in central universities have been occupied by individuals from OBCs. This trend is not unique to professors but extends to associate and assistant professors as well.

Furthermore, the situation is exacering party, the NDA government, the BJP, or even Hindus and Indians as a whole, concept, which has led to the unjust depri-

vation of caste certificates for OBC individuals. This arbitrary restriction of rights with a nominal income limit of Rs 6 or 8 lakhs severely hampers the prospects of future generations. Curiously, no such creamy layer or similar restrictions apply to other reserved categories, allowing the children of senior officers from these categories to enjoy reservation benefits for

It is imperative to emphasise that we cannot progress as a nation by leaving behind a significant portion of our society. To illustrate the magnitude of the issue, if we tally the vacant teaching positions in central government institutions, we find that a staggering forty to sixty percent of OBC posts remain unfilled.

The loss of 16,000 medical seats allocated for OBCs is nothing short of a grave injustice. The responsibility for finding a solution to this issue lies squarely with the government. We must not neglect the wellbeing and empowerment of a substantial part of our population, especially when the

facts clearly indicate disparities.

Satyavan Saurabh | Bhiwani

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com the pioneer



FIRST COLUMN

ZEN BUDDHISM: LAW OF ATTRACTION

A robust mind can develop the qualities to manifest the 'Law of Attraction'



RAVI VALLURI

eons ago a strapping youngster gained admission into an estimable Temple of Knowledge. He was fortunate to be imparted precious pearls of wisdom of Zen Buddhism by sagacious and knowledgeable masters. Over some time, he attained a reasonable degree of compassion and insight into the human mind. During his tutelage what struck him most was the simplicity, humility and truthfulness of his teachers who practiced Zen Buddhism.

What is Zen Buddhism?

As per Norman Fischer Zen Buddhism is:

"A special transmission outside the scriptures. No dependency on words and letters.

Pointing directly to the human mind.

Seeing into one's nature and attaining Buddhahood."

The cornerstone of the practice is that over some time, through unflinching practice of the appropriate techniques, a postulant becomes aware and awakened. The mind of such a person becomes pristine and gains clarity in the thought process. However, it is well-nigh impossible to effectuate such a state without the grace of a Guru, who can be thought of as the doorway to the ambrosia of divinity. The young monk was directed by the Masters of the monastery to spread the knowledge of Zen Buddhism. Significantly, the now more spiritually aware monk uttered only the truth and never denounced anyone.

Powers of the Human Mind

Exhausted and weary after relentless travel, one day he sat under a majestic blossoming tree. The monk was feeling ravenous and wished that his hunger would be satiated. Quite unexpectedly a maiden walking that way offered him a bowl filled with food, and no sooner did the monk express his desire. He was taken aback at the turn of events and expressed his gratitude to the damsel.



After the hearty meal, the monk felt extremely thirsty. He pined for a glass of water and sure enough, a stripling youngster offered him juices to quench his thirst. The monk was extremely beholden and appreciative of this serendipitous act of kindness. The mind of the monk was now suffused with Joy as his twin desires of food and liquid were satiated with remarkable ease. He now wished to sleep. Suddenly it darkened and there was a cloud cover across the sky. The weather which was arid and hot turned salubrious. After sleeping for hours together he felt reinvigorated. The monk, when hungry was satiated with food, when thirsty was provided with drinks and was comforted by angels when he felt worn out. The Law of Attraction

His thoughts and words were resonating in the universe and the mind became a unique springboard wherein whatever he wished for, eventuated. Once trained, the mind develops a few qualities. It becomes luminous and radiant, light as a feather and not weighed down by the baggage of negative thoughts. The monk was hungry, thirsty and deprived of rest. He meant it; there was no dubiety or incertitude in his mind. The mind was not wavering and his desires did not oscillate between "hope to be fed" or "if provided will partake of food." A robust and radiant mind that can authentically develop the qualities of the Law of Attraction knows the art of letting go, dropping all affectation. The unique mantra of this success is when an individual genuinely believes in the production of dreams and corrals thoughts to be efficacious ones. Pre-eminently for an individual blessed with these attributes, the Law of Attraction operates and resounds quite amazingly. "All that we are is a result of what we have thought," said Gautama Buddha the Enlightened One.

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd and a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)

Simultaneous polls are the way forward -

Frequent elections impose enormous social and economic costs on the nation, which leads to corruption and disruption

he Union Government has set up a committee under the chairmanship of the former President of India, Ramnath Govind to examine holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha (LS), state assemblies, panchayats and other local bodies. Even as the committee has kicked off the deliberations (its first meeting is scheduled for September 23, 2023) the idea is being staunchly opposed by many political parties. The opposition isn't new as in 2019 when Prime Minister Narendra Modi convened a meeting on June 19 that year to discuss 'One Nation, One Election' (ONOE), it was boycotted by about 50 per cent of the parties who were invit-

What are the grounds for opposition?

A major ground for their opposition is that this will be an onslaught on the federal polity. hence, unconstitutional. The parties argue that in a scenario of simultaneous poll to both the LS and all the state assemblies, the national issues will dominate over the state-specific subjects. This may yield fortuitous benefits to the dominant national party as the voter won't be able to clearly articulate his/her choice while casting a vote for electing members of the assembly.

The national party getting a clear majority in the LS who does not enjoy the confidence of the state subjects on local issues will thus get to rule the states as well. Most opposition parties fear that BJP which enjoys a clear edge at the national level will be able to install its governments across the country. This will violate the federal character of the constitution which envisages running the affairs of the state in sync with local needs and aspirations.

The above line of argument is completely flawed. It presumes that while voting at the same time for the Parliament and the Assembly, the choice of the voter will get obliterated to favour the dominant national party (read: BJP). How could a mere act of asking her to press the button for choosing candidates for two entirely different elections - one for the LS and the other for the state Assembly - around the same time lead to obliteration? It grossly underestimates the ability of the voter to make 'educated' and 'informed' choices on national and local issues. That this isn't the case; that the voter is intelligent enough to make the right choice is amply corroborated by the results of LS polls in 2019 when elections to some State Assemblies, viz Andhra Pradesh and Odisha, were held co-terminus.

Despite an overriding national narrative favouring Prime Minister Modi, voters in these States showed clear preference for regional parties, namely the YSR Congress and the Biju Janata Dal, who got an absolute majority in the assembly. Just because the voters exercised franchise at the same time for both the LS and the State did not deter them from giving overriding importance to local issues. The fallacy of the opposition's argument may be seen from another angle.

In the above example, apart from securing a clear majority in the state Assembly, the YSR Congress and the Biju Janata Dal also cornered a major chunk of seats from the state in the LS. Now, if one were to believe opposition that vot-





THE MOST **DEVASTATING** IMPACT HAS TO DO WITH **ALMOST EVERY POLITICAL** PARTY **PROMISING** MORE AND MORE SOPS TO WIN ELECTIONS

ers' choice gets distorted (courtesy, the same timing) then are we to say 'local issues are dominating over the national issues'?
The crux of the matter is: that

the voter is intelligent enough to make a distinction. While voting for a candidate in the LS election, she is guided by national issues whereas, in the Assembly election local issues dominate her mind. She won't mix up things just because she has to press the relevant buttons around the same time. There is nothing unconstitutional in holding simultaneous elections.

The founding fathers of the Indian constitution had contemplated simultaneous elections only. Indeed, things were on the right track till the mid-60s, when the then ruling dispensation disturbed the apple-cart by the 'premature' dissolution of some state assemblies (1968/1969) and LS (1970). Over time, the mismatch got aggravated with the dissolution of many more assemblies. If, during the initial phase (from 1952 to 1967) when elections to both the LS and state assemblies were held concurrently, everything was hunky dory, how come now, restoration of that very dispensation be construed as an assault on federalism.

The existing system wherein a State Assembly goes to polls almost every other year imposes unprecedented social and economic costs on the nation. It is not just the official expense of conducting elections (in a big state like Maharashtra, it can go up to Rs 1,000 crores) but also

several thousand crores being spent by political parties. In turn, this gives a boost to corruption and other unethical practices even as parties seek to raise funds to support the mammoth

expenditure. Then, there is a continuous distraction from issues of governance even as the imposition of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) - each time an election exercise is taken up - leads to the stoppage of all major policy decisions that impede development work. The delay in project impleescalation (a case in point, the delay in completion of the dedicated freight corridor' project) imposes an unsustainable fiscal

A third indeed the most devastating impact has to do with almost every political party promising more and more sops to win elections. After the five guarantees promised by the grand old party in Karnataka did the trick, it is giving guarantees in almost all state elections due this year. Others such as AAP are following suit. Such sops have the potential of denuding the state exchequer.

Finally, given the political parties in election mode year after year, no incumbent Government at the Centre has the gumption to implement hard reforms, particularly considering that the party at the helm has stakes in the states as well. A case in point is fertilizer subsidy which the then finance minister Arun Jaitley promised to prune drastically; yet

fertiliser subsidy not only continues but has increased by leaps and bounds (during 2022-23, it was Rs 255,000 crore). To end these maladies, the subsisting system has to go and the ONOE restored in sync with the intent of the authors of the Indian Constitution. This will enable both the Centre and States to focus on governance for a full five years without any distraction. This will help save thousands of crores in election expenses, ensure continuity of policy decisions enabling unhindered promentation and resulting cost ject execution and development work, drastically curtail election-oriented populist sops and give a boost to the implementation of hard reforms. Opposition parties have pointed towards uncertainties that could arise if the ruling party loses the vote of confidence before its mandated term. But they need to recognise that this can at best be a rare situation and not a matter of routine (the public gives a mandate to a government to run its fullterm and all stakeholders should ensure that this is honoured). Still, such a scenario (albeit rare) can be addressed by either electing a new leader (who enjoys the confidence of the House) or holding a fresh election for the "residual" term.

Apart from required constitutional amendments, the switchover to ONOE will entail some increase in expenses on procuring extra EVM and VVPAT. But that is a very small price for achieving monumental socio-economic gains.

Tap water for parched villages: An incredible turnaround

(The writer is a policy

Clean drinking water through taps has brought about a radical change in the lives of the residents of Bundelkhand, but challenges remain

Bundelkhand has been traditionally a drought-prone area with frequent droughts; the people had to work hard, and travel several kilometres in some cases to get clean drinking water. The Bundelkhand region of India grapples with several issues, including heavy reliance on rainfall, inadequate irrigation, and susceptibility to climate change and droughts. This area, encompassing thirteen economically disadvantaged and less-developed districts, heavily depends on agriculture for both employment and economic progress. While agriculture is pivotal for the region's economic advancement, it frequently faces disruptions due to recurring droughts. In this situation, clean drinking water is nothing short of a luxury.



(The writer is a social

activist, based in Uttar

Pradesh; views are personal)

Access to clean drinking water is a fundamental right that has long eluded many rural households in India. Recognising this dire need, the 'Jal Jeevan Mission' scheme was launched with a singular goal: to provide clean drinking water to every rural family through taps. In Uttar Pradesh, the 'Har Ghar Jal Yojana', a part of the 'Jal Jeevan Mission', has witnessed remarkable success in the Bundelkhand region, fundamentally changing the lives of its residents. The Jal Jeevan Mission has transformed the Bundelkhand and Vindhya regions, which have suffered from water scarcity for decades. It has turned the dream of having pure drinking water in every household into a reality. The mission has saved these regions from major

drinking water crises, providing clean water to thousands of

The mission has involved laying pipelines, constructing water tanks, establishing water treatment plants, increasing water sources, and providing tap water connections at an impressive pace. This initiative has prioritized drought-affected areas, villages with water quality issues, aspirational districts, and those affected by diseases like Japanese Encephalitis and Encephalitis Syndrome.

The Jal Jeevan Mission aimed to provide 'domestic tap connections' to 2,62,29,815 families by 2024 in Uttar Pradesh. Under the 'Har Ghar Jal Yojana, a daily supply of 55 litres of water per villager was promised. As of September 14,

2023, this mission has already made significant strides, with tap water facilities reaching 1,60,20,616 families and benapproximately

9,61,23,696 people. The Jal Jeevan Mission is not just about providing clean drinking water but also about creating employment opportunities. Training programs have been initiated, with 13 youths being trained under each Gram Panchayat. These efforts have empowered rural youth by providing training in various trades, including plumbing, electrical work, motor mechanics, fitting, masonry, and pump operation. "We wish to ensure people's participation so that they become aware and stakeholders. After ten years it is the people who would be managing and oper-

ating these facilities" says Anurag Srivastava, the principal secretary of Uttar Pradesh.

In addition to employment opportunities, the mission focuses on making rural women self-reliant by training five women from each village in water testing for clean drinking water. These women use field test kits to check the water quality in their villages, assessing 11 different parameters in sources such as taps, wells, hand pumps, and tube wells. So far, more than 4,87,955 women have been trained in water testing, ensuring the quality of water supplied. The provision of clean drinking water has had a profound impact on public health. It has reduced the prevalence of waterborne diseases such as diarrhoea, cholera, typhoid,

and malaria. "There has been a marked fall in diseases in our village after the water plant started operating six months back," says Hasmukh Parihar,

Gram Pradhan. The Bundelkhand region has seen remarkable progress under the Har Ghar Jal Yojana. As of now, 1,280,292 functional household tap connections (FHTCs) have been provided out of a total of 1,419,730 FHTCs in the region. This means that 7,681,752 villagers in Bundelkhand have access to clean drinking water through

The Bundelkhand Piped Drinking Water Project is a significant part of the Jal Jeevan Mission. Work on this project is underway in seven cities:

and Mahoba. There are a total of 71 schemes operating under 35 projects in the Bundelkhand region. These projects include intake wells, water treatment plants, clear water reservoirs, and overhead tanks, all aimed at ensuring a steady supply of clean drinking water. Indeed, Har Ghar Jal Yojana is changing lives but there is a long way to go till total coverage is secured. Besides, issues of the quality of water and its perennial supply must be ensured. While the project is providing the drinking water it has yet to seep into the psyche of the people as a lot of it is still wasted and often people do not use it at all for different reasons. Thus creating awareness must be an Jhansi, Lalitpur, Jalaun, integral part of the Hamirpur, Banda, Chitrakoot, be given priority. integral part of the project and

Luxury carmakers expect bumper sales in festive period

uxury carmakers Mercedes-Benz, Lexus and Audi expect sales momentum to continue in the ongoing festive season with demand remaining robust for high-end cars. With
_offtake remaining strong, the festive season push could even see the luxury car segment posting its highest ever volumes in a year in 2023. In an interaction with PTI, Mercedes-Benz India Managing Director and CEO Santosh lyer noted that the festive

season looks very promising as compared with last year. "This year the festive season is spread across four months and we are optimistic as we started on a very positive note, from Onam onwards," he stated. With a strong demand primarily driven by recent launches and buoyant customer sentiment, Mercedes-Benz expects the growth momentum to continue, Iyer said. Lexus India President Naveen Soni said the luxury car market continues to grow in the country. "This year, the demand for high-end cars has brought cheer to the industry



Deadline to add nominees for mutual fund investors to end soon

Il individual demat account holders and mutual fund investors have time til A September 30, to nominate a beneficiary or opt out of it by submitting a declaration form, failing which their demat accounts and folios will be frozen, and they will not be able to redeem their investments. This mandate applies to both new as well as existing investors, according to the Securities and Exchange Board of

India (Sebi). The move is aimed at helping investors to secure their assets and pass them on to their legal heirs. "This will ensure smooth and hassle-free transfer of securities to the legal heirs of the investors in case of any unfortunate event," Tejas Khoday, co-founder and CEO at FYERS, said. Under Sebi's rule, new investors must either nominate their securities or formally opt out of nomination through a declaration form when opening trading and



Edtech startup selected for Finland's 'Talent Boost' project

ABoost' project, which aims to attract skilled talent and investors across diverse sectors. Interval, an innovative edtech startup, says it is the sole Indian startup to receive this invitation. The startup, based out of Areekode in Kerala's Malappuram District, caters to more than 25,000 students across 30 countries. It delivers a one-to-one live

tutoring model in which educators directly deliver classes to students, ensuring personalised attention for each learner, the company said. The 'Talent Boost' project was initiated by the Ministry of Economic Affairs of Finland. The selection took place at the global tech gathering 'Experience Tampere', which was held from September 12 to 16 in Finland's city of Tampere, which is known for the "finest startup" ecosystem in all of Europe", the company said in a release. Interval's founder Ramees Ali said the support received by the company is exceptional



RBI likely to keep interest rate unchanged amid high inflation

PNS NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank is likely to maintain status quo on policy rates for the fourth time in a row at its bi-monthly monetary policy review meeting early next month, as retail inflation continues to remain high and the US Federal Reserve has decided to keep a hawkish stance for some more time, according to experts.

The Reserve Bank had raised the benchmark repo rate to 6.5 per cent on February 8, 2023 and since then it has retained the rates at the same level in view of the stubbornly high retail inflation and certain global factors including elevated crude oil prices in the international mar-

The Reserve Bank Governorheaded six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting is scheduled for October 4-6, 2023. The last meeting of the MPC, the highest rating-setting panel, was in August.

"We do expect the RBI to hold on to a status quo position this time as inflation is still high and liquidity tight. In fact, going by RBI forecast on inflation, it

would be above 5 per cent in Q3 too, which will ensure that the status quo prevails for the calendar year for sure and probably Q4 too," said Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist, Bank of Baroda.

Sabnavis further said there are uncertainties relating to Kharif crop, especially on pulses, which can increase prices.

"The comfort is that there is less concern on growth which is on target," he added.

Although the Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based retail inflation eased a bit to 6.83 per cent in August from 7.44 per cent in the

and low reservoir levels on Kharif yields and Rabi sowing, respectively," she said.
Nayar said ICRA expects the

MPC to remain on hold in October 2023 policy, while continuing to demonstrate caution amid a cloudy outlook for food inflation and elevated crude oil prices.

Q3 FY2024 and further to 5.1

per cent in Q4 FY2024, amid

upside risks to food inflation

on account of the impact of

uneven and sub-par monsoons

The Reserve Bank has projected CPI inflation at 5.4 per cent for 2023-24, with Q2 at 6.2 per cent, Q3 at 5.7 per cent and Q4 at 5.2 per cent, with risks evenly balanced. CPI inflation for Q1, 2024-25 is projected at 5.2 per cent.

On his expectations from the next bi-monthly monetary policy, Sanjay Bhutani, Director, Medical Technology Association of India (MTaI) said the RBI has gone along with the market sentiment of retaining the benchmark interest rate at 6.5 per cent for quite

Real estate fractional ownership mkt touches Rs 4K cr

PNS NEW DELHI

Fractional ownership of real estate is gradually gaining acceptance among investors as assets under management have touched Rs 4,000 crore, according to a report.

TruBoard Partners, a tech-enabled real asset management company, has come out with a report on

fractional ownership. Many private companies have set up fractional ownership platforms that allow investors to own a fraction of real estate assets.

Fractional ownership typically involves the ownership of an underlying real estate asset among multiple investors.

This lowers capital requirements and facilitates participation of a larger set of players in real estate asset ownership," the report said.

Investors infuse their fund in securities issued by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), established by the fractional ownership

G20 DECLARATION

Govt must give big push to MSMEs: Experts

PNS NEW DELHI

The declaration of G20 nations under India's presidency should spur the government to give a big push to the MSME sector by simplifying the regulatory process and enhancing their access to affordable capital, say experts.

The commitments made in the G20's New Delhi declaration with regard to the MSMEs ought to be followed by the member nations as the sector has the potential to generate employment and promote sustained growth.

The New Delhi Declaration adopted early this month said the G20 recognise that startups and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are natural engines of growth. They are key to socio-economic transformation by driving innovation and creating employ-

"We welcome the establishment of the Start-up 20 Engagement Group during India's G20 Presidency and its

continuation," it said. Chairman of CII Delhi State

Council and MD and CEO of Samtel Avionics Limited Puneet Kaura said the MSME is considered important the world over and the G20 declaration has once again underlined the need for extending financial and non-financial support by the governments to this sector.

'It was heartening for the MSME to have received the due recognition by the G20 under India's presidency. These promises, however, should not remain on paper but must result in action on the ground as the sector has immense potential to generate quality employment across the country

and contribute to the country's exports which have been suffering on account of global problems," he said.

Bhagyashree Bhansali, CEO of The Disposal Company (TDC), said that to further promote startups/MSMEs, the government should simplify regulatory processes, enhance access to affordable capital, foster industry-academia collaborations for innovation, and provide targeted skill development programmes. Creating robust incubation and mentorship ecosystems will also nurture entrepreneurship and innovation in India.

Markets to focus on global trends, trading activity

favourable base.

preceding month in July, it

remained above the Reserve

Bank's comfort level of 6 per cent.

It may be mentioned that the

government has mandated the

RBI to keep inflation at 4 per cent

with 2 per cent margin on either

Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist,

ICRA Limited said the headline

CPI inflation is expected to ease

to 5.3-5.5 per cent in September

2023 from 6.8 per cent in

August 2023, benefitting from

the halving of the average price

of tomatoes as well as a

... We expect the CPI infla-

PNS NEW DELHI

Global trends, trading activindex and treasury yields ity of foreign investors and movement of oil benchmark Brent crude would dictate terms in the domestic markets this week, analysts said. Equity markets which fell

nearly 3 per cent last week, may face volatile trends amid the monthly derivatives expiry on Thursday.

This week marks the September month Futures and Options (F&O) expiry, which is expected to bring about volatility in the market," said Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika

Concerns like rising crude oil prices, firm US dollar coupled with continuous FII selling have been denting the sentiment in the markets, Amol Athawale, Vice President - Technical Research, Kotak Securities Ltd, said.

"Global and domestic macroeconomic data, trend in global stock markets, crude oil prices, movement of rupee against the dollar, investment by FIIs (Foreign Institutional Investors) and DIIs (Domestic Institutional Investors) will be in focus.

"Market will take further cues from some key events



such as the US GDP data, UK GDP and Eurozone inflation," Arvinder Singh Nanda, Senior Vice President, Master Capital Services Ltd, said.

In the past week, the BSE benchmark fell 1,829.48

points or 2.69 per cent, and

the Nifty declined 518.1 points or 2.56 per cent. Equity benchmark indices

fourth straight session on "Last week has seen significant profit-booking in the

stayed on the back foot for the

market, primarily driven by a steep decline in HDFC Bank, weak global cues, and substantial selling by foreign institutional investors. The global markets are facing challenges, particularly after the ultra-hawkish FOMC Open Market Committee) policy," Meena

After reaching record high levels, equity benchmark indices fell last week amid a weak trend in global markets.

'While the FOMC kept key interest rates unchanged in their recent meeting, the markets reacted negatively to the US Fed's hawkish stance on interest rates.

As many as 412 infra projects show cost overruns of Rs 4.77 L cr



PNS NEW DELHI

As many as 412 infrastructure projects, each entailing an investment of Rs 150 crore or more, have been hit by cost overruns of more than Rs 4.77 lakh crore in August this year,

an official report said. According to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, which monitors infrastructure projects worth Rs 150 crore and above, out of 1,762 projects, 412 reported cost overruns and as many as 830 projects were delayed. "The total original cost of implementation of the 1,762 projects was Rs 25,01,400.62 crore and their anticipated completion cost is likely to be Rs 29,78,681.31 crore, which reflects overall cost overruns of

Rs 4,77,280.69 crore (19.08 per

cent of original cost)," the min-

istry's latest report for August 2023 said.

According to the report, the expenditure incurred on these projects till August 2023, is Rs 15,57,188.10 crore, which is 52.28 per cent of the anticipated cost of the projects. However, it stated that the

number of delayed projects decreased to 624, if delay is calculated on the basis of the latest schedule of completion. Further, it stated that for 339 projects, neither the year of commissioning nor the tentative gestation period has been reported.

Out of the 830 delayed projects, 194 have overall delays in the range of 1-12 months, 190 have been delayed for 13-24 months, 323 projects for 25-60 months and 123 projects have been delayed for more than

Apple to scale up production over 5 times in India

PNS NEW DELHI

iPhone maker Apple has tion in India by over five-fold to around USD 40 billion (about 3.32 lakh crore) in the next 4-5 years, according to government sources.

According to the official, who did not wish to be named, the company has crossed the USD 7 billion production mark in the last financial year.

"Apple has plans to increase production in India to over USD 40 billion in the next 4-5 years. It has crossed USD 7 billion in the last fiscal," the official said.An email query

sent to Apple did not elic-it any reply.

Apple manufacturers iPhones in India and has plans to start manufacturing Airpods from next

The officer said that Apple has no immediate plans to make iPads or its laptops in India.

"They don't have any plans to participate in IT hardware PLI. They may come at a later stage but as of now their focus is to scale up existing production levels," the officer said.

ONGC signs up HPCL for sale of oil from Mumbai offshore fields

State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has signed an agreement to sell crude oil it produces from Mumbai offshore fields to HPCL - the second such agreement in as many months, as India's top oil and gas producer prefers term contracts over auctions where refiners hammer deep discounts.

In a post on X, formerly known as Twitter, ONGC said it has inked "term agreement with HPCL for sale of crude oil from Mumbai offshore."

While it did not give details, sources aware of the matter said the pact for sale of about 4.5 million tonnes per annum of crude oil to Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd's (HPCL) Mumbai refinery.

"This is the second term

Mumbai Offshore crude oil post marketing freedom," ONGC said.

Last month, ONGC had signed a similar pact to sell 4 million tonnes per annum plus an optional 0.5 million tonnes of crude oil to Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), which too has a refinery to convert the crude oil into fuels like petrol and diesel at Mumbai.

ONGC produces 13-14 million tonnes per annum of crude oil from its fields in the Arabian Sea, off the Mumbai

In June last year, the government abolished a rule that said oil from blocks awarded prior to 1999 must be sold to government-nominated customers, mostly state refiners.



FPIs' outflow in equities crosses Rs 10,000 cr mark

PNS NEW DELHI

Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have pulled out over Rs 10,000 crore from Indian equities in the first three weeks of September, primarily due to rising US interest rates, recessionary fears, and overvalued domestic stocks.

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. Mayank Mehra, smallcase, manager and principal partner at Craving Alpha, believes that strong economic growth prospects, attractive valuareforms could support foreign investment flows in the next month. "Since valuations remain

high even after the recent pullback and US bond yields are attractive (the US 10year bond yield is around 4.49 per cent) FPIs are likely to per cent) FF18 are, press sales so long as this trend persists," Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said.

Percentage of Indians appearing for TOEFL

The percentage of Indians appearing in TOEFL to pursue secondary education and certifications abroad has seen a gradual increase over the years while those taking the test for immigration purpose has declined, according to Educational Testing Service

The Princeton-based ETS, which conducts the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TŎEFL) and Graduate Record Examination (GRE), said the trend reflects the shifting aspirations of the younger demo-

According to data exclusive-



ly accessed by PTI, the percent- appearing in TOEFL for age of Indian test takers for licensure, certification or to attend secondary school abroad, has gone up from 5.83 per cent of the total aspirants in 2021 to 7.77 per cent in 2022. During the same period, the percentage of Indian test takers

employment or immigration has declined from 8.19 per cent to 7.22 per cent.

Top officials at ETS have confirmed that the trend is being observed since 2018.

The data showed that the percentage of Indians appearprogramme/a graduate or postgraduate programme, other than a business programme, has increased from 70.84 per cent in 2021 to 71.87 per cent in "From our data, we observed a growing trend of secondary

uate or postgraduate business

education students opting for the TOEFL test. This trend is testimony to the shifting aspirations of the younger demographic, especially in their pursuit of international education," Sachin Jain, the Country Manager of ETS India and South Asia, told PTI.

There was a 53 per cent growth in Indian TOEFL test previous year. In 2022, the number of test takers saw a 59 per cent rise over 2021.

There are so many industry reports that talk about the

heading abroad hitting 2.5 million in the next three to five years. So that, I think, is a very strong macro push that is happening," Jain said.



TENDER NOTICE

Online tenders are invited through e-tender platform https://lender.telangana.gov.in/ for taking TSMARKFED godowns at different locations of the state on as is where is basis. Online Bid Submission Start date: 25.09.2023 from 03:00 PM, > Online Bid Submission and date: up to 03.10.2023 upto 03:00 PM, > Opening of Technical Bid on date: 04.10.2023 at

01:00 PM, > Opening of Financial Bid on data: 04:10:10.2023 at 03:00 PM For further details please contact Ph: 7288879808 Note: Managing Director, TSMARKFED reserve the right to amend (or) cancel the tender

without assigning any reasons DIPR R.O. No.: 716-PP/CL-AGENCY/XDVT/1/2023-24



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Monday September 25, 2023



I HAD NO FEAR OF **GETTING EARMARKED**

MAKING A HUGE STATEMENT FOR GETS CANDID *Pioneer* about JAAN, PREPARING CHARACTER, AND

SHIKHA DUGGAL

After eating into colossal television viewership—Kritika Kamra has moved away from those classic long and hard. She's here exercising her control over some remarkable OTT projects starring opposite A-listers! Now offering so much more of her creativity, in an exclusive interview with us, Bambai Meri Jaan fame shared, "I am not a Bombay girl. In the initial years, the film industry was just my day-to-day routine. So my introduction to this world has been through movies and books. But there was enough reportage about the underbelly of the Mumbai mafia. So our characters are based on reportage only. Even though I had a very romantic image of Bombay, now I know a lot more. Our dialogue writers are from the south of Bombay, so they knew all the insights! Questioning the idea of crime and punishment, the actress further developed into how happy she was to be a part of a fresh story like this. "I wretchedly wanted to play the role of a gangster. You know why? We hardly have women gangsters as criminal bosses. There is only drama shown, not a savage gangster who is a woman. Enough of love interests! Or else the show is driven on the basis of a moral compass, but here I was-a fully involved hoodlum part of the main

gang. There's not much reference for it, by the way."

A big-budget tentpole show and its smart packaging made us wonder more about what Kritika had to offer. She replied, "All said and done, I didn't take the pressure at all. As an actress, we can't do things in isolation; we are as good as the script at the end of the day. I was so fortunate to be working with Excel Entertainment because they produce quality content. The director has spent almost five years of his life on this show. The script was almost like reading a book to me! We were already bogged down by how critics would receive it, so I didn't want to do anything differently Taking us through the process, the Kitni Hai Mohabbat fame spoke, "I was given the backstory of it already; I was supposed to get the dialect right. And I don't like to ape anybody else; I like to on a chair was so important for the makers. I wasn't trying too hard." Now that the series had put together some old stories, there were presumptions too. Sharing those, the

actress said, "We knew there would be

of Dongri and the mention of mafias

during the seventies. But this is not a biopic! I had no fear of getting singled

cinematic. The world is authentic, but the

out. Watch the show because it's

comparisons because there's the mention

called cinematic liberty, right? The Mumbai Mafia doesn't exist today; it was the tabloid version. Then we shot at very few live locations. A set was built twice! It was like a mini-city in itself. It wasn't a facade. It wasn't just the exteriors; you could really go inside, open the cupboards, and find stuff. The production details were as such! I was transported into a different era. We used to spend

twelve hours a day."
They even hosted a special screening of it in London. She expressed, "It was such a cool moment for me to pose for the camera against the backdrop of such a beautiful city landscape where my own show is being promoted. An Indian series was getting global recognition once again! Avinash and I were the representatives. The citizens of London got to see the era of old Bombay, and they were quite impressed. Our digital hoardings were put up on Times Square.

We hardly have women gangsters as criminal bosses. There is only drama shown, not a savage gangster who is a woman. **Enough of love interests! Or else** the show is driven on the basis of a moral compass, but here I was—a fully involved hoodlum part of the main gang.

Heightening the Indian cinema on the global stage

Besides.

prominent filmmaker Mastani his colour palate cast go through which is A Shaily Sanghvi is a writer, director, and producer located in Los Angeles, who has gained a lot of traction in the entertainment industry. She offered her views about films to us and all about her film-making process.

To illustrate, "Ahmedabad gave me the push to start. With my undergraduate in Mass Communication as I moved to Mumbai, I got exposed to being on a real set for the first time with Zee! And that is when I decided that this is it—this is what I want to do. Los Angeles has been a different ball game all together. While working in India, it exposed me to the creatives of the industry, LA taught me the technical part of it making it a perfect combination.

Sanjay Leela Bhansali and Zoya Akhtar are two so different and yet unique in their way of story telling. Shaily is always attempting to take inspiration from them in her films. She loves the humane layers of grey Zoya Akhtar adds to her characters. She makes them so easy to relate to that is why audiences love her characters. May that be Hritik and his defense mechanism of overworking or Tara from Made in Heaven and how she was taught to always be the survivor and do what it takes for it. With maestro Sanjay Bhansali, his each frame is worth studying. So Shaily loves his use of colours to show the emotions and personality. Like in Bajirao

is with us today— changes as and when often unnoticed by a layman. Mastani starts getting a little more acceptance, each frame is designed in a way that no matter where you pause, it is a visual marvel.

The acclaimed filmmaker continued, "When I made my first film, I had no idea about so many things. Production design, sync sound or lighting. I borrowed a friend's DSLR and shot at my house. My parents ended up doing the set dress-ing and my friends ended up acting for me. It was a complete guerrilla shoot. Only when I went on a real set, I realised there is so much more to consider before even getting on the floor to shoot."

al arcs for shows in like five minutes. She is brilliant in what she does, so deserving of all the accolades she has." There are quite a lot of dif-At Žee, she wasn't even out ferences actually. Like an air

times being a woman, you have to be a little more

assertive to for your work to

have the attention it deserves.

But overtime, I realised that if your work is good, you get

the respect you deserve. There is no reason to not be

your confident self. For

instance, Ektaa Kapoor is a

genius. Since I was her cre-

ative associate, I got to see

her in every aspect, and god does she excel in all of those.

I have seen her give season-



of undergrad. It showed her what her rest of the life was going to be. Actually, it validated her decision of wanting to be a filmmaker. But apart from that it opened her eyes about the extensive process that the crew and

conditioners and focus pullers are different in India but it's in one position in the US. The flow of things is a little different in both countries. It took her a while to explain to people there about her role as an ACD on the last two projects in India only because they have different terms. The passion still remains the same! "Pirouette was shot on film camera, which means it doesn't give you the liberty to take as many takes as you want that digital camera give you. You have to be meticulous about the number of takes you get and so you rehearse way more than you would for digital. Because Pirouette was a dance film, the biggest challenge was to get every



the most difficult to shoot. The whole crew was running around to make that happen. But when it did, it looked so good, it was all worth the effort." When she got her first award, she was sitting in the

audience and they said her name. For a second she froze because honestly she didn't expect to win. It took her a minute to get up and go to the stage to receive the award. It felt surreal to talk about the film and the process with fellow filmmakers and get appreciation on that. Shaily's quantum leap! "I love writing my own films. When I am working on a project, I eat sleep breathe that project, those characters. So when I do that, I am very aware of the flaws that I want to include in my character and the reason behind that behaviour. I like keeping my character grey because that is how we are as humans. We act according to our own context and situation and so should the characters in movies. There is no perfect hero. The last two projects that I did were both Indian stories talking about different aspects of Indian culture. This would be my attempt to clear miscon-

ceptions about our culture

Filmmaker Shaily Sanghvi, gets candid with The Pioneer, sharing her insights on the filmmaking process, women filmmakers, and more.

and show the real essence of

it in different stories." The global exclusive also said that film festivals are a great way of getting feedback on your films especially from fellow filmmakers. While they work as a good critics system it is also a great way of appreciation for your work. Getting nominated and awards from international film festivals validates your belief in the project and your craft, which one could use often in this extremely competitive industry. Currently, she is working on the postproduction of two of her films which she is hoping to get out by November! Along with this, she is also working on the pre-production of a couple of other films including shorts and a series.

Understanding PCOS and fertility Keeping an eye on the do's and don'ts

lobally, there are approximately 100 million women grappling with polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS). Its most prevalent symptoms encompass irregular menstrual cycles, abdominal weight gain hirsutism characterised by excessive body hair, particularly on the stomach and chest, as well as frequent acne breakouts. In certain instances, individuals with PCOS may experience hair thinning and infertility.

Diagnosis of PCOS entails a comprehensive medical history review, a general physical examination, and diagnostic procedures such as ultrasound scans to identify cysts, along with blood tests to assess androgen and hormone levels that can contribute to

Treatment typically involves dietary modifications and an increase in physical activity. Gynaecologists may also prescribe oral contraceptives to regulate menstruation and diminish acne occurrences. PCOS arises due to heightened androgen production by ovarian cells, which subsequently exerts an influence on the pituitary gland. Hyperandrogenism is responsible for amenorrhoea, resulting in irregular or missed menstrual peri-



PCOS affects your chances of conceiving

Irregular Ovulation: One of the primary mechanisms through which PCOS affects fertility is by inducing irregular ovulation or preventing it entirely. The absence of consistent egg release makes conception more challenging.

Hormonal imbalances: PCOS disrupts the balance of hormones in the body, particularly insulin and luteinizing hormone (LH). These imbalances can further hinder ovulation and affect the quality of eggs released.

Increased risk of miscarriage: Those with PCOS may face an increased likelihood of miscarriage due to hormonal imbalances and other factors linked to the condition.

The dos and don'ts for those trying to conceive while dealing with PCOS

Seek advice from a fertility or gynaecological specialist: If you have PCOS and are attempting to become pregnant, it is crucial to consult with a healthcare professional, preferably a reproductive endocrinologist or fertility expert. They can offer customised advice and treatments designed to address your unique requirements.

Maintain a healthy lifestyle: Adopt a balanced diet and engage in regular physical activity to help manage weight and insulin levels. Maintaining a healthy weight can improve fertility in individuals with PCOS.

Monitor your cycle: Track your menstrual cycle and use ovulation prediction kits to help pinpoint when ovulation occurs. This information can assist in timing intercourse for optimal chances of conception.

Consider medications: Your healthcare provider may prescribe medications such as clomiphene citrate or letrozole to stimulate ovulation. These drugs can be effective in regulating the menstrual cycle and enhancing fertility.

Manage stress: Stress can exacerbate PCOS symptoms and impact fertility. Explore relaxation techniques such as yoga, meditation, or mindfulness to reduce stress levels.

Delay Seeking Help: If you've been trying to conceive for an extended period without success, don't wait too long before seeking professional assistance. Early intervention can increase your chances of a successful conception.

Overlook other factors: While PCOS is a significant factor in fertility issues, it's crucial to consider other potential factors, such as your partner's health and any additional underlying conditions. Comprehensive testing can identify any coexisting issues.

Self-medicate: Avoid self-prescribing fertility medications or herbal remedies without consulting a healthcare provider. These substances may interact with your PCOS or other medications and cause complications.

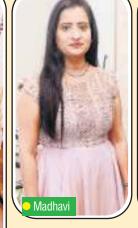
Neglect emotional support: Infertility can be emotionally challenging. Don't underestimate the importance of seeking emotional support from friends, family, or support groups. Counselling or therapy can also be helpful in managing the emotional aspects of fertility struggles.

PCOS can certainly influence the likelihood of achieving pregnancy, but it's not an insurmountable hurdle. With appropriate medical direction, lifestyle modifications, and following the recommendations provided in this article, numerous individuals grappling with PCOS can effectively achieve their goal of conceiving and creating the families they aspire to have. Keep in mind that every individual's path is distinctive, and it's vital to seek professional guidance and assistance to navigate the complexities of PCOS and infertility.

(The author, Dr. Lavi Sindhu, is a consultant at Birla Fertility & IVF, Gorakhpur.)

what's brewing?





Actress Kavya Kalyan Ram, along with the salons founder K. Veena, and its co-founder C.K. Kumaravel, launched the Telangana's 90th Naturals signature salon franchise outlet in Gachibowli.





Telangana health and finance minister, Harish Rao, graced the inauguration of Arete Hospitals' new state-of-the-art medical facility, at Gachibowli. They offer a complete range of specialised care for specialities such as, Internal Medicine, Neurosciences, Gynaecology and Obstetrics, Gastrosciences, Emergency and Critical Care services, to name a few.



















Laxman Aley, Nagesh goud and Hanmantu rao







Photos by- SV Chary

ARCHIE









CALVIN AND HOBBES

OK, LOOK, WE'VE GOT TO DO THIS DUMB PROJECT TOGETHER SO WE MIGHT AS WELL GET IT OVER WITH. WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO BE DOING?



WEREN'T YOU EVEN PAYING ATTENTION ?! WHAT WOULD MOUDO IF I WASN'T HERE
TO ASK ?? YOU'D FLUNK
AND BE SENT BACK TO
KINDERGARTEN, THAT'S WHAT!



SAYS YOU! I HEARD THAT SOMETIMES KIDS DON'T PAY ATTENTION BECAUSE THE CLASS GOES AT TOO SLON OF A PACE FOR THEM, SOME OF











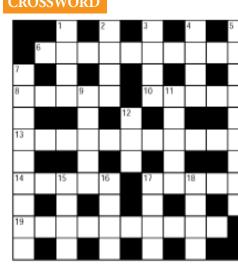


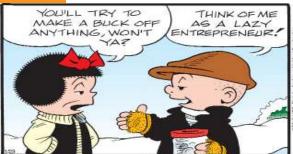


REALITY CHECK



CROSSWORD







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ACROSS

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4 Closed

- 6 A machine in a kitchen 8 Frequently
- 10 A room just under the roof
- 13 A country famous for
- making watches 14 Imagine things while you
- are asleep 17 Normal
- 19 A large African animal with a horn on its nose

3 Molten stuff from a volcano

5 A large reptile with a long

body and sharp teeth

17 Second-hand 18 On

7 Thinks over

11 Speaks

12 Not many

building

15 A door out of a

9 More than is needed

16 This orbits the Earth

GINGER MEGGS







exactly once.

tollywood



pan-Indian production. We

shot it in Telugu only. However, this one is designed previously enjoyed my films on their mobile phones and television sets should watch it in Hindi because it provides the best experience in the

distinct how director Atlee and his wife Priya are his friends. So Atlee introduced him to Shah Rukh Khan. SRK valued Ram Pothineni and treated him with respect and love. He inquired about his film and asked that Ram send the trailer. "He has such a kind heart," says Ram. In fact, "I have done a lot of action films in my career, but

completely different experience He envisions grandiose action sequences and ensures that they are realized without We spent 24 days filming Skanda's' climax equence. You can imagine how much time and effort we

. The *Devadasu* fame's grandfather served in the military. His mother was raised in Kashmir and Assam. As a result, Hindi is also spoken at home. Since his childhood, he has been listening to Hindi songs at home. His favorite song as a child was Tujhe Dekha To Ye Jana Sanam from Dil Wale Dulhania Le Jayenge. So he's looking beyond



Dulquer Salmaan's *Lucky* Baskhar shoot commences

of most sought after and highly successful Pan-India actors of Indian Cinema. He scaled to heights in popularity becoming an inspiration to many with his unique script selection and talent.

After Sita Ramam, he has announced his next venture in Telugu, Lucky Baskhar, with talented director Venky Atluri. Suryadevara Naga Vamsi and

Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas, respectively, are producing the film. Sithara Entertainments has

been coming up with variety of films in different genres and they have become the highly active production house in Telugu Cinema, in recent years. They have started mak-ing inroads into Pan-India market and after Sir/Vaathi

Producers, director and actors participated in the event and everyone expressed great confidence in the movie.

The story of Lucky Baskhar is said to follow the theme of 'an ordinary man's extraordinary journey to Unscalable heights'. National Award winning composer GV Prakash Kumar is composing music for

National Award winning editor Navin Nooli is editing the film. More details will be



'Many suggested me to not take risk making movie with newcomer'

he pre-release event of Srikanth Addala's latest film Peddha Kapu-1 with debutant Virat Karrna was held in the presence of the team and a few special guests. A huge crowd attended the function.

Anasuya Bharadwaj revealed her character name as Ákkanna and thanked director Srikanth Addala for giving her such a powerful role in the movie. "You'll see a new Srikanth Addala as a director and as an actor. Virat Karrna is the star in the making."

tor Srikanth Addala and the team. "Everything about Srikanth Addala is exceptional. His dialogues and acting are too good. In my entire film career, the most surprising film is *Peddha Kapu-1*. This story happens in the 80's. Ravinder Reddy believed in the story and spent a high budget."

Producer Miryala Ravinder Reddy stated that no actor would get such a script or a director for their debut movie and Virat is lucky.

Srikanth Addala said that he ever treated Virat as a newcomer Chota K Naidu appreciated direc- "Many including my close friends September 29

suggested me not to take the risk of making movie with a newcomer. This story will reach many people, only it it is made with a newcomer. This movie is the signature of a common man. There is a Part 2 and this movie is the life of Peddha

Hero Virat Karrna thanked his director for believing that he could pull of the character of a common man. "First movie is very special for any actor. I have many memories with this movie." The movie Peddha Kapu-1 is gracing the cinemas on



directed by Praveen Sattaru Regrettably, the movie didn't perform well at the box office.

As previously announced, the film has made its OTT debut on Netflix today. Interestingly, it's not limited to Telugu; it's also available in other major Indian languages - Tamil, Malayalam, and

Roshini Prakash, Manish Chaudhari, Abhinav Gomatam, Ravi Varma, Kalpalatha, and Baby Vedain in significant roles. Produced by Sri Venkateswara Cine Chitra, the movie boasts the musical brilliance of Mickey J Meyer. Stay tuned for more OTT updat



'Jyothika has always been a mother figure to me,' says Karthi

A ccording to rumours making the rounds in Kollywood, star Suriya and his wife Jyothika have relocated to Mumbai. Some even speculate that the family is no longer intact. Suriya, however, said that they just moved to Mumbai in order to have children. Karthi, meanwhile, spoke up about the subject and said he saw Jyothika as

Regarding Jyothika, Karthi brought up the fact that, despite countless comments against Surya's family being shared online, no one from their familv has spoken up until this point. There have been a lot of comments on social media about how Jyothika's involvement is seen as the main reason for the family's split.

However, Karthi expressed his discontent with these remarks and responded, "I've never regarded Jyothika solely as an actress; she has always been a mother figure to me. Likewise, she saw us as her children. Currently, with my mom residing in Mumbai, our home feels empty. It's not our doing that she is apart from us in this house. We cherish our moments with her (Jyothika) and find immense happiness in her presence."

On the work front, Karthi is working on an exciting film titled Japan.

"Animal will show what real violence is,' hints Sandeep Vanga

A nimal, directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga, delves into a complex father-son relationship amidst a backdrop of extreme bloodshed in the underworld. At its core. it's a bizarre love story between a son who is deeply devoted to his father.

However, the father's

frequent absences due to work prevent him from grasping the extent of his son's affection. Paradoxically, this ardent love becomes a source of conflict between them. Ranbir Kapoor, who stars in the movie, has described it as a departure from his usual roles, calling it a crime drama with shades of gray. He admitted that the role challenged him and forced him to elevate his acting skills, pushing him beyond his comfort zone. Sandeep Reddy Vanga has always maintained that it is going to be one of the most violent films to be ever made in India. When people questioned him why he showed

so much violence in Arjun



Reddy/Kabir Singh, he answered that he would show what real violence is with his film Animal.

The story sounds very interesting, and it would be pretty exciting to see how Vanga will execute it. It is pretty clear that he is a

crazy director, but no one knows how his thinking process works beyond the Arjun Reddy universe, which makes Animal a film to watch out for! With Animal set for release on December 1, the filmmakers are actively building

excitement. They recently revealed character posters, including Anil Kapoor's, and shared a first look at Rashmika Mandanna's role, intensifying the anticipation for this unique exploration of love, violence,

and family dynamics.

Akhil to star next in Lingusamy's directorial

Tollywood actor Akhil was last seen in *Agent*, a movie that faced a lacklustre clarified that Akhil is currently not committed to any film and will announce his next project response at the box office. Since then, there hasn't been any official confirmation regarding his next project, leading to a surge

of speculation on social media. According to the latest buzz, Akhil Akkineni has been considered for the lead role in a film directed by Lingusamy, whose previous work, *The Warriorr*, didn't fare well commercially.

in due time.

Additionally, there is speculation about a potential collaboration between Akhil and an assistant director from the film Saaho for his upcoming venture, although specific details remain uncertain.

Well, for now we'll have to wait for more updates on this project and the upcoming films





VIJAY DEVERAKONDA CREATES A

Recently, the most popular messaging app, WhatsApp, introduced a new feature called Channels, which quickly gained global

Renowned Tollywood actor Vijay Deverakonda was among the early adopters of this feature and has now achieved a remarkable milestone on the platform. He is the first Telugu actor to

on his official WhatsApp channel, a testament to his significant online popularity.

On the professional front, Vijay Deverakonda, who

amass over 1 million followers recently appeared in Kushi, is gearing up for his next project, a cop drama directed by Gautam Tinnanuri. Anirudh Ravichander is composing the music for this movie.

lyer, Gill, Sky fire India to 399/5

hubman Gill continued his sensational run with a fifth ODI hundred of the vear while Shreyas Iyer hit a timely ton under pressure to fire India to a record 399 for five against Australia in the

second game here on Sunday. Gill (104 off 97 balls) and Iyer (105 off 90 balls) shared a stroke-filled 200-run stand off 164 balls after Ruturaj Gaikwad (8) missed out on a batting beauty.

Suryakumar Yadav (72 not out off 37 balls) and skipper K L Rahul (52 off 38 balls) plundered a pedestrian looking Australian attack in the death overs to provide the final flourish for India. The last 10 overs yielded

103 runs as India racked up their highest-ever total against Australia in ODIs. The Holkar Stadium tends to produce high-scoring

games and Sunday's game proved no exception.

Gill's peerless form is an

ahead of next month's World Cup.
It was a second consecu-

tive ODI hundred for the 24year-old at this venue, having hammered 112 off 78 balls against New Zealand earlier this year when India ended with a match-winning 395.

Unlike Iyer, Gill began slowly on Sunday, collecting nine off his first 19 balls before going after the Aussie bowlers with disdain.

He was unstoppable after his first strike which was a straight six off pacer Sean Abbott in the ninth over.

Cameron Green tried a short one against Gill who was happy to pull him away for a six over fine leg. But the rain caused a 40-minute delay, putting a temporary halt to the entertainment.

Both Gill and Iyer, who struggled with cramps towards the end of his innings, continued to find boundaries after resumption.

The highlight of Gill's Gill's peerless form is an ominous reminder to rivals danced down the track against



SHREYAS IYER WAS THE FIRST TO **COMPLETE THE** CENTURY, WHICH IS ALSO HIS THIRD IN ODIS, WHILE SHUBMAN GILL GOT TO THE MILESTONE, HIS SIXTH IN THE FORMAT, 19 BALLS Later.

the fast bowlers while Iyer's aggressive intent from ball one stood out in a scenario where he was desperately searching for runs.

Both Iyer and Gill got

their half-centuries with straight sixes, off debutant Spencer Johnson and Green respectively.

Conditions were ideal for the batters but Australian

attack, missing the likes of Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins, looked short on ideas. Lead spinner Adam Zampa too could not stem the flow of runs.

Iver was the first to complete the century, his third in ODIs, while Gill got to the milestone, his sixth in the format, 19 balls later.

When both the batters departed, Rahul and Kishan (31 off 18) played some bold strokes to up the scoring rate.

Suryakumar, who had to change his game in the previous match to adapt to the needs of ODI cricket, came out to bat in the 41st over.

In the T20 context, it was an ideal time for him to come and explore his 360 range from ball one. He did just that to power India to a formidable total.

His innings included four sixes in a row off Green in the 44th over. The towering pacer conceded 103 runs in his 10 overs, so symbolic of their wretched outing with the ball on the day.

lyer settles middleorder debate with timely hundred

India might be treating the ongoing ODIs against Australia as a warm-up exercise before the World Cup but Shreyas Iyer had all to play a rot by a ro match series.

The 28-year-old has had to deal with his share of injuries since making his international debut back in 2017.

The Asia Cup that India won marked his comeback from a back surgery after six months but a back spasm in the middle of the tournament meant he only got to bat once over the course of two weeks.

Considering what he has gone through the year, especially the range of emotions in the last one month, a third ODI hundred could not have come at a better time for

Iver was India's designated number four before the injury pegged him back and a virtual no show in the Asia Cup meant his place in the playing eleven was far from secure.

In the meantime, Ishan Kishan also made a strong claim for a mid-dle-order spot with a few good

Iyer had a lot to prove in the Australia series and a run-out in the first ODI showed that luck too was not on his side. However, he made his own luck at the highscoring Holkar Stadium on Sunday.

When he walked out to bat at number three, he had Gill at the other end like he had on Friday when got run out attempting a sin-

The mix up might have played on his mind but in a high-pressure scenario, Iyer oozed confidence from the start and showed the same faith in Gill while taking a quick single to get off the mark.

Iver is known for his belligerent play against the spinners but he was equally effective against the pacers.

He began with a lofted hit off debutant Spencer Johnson before producing a couple of crisp cover drives off Josh Hazlewood. As Gill took his time to get going in the powerplay, Iyer found the gaps

An odd short ball was directed at Iyer deliberately but he was



quick to put it away.

An aerial strike over cover off Sean Abbott pretty much confirmed that Iyer was in his elements. The 45-minute rain delay did not disturb his rhythm and he returned to do what he does best: take the attack to the spinners.

After slapping left-arm pacer Johnson for a straight six to bring up his fifty, Iyer punished leg-spinner Adam Zampa for bowling a half-tracker and his third six came in the following over from offie Matthew Short, a massive hit over wide long-on.

Strike rotation was also a key part of his innings comprising 39

Iyer completed a memorable hundred with a single off Zampa in the 30th over. The roar from him after reaching the milestone was understandable considering the series of events over the past six months.

The much needed runs from his bat might have come on a belter of a track and against an ordinary looking Australian attack.

But it might just be enough to settle the middle-order debate going into the World Cup at home.

Indian women to face SL for gold

Dooja Vastrakar bowled a sharp Pand incisive spell to take the Indian women's cricket team to its maiden Asian Games final, crushing Bangladesh by eight wickets in a lopsided semi-final here on Sunday.

Right arm seamer Vastrakar, who replaced Anjali Sarvani in the squad just before leaving India, had career-best figures of 4/17 in four overs as Bangladesh were bowled out for 51 in 17.5 overs -- their lowest ever T20 score against the neighbours.

India will face Sri Lanka in the final on Monday. Lankans defeated defending champions Pakistan, who had won the gold at Incheon Games



2014, by six wickets in the semifinals. Against Bangladesh, Vastrakar and her young new-ball partner Titas Sadhu (1/10 in 4 overs) extracted all

the juice available from the deck as they bowled quick, with the bounce on offer also helping.
Only skipper Nigar Sultana (12)
was able to reach double figures for

Bangladesh. The chase of 52 was a cakewalk as it was achieved in only 8.2 overs. Kanika Ahuja (1 not out) and

Jemimah Rodrigues (20 not out) took India home despite losing skipper Smriti Mandhana (7) and Shafali (17) cheaply. It was also sweet revenge for the women's team, who were forced to

play the second game on the trot with-out their regular skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, who is serving a two-match sus-

The match against Kazakhstan was

The world No. 78 started briskly

Sathiyan accounted for Aidos



India enter round of 16 in men's football

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

Riding on a Sunil Chhetri strike, the Indian men's football team held Myanmar to a 1-1 draw and progressed to the round of 16 in the Asian Games here on Sunday.

They will play Saudi Arabia in the pre-quarters.
Chhetri scored from the

spot in the 23rd minute but it s Rahim Ali who earned the penalty when he was brought down inside the box by Hein Zeyar Lin.

While Lin was shown a vellow card for his sliding tackle, the peerless Chhetri made no mistake in finding the back of the net, in what was a repeat of the act he performed against Bangladesh in the second group game two

days ago.

Coming off the bench,
Kyaw Htwe found the equaliser for Myanmar when he headed the ball past Dheeraj Singh in the 74th minute at

the Xiaoshan Sports Center Stadium.

However, despite the two teams having same points, India progressed as the runner-up from Group A, as the Chhetri-led side has scored more goals than Myanmar in the tournament.

All in all, it was a creditable performance from the Indians who were thrashed 5-0 by hosts China in their opener, before getting their act together to eke out a scrappy 1-0 win over Bangladesh. China topped the pool.

India showed intent from the beginning but seemed to struggle in the final third. However, they still managed to take the lead in the game thanks to Chhetri's goal.

However, they could not end the group stage on a winning note.

The last time the two teams met, earlier this year in Imphal, India beat Myanmar

Indian men lose to South Korea 0-3 in TT quarterfinals; women bow out women's team lost 2-3 to a resilient

 $T^{\text{he Indian men's team missed out on}}_{\text{an Asian Games bronze medal in}}$ table tennis after a second-string South Korea blanked them 3-0 in the quarterfinals here on Sunday.

Harmeet Desai lost the first match 0-3 to An Jaehyun. G Sathiyan tried to put up a fight, but it was not enough to get past Park Ganghyeon as India trailed 0-2 after the first two ties.

The onus was on Achantha Sharath Kamal to bring India back into the con-

However, things did not quite unfold in the manner the Indians would have liked as the veteran from Chennai went down 2-3 to Oh Junsung.

The defeat would have been even more hurting for the Indians as South Korea's top three players did not even play in the match.

a rematch of World

Championship final, top Indian boxer Nikhat Zareen outclassed

Vietnam's Thi Tam Nguyen 5-0 to move to the women's 50kg pre-quar-

terfinals while Preeti Pawar (54kg)

sealed a place in the quarterfinals of

the Asian Games here on Sunday.

Zareen defeated the two-time Âsian

Champion Nguyen by unanimous

Two-time world champion



Earlier in the day, Sharath raised his game just in time to help India escape unscathed against Kazakhstan.

But the women's table tennis team imploded against a resilient Thailand to bow out of the Games.

Star Indian paddler Manika Batra failed in both her singles matches as the

One of only four boxers to not

"I had not expected it (to be a one-sided bout) but my plan was to

get a first round bye in the 50kg event

despite being the reigning world champion, Zareen controlled the

make it one because it's happening

in another country and I didn't want

to give any chance to her. My plan

was to win the first two round unan-

imously and then relax in the third,"

proceedings from the word go.

Kenzhigulov 14-12 11-8 11-5 to level the scores before Harmeet put India ahead. The world No. 69 Indian beat Alan Kurumangaliyev 11-7, 12-10, 11-5.

However, Sathiyan faced stiff resistance from Krill in their reverse singles, but the world No. 107 struggled, eventually losing 5-11, 11-9, 9-11, 11-5, 5-



Zareen said after the win. In the opening two rounds Zareen landed accurate punches, rat-

tling her opponent. Such was her power that the referee was forced to give Nguyen the eight count twice in 30 seconds in the opening round.

Nguyen tried to attack in the second round but Zareen retaliated with strong combination punches, forcing a third eight count upon the

After rejections, Arvind sings redemption song

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tndian rower Arvind Singh was a Lworried man after four failed attempts at cracking the army entrance exam. The son of a farmer didn't wish to follow in his father's footsteps.

But then, having taken in his strides the rejections, he cleared the test in his fifth attempt and joined the Indian Army. Then rowing happened, and things changed for the better.

On Sunday, Singh opened the country's account at the Asian Games with a silver medal in men's lightweight doubles sculls event along with Arjun Lal Jat.

"For a farmer's son, joining Army was the only option I had... Otherwise I would have been forced

to do farming to make ends meet," Singh remembered his days of struggle while talking to PTI from the Hangzhou Games Village.

With a sturdy six-foot, one-inch frame, the young athlete also tried his hands in his "favourite" sports, cricket and athletics, but couldn't make much progress there.

"So, this medal is dedicated to my father, (Vijay Singh) who faced so many hardships but ensured that I keep on trying to get into Indian Army. Despite our financial constraints, there was little pressure on me, and I didn't give up.
"Whatever I'm today is because

of my dad, he has made so many sacrifices. I'm sure they would be so happy today."

Singh managed to get into the Indian Army in his fifth attempt,



in 2013, and was picked for the rowing team because of his "tall" 184-centimetre frame, in 2016.

"Forget about knowing the sport, till then, I didn't even hear the word rowing but I learnt the sport and made rapid progress," he said giving credit to his Indian coach

Ismail Bag.
The best thing that happened to him was in 2018 when he got his partner Arjun Jat, also a son of a farmer and the duo showed a fine chemistry to make a formidable lightweight Indian double sculls

In the next year, the duo won a silver at the Asian Rowing Championship in South Korea, and they also competed together in the Tokyo Olympics where they finished

Last year, the duo won the National Games gold in Gujarat and also the Asian Championship. "But this medal is on top of

everything. When I go back home I will get a new cabinet just for this," he said. At the Fuyang Water Sports Centre on Sunday, the duo had a timing of 6:28.18s to finish behind

China's Junjie Fan and Man Sun, who won gold with 6:23.16s.

The Uzbekistan pair of Shakhzod Nurmatov and Sobirjon

Safaroliyev bagged the bronze clocking 6:33.42s. "It was a tough race and we could have won a gold, but missed

it. But we are not disappointed, it's a learning curve and we hope to turn this into a gold in the next edition in 2026," he said.