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INDIA 'reluctantly' backed women quota bill, says PM

1-2 BOARD MEMBERS DOMINANT EVEN IN BIG COMMERCIAL BANKS



Mansion 24 has multiple stories and actions, reveals AVIKA GOR



QUOTE OF THE DAY
The pioneer

How can those who serve the KCR family get nominated to the MLC post? Those who have defected from other parties and those who serve the KCR family have been rejected by the Governor who took a bold decision. The BRS ticket is given to those who are close to KCR's family's feet, to those who drink water from their elbow and to those who have no self-respect.

- G. Kishan Reddy, Union Minister



DON'T MISS...

Court orders not to immerse...

Telangana High Court on Monday refused to grant interim directions for immersion of Ganesh idols made of Plaster of Paris in Hussian Sagar. The High Court criticised the Telangana Ganesh Murti Kalakar Welfare Association which has challenged the guidelines that prohibit POP. "This lake is not for you, it is for generations not to pollute with Plaster of Paris," the Court said. The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation has set up 72 'baby ponds' around the city...

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Soldier allegedly beaten up in...

A soldier was allegedly beaten up near his home in this southern Kerala district on Sunday night by six persons and 'PFI' was written on his back with green paint, police said on Monday. The alleged incident occurred near his home at Kadakkal here on Sunday night when the soldier was returning home on his bike, police said. It also said that Military Intelligence personnel have reached the spot and would be directing the investigation into the alleged assault on the soldier who is posted in the Indian...

-PAGE: 5

BIS developing standard on...

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) on Monday said it has developed as many as nine standards on biofuels, and is in the process of developing a standard on paraffinic (green) diesel. BIS Director General Pramod Kumar Tiwari said, these standards will significantly complement the objectives of Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA), the multilateral forum announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the G20 leaders' summit held recently in the national capital. "We are committed to support..."

-PAGE: 8

Bumrah back for third ODI...

Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah will be available for the third ODI against Australia after being given a one-match break but all-rounder Axar Patel will be given a few more days to recover from his quadriceps tear ahead of the World Cup. BCCI sources said on Monday. While Ravichandran Ashwin has done decently in his two outings, the team management is still bullish about the fitness of Axar, the left-arm spin bowling all-rounder. "The team management wants..."

-SPORTS

'Back to square one'

Guv rejects MLC nomination of Sravan Dasoju, K. Satyanarayana
Guv is behaving like a BJP leader, alleges BRS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The tussle between Pragathi Bhavan and Raj Bhavan is back to square one. The latest decision of Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan rejecting the government's proposal to nominate Dasoju Sravan Kumar and K. Satyanarayana to the Legislative Council under the Governor's Quota indicates that all is not well in their relationship.

The Governor made an earnest request to the Cabinet and the Chief Minister "to avoid recommending politically aligned persons to nominated posts under Article 171(5) of the Constitution as it defeats its objectives and enactment."

The Governor said that just sending a summary without any documentation in support thereof showing the fulfilment of the criteria mentioned above makes it impossible for me to nominate Dasoju Sravan Kumar as a Member of the Legislative Council.

The Governor said in two letters that the summary of Dr Dasoju



"His summary does not indicate any special achievements in Literature, Science, Art, Cooperative movement and social service. There is no apparent consideration of the fulfilment of the pre-conditions required under Article 171(5) of the Constitution."

Sravan Kumar and Kurra Satyanarayana indicates his active participation in politics, corporate affairs and the academic sector.

"His summary does not indicate any special achievements in Literature, Science, Art, Cooperative

movement and social service. There is no apparent consideration of the fulfilment of the pre-conditions required under Article 171(5) of the Constitution.

2

BJP hails decision

The BJP welcomed the decision taken by the Governor, Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan, regarding the Governor's quota MLCs. Dr Tamilisai rejected two people recommended by the BRS government for Governor's quota MLCs. Telangana BJP president G. Kishan Reddy in a statement issued on Monday congratulated the Governor and thanked her for taking this decision. Kishan said the Governor's quota and President's quota are nominated posts to be given to intellectuals, educated people, poets, artists and social workers. The Governor rejected the names sent by Chief Minister KCR to the Governor as they had many criminal cases, he said. Kishan said that there is no need to appoint people serving KCR's family as MLCs in the Governor's quota.

2



TSPSC appeals HC not to abolish Group-I prelims

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana State Public Service Commission (TSPSC) approached the High Court's Division Bench appealing not to abolish the Group-I prelims examination. The TSPSC challenged the High Court's Single Bench verdict given on September 23rd. The TSPSC requested for Lunch Motion for emergency hearing. However, the High Court Division Bench refused TSPSC's request and agreed to hear the case on Tuesday. The TSPSC Council argued

that the candidates will experience mental agony if conducted the Group-I prelims examination once again as the TSPSC conducted the examination already two times. The Council also argued that it is not easy for the candidates to appear for the examination for the third time. It may be recalled that the TSPSC canceled the Group-I prelims examination for the first time stating that the paper was leaked. However, the High Court directed the TSPSC to abolish the examination as it failed to follow the guidelines mentioned in the notification.



Contest against me in Hyd

Asaduddin challenges Rahul

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

AIMIM Chief Asaduddin Owaisi challenged Congress MP Rahul Gandhi to contest the 2024 Lok Sabha elections against him from Hyderabad instead of Wayanad.

Participating in a rally on Monday, Asaduddin said, "Is baar Wayanad se nahi Hyderabad mein muqabla karo" (This time fight from Hyderabad and not Wayanad). I am challenging you Rahul, don't go to Wayanad, come to Hyderabad and contest."

"You keep issuing big statements, come to the ground and let us have a contest. People from the Congress will say a lot of things, but I am ready. Come and face this man with a beard and shervani. You will know what a contest means," he said.

"The Babri Masjid and the Secretariat mosque were demolished under the Congress regime," he said.

"The same BJP MP who bad-mouthed me in Parliament had stood up against me to speak. I strictly told him to sit down. You can't face my sharp tongue.

Congress leaders do a lot of talking. I am ready. I am also appealing to the people of Telangana.

Remember, the common man was harassed and attacked during Congress rule. With great difficulty, we have ensured peace in the city. This peace should be permanent," Asaduddin stated.

Rahul recently charged that the BJP, the BRS and the AIMIM are collaborating ahead of the TS Assembly elections.

Ridiculous: Sameer

The Congress has dismissed AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi's challenge to Rahul Gandhi to contest from Hyderabad in the next Lok Sabha elections as "ridiculous." The campaign launched by the Congress in the Old City of Hyderabad has started sending shockwaves among AIMIM leaders and the fear of a possible backlash in the coming election is quite visible in the speech of Asaduddin.

2

BRS using bots massively on social media: Congress

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A quick scroll of likes on the BRS party handle showed that for the sake of Twitter traffic political parties are deploying automated Twitter 'bot' accounts ahead of Assembly elections.

On Monday, the Congress social media posted a video exposing the BRS party handle which had likes from what seemed like "fake accounts with zero followers."

2

Delimitation will spark strong protests in South India

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Industries Minister KT Rama Rao said that the delimitation of constituencies on the basis of population will lead to a strong people's movement all over South India.

As per a report, the number of Lok Sabha seats in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh which is now 42 will be reduced to 34. Tamil Nadu and Kerala are also going to lose eight seats.

"This delimitation (if the num-

bers reported are right) will lead to a strong people's movement in south India. We are all proud Indians and representatives of the best-performing states of India. We will not remain silent if the voices and representation of our people in the country's highest democratic forum are suppressed. Hope wisdom prevails and Delhi is listening," KTR said.

Responding to this Asaduddin Owaisi said, "South India is sitting on a powder keg as far as delimitation is concerned."



Mynampally to join Congress tomorrow



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Malkajigiri BRS MLA Mynampally Hanumanth Rao made it clear that he is joining the Congress on September 27. He said that Congress leaders came to his residence and invited him to join the Congress.

Mynampally said that he would join the Congress in the presence of high command leaders in New Delhi. He said that he asked for three tickets from Malkajigiri, Medak and Medchal and that Malkajigiri is for him, Medak for his son and Medchal for his associate Nakka Prabhakar Goud. However, the Congress assured him only two tickets.

He said that his son Rohit Rao has a good following in Medak and has been striving hard to protect his associates. He said that Congress leaders had assured him that the party would give two tickets if surveys favour him and his son.

Earlier in the day, Congress leaders went to Mynampally's residence in two teams. Former Deputy Chief Minister Damodara Raja Narsimha, former MP Anjan Kumar Yadav and others went first to Mynampally's residence and invited him to join the Congress during a breakfast meeting.

Later, CLP Leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and Madhu Yashki Goud went and invited Mynampally to join the Congress.

Sharmila sets deadline for merger

K VENKATESHWARLU ■ HYDERABAD



The Congress has been inducting leaders quickly from other political parties, but the same Congress is postponing again and again the merger of the YSRTP with the Congress for the last four months.

The Sharmila party's merger is facing hurdles although Telangana Congress in-charge Manikrao Thakre made it clear that there were no hurdles to leaders joining the Congress from other political parties.

Angry with the Congress, YSRTP president YS Sharmila, on Monday gave September 30 as the deadline for merging her party with the Congress.

Moreover, Congress leaders are going to the houses of leaders interested in joining the party. On Monday, Telangana Congress leaders went to Mynampally Hanumanth Rao and former Bhongir-Yadadri DCC president Khumbham Anil Kumar Reddy's residences and invited them to

join the Congress. However, the Congress high command approached YS Sharmila four months ago and asked her to merge her party with the Congress but is now postponing the programme.

2

Pembarti and Chandlapur bag best tourism awards

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Union Ministry of Tourism has selected two villages from Telangana state. One is Pembarti and the second village is the Chandlapur village of Chinnakodur Mandal in Siddipet district.

The awards will be given at an event organised by the Union Ministry of Tourism in New Delhi on September 27.

Ranganayak Hills is a wonderful island in the Ranganayak Sagar Reservoir which is considered a great tourist spot. It is the area where Lord Ranganayak Swami

was born. Similarly, the 'Gollabhama' sarees woven in this region reflect Telangana's art and culture. Gollabhama saree mirrors the artistic skills of Telangana testifying to its artistry and craftsmanship. Health Minister Harish Rao expressed his happiness at the announcement and



said that it is proof that Siddipet has become a tourist spot.

The first village to be selected for these awards is Pembarti in Janagama district. This village is famous for handicrafts from the time of the Kakatiyas. The artworks made in this village with brass and bronze metals are being exported to the US, Germany, Belgium, Japan and

other countries. Artworks reflecting cultural traditions and customs, idols of deities and home decoration items symbolise the skills of the artisans here. In addition to this, 25,000 tourists visit this village every year, according to Central Government figures.

The Centre designated Pembarti as the best tourist village keeping in mind the efforts of the workers here to promote the culture of Telangana and the economic activities there.

The Centre also took the initiative regarding the GI tag for Pembarti products.

TS to receive heavy rains till Sept 29

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Indian Meteorological Department - Hyderabad (IMD-H) on Monday predicted that Hyderabad and Telangana are likely to receive heavy rains till September 29. It also issued a yellow alert for Telangana.

According to the IMD, all six zones in Hyderabad, Charminar, Khairatabad, Kukatpally, LB Nagar, Secunderabad and Serilingampally are expected to experience rainfall or thunder-showers until September 28. According to a report by Telangana State Development Planning Society (TSDPS), on Sunday, the city received rainfall

in the evening. The highest rainfall of 12 mm was recorded in Bandlaguda.

In the current monsoon season, Telangana has received an average rainfall of 840.1 mm, surpassing the normal rainfall of 717.3 mm. Hyderabad has also experienced an average rainfall of 724.1 mm, exceeding the normal rainfall of 589.5 mm.

Telangana weather expert, T Balaji took to Twitter and said, "Another day of widespread rains likely in Telangana mainly during evening and night. Hyderabad missed yesterday. Today the conditions look good for rains during the evening - night. Let's hope we won't miss today."



Inductions into Congress change political landscape

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

With the recent induction of strong leaders into the Congress, the political landscape has undergone a complete transformation in many districts.

The Congress is proceeding step by step to nominate strong candidates in each constituency, district-wise. The party is preparing for elections by fielding strong candidates in weak areas.

The Congress has succeeded in nominating strong candidates in districts like Mahbubnagar and Nizamabad, which were considered weak. With the addition of MLA Mynampally Hanumantha Rao, the strength of the Congress will increase in Hyderabad.

In the home district of TPCC president Revanth

Reddy, BRS MLAs have secured most of the seats, and BRS also won in Nagar Kurnool and Mahbubnagar MP seats. However, in the last few months, the Congress has gained strength with the addition of several leaders.

With the inclusion of former minister Jupalli Krishna Rao, MLC Kuchukulla Damodar Reddy's son Rajesh and Gadwala ZP Chairman Sarithathirupathiyya, the morale and on-field strength of the Congress in Mahbubnagar district has increased.

Recently, senior leader Kothakota Sita Dayakar Reddy also joined the Congress, providing a boost to the party. The role of the Mudiraj social group in the consolidated Mahbubnagar district is crucial. However, it is noteworthy that the BJP has not made

inroads into the united Mahabubnagar district despite having key leaders like DK Aruna and Jitender Reddy.

Former BJP MLA Yennam Srinivas Reddy recently joined INC, giving a jolt to the BJP.

On the other hand, in the Nizamabad district of North Telangana, the Congress lacked strong candidates in certain constituencies. However, BJP leader Vinay Kumar Reddy from Armor and Mutyala Sunil Reddy, the head of Orange Travels in Balkonda, joined the Congress.

The former mayor of Nizamabad, Dharmapuri Sanjay, has also joined the Congress, and senior leader Mandava Venkateshwar Rao is expected to join the Congress soon, strengthening the Congress's position in Nizamabad Lok Sabha seat.

Why Modi silent on Manipur issue, asks Mahila Cong chief

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

All India Women Congress President Netta D'Souza said that the 33 per cent quota Women's Reservation Bill was proposed by the BJP in 2014 to provide rights to women. The India Alliance fully supported the Prime Minister's Bill, she said.

"The Congress had already passed the Women's Bill in the Rajya Sabha. The Congress does not have the strength in the Lok Sabha. The Congress is repeatedly demanding approval in the Lok Sabha. Women had to come on to the streets to introduce Bills in the Lok Sabha and Legislature. However, the BJP ignored it after 10 years. Now why census delimitation is required for the Bill," she asked wonder

ing why the Modi government is afraid of the Bill.

Speaking to the media at the Gandhi Bhavan on Monday, Netta D'Souza said the Prime Minister spoke on many issues but he was silent on the Women's Bill. This is just an advertisement. Atrocities against women have increased. The Prime Minister is silent on atrocities against the women of Manipur. No action has been taken against BJP leaders, she said.

She said that the Congress is trying to empower women. Rajiv Gandhi implemented reservations for women in Panchayats. The Nari Shakti Vandan Bill Cannot be implemented before 2034, she said. Why was a special Parliamentary session needed? Women were cheated, she said.

Khumbham Anil Kumar joins Cong

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The BRS suffered another shock as former Yadadri-Bhongir DCC president Khumbham Anil Kumar Reddy quit the BRS and re-joined the Congress on Monday night soon.

The TPCC president met the former Yadadri-Bhongir DCC president Khumbham Anil Kumar Reddy on Monday and invited him to re-join the Congress.

It may be recalled that Anil Kumar Reddy joined the BRS in the presence of KCR recently.

Speaking to the media after meeting Anil Kumar Reddy, TPCC president Revanth Reddy said that Anil Kumar Reddy has been protecting party activists after 2018 even though he lost the 2018 elections.

Anil Kumar Reddy made every programme a big success. It is common to have small differences in the Congress family, he said.

BRS gov't's incompetence exposed again: Gudur

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BJP state executive committee member Gudur Narayana Reddy said that there is virtually no government in Telangana and it looks like the ruling party has relinquished its responsibilities even before the end of its term.

"Cancellation of the Group-1 Prelims exam by the High Court proves this. The BRS has lost its grip on government agencies and is in a retirement mood. The officials are relaxed and do not take things seriously. Not bothering with the administration, the Chief Minister is busy with politics," he said on Monday.

He said that the High Court cancelled the Group-1 Prelims which was held on June 11. He pointed out that the same exam was conducted last October and that was also cancelled due to allegations of question paper leakage.

He said that the government

did not learn any lessons from the cancellation of exams last year and repeated the same mistakes. He said that the lapses being pointed out by the High Court show the callousness of the Telangana State Public Service Commission and its high officials.

Gudur Narayana said that the government announced recruitment to 80,000 vacancies in March 2022. The CM announced the recruitment as the unemployed had risen against the government protesting against the delay in taking up recruitment to fill vacancies in government departments.

He said that the government's decision has raised hopes among lakhs of job aspirants and they began preparations by spending thousands of rupees per month. The TSPSC conducted the Group-1 Prelims exam in October 2022 and they were cancelled due to the question paper leakage.

BRS using bots massively on...

Continued from page 1

The Congress said, "There are many profiles with unusual names and followers. Approximately 85-90 per cent of the likes under twitter posts are either bots or fake profiles that were created by the BRS IT Cell. They don't belong to either Telangana or India."

The Congress said that the BRS has become a fake news factory and that the BRS is rattled by the huge response to the Vijaya Bheri meeting where Sonia Gandhi announced six guarantees.

BRS sources said that the congress is rattled by the reach of their party and on the usage of bots said that twitter is an open platform and there are no restrictions.

Nandikanti may quit Cong if denied ticket

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Medchal-Malkajgiri DCC president Nandikanti Sridhar said that he was confident that the Congress would give the Malkajgiri ticket to him. He also made it clear that he will contest only from Malkajgiri constituency.

Speaking to the media after CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, TPCC Campaign Committee chairman Madhu Yashki Goud and senior leader V. Hanumantha Rao held talks with Nandikanti Sridhar before they invited Malkajgiri sitting MLA Mynampally Hanumantha Rao going to Nandikanti Sridhar's residence, Nandikanti Sridhar said that

the high command will decide who will contest from where.

"However, I have no clarity on Malkajgiri. As per the rules of the party, our leaders discussed with me. I believe that I will get a ticket. Party activists must not feel unhappy. Rahul assured me a ticket. I will announce my decision after discussing with party activists in case the party gives a ticket to Mynampally," he said.

However, it is learnt that Nandikanti Sridhar may quit the party in case the party denies a ticket to him. It is learnt that the BRS is trying to invite Nandikanti Sridhar to join the BRS in case the Congress denies a ticket to him.

Continued from page 1

Except for the summary, no other details or documents were sent to me. The methodology adopted in his consideration for nomination as a Member of the Legislative Council is also not enclosed. There are no reports either from the Intelligence wing or other agencies indicating that he does not incur disqualification mentioned under Section 8 to 1 (A) of the Representation of the Peoples Act 1951," she said.

The Minister of Legislative Affairs, Vemula Prashanth Reddy said, "Appointing a BJP Tamil Nadu state president as Governor is also against the Sarkaria Commission report. Dr Tamilisai has no moral right to continue as Governor." He demanded immediate resignation of the Governor.

Reacting to the development Health Minister Harish

'Back to square one'

Rao said the decision of the Governor is outrageous as both are from backward sections and have been in public life for years. He said that she was behaving like a representative of the BJP and not like a Governor.

"Can a person who was the state president of a party be given governorship of the state? The BJP's Ghulam Ali Khatana sent to Rajya Sabha on the President's quota, BJP leader Mahesh Jathmalani, Sonal Mansingh, Ramshakhal and Rakesh Sinha are all working for the BJP. How were they appointed as members of the Rajya Sabha in the President's Quota? In BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh, Jitin Prasad, Gopal Arjun Boorjee, Chaudhary Virendra Singh, Rajinikanth Maheshwari, Saket Mishra,

Hansraj Vishwakarma etc. have been appointed as MLCs in the Governor's Quota," Harish said in a statement.

"Does it mean that one policy will be implemented in states where the BJP is in power, and another policy

will be implemented in states that are not compatible with the BJP? There is no change in the attitude of the Governor regarding Telangana.

If the Telangana government is really doing something wrong then the Governor must correct it. The Bills drafted by the Telangana government have already been stopped.

Cong BC leaders ask Bhatti to make party allot 40 seats to BCs

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The BC leaders of the Telangana Congress have appealed to CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka to make the party allocate 40 seats to BCs.

Telangana Congress BC leaders Madhu Yashki Goud, Ponnampalabharathi, Mahesh Kumar Goud, Ponnala Laxmaiah, Kathi Venkata Swamy and others met Bhatti Vikramarka at his residence on Monday.

They appealed to the CLP leader to make the party allocate two seats each in every Lok Sabha constituency as stated by the high command. They also asked me not to do injustice to BC leaders citing surveys, Bhatti Vikramarka said.

They said that 57 BC candidates left after the filtering of the Screening Committee. However, the party has to allocate seats to at least 40 leaders from 57 candidates. All parties need the votes of BCs and so Bhatti has to speak with the high command regarding this especially, they said.

Asaduddin's defeat certain if Rahul contests from Hyd: Niranjana

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC senior vice-president G. Niranjana said that if Rahul Gandhi decides to contest from the Hyderabad Lok Sabha constituency, the defeat of Asaduddin Owaisi is certain.

The voters of Hyderabad, particularly Muslim voters, are very much dissatisfied with the Majlis Party and its leaders. They are waiting for a chance to teach them a lesson, he said.

Speaking to the media at the Gandhi Bhavan on Monday,

Niranjana said that as a dog of a galli (Street) barks in its own galli, Asaduddin has made venomous utterances against Rahul in Hyderabad and challenged to contest against him from the Hyderabad LS seat.

Asaduddin should not forget that Congress candidates won from Hyderabad LS seat before 1984. Rahul with his Bharat Jodo Yatra from Kanyakumari to Kashmir strengthened the bond of affection among people, he said.

Ridiculous...

Continued from page 1

When the Congress started appealing to the people of Hyderabad to question AIMIM leaders on their performance, Asaduddin got terrified and now is using the old tactics of inciting people on religious lines," Hyderabad DCC President Samer Waliullah said in a media statement on Monday.

Sharmila sets...

Continued from page 1

Sharmila herself revealed this fact in the YSRTP state executive committee meeting held on Monday at the Lotus Pond party office, it is learnt.

Sharmila also said that she accepted the offer to merge her party with the Congress thinking that opposition votes should not get split. "However, the Congress is trying to weaken me by postponing the merger of the YSRTP with the Congress," she said at the meeting.

It is also learnt that the Congress agreed to give her

the Khammam Lok Sabha ticket and the AICC general secretary post and to consider her as a Telangana leader to merge her party with the Congress. However, Sharmila expressed her unhappiness at the meeting at the Congress not sticking to its word.

Sharmila made it clear that a decision must be taken on the merger of the party by September 30, otherwise, the YSRTP will contest in all 119 constituencies on its own.

She said that she is preparing an action plan to go to the people from October second week.

TK Sreedevi Incharge Commissioner Commercial Taxes

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana government issued orders posting Dr T K Sreedevi, as incharge of post of Commissioner, Commercial taxes.

As per the orders issued by CS Santhi Kumari, "Dr T K Sreedevi IAS 2004, secretary to government, Finance department is placed incharge of

the post of Commissioner, Commercial taxes until further orders". It may be mentioned here that The Pioneer newspaper in Monday Mirchi column on 25 September reported that the Commercial taxes department has been headless after Neetu Kumari Prasad got relieved for Central government posting.

First C-295 aircraft to bolster force's tactical lift capability

PNS ■ GHAZIABAD

The first C-295 transport aircraft was inducted into the Indian Air Force (IAF) on Monday, a move that will bolster the force's tactical lift capability.

The induction ceremony took place at the Hindan Air Force Station here in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. He later took part in a 'Sarva Dharma Pooja' that was performed in the hangar to mark the occasion.

He also made the auspicious symbols of 'Swastika' and 'Om' on the livery of the aircraft.

IAF chief Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhary, Spanish envoy in India, Jose Maria Rida, along with senior officials of the IAF as well as of Airbus and Tata Advanced Systems (TASL) attended the induction ceremony.

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha
Tithi: Dvadashi: Sep 26 05:01 AM to Sep 27 01:45 AM
Trayodashi: Sep 27 01:45 AM to Sep 27 10:19 PM

Nakshatram:
Shravana: Sep 25 11:55 AM to Sep 26 09:41 AM
Dhanishta: Sep 26 09:41 AM to Sep 27 07:10 AM

Rahukalam: 3:06 PM to 4:36 PM
Yamagandam: 9:08 AM to 10:37 AM
Variyam: 01:16 PM to 02:42 PM

Gulika: 12:07 PM to 1:37 PM
Amritakalam: 09:52 PM to 11:17 PM
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:43 AM to 12:31 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Scattered Thunderstorms
Temp: 29°C
Humidity: 78%
Sunrise: 6:05 AM
Sunset: 6:09 PM

Updated: September 25, 2023 5:00 PM

Hearing in CBN's bail, custody pleas today

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

A local court here on Monday posted a hearing the petition by Andhra Pradesh CID seeking five-day police custody of TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu, as well as the bail pleas made by the former chief minister, to Tuesday. Special Public Prosecutor Y N Vivekananda, representing the CID, said that the court has posted these matters to Tuesday to hear them together.

"We insisted that our police custody petition should be heard as well. In that backdrop, the court said it will hear both the custody and bail petitions together tomorrow (Tuesday) and then pass orders," said Vivekananda. The Special Public

Prosecutor noted that the second custody petition was necessitated as Naidu allegedly did not cooperate with the investigating officials during the first two-day custodial questioning on September 23 and 24. Further, the Naidu's legal team, led by Supreme Court lawyer Pramod Dubey, was asked to file their counter, if any, on the custody petition by tomorrow.

Though the CID's prison-



er on transit (PT) petitions in the AP FiberNet and Amaravati Inner Ring Road cases did not come up for hearing on Monday, Vivekananda observed that they are expected to be taken up one by one at a later date.

The Andhra Pradesh CID filed a fresh petition in court on Monday seeking further five-day custody of Naidu in the Skill Development Corporation scam case.

After the two-day police custody of Naidu ended on Sunday evening, the court had extended his judicial remand till October 5.

On Friday, the Andhra Pradesh High Court dismissed the TDP chief's FIR quash petition, prompting Naidu to approach the Supreme Court.

Naidu was arrested on September 9, for allegedly misappropriating funds from the Skill Development Corporation, which resulted in a purported loss of over Rs 300 crore to the state exchequer.

Govt dissociates from Indian Science Cong-2024

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Monday dissociated itself from the Indian Science Congress Association, accusing it of taking "unilateral decisions" as it shifted the venue of the Indian Science Congress-2024 from the Lucknow University to the Lovely Professional University in Jalandhar.

In a notice to all secretaries of scientific departments, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) said: "It has also been decided that DST support from all its resources for the forthcoming ISC event in 2024 will be discontinued."

The Indian Science

Congress Association (ISCA) has been organising the Indian Science Congress (ISC) every year since 1914. After Independence, the prime minister inaugurates the annual gathering of scientists.

There have been differences between the government and the ISCA over the past few years over the organisation of the event. The government has been promoting the India International Science Festival (IISF) as a parallel event since 2015.

In the notice issued on Monday, the DST said the ISCA has taken a unilateral decision to shift the ISC event to Lovely Professional University (in Punjab).

HARISH RAO RELEASES TS HEALTH REPORT

Air ambulances for State soon

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Health Minister T Harish Rao on Monday released the 10-year progress report regarding the State's health sector. He further said that the State government will introduce air ambulances soon to airlift patients from the districts to Hyderabad in case of an emergency.

Speaking of the progress by the State health department, Rao said, "The government has filled 22,600 posts in the medical department in nine years. The process of filling another 7,291 posts is going on. The staff nurses exam has been conducted for 5,204 posts in order to fill them. The results will be declared in 10 days."

Rao further said, "This report is a proof of the work of our government and our health department under the guidance of CM KCR. Telangana has become a role model for the country in the field of health in its journey of 10 years. What could not be achieved in 60 years has been realised within a decade."

"In 2014, the State was ranked 11th on NITI Aayog



Minister Harish Rao releases progress report of the Telangana Health department

health index. Now Telangana is ranked third. Initiatives have been taken to reach the first position. This was possible due to the collective efforts of the medical staff. Congratulations and best wishes to everyone in the medical department who are

engaged in saving people's lives," the Minister added.

Shedding light on the health department's budget, Rao said, "The government has allotted a budget of Rs 12,364 crore and the per capita expenditure on medical treatment is Rs 3,532, placing

the State in the third position nation-wide."

Addressing the future plans of the health department, the Minister said, "With a total of 50,000 beds, Telangana is prepared to take on any health emergency."

Following the release of the report, Rao said, "Recently, the Centre said that Telangana is leading in organ transplants in the country. In particular, 100 kidney transplant operations were completed in NIMS Hospital within six months."

"The government is setting up an organ transplant centre on the eighth floor of Gandhi Hospital. In Mehdi Nawaz Jang Cancer Hospital, bone marrow transplant is done for free on an average of eight people every month. Telangana used to rank third in terms of availability and distribution of medicines. Soon it will reach the second position," he added.

As Monday marked World Pharmacists Day, 310 pharmacists were inducted into the health department to fill 105 posts under Director of Public Health, 135 under TVVP and 70 under DME.

Court orders not to immerse PoP idols in Tank Bund

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana High Court on Monday refused to grant interim directions for immersion of Ganesh idols made of Plaster of Paris in Hussain Sagar. The High Court criticised the Telangana Ganesh Murti Kalakar Welfare Association which has challenged the guidelines that prohibit POP.

"This lake is not for you, it is for generations not to pollute with Plaster of Paris," the Court said.

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation has set up 72 'baby ponds' around the city, and it was made clear that immersion is permitted only in these designated ponds. The Chief Justice said that he had seen two cranes there probably, so, huge Ganesh Idols can be immersed. Senior Counsel and Government Pleader Harender Pershad has assured the court that the direction issued by the court shall be communicated to the authorities.

2,306 CCTV cameras to have bird's eye view of city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Home Minister Mohammed Mahmood Ali on Monday inaugurated 2,306 CCTV cameras at the Telangana State Police Integrated Command and Control Centre (TSPICCC).

These advanced cameras were installed across the Tri-Commissionerates and connected to the command control centre. Ali stressed on the journey of Telangana State Police and how it emerged as one of the best police forces in the country by leveraging advanced technology and practices. Of the total cameras in the country, 64 per cent of the cameras are here in Telangana.

He commended Commissioner of Police CV Anand and the entire team for its dedication in adding advanced cameras to the network.

Telangana Director General of Police (DGP), Anjani Kumar said, "The networks availability is crucial ahead of key events like Ganesh Chaturthi and Milad. The gigantic screens reflect the



Telangana DGP Anjani Kumar, Home Minister Mohammed Mahmood Ali and Hyderabad Commissioner of Police CV Anand at the launch of CCTV cameras at the Integrated Command and Control Centre

gigantic commitment of the state government to public safety."

Anand stressed on the progress made by the TSPICCC and said, "TSPICCC transformed into a full-fledged Multi-agency Operations and Disaster Management Centre, as envisioned by Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao."

The Home Minister also inaugurated a war room which facilitates the assembly of top government officials and HODs of all departments in the event of a crisis to mitigate

at the earliest through heightened and quick decision-making. A viewer's gallery now allows the public to get an insider view of the operations of the centre.

Following the launch of the CCTVs, a comprehensive presentation was delivered by Pushpa, SP-Technical, TSPICCC, who explained the advanced features and capabilities of the facility.

This network augments the existing CCTV infrastructure, further enhancing the State's capacity to ensure public safety.

TS varsities to be on par with foreign ones: Guv

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Governor of Telangana Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan expressed her vision that Telangana's universities will excel and be on par with foreign universities. World class education should be given to the common public, not only politicians' children. However they will go abroad, but not poor students, she said.

As part of the "Chancellor Connects Alumni", she met State universities' officials, eminent academicians and those dealing with alumni affairs in educational institutions, at the Raj Bhavan Community hall (Samskruthi) on Monday.

She unveiled plans to establish an Evaluation Committee, consisting of Vice-Chancellors and eminent academicians, tasked with assessing the contributions made by various alumni to their alma mater. The top 10 contributors will be honoured on October 31.

15 BRIDGES ACROSS RIVER MUSI AT Rs 545 CRORE

KTR lays stone for five new bridges in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Municipal Administration & Urban Development Minister KT Rama Rao laid the foundation stone for the construction of five bridges at various locations across the Musi River in Hyderabad. The Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) will build these bridges across the Musi River at a cost of Rs 168 crore.

Earlier, the MA&UD Minister also laid the foundation stone for the construction of a four-lane high-level bridge on the Musi River between Fathullaguda and Peerzadiguda in Hyderabad as a part of HRDCL's missing link roads development initiative.

This bridge will connect the Central Ground Water Board to important areas such as Boduppal, Peerzadiguda, Uppal and Warangal National Highway, facilitating the smooth movement of goods and people between these locations. The travel distance of the com-



Minister KTR said that the State government will be constructing a total of 15 bridges across River Musi at different locations in the city at a cost of Rs 545 crore

muters will be reduced from 9 km to 4 km, whereas the travel time will come down from 21 minutes to 10 minutes.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister KTR said that the State government will be constructing a total of 15 bridges across River Musi at different locations in the city at a cost of Rs 545 crore. Of these, the Fathullaguda bridge will be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 52 crore.

The Minister highlighted that these bridges would be unique

in themselves and different from one another in design aspects. He opined that these bridges would be the next favorite option for film shootings after Durgam Cheru in the city. The Minister also stated that these bridges will improve road connectivity and also add beauty to this region. He highlighted the road infrastructure development that took place in Nagole, LB Nagar and Bairamalguda areas in recent years. He also added that the metro connectivity service from Nagole to LB Nagar would be

taken up, besides Pedda Amberpet near ORR. "Hyderabad city generates nearly 45 per cent of the State's revenue. People would live happily if basic amenities like power, drinking water and law and order were maintained in the city," said the Minister.

He stated that in the last nine years, the government had completed several projects. "People should support the government which is working for the welfare and development of the State," he said.

NxtWave marks third anniversary with blood donation drive

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

NxtWave, an upskilling platform for software careers, announced a series of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives in celebration of its third anniversary. As part of the anniversary celebrations, NxtWave organised a blood donation camp within its office premises at Nanakramguda, Serilingampalli in Hyderabad on Monday.

The blood drive received enthusiastic participation from its employees, students and the alumni, collecting blood that could potentially save the lives of more than 250 people.

The firm has also extended its support to the SOS Children Village of India, a renowned organisation dedicated to pro-



viding a nurturing home for underprivileged children.

It has sponsored daily essentials for 100 children, enriching the lives of these children and providing them with much-needed support.

The donation will be specifically allocated to procure ration items for the children's homes.

Rahul Attuluri, Co-Founder and CEO of NxtWave, said, "Our three-year journey has been marked by innovation and a deep-seated commitment to education.

Efforts on to restore Gudimalkapur stepwell

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner Ronald Rose said that efforts are being made to bring the stepwell in Gudimalkapur into reuse as part of heritage conservation. The commissioner inspected the structures of the Jam Singh temple in Karwan constituency, Nakkur Khana, Kalyana Mandapam, stepwell and flower market on Monday.

For centuries, stepwells, which incorporated a cylinder well that extended down to the water table, provided water for drinking, washing, bathing



and the irrigation of crops. They also served as cool sanctuaries for caravans, pilgrims and other travellers during the heat of day or overnight.

Ronald Rose said that under the guidance of National Institute of Urban Management (NIUM) consul-

tant, the stepwell will be renovated at a cost of Rs 46 lakh and the works are in progress.

The permission from the Endowments Department was to be obtained for taking up conservation and heritage restoration works of Jam Singh temple through NIUM, he added.

Khairatabad Zonal Commissioner Venkatesh Dotre, SE Ratnakar, Executive Engineer Lal Singh, Deputy Commissioner Anjaneulu, Deputy EE Jameel, Assistant Medical Officer of Health Dr Vijay Rammohan Rao, Urban Bio-diversity DD Srinivas, NIUM Consultant Rajini were among those who participated.

Ayurvedic doctor held for practising black magic

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The LB Nagar Police on Sunday arrested a doctor for practising black magic in order to treat patients.

The accused was identified as Dr Gnaneshwar. According to the police, the patient, Karthik (32), met Gnaneshwar at his house located at Tarun Enclave,

LB Nagar 10 days ago.

Karthik, a resident of Vanasthalipuram, approached Gnaneshwar for treatment for headache and neuro-related issues. The police raided Gnaneshwar's clinic and seized his certificates for further investigation. However, instead of prescribing a treatment to Karthik, the accused handed him

lemon and ash. He also asked the patient to revisit him on the night of Amavasya (new moon) and charged Rs 50,000 to perform rituals. However, when Karthik felt no benefit from his rituals, he approached the cops and raised a complaint against Gnaneshwar. The LB Nagar Police have registered a case against the accused and initiated an investigation.

Special MMTS services for Ganesh nimmajanam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In order to clear the extra rush of passengers during Ganesh nimmajanam (idols immersion), the South Central Railway (SCR) will run eight MMTS special trains between various destinations in the Twin Cities in the intervening night of September 28 -29 (between 11 pm of September 28 to 4 am on September 29).

According to the schedule, on September 28, Train No. GHL-5 (Hyderabad - Lingampalli) will depart from Hyderabad at 11 pm and arrive at Lingampalli at 1:50 pm while Train No. GSH-1 (Secunderabad - Hyderabad) will leave from Secunderabad at 11:50 pm and will reach Hyderabad at 12:20 am.

On September 29, Train No. GLF-6 (Lingampalli - Falaknuma) will depart from Lingampalli at 12:10 am and will arrive at Falaknuma at 1:50 am. Train No. GHL-2 (Hyderabad-Lingampalli) will leave from Hyderabad at 12:30 am and reach Lingampalli at 1:20 am.

Moreover, Train No. GLH-3 (Lingampalli - Hyderabad) will depart from Lingampalli at 1:50 am and arrive at Hyderabad at 2:40 am whereas Train No. GFS-7 (Falaknuma - Secunderabad) will leave from Falaknuma at 2:20 am and reach at Secunderabad at 3 am. Train No. GHS-4 (Hyderabad - Secunderabad) will depart from Hyderabad at 3:30 am and arrive at Secunderabad at 4 am while Train No. GSH-8 (Secunderabad - Hyderabad) will depart from Secunderabad at 4 am and will arrive at Hyderabad at 4:40 am.

MUSICAL FOUNTAIN



HMDA launched two musical fountains on either side of the Cable Bridge in the Durgam Cheruvu Lake which was inaugurated by MLA A Gandhi on Monday

Distressed parents turn to crowdfunding to save baby

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

When the Singh family in Delhi was blessed with a baby girl seven months ago, the parents were eager to give her the finest possible start in life and planned her welcome well in advance. However, their joy was short-lived because the mother's intuition revealed a startling diagnosis. When Zaisha Kaur turned six months old, her mother took her to the doctor for a check-up, after observing that she was unable to hold her neck or roll over on her stomach.

She was diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) Type 1, a debilitating disease that primarily affects infants. It is characterised by progressive loss of motor func-

tion, hampering children's movement, breathing or swallowing functions. SMA Type 1 is considered one of the most severe forms of the disease, and without prompt intervention, it often leads to a tragically short lifespan.

Treatment options for the ailment are limited, but recently, ground-breaking therapies have emerged that can significantly improve the quality of life and extend the lifespan of the affected children. However, these treatments come at a staggering cost, making them inaccessible for many families in India.

"When the doctors told us that there is just one drug which will save Zaisha's life, we immediately decided that we will get it for her, come what may," said Pawanjot Singh,

Zaisha's father. "We have also applied for the patient access programme by the drug manufacturer. Hence, we are also trying our best to gather money so we can buy the drug for her as soon as possible."

Currently, the baby is undergoing occupational therapy and physical therapy to keep her muscle movements functioning.

Piyush Jain, Co-Founder and CEO of Impact Guru says, "We are committed to helping families facing medical crises by providing a platform to connect with a community of donors who can contribute to life-saving treatments. We, along with Zaisha's family, hope to gather the necessary funds to access the specialised medical care that the child urgently requires."

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA REVENUE DEPARTMENT										
NOTIFICATION BY DISTRICT COLLECTOR WARANGAL										
FORM-C										
NOTIFICATION										
(Under Section 11 of the Act where 10A Exemption is given)										
(See rule 6/12)										
Warangal District Gazette No. 37/Warangal/2023 Date: 25-09-2023										
District Collector, Warangal, Procs. No.G/37/2023 Date: 25-09-2023										
RC.No. G/37/2023 Date: 25-09-2023										
Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/Collector that a total of 4.39 acres of Patta land is required in the Shyamtel Village of Geesugonda Mandal, Warangal District for public purpose namely Establishment of Railway 3rd line at Shyamtel Village of Geesugonda Mandal of Warangal District.										
Therefore, it is Notified that the land measuring, more or less 4.39 acres of standard measurement, whose detail description is as follows is proposed for acquisition as per Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013 as amended by the RFCT LAR&R (Telangana Amendment) Act 2016, since the Government vide G.O.MS. No.31, Transport, Roads and Building (R) Department, Dated: 18.07.2023 have issued notification while exempting Chapter II & III of the RFCT LAR&R Act 2013 in accordance with the provision contained in section 10A(e) in chapter-III A of RFCT LAR&R Act (Telangana amendment) Act 2016 of the above said project.										
Village : Shyamtel Mandal : Geesugonda Dist : Warangal										
Sl. No.	Sri No.	Type of land	Type of use	Area under acquisition (hectares)	Name & Address of Person Interested	Boundaries				Total Area
						N	S	E	W	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
					Pattadar Potluri Mallesh S/o Komarash Devi Potluri S/o Narsiah Occupant Potluri Mallesh S/o Komarash Devi Potluri S/o Narsiah Enquirer TSPIC Land					
1.	143	Patta	Dry	1-20		143	143	143	143	-
						(1)	(1)	(2)	(2)	-
					Pattadar Sannala Papiah S/o Laxmiah Occupant Sannala Papiah S/o Laxmiah Enquirer TSPIC Land					
2.	142	Patta	Dry	0-21		142	142	142	142	-
						(2)	(1)	(2)	(2)	-
					Pattadar Pattur Sataiah Occupant Pattur Sataiah Enquirer Sannala Papiah S/o Laxmiah (9-26)					
3.	126	Patta	Dry	2-38		126	126	126	126	-
						(1)	(1)	(2)	(2)	-
GRAND TOTAL						04.39				

This Notification is made under the provisions of Section-11(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Central Act no.30/2013), as amended by the Right to Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Telangana Amendment) Act, 2016 (Act No.21 of 2017) to all whom it may concern.

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the Collector, Warangal on any working day during the working hours. The Government of Telangana/Collector-cum-Appropriate Government is pleased to authorize the Land Acquisition Officer & Revenue Divisional Officer, Warangal, Division & District, and his staff to Enter upon and survey land, take levels of any land, dig or bore into the sub-soil & do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in section-12 of the said Act.

Under section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land i.e. sale/purchase, etc., or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the Collector.

Objects to the acquisition if any, and claims from all the persons interested/affected for settlement by negotiation of the compensation, may be filed by the person interested in the land within 60 (Sixty) days from the date of publication of this notification provided under section 15 of the Act before District Collector/Authorized Officer.

Sd/- Sd/- Sd/-
Land Acquisition Officer & Additional District Collector, Warangal District, Warangal

DIPR No.No.656/LA-PP/Advt/Agency/2023-24

Canada's action a blow to G-20 declaration

Canada is a signatory to the declaration that no G-20 nation should allow its territory to be used for promotion of terrorism in another country at the recently concluded G-20 Nations Summit held in Delhi.

Surprisingly, anti-India terrorist activities are being allowed to continue in Canada. It may be recalled that in 1980s, some Sikhs who advocate creation of Khalistan led a separatist movement and claimed the lives of thousands. The then PM Indira Gandhi urged Canada in 1982 to see to it that Sikh extremism is not allowed in that country. Then Pierre Trudeau, who was the father of current Canada PM Justin Trudeau, was the Prime Minister of Canada. However, in 1984 as a misfortune would have it, Sikh bodyguards of Mrs Gandhi claimed her life. In 1985, Sikh extremists had blown up an Air India flight after it taking off from Canada claiming lives of 329 passengers, including 268 Canadians.

In spite of it, the Canadian PM is putting the blame on Indian officials for some unidentified persons gunning down a Sikh extremist called Hardeep Singh Nijjar outside a Gurudwara in Surrey on June 18 last.

Ever since Narendra Modi came to power, he is dealing extremist activities with an iron hand and also adopted a tough posture against terrorist activities taking place on foreign soil against India. This year, wanted Sikh separatist leader Amritpal Singh was arrested after a three-month-long hunt.

About Nijjar, Indian officials tipped off Canada about his terrorist activities way back in 2020. Nijjar had links with Khalistan Tiger Force, active in Punjab working for Khalistan. The NIA shared information with Britain, the USA, Australia, Canada, Dubai, Pakistan and other nations about 19 terrorists.

There were reports in the media about terrorist activities against India going on the soil

Ever since Narendra Modi came to power, he is dealing extremist activities with an iron hand and also adopted a tough posture against terrorist activities taking place on foreign soil against India. This year, wanted Sikh separatist leader Amritpal Singh was arrested after a three-month-long hunt



Y SATYA KUMAR
BJP National Secretary

of other countries.

Recently, some Sikh protestors removed the India flag near the Indian High Commission in London. Also, they damaged the glass window panes of the building.

Khalistan supporters wrote anti-India graffiti on the walls of Hindu temples in Canada. In Ottawa, they targeted Indian High Commission office. They harassed Hindus celebrating the festival of lights - Diwali.

Modi requested PMs of

Australia, Canada and the UK not to give any scope for such terrorist activities taking place on their soils. He also sought legal action against Khalistan terrorists.

The Khalistan movement was banned by India long back declaring the organisations behind the movement as terrorist organisations, Modi told the PMs.

Surprisingly, running terrorist activities in countries like Canada was not illegal and terrorists enjoy protection under

freedom of the speech.

Gurpatwant Singh Pannu, who sought to create an independent Sikh nation out of Punjab on religious grounds and appealed to Sikhs worldwide for support to the Khalistan referendum, was declared as terrorist in 2019 by India. Pannu, in association with Nijjar, has been conducting terrorist activities in Canada for over several years. Pannu recently issued warning to Indian Hindus to go back to India. The NIA, in its report,

mentioned that he was hatching a plot to separate Kashmir from India. In all, 16 cases were registered against him in Punjab, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Uttarakhand. He figured as an accused in two dozens of cases in Punjab even facing the charge of sedition.

Recently, our intelligence officials passed information to the Government of Canada about various Canadian nationals having links with Sikh Federation and Khalistan Liberation Force. They furnished a list of names of those donating funds to Khalistan movement.

Eight lakh Sikhs live in Canada, constituting 2% of the Canadian population. Majority of the Sikhs live in British Columbia. The NDP Party of Jagmeet Singh, who is a supporter of Khalistan, in 2021 elections won 24 seats. It is clear that the Justin Trudeau government - a minority government - is surviving on the

support from Jagmeet Singh. That is why, the Government is supporting Khalistan movement due to political reasons.

Some of the senior advisors of Trudeau and his Cabinet ministers are supporters of Khalistan. In fact, Punjabi Sikhs supported Trudeau to capture the leadership of the Trudeau's Federal Liberal Party.

On the lines of an agreement reached with the FBI of the USA and Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), an agreement was reached between the NIA and RCMP in 2020 on mutual cooperation in matters related to terrorist activities. In spite of it, Trudeau government, practising vote bank politics, providing shelter to Khalistanis.

It was high-time Trudeau realised that Modi would not compromise on terrorism, India's unity and integrity gives priority to these issues com-

pared to maintaining economic and political ties with Canada.

Modi already sent feelers by seizing properties of many Khalistani terrorists in Punjab that those who raise funds to promote terrorist activities on foreign soil should not have any roots in India.

It may be recalled that US soldiers neutralised notorious Osama Bin Laden in Pakistan in 2011 and Iranian General Qasem Soleimani in 2020. Israel too eliminated many Palestinian militants.

Further, why did Canada Government not blame Pakistan when human rights activist Karima Baloch, who highlighted human rights violations by Pakistan government in Beluchistan, was done to death in Toronto?

All nations across Globe are well aware of the fact that Modi-led India would not go soft on such issues. That is why, no government is coming forward to support the stand taken by Canada government on Khalistan.

Conspiracy behind Guv rejecting MLC nominations alleged

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

Minister for Prohibition and Excise V Srinivas Goud has blamed Union Minister G Kishan Reddy for conspiring to see that the Governor rejected the Cabinet proposal to nominate Dasoju Sravan and K Satyanarayana to the State Legislative Council under the Governor's quota.

Addressing the media at his camp office here on Monday, he said that the governor had

refused to nominate the two BRS candidates on the ground that they were politically aligned.

The Minister made it very clear that the Governor's action was not at all justified. He recalled that Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan was the Tamil Nadu State BJP unit president before she was appointed as Telangana Governor.

He demanded that Kishan Reddy persuade Modi to provide OBC quota within the Women's Reservation Bill.

Telangana Govt launched schemes to help minorities

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government launched innovative schemes for the development of minorities on Monday.

After Telangana's formation, the budget for the development of Muslim and Christian minorities saw large allocations in the financial year 2023-2024. Rs 2,200.33 crore has been allocated for minorities' develop-

ment. The overseas scholarship scheme provides incentives to minority students while the Telangana State Minority Study Circle scheme helps youth belonging to minority groups to get educated. The government converted schools into junior colleges to provide 204 minority residential institutions. For these colleges, Rs 788.66 crore was sanctioned and Rs 649.07 crore was spent.

Implement women's quota bill immediately, says Kavitha

Ruling party MLC K Kavitha asserted that the BRS would return to power for the third consecutive term and none can stop BRS victory

PNS ■ NIZAMABAD

Bharat Rashtia Samithi (BRS) MLC K Kavitha on Monday demanded immediate implementation of the Women's Reservation Bill. She claimed that the BRS party's campaign led to the passage of the Women's Reservation Bill.

Kavitha participated in a massive procession taken out from ITI Grounds to the District Collectorate.

Speaking on the occasion, she said that the Congress party too woke up only after the BRS campaigned for the Women's Reservation Bill. Referring to the Congress party's demand for OBC quota within the Women's Reservation Bill, She said, "If the Congress made the provision for OBC quota in the bill



BRS MLC K Kavitha participating in a procession in Nizamabad on Monday

20 years ago, it would have come into effect long ago. The Congress woke up to the fact only after it lost power."

She mocked AICC former president Rahul Gandhi as he claimed that the Congress

party would come to power in Telangana. She asked the Congress leader to focus on the development of the State instead of dreaming of coming to power in Telangana. She went on to say that the

BRS would extend an invitation to Rahul Gandhi after the election to see who will win.

She demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi spell out his assurance incorporated in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act. "Before he comes to the State, the Prime Minister must spell out this government stand on bifurcation assurances." She demanded that the Centre accord national project status to the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project, setting up of turmeric board and Bayyaram steel plant.

Kavitha asserted that the BRS would return to power for the third consecutive term. None can stop BRS victory in the Assembly elections, she said.



Nalgonda MP Uttam Kumar Reddy speaking at a meeting in Kodad on Monday

Uttam confident of Cong victory in TS

PNS ■ KODAD

Nalgonda Lok Sabha member and former TPCC president N Uttam Kumar Reddy demanded on Monday that the Women's Reservation Bill, passed by Parliament, be implemented immediately without any delay.

Uttam Kumar Reddy, along with former MLA N Padmavathi, launched the Congress "six guarantees" campaign in the Kodad constituency.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that the Congress would form a government in Telangana like in Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka and implement the six guarantees announced by Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi. They welcomed the

Women's Reservation Bill but criticised the Modi government's proposed delayed implementation.

The Congress MP alleged that the BJP government wants to delay the implementation of the bill by at least 10 years by linking it to the next Census and delimitation of constituencies. He said that the Modi-led government is using the Women's Reservation Bill as a propaganda tool and "jumla". In March 2010, the UPA government passed the Women's Reservation Bill in the Rajya Sabha, but it was never introduced in the Lok Sabha due to the lack of consensus over the question of "quota within quota" for OBC women and the government's lack of the numbers to ensure its passage, he said.

Homemaker attempts suicide as husband demands divorce

PNS ■ NIZAMABAD

In a shocking incident, a homemaker attempted to commit suicide by consuming pesticide in the town after her husband pressured her to give him a divorce. In fact, the couple got married in the Arya Samaj temple after they were madly in love with each other for eleven years.

Madhumitha and Sai Sashank were madly in love with each other. Though they belonged to the same caste, their parents did approve of their marriage. They, then, got married in the Arya Samba



Madhumitha temple on May 17 this year. They were said to have led a harmonious life for four

months. Sai Sashank started harassing his wife and exerting pressure on her to give him a divorce. Madhumitha, according to police, became depressed and consumed pesticide. Though she was estranged from the family, her parents admitted her to a private hospital. She is said to be out of danger.

The police registered a case and an investigation is on. The women's organisation demanded that Sai Sashank be arrested and charged with abetting his wife to commit suicide.

Political equations fast changing in Medak Assembly segment

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

Political equations are fast changing in the Medak Assembly constituency following the resignation of Malkajigiri MLA Mynampally Hanumantha Rao from the Bharat Rashtia Samithi (BRS) party. His resignation has sent ripples across the Medak Assembly constituency because of the speculation that Hanumanth Rao's son, Rohit, may plunge into electoral battle from the constituency.

Hanumantha Rao's followers claimed that he secured an assurance from the Congress

high command that the party would give tickets to him and his son too. It is learnt that Hanumantha Rao and his son are likely to join the Congress in two to three days.

If Rohit is fielded from Medak, there is likely to be a tough fight between Congress and the BRS. Padma Devender Reddy was elected two times from the Medak constituency. She has emerged as a strong leader in the district.

The constituency is likely to witness a close contest in case Rahit enters into the poll arena. Hanumanth Rao was the Medak MLA between 2009 and 2014.

TS CID arrests Krushi Bank director in AP

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

CID Telangana has apprehended one of the accused of Krushi Co-operative Urban Bank fraud case on Saturday in Palakollu, Andhra Pradesh. Accused, Kagithala Sreedhar, aged 51, was the Director of Krushi Co-operative Bank, r/o Ranigunji, Secunderabad, who is now residing in the West Godavari, Andhra Pradesh. A non-bailable warrant is pending against him at Metropolitan Sessions Court, Nampally, Hyderabad.

Krushi Co-operative Urban Bank Chairman and MD

Kosaraju Venkateshwara Rao, other directors and staff of the bank had misappropriated an amount of Rs 36.37 crore. Without making any payments to the depositors they closed the bank shutters on August 11, 2001. In the pursuance of criminal conspiracy, it was found that the funds had been transferred to fake accounts, documents fabricated, records and accounts falsified.

Dr MV Kumar, along with other depositors lodged a complaint in Mahankali police station, Hyderabad. Police lodged a case under Cr. No. 156/2001 U/s 406, 409,

416, 420, 468, 471, 477A, 120(B) and Sec. 5 of APPDPE Act 1999. Then the case was transferred to CID on August 21, 2001 for further investigation.

The Special Execution Team consisting of G Murali Kumar, Inspector of Police, Ch Thirupathi, SI, J Ratnaji Rao, ASI, Younus Khan, ASI and B Mahender, PC of CID TS, Hyderabad have traced and apprehended the absconding accused from Srirampet limits, Palakollu (Town) PS, West Godavari, AP, produced him before the court and sent him to judicial custody.

Four drown in a lake in Medak district

PNS ■ MEDAK

A 10-year-old boy and three women drowned in a lake at Rangayapally village under Manoharabad mandal in the district on Sunday.

The deceases were identified as Doddu Balamani (30), her son Charan (10), Doddu Lakshmi (25) and Pirangi Lavanya (25). They hailed from Amberpet village under Waraai mandal.

They went to Ragayapally to attend the Bonalu celebrations. On the occasion, they went to the lake for a bath. The boy ventured deep into the lake and drowned and his mother also drowned while trying to save his son. Lakshmi and Lavanya too drowned when they tried to rescue Charan and Balamani, the police said.

The swimmers retrieved three bodies and the body of the boy is yet to be found.

World Pharmacist Day celebrated in GITAM School of Pharmacy

PNS ■ PATANCHERU

GITAM School of Pharmacy (SoP), Hyderabad, celebrated World Pharmacist Day 2023 by organising a one-day National Symposium on 'Pharmacy Strengthening Health Systems'. The event also marked the observance of Pharmacovigilance Week. World Pharmacist Day is commemorated every year on September 25 to honour pharmacists for their significant contributions to enhancing global health. The theme for World Pharmacist Day 2023 is 'Pharmacy Strengthening Health Systems', which emphasises the crucial role of pharmacists in enhancing healthcare infrastructure and systems.

The event witnessed the presence of esteemed guests of honour, Y Sridhar Reddy, vice-president, Head of Global Pharmacovigilance, CDMA, Hetero Drugs, and CS Mujeebuddin, Founder and



CEO, ClinoSol Research. They greeted the budding pharmacists with Happy Pharmacists Day and shared valuable insights on the industry.

Dr Sridhar Reddy, in his address, emphasised the importance of a pharmacist's holistic development, including their curriculum, publications, innovations, and additional contributions to the field. He encouraged the students to focus on the industry and its therapeutic areas, understand organizations, and stay updated with research industry globally.

Mujeebuddin highlighted the growth potential of the pharmaceutical industry, projecting its

expansion to 130 crores by 2030. He underscored the evolving role of pharmacists as medical counsellors, educators, and advocates. The event commenced with a warm welcome by Prof G Shiva Kumar, Principal, SoP, who felicitated the distinguished guests. Dr. Hyma, the organizer of the symposium, delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all participants and contributors.

GITAM School of Pharmacy remains committed to fostering excellence in pharmacy education and contributing to the advancement of the healthcare industry, said the manage-

MLA distributes house sites to 800 poor people

PNS ■ BHADRADRI KOTHAGUDEM

Local MLA Vanama Venkateswara Rao on Monday distributed 800 houses sites to poor families in Kothagudem.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that the government had allotted 22 acres to be distributed to the poor people. The land was worth Rs 100 crore.

Venkateswara Rao promised to ensure that the poor would be given financial assistance under the Gruhalakshmi scheme to build. A total of 20 colonies had already been built.

He asserted that the welfare schemes introduced by Chief Minister K Chandrababai Naidu benefited the poor people. The government would launch more welfare programmes for the welfare of the downtrodden, he said. Soon Kothagudem and Palvancha would become twin cities on the lines of Hyderabad and Secunderabad.

Rahul has no confidence on coming to power in Telangana

SNCN ACHARYULU ■ HYDERABAD

Former AICC president Rahul Gandhi has no confidence on coming to power in Telangana in the Assembly elections.

Telangana Congress leaders have strong hopes of coming to power. TPCC President Revanth Reddy has repeatedly said that the Congress is going to win around 80 out of the 119 seats.

On coming to power in Telangana, state Congress leaders are using the word "certain," but Rahul Gandhi used the words "chance" and "probably."

Rahul has no confidence in Telangana like he has in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan. After winning in Karnataka the hopes of Telangana Congress leaders of coming to power have increased.

Before the Karnataka

Assembly elections, the BJP created the hype that it is going to come to power in Telangana. But after the Karnataka elections, the BJP has become silent and the Congress is creating the hype.

It appears that Rahul is not underestimating BRS President Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrababai Naidu like state Congress leaders. Telangana Congress leaders are of the opinion that whenever Assembly elections are held victory is certain.

Telangana Congress leaders are already dreaming of victory in the Assembly elections and of becoming the Chief Minister and ministers. Recently some Congress leaders issued statements about becoming the Chief Minister after the Assembly elections and this became a controversy in the party.

The Congress high command put a full stop to this controversy and said that all

senior leaders are eligible for the Chief Minister's post.

Rahul's statement has discouraged state Congress leaders who were strongly hoping to come to power. At the same time, the statement of Rahul Gandhi has made BRS leaders happy.

State Congress leaders are not in a position to openly disagree with Rahul. Telangana Congress leaders may try to cover up the statement of Rahul on coming to power in the state.

In fact, according to the present political situation victory is being hotly contested by the BRS and the Congress.

Both the BRS and the Congress are openly claiming victory in the Assembly elections but deep inside both have doubts. Whatever it may be the Telangana Assembly elections are creating a keen interest among political observers.

INDIA CORNER

Eight exotic animals seized in Assam's Cachar district, 5 arrested

Eight exotic animals, suspected to be smuggled from Myanmar, have been seized by the police in Assam's Cachar district, and five people have been apprehended in this connection, an officer said on Monday. Acting on a tip-off, an operation was launched and the animals were recovered from a vehicle coming from Mizoram at the Lalapur Gate along the Assam-Mizoram border on Sunday evening, Cachar Superintendent of Police Numal Mahatta said. "We suspect that the exotic animals were smuggled from Myanmar and the consignment was going to some other state of India," he said. The caged animals were handed over to the forest officials after rescue and they are being shifted to Assam State Zoo in Guwahati. The seized wildlife species include two Panamanian white-faced capuchins, which is a very rare species of monkey, four black gorillas and two common opossums, also called southern black-eared opossum which is also a rare



4 arrested for duping patients at Kolkata hospital

Four people were arrested on Monday at the state-run SSKM Hospital for allegedly duping patients who came to get treated there, police said. The arrests were made by the Kolkata Police's Anti-Rowdy Section (ARS), which began a special drive against touts at state-run hospitals in the city. Acting on complaints, personnel of the ARS raided the hospital in the morning and nabbed them, a police officer said. "These touts were active at the SSKM Hospital for quite some time. They have duped several patients and their families in the name of getting them admission to the hospital. We had received several complaints regarding these touts," he said. The four accused are residents of the nearby Bhowanipore area, he added. A case has been filed under relevant sections of the IPC, including cheating and criminal conspiracy, the officer said.



SIT to probe cryptocurrency frauds in Himachal Pradesh

A special investigation team (SIT) headed by Deputy Inspector General of Police (Northern Range) Abhishek Dhullar would be constituted to investigate cryptocurrency frauds in Himachal Pradesh, Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri said in the Assembly on Monday. Replying to a question of Independent MLA Hoshiyar Singh, he said 56 complaints of cryptocurrency frauds have been received and six FIRs registered in the state in the past two years. Five people -- three from Himachal Pradesh and two from Punjab -- have been arrested and charge-sheeted in these cases, he added. The deputy chief minister said cryptocurrency frauds are not restricted to Himachal Pradesh and such cases have been registered throughout the country. Independent MLA Singh said it is a big scam and people in Kangra and Hamirpur districts have lost more than Rs 200 crore due to these frauds. He claimed the fraudsters lure innocent people by



ALLEGES CONG UNDER 'URBAN NAXALS' SWAY

INDIA 'reluctantly' backed women quota bill, says PM

PNS ■ BHOPAL

Kickstarting Madhya Pradesh poll campaign, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the Congress and its allies in the new "ghamandia" alliance "reluctantly" supported the Women's Reservation Bill in Parliament and warned people that if given an opportunity, they will backtrack on the historic legislation.

Addressing a massive gathering of BJP workers, 'Karyakarta Mahakumbh', here, the PM tore into the Congress, equating the national party with "rusted iron" and alleging its functioning has been outsourced to 'urban Naxals' and that the organisation is not run by leaders.

He warned the Congress would push Madhya Pradesh

back into the 'BIMARU' (laggard) category of states if given an opportunity to rule again.

Modi said the upcoming elections in MP were crucial as they will decide the way ahead for the state, which he said, has been put on path of development by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) during its long rule.

The mega gathering of workers was organised on the birth anniversary of Jana Sangh co-founder Deendayal Upadhyaya to mark the formal culmination of the BJP's 'Jan Ashirwad Yatra' that crisscrossed the length and breadth of the state, seeking to connect with voters ahead of polls.

According to a BJP leader, the event was attended by more than five lakh workers. "The Congress and its allies



in the 'ghamandia' (arrogant) bloc (INDIA) supported the Women's Reservation Bill out of compulsion and hesitation as they understood the power of 'nari shakti'. Its passage (in Parliament) became possible as 'Modi hai to Mumkin hai'. Modi means the guarantee of fulfilling guarantees," the PM

asserted.

He slammed the Congress and its allies for not ensuring the passage of the long-pending legislation in Parliament when they were in power at the Centre.

If given an opportunity, the Congress will back out on the quota bill that seeks to provide 33 per cent reservation to women in Parliament and state assemblies, he said.

Modi said the Congress has lost the will power and its workers on the ground have become silent.

"First, the Congress was ruined (electorally) and then it turned bankrupt. The Congress has been now leased out on a contract. They are framing its policies and coining slogans. It is not being run by leaders," the PM said.

COVID-19: India records 40 fresh cases, active caseload at 456

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India witnessed a single-day rise of 40 new COVID-19 cases while the active caseload has been recorded at 456, according to Union Health Ministry data.

The death toll has been recorded at 5,32,031 (5.32 lakh), showed the data updated on Monday.

The country's Covid case tally is at 4,49,98,565 (4.49 crore).

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease is at 4,44,66,078 (4.44 crore) while the national recovery rate stands at 98.81 per cent, according to the health ministry website.

The case fatality rate stands at 1.18 per cent. According to the website, 220.67 crore Covid vaccine doses have been administered in India so far.

If voted to power, Cong will conduct caste census: Rahul

PNS ■ BILASPUR

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday said his party would conduct a "caste census" if elected to power as only such an exercise would ensure "participation of OBCs, Dalits, tribals and women".

He also asked why the Narendra Modi government had not released the details of a "caste census" conducted by the Congress (when it was in power) and sought to know if the PM was afraid of such an exercise.

Addressing the state government's 'Awaz Nyay Sammelan' in Parsada (Sakri) village in Bilaspur, Gandhi also waved a remote control at the crowd and said the poor and needy were benefited when the Congress presses it, while "Adani gets ports, airports and railway contracts" when the ruling BJP does the same.

"The Congress had conducted a caste census that has



the record of the population of every caste in the country. The Union government has this report but Modiji doesn't want to reveal it," he claimed.

"Caste census has to be conducted if we want to give participation to Other Backward Classes, Dalits, tribals and women. If Modiji does not conduct a caste census, then when we are elected to power our first step will be to conduct a caste census to ensure OBC participation," Gandhi asserted. Gandhi said the government is run by secretaries and cabinet secretaries and not

MPs and MLAs, and pointed out that only three of the 90 secretaries in various Union government ministries are OBCs.

These three persons control only 5 per cent of the country's budget, Gandhi said and questioned if India only had 5 per cent OBC population.

Asserting that the caste census is the answer to such questions, Gandhi asked why Modi was scared of the enumeration exercise.

At the event, during which he launched the Bhupesh Baghel government's 'Gramin Awaz Nyay Yojna (GANY)' aimed at providing financial assistance to the homeless and families having kutcha houses in rural areas, Gandhi brandished a remote control to target the Modi government.

Gandhi said he had pressed a remote control today and several thousand crore rupees went into the accounts of people of Chhattisgarh.

BJP's agenda is 'wait for your rights but vote for us now': AICC spokesperson

PNS ■ GUWAHATI

AICC spokesperson Mahima Singh on Monday said though the Women Reservation Bill has been passed by both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, it cannot be implemented till the next census is completed and this is typical of the BJP's agenda of "wait for your rights but vote for us now".

Why has Prime Minister Narendra Modi played the cruel joke on the women of this country as he has asked us to wait yet again, to claim our political right of representation?", Singh said while addressing a press conference here.

The BJP must answer what is the logical link between census, delimitation and reservation, she asked.

"Did it take BJP nine years to hastily bring out this bill by just changing its name, as everything else remains the same but it seems that the BJP's message to the women of the country is wait for your rights but vote for us now", she said.

Singh alleged that the BJP is not interested in securing political space for women and it was for this reason in 1989, BJP leaders late Atal Bihari Vajpayee and L.K. Advani had opposed the idea of 33 per cent reservation for women in



local bodies, a bill envisioned by then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi that was passed in the Lok Sabha but fell short of seven votes in the Rajya Sabha but was realised by P V Narsimha Rao in 1992.

She claimed that the 2010 bill which is the main premise for the current women reservation bill was a result of the efforts of a high level committee that had been constituted by the Congress-led UPA government to conduct a comprehensive study on the status of women since 1989.

"It is as a result of that vision that we have more than 15 lakh women representatives across here.

local bodies. In spite of the government's lack of interest, in 2016 the then Congress president Sonia Gandhi had demanded that the Modi government pass the Women Reservation Bill in line with the BJP's slogan of "minimum government maximum governance", she said.

"In 2023, months ahead of the general election, a 'nervous' BJP called a special session of the Parliament primarily faced with imminent challenges by the opposition bloc INDIA and tabled the women reservation bill as the 'Naari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam'.... which would be implemented on completion of census and delimitation", Singh said.

AIADMK severs ties with BJP-led NDA alliance

PNS ■ CHENNAI

The AIADMK on Monday announced walking out of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and said it would lead a separate front for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

The decision to break away from the NDA was taken at a high level meeting chaired by party chief Edappadi K Palaniswami at the AIADMK headquarters here.

Briefing reporters on the deliberations, former Minister and senior leader K P Munusamy said the party has unanimously resolved to part ways with the NDA and steer a combine of like-minded parties in the next year's polls.

The resolution, without naming anyone, said the BJP's state leadership has been of late defaming Dravidian stalwart, the late CN Annadurai and late Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa, besides criticising its policies.

It was obvious the Dravidian party was miffed with BJP state president K Annamalai, whose comments about Annadurai had created a rift between the two erstwhile allies.

Top party office-bearers, district secretaries and MLAs and MPs took part in the AIADMK meet.

India to achieve 500 GW renewables target before 2030 deadline: RK Singh

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister RK Singh on Monday said India will achieve its 500 GW renewable energy target before the 2030 deadline.

Addressing FICCI's India Energy Transition Summit 2023, Singh also said had India not lost two years due to COVID-19, the nation would have achieved 50 per cent of its power generation capacity from RE non-fossil fuels, by now. India has 424 GW of power generation capacity which includes around 180 GW from non-fossil fuels and another 88 GW is in the works, the minister said.

The country has a target of



500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030.

"We will achieve 500 GW of renewable energy (RE) well before 2030," he said.

Singh also said India's energy transition programme is at the top in the world. The RE capacity addition is the fastest in the world.

New and Renewable Energy

Secretary Bhupinder Singh Bhalla said India added 15 GW of renewable energy in the last fiscal year (2022-23) which would be increased to 25 GW in 2023-24 and further to 40 GW in 2024-25.

He also said 50 GW of RE projects would go for bidding annually from this year onwards. The minister noted that despite constituting 17 per cent of the world's population, India contributes only 4 per cent to the global carbon dioxide load. The minister further emphasised that India's per capita emissions are approximately 2.2 tonnes, significantly lower than the global average of 6.3 tonnes, accentuating the country's responsible energy consumption habits.

No quality education if student is penalised on ground of religion: SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

There cannot be any quality education if a student is sought to be penalised on the ground that he belongs to a particular community, the Supreme Court Monday said, as it pulled up the Uttar Pradesh government for shoddy probe in a case where a Muslim schoolboy was allegedly slapped by his classmates on the instruction of his teacher in Muzaffarnagar.

Voicing displeasure over the incident, the top court directed

the UP government to appoint a senior IPS officer within a week to probe the case.

"The teacher asked the students to beat the victim because of his religion. What kind of education is being imparted?" it said.

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Pankaj Mishra, while directing that the IPS officer shall file a report in the apex court, asked the state government to conduct counselling of the victim and other students involved in the incident by

professional counsellors.

"There cannot be any quality education if a student is sought to be penalised on the ground that he belongs to a particular community. There is a prima facie failure on the part of the State to comply with mandatory obligations of RTE Act and relevant rules," the bench said in its order.

It was hearing a plea filed by Tushar Gandhi, the great-grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, seeking speedy investigation in the case.

'Metal-mining pollution impacts 23 m people globally'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

An estimated 23 million people around the world live on flood-plains contaminated by potentially harmful concentrations of toxic waste from metal-mining activity, according to a study.

The research, published recently in the journal Science, provides new insights into the extensive impact of metal mining contamination on rivers and floodplains across the world.

Using a new georeferenced global database of 185,000 metal mines and employing a combination of process-based modelling and empirical testing, the research assessed the global scale of metal mining

contamination in river systems and its repercussions for human populations and livestock.

The study modelled contamination from all known active and inactive metal mining sites, including tailings storage facilities used to store mine waste. It looked at potentially harmful contaminants such as lead, zinc, copper, and arsenic, which are transported downstream from mining operations, and often deposited along river channels and floodplains for extended periods.

"Our new method for predicting the dispersal of mine waste in river systems worldwide provides governments, environmental regulators, the mining industry and local



communities with a tool that, for the first time, will enable them to assess the offsite and downstream impacts of mining on ecosystem and human health," said Professor Mark Macklin, from the University of Lincoln, UK.

"We expect that this will make it easier to mitigate the

environmental effects of historical and present mining and, most importantly, help to minimise the impacts of future mining development on communities, while also protecting food and water security," said Macklin, who led the research.

Released against the backdrop of growing demand for

metals and minerals to feed the demands of the green energy transition, the new results highlight the widespread reach of the contamination, affecting approximately 479,200 kilometres of river channels and encompassing 164,000 square kilometres of floodplains on a global scale.

According to the findings, approximately 23.48 million people reside on these affected floodplains, supporting 5.72 million livestock and encompassing over 65,000 square kilometres of irrigated land.

Due to a lack of available data for several countries, the team behind the study believe these numbers to be a conservative estimate.

Soldier allegedly beaten up in Kerala, 'PFI' written on his back by unknown persons

PNS ■ KOLLAM (KERALA)

A soldier was allegedly beaten up near his home in this southern Kerala district on Sunday night by six persons and 'PFI' was written on his back with green paint, police said on Monday.

The alleged incident occurred near his home at Kadakkal here on Sunday night when the soldier was returning home on his bike, police said.

It also said that Military Intelligence personnel have reached the spot and would be directing the investigation into the alleged assault on the soldier who is posted in the



Indian Army's Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (EME) Corps.

The alleged incident occurred on the last day of the vacation of the soldier hailing from Kerala, police said.

An FIR under sections 143 (unlawful assembly), 147 (rioting), 153 (wantonly giving provocation with intent to

cause riot), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt) and 341 (wrongful restraint) of the IPC was lodged during the day against six identifiable persons, police said.

Police said it is not yet clear whether any outfit has any role in the alleged incident.

An officer of Kadakkal police station said that according to the soldier's complaint, he saw some persons standing near his home while he was returning on his bike. On asking them why they were there, they said somebody was lying drunk in the nearby rubber plantation and asked the soldier whether he knew that person, the complaint said.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

India's El Dorado

UP emerges as investors' hot favourite as CM Yogi lays out red carpet, opportunities

Ever since first-time Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath took over the reins of Uttar Pradesh, he has turned its earlier sobriquet 'Uttar Pradesh' on its head and into 'Uttam Pradesh'. The wheels of infrastructure, development, economy, pro-business policies, investment, safety, security, law and order, sound administrative decisions and overall satisfying governance for all sections of society are clucking at the right pace, in the right direction. The State's journey under Yogi's leadership is a living testament to its potential as an investment destination. As Uttar Pradesh continues its march towards progress and prosperity, it continues to beckon investors to participate in its transformation and be part of the heartland's success story. India's most populous State has witnessed remarkable transformation under Yogi's dynamic leadership. He has steered the State towards unprecedented development and economic growth. His visionary leadership has not only improved the law and order situation but also created a conducive environment for business and investment growth. As Uttar Pradesh strides confidently into the future, there are abundant investment opportunities that await both domestic and foreign investors. Yogi Adityanath has been vocal about his vision to transform Uttar Pradesh into a global investment hub. His proactive approach towards development has been guided by the mantra "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwaas," which translates to "Development for all, with everyone's support and trust". Yogi Adityanath's Government has undertaken massive infrastructure projects to improve connectivity across the State viz., the 'Ganga Expressway' and 'Purvanchal Expressway'. These projects not only enhance transportation convenience but also open up opportunities in real estate and logistics. Uttar Pradesh has a thriving industrial sector with established industrial zones like the Noida-Greater Noida region and the upcoming defence corridor in Bundelkhand.



The State offers various incentives to attract industries, such as tax exemptions and subsidies. With fertile land and a large agricultural base, Uttar Pradesh offers excellent prospects for investment in agriculture and food processing industries. Initiatives like "One District, One Product" (ODOP) promote unique regional products and boost agro-based businesses. Investments in the tourism sector, including hospitality, travel and infrastructure, are poised for growth as the State promotes religious and cultural tourism with gusto. The Chief Minister has actively engaged with potential investors and made a compelling pitch to invite them to Uttar Pradesh. The State has introduced single-window clearances, industry-specific incentives and land acquisition reforms. Existing and upcoming airports, highways and state-of-the-art amenities for visitors add to the charm of Uttar Pradesh. Last but not the least, improved law and order has created a secure environment for businesses.

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PICTALK



Tourists and locals at Ghanta Ghar on a cloudy day, in Srinagar

New science awards to unearth fresh talent

The rationalisation of awards providing equal opportunities to people working in every sphere of science will help identify the best scientific talent

The government of India has decided to rebrand the science awards delivered by various ministries into a single new avatar. As per the new decision, there is a rationalisation of awards. Previously, the Department of Science and Technology presented a total of 207 awards, including four with national significance. Additionally, there were 97 private endowments and 56 internal awards. The Department of Biotechnology granted six fellowships as part of its awards program.



The Vigyan Shri Award will acknowledge notable contributions to a specific field. The Vigyan Yuva Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award aims to inspire young scientists who have demonstrated outstanding contributions in their respective fields.

The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar will be conferred across 13 disciplines, encompassing Physics, Chemistry, Biological Sciences, Mathematics and Computer Science, Earth Science, Medicine, Engineering Sciences, Agricultural Science, Environmental Science, Technology and Innovation, Atomic Energy, Space Science and Technology, among others. The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar is open to every Indian citizen and also to people of Indian origin working in other countries. However,

there is a limit to the number of people of Indian origin to be considered for these awards. Out of the total number of 3 awards in the Vigyan Ratna, a maximum of only 1 can be considered from people of Indian origin, while in Vigyan Sri and Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar it is 3 out of 25, while the Vigyan Team award is exclusively for people working in India. Similarly except for

Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (VY-SSB) there is no upper age limit for applying. In VY-SSB the upper age limit is fixed at 45.

In the earlier version of the award that has been followed for many years only people working in government sectors were considered. The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar is open to all researchers, irrespective of the organization. Even people working outside the gamut of any organization can also apply for these awards. This will help thousands of outstanding researchers working under various NGOs in the country to showcase their scientific talents and come to the limelight.



BIJU DHARMAPALAN

A panel headed by the Principal Scientific Adviser will be responsible for choosing the recipients. The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar Committee will comprise secretaries from all six science departments, four presidents chosen from science and engineering academies, and six eminent scientists and technologists representing various realms of science. Each year, nominations for these awards will be open from January 14 to February 28, coinciding with National Science Day. One landmark decision in the new award is the clause for self-nominations, which was not possible in the earlier version. Often the malpractice and unethical practices happening in science are because of this nomination culture. The rationalisation of awards providing equal opportunities to people working in every sphere of science will help identify the best scientific talent from the country.

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

Canada must rein in extremists

Ottawa must be made to understand the sentiments of New Delhi; it should stop pampering pro-Khalistan elements

The ongoing massive diplomatic row has brought a sudden spotlight on the Canada-India relationship.

Differences emerged between the two countries after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau alleged Indian involvement in killing a separatist Sikh activist, Nijjar. Outraged, New Delhi vehemently denied the claim and dismissed it as "absurd and motivated."

On June 18 this year, a pro-Khalistani leader Nijjar was shot dead outside a Gurudwara in Surrey, British Columbia. India had declared him a wanted terrorist. If the relationship between India and Canada had been trending smoothly, it was because of the Geopolitical developments, economic relations, and demographic trends. It worsened after the Nijjar killing. The two countries resorted to tit-for-tat reactions against each other. The ties between the visiting Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for the G20 summit last week were visibly frosty.

New Delhi has been protesting the presence of the pro-Khalistani elements in Canada. New Delhi also frowned on the referendum for Khalistan by them. When Trudeau was on a bilateral visit in 218, there were embarrassing moments about the presence of a Khalistani activist in his delegation. The pro-Khalistani elements sent death threats to Indian diplomats in Ottawa. The request for their extradition also has yet to be addressed so far.

Why is Canada important to India? The former British colony has the highest population of Sikhs outside their home state of Punjab. About 1.4 million Indian immigrants live in Canada out of 40 million. About 770,000 people follow Sikhism. New Delhi has often complained about their activities.

After the controversy, Canada and India acted swiftly to expel senior diplomats in reciprocal moves earlier this week. On Thursday, India's foreign ministry suspended visa services temporarily for Canadian citizens. Ottawa claims that Canadian security agencies had uncovered



evidence linking the Indian government to the assassination.

As for domestic politics, the Congress and other parties supported the Indian government and criticised Trudeau's statement. They are shocked at the allegation that the Indian government had orchestrated the killing of an Indian-origin Canadian citizen on Canadian soil and supported the South Bloc. Only Sukhbir Badal, the leader of Akali Dal, suggested that political parties should work together to stop anti-Sikh propaganda in the media.

As for the international scenario, the reaction towards India from its Western allies has been cautious. Top U.S. diplomat David Cohen claimed the shared intelligence among the Five Eyes made Justin's allegation. Five Eyes Network is an intelligence alliance comprised of the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand. The New York Times said on Sunday, "In the aftermath of the killing in June of the Sikh separatist leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar, U.S. intelligence agencies offered their Canadian counterparts context that helped Canada conclude that India had been involved."

Trudeau called on India to cooperate with Canadian



THE UNITED STATES WANTS TO PARTNER WITH INDIA TO BALANCE CHINA'S INFLUENCE AND WOULD PREFER TO AVOID STRAINS DEVELOPING AMONG ITS ALLIES

authorities to "uncover the truth" about the killing but stated that he was not looking to escalate tensions between the two countries. The stand-off will have repercussions for both India and Canada. India is Canada's tenth most significant trading partner.

Secondly, India has a vital role in Canada's 2022 Indo-Pacific Strategy. Thirdly, India is Canada's tenth most significant trading partner. The two countries have been in discussions about a trade agreement for more than a decade. In 2022, the total trade value between them only reached C\$13.7 billion, a small portion of Canada's overall trade volume amounting to C\$1.52 trillion.

A favourable climate for high-level negotiations for an Early Progress Trade Agreement (EPTA) existed. The October meeting for EPTA talks has now been postponed indefinitely.

Fourthly, the Canadian merchandise trade had grown from approximately \$3.87 billion in 2012 to \$10.18 billion in 2022. Trade will be hit for both sides. Fifthly, there could be a reduction in immigration from India to Canada. Canada has been home to many immigrants in recent years. It has tripled since 2013, overtaking Philipponmes and China. The

students' traffic would also be affected adversely. Over 30 per cent of the students come from India to study in Canada. Further, tourist traffic will also be affected. On September 21, India declared that it would temporarily stop issuing visas to Canadian citizens because of security concerns affecting their missions in Canada. New Delhi is also considering cancelling overseas citizenship to pro-Khalistanis.

India has come a long way since the 1980s and 1990s, rapidly gaining political and economic power. The United States wants to partner with India to balance China's influence and would prefer to avoid strains developing among its allies. A former Pentagon official said that if the U.S. chose the two countries, it might favour India as Washington has been wooing India to balance China in the region.

However, any negative impact on India-Canada relations could prevent Canada from joining the Indo-Pacific network of institutions. Ottawa recognises India's regional power and influence. Ottawa must be made to understand the sentiments of New Delhi and should not pamper pro-Khalistani elements.

(The writer is a popular columnist; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A TICKING TIME BOMB

Sir — Hypertension is a ticking time bomb. It is imperative that people take note of the fatalities and disabilities caused by this "silent killer" known as hypertension. The first report from the World Health Organization (WHO) on the perils of hypertension revealed that nearly 80 per cent of individuals worldwide with high blood pressure suffer due to inadequate treatment. Shockingly, only 37 per cent of Indians with hypertension are diagnosed, and merely 30 per cent receive treatment, despite the abundance of anti-hypertensive medications, the expertise of skilled physicians, and a wealth of literature outlining its dangers. The danger of hypertension is encapsulated in the "rule of halves" - half of the global population is diagnosed, half of those diagnosed receive treatment, and only half of them attain sustainable normal blood pressure levels.

Neglected hypertension can lead to an enlarged heart and inefficient blood vessel function, resulting in casualties. This is particularly unfortunate given the simple and effective ways to prevent and manage this debilitating condition. Lifestyle adjustments, such as regular physical activity, a balanced diet with limited salt and sugar intake, minimal alcohol consumption, smoking cessation, stress reduction, and consistent medication under supervision, can make a significant difference. Measuring blood pressure is a straightforward process, made even easier with the availability of compact devices.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

TAGORE'S VISION

Sir — Rabindranath Tagore envisioned that Indians should embrace the best that the international community has to offer by embracing the spirit of the "Global Village" and emphasising the exchange of thoughts and culture in harmony with nature. This vision was embodied in his brainchild, Visva-Bharati or Santiniketan, where the rich cultural tapestry of Bengal, India, and the entire world would intermingle freely. From Manipuri dance in

5-Star victory for India



India secured a resounding 5-star victory. Three batsmen — Gill, Shreyas, and SKY (Surya Kumar Yadav) — along with two bowlers — Ashwin and Jadeja — crushed Australia by a convincing 99-run margin.

Earlier, centuries from Gill (his 6th in ODIs, 9th in international matches) and Shreyas Iyer (his 3rd in ODIs, 4th in international matches) provided a solid foundation for India. Bowlers Jadeja (3 for 42), Ashwin (3 for 41), and P. Krishna (2 for 56) spun their magic, clinching the 2nd ODI match and securing the series for India. SKY (Surya Kumar Yadav) played a pivotal role with four sixes in an over and a whirlwind 72* (37 balls), propelling India to an imposing total of 399 runs (for 5 in 50 overs) and securing a substantial victory.

SKY's staggering strike rate of 200% begs the question: should he be considered as an opener in shorter formats, perhaps in T20s?

PV Madhu Nivriti | Secundrabad

Tagore's dramas to the works of great artists like Ananda Samarakoon (composer of Sri Lanka's national anthem 'Sri Lanka Matha...'), all exemplify this cultural and intellectual exchange aimed at enlightening both the individual and society. Tagore remains a living example of an ideal human being who takes pride in his roots while embracing the global community.

It is disheartening to witness certain forces working tirelessly to narrow India's perspective and isolate it from the rest of the world in the name of "national pride." We earnestly request the relevant authorities to follow Tagore's ideals. Would the all-embracing, secular, and humanitarian Tagore, who despised the concept of "nationalism" from the depths of his heart, have supported the actions of political leaders on campus who propagate hatred against minority groups?

As far as continuing Tagore's legacy is concerned, it is being carried forward by the paragon of ethical values, Amartya Sen. The constant attempts to tarnish his noble image as a "land-grabber" are a direct assault on Tagore's legacy itself. Sen and Tagore's legacies are synonymous terms. Unlike the current political custodians of

the university, Sen's worldview encompasses the world, transcending the confines of narrow "nationalism," and places the utmost importance on secularism, religious tolerance, humanity, and the economic upliftment of all. It is high time that the narrow-minded mindset opposing dissent, freedom of speech, secularism, and humanity be consigned to oblivion within the campus, and justice be done to Santiniketan's UNESCO-awarded status as a "World Heritage site."

Kajal Chatterje | Kolkata

GOD OF LOGIC

Sir — The God of logic, Lord Ganesha, also known as 'Pratham Pujya,' which means the first one to be worshipped, teaches us the importance of beginning with logic. In essence, He encourages us to approach our goals with prudence and rationality. This wisdom from Lord Ganesha also guides us to foresee potential challenges and address them proactively. Rather than regretting our actions later, we should think logically before we act.

Ananish Godani | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN EMBRACING LIFE... THE UTMOST NEED

This autumn, let go of the things that trouble you; let them fall like dried leaves



SAKSHI SETHI

Our heart is wide enough to embrace the world and hands are long enough to encompass the world." Life can be a beautifully complex tapestry, where on the surface, everything seems picture perfect—the marriage, the career, the health and the loving family all paint a pretty picture. But in quiet moments, when the thoughts drift and one finds yearning for something more or something different, then it's time to listen to that inner voice. It's not about dissatisfaction, rather it's about growth.

In a world that often tells everyone to stick with the status quo, this is the permission slip to break free from those chains and chase dreams. In a world often defined by expectations and conformity, embracing the authentic self is a superpower that can propel an individual to move forward.

As a younger self, everyone had a sense of naivety that allowed them to approach the world with curiosity and fearlessness. With time and growth, the brains get wired to keep themselves safe which in turn leads to making to resist change. But if tapped into that childlike sense of wonder, one can embrace change with excitement and enthusiasm. One needs to trust the process and keep moving forward. One shouldn't be afraid to take risks and try new things. With a bit of naivety, an individual can approach change with a fresh perspective and an open mind.

To make a change, one needs to determine the value of the change. As a human being, one doesn't do things simply for the sake of doing them, rather one needs to have a purpose, value or benefit.



Stepping out of your comfort zone can be scary but it's where the opportunities and growth lie. Moving to a new frequency may crumble some aspects of life, but at the same time will also make room for new opportunities and experiences. There is no denying the fact that change can be scary but everyone must face it. It's the words and perceptions of an individual that matter and make an impact on the behaviour and actions. Reframing the way an individual thinks about change is very valuable in whether one worries about it or embraces it. One needs to stop thinking about embracing change as the big bad wolf—"scary," "uncertain" and "negative" and start thinking about it as an adventure and a fun experience where they learn, grow and have fun in the process.

Remember, there is no better time than autumn to begin forgetting the things that trouble us, allowing them to fall away like dried leaves.

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

Digital medium and new economic paradigm

Attaining the balance between business and social values in the digital realm is the need of the hour



UTTAM CHAKRABORTY



SANTOSH KUMAR BISWAL

Jeff Bezos, the founder of Amazon has rightly argued, "There is no alternative to digital transformation. Visionary companies will carve out new strategic options for themselves those that don't adapt, will fail."

Attention economy is the latest lexicon in the landscape of business and digital communication. There is hardly any space that digital media has not reached and influenced, whether it is for good or bad. Technology and digital connectivity have evolved a new paradigm in the sphere of economy, the attention economy, which is doing around all across. This new model has redefined the very rudiments of the economic paradigm and there have been shifts in Ferments, foundations and the future of the economy on a global scale. The confluence of economy and interactive digital communication emanating from the economy has wider implications on the genesis and praxis of economy and digital communication. It has caused concerns about privacy, manipulation, and the toll it takes on mental health which need to be amicably addressed.

No wonder, the attention economy has transformed the way we live, work, and interact, and it's time we take a closer look at its impact and the challenges it presents. Such a form of new economic model has emerged in the digital age. It's a framework that recognizes that attention has become a finite resource in an information-rich world. In the traditional economic model, goods and services are exchanged for money. In the attention economy, however, the currency is not dollars or euros; it's our precious time and cognitive resources.

The attention economy revolves around capturing and holding the attention of individuals to monetize it. This is principally achieved through advertising, content consumption, and social media. Social media platforms have played a pivotal role in the rise of the attention economy. They have created a digital landscape where individuals willingly share their personal information, preferences, and behaviours, providing an invaluable resource for advertisers and content creators. Platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and TikTok have mastered the art of keeping users engaged and scrolling for hours on end.

One of the key features of social media is the algorithm-driven feed, designed to show users content that will keep them on the platform as long as possible. These algorithms analyze user behaviour, preferences, and interactions to curate a personalized feed that maximizes the chances of holding the user's attention. Whether it's endless scrolling on Instagram or watching recommended videos on YouTube, these algorithms are designed to capture and retain our attention.

Companies and platforms vie for our attention because they know that the more of it they can capture, the more advertising revenue they can generate. In this light, social media has not spared any space whether it is personal or professional. Numerous social media platforms have played a pivotal role in the rise of the attention economy. They have inevitably created a niche digital landscape where individuals willingly share their personal information, preferences, and behaviours, providing an invaluable resource for advertisers and content creators. It is startling but true. Platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and TikTok have mastered the art of keeping users engaged and scrolling for hours



THE THE ATTENTION ECONOMY IS NOT ALL FREE FROM FLAWS. SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS AND ADVERTISERS ARE CONSTANTLY REFINING THEIR TECHNIQUES TO KEEP US HOOKED

(Chakraborty is HoD, Digital Marketing & Associate Professor, Presidency University, Bengaluru and Biswal is Associate Professor & Head, Journalism and Mass Communication, Rama Devi Women's University, Bhubaneswar; views are personal)

on end. Moreover, artificial intelligence and machine learning are the new entrants that have started positioning curated and personalized content which have larger implications for the economy by capturing the users' attention. Whether it's never-ending scrolling on Instagram or watching recommended videos on YouTube, these algorithms are designed to capture and retain attention.

The attention economy is not all free from flaws. Social media platforms and advertisers are constantly refining their techniques to keep us hooked. These models of business activities can foster the spread of misinformation and echo chambers. Algorithms often prioritize content that aligns with a user's existing beliefs and preferences. This can lead to the reinforcement of biases and a lack of exposure to diverse perspectives, ultimately contributing to polarization and the spread of fake news. The attention economy's impact on mental health is a growing concern. Every notification, every "like," every comment is a small reward that keeps us coming back for more. Take control of your social media feed by unfollowing accounts that don't add value or contribute to negativity. Curate a feed that inspires and educates rather than drains your energy. This can lead to addictive behaviour and compulsive checking of social media, negatively impacting our mental health and productivity.

The constant barrage of content also makes it challenging for individuals to focus and engage in deep, meaningful activities. Continuous

partial attention (CPA) is an automatic process that allows people to pay attention to multiple sources of information at the same time while searching for relevant information. This allows people to move from a superficial focus on a lot of information to focus on highly relevant information within a short attention span. CPA has been used to describe our tendency to be constantly distracted by notifications and the fear of missing out (FOMO).

Fear of missing out (FOMO) is a feeling of anxiety about not being aware of or missing out on information, events, experiences, or life decisions that could improve one's life. It is characterized by the desire to constantly stay in touch with what others are doing. FOMO has increased recently due to technological advancements. Social networking sites create many opportunities for FOMO. While it provides opportunities for social engagement, it provides a view of the myriad of activities in which one does not participate. Psychological dependence on social networks can lead to FOMO or even pathological use of the Internet. This hampers our ability to concentrate, which is essential for tasks that require sustained attention and critical thinking.

Research has shown that excessive use of social media and digital devices can lead to feelings of loneliness, depression, and anxiety. The constant comparison with others, the pressure to curate a perfect online persona, and the fear of missing out on social events can take a toll on our well-being. The relentless stream of information and sen-

sationalized news can contribute to information overload and heightened stress levels.

There is little doubt that the attention economy enjoys a coveted space in digital marketing and business strategy. However, in a view to mitigate the ill effects of excessive digital media consumption, sanity in terms of focused work, leisure, resetting your mental state, algorithmic accountability and minimizing mindless scrolling is highly warranted. Periodically disconnect from digital devices and social media. A digital detox can help reset your mental state and reduce dependency on technology. Allocate time for focused work, leisure, and social media, and try to minimize mindless scrolling.

The attention economy is a double-edged sword. On one hand, it has revolutionized the way we access information, connect with others, and do business. On the other hand, it has raised significant concerns about privacy, manipulation, and the toll it takes on our mental health.

Finding a balance between benefiting from the opportunities of the attention economy while safeguarding our well-being is a complex challenge. It requires a combination of individual responsibility, societal awareness, and ethical practices from tech companies.

Finding a balance between benefiting from the opportunities of the attention economy while safeguarding our well-being is a complex challenge. It requires a combination of individual responsibility, societal awareness, and ethical practices from tech companies.

Women's reservation Bill: A pathbreaking achievement

It is a historical step and culmination of a series of progressive reforms that the Modi Government has undertaken for the welfare of women

Empowerment began with the much-acclaimed Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) campaign, launched by the Prime Minister in 2015 at Panipat, Haryana. BBBP addresses the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and related issues of women's empowerment over a life-cycle continuum. Speaking on the success of this programme, the Prime Minister while addressing citizens of his adopted village Jayapur said, "Our Mantra should be: 'Beta Beti, Ek Samaan.'" Let us celebrate the birth of the girl child. We should be equally proud of our daughters. I urge you to sow five plants when your daughter is born to celebrate the occasion."

The next step was the hugely successful campaign



VINEETA HARIHARAN

((The author is a public policy expert and spokesperson, BJP and State Vice President, BJP Women's Wing; views are personal))

of the Swachh Bharat Mission which provided izzat ghars to more than 120 million women thus ensuring access to safe sanitation for women and girl children across rural and urban Bharat. Saving millions of women from chronic respiratory disorders by providing smoke-free kitchens through the widespread Ujjwala Yojana which provided gas cylinders to more than 96 million women was another significant life-changing provision for the women of our country. Apart from these, several important programmes were delivered for the betterment of the health and hygiene of our women.

Distribution of over 270 million sanitary pads priced at Re. 1 through Jan Aushadhi Kendras, providing 39 million

free antenatal check-ups under PM Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan; benefitting more than 30 million women through the PM Matru Vandana Yojana; increase in paid maternity leave period from 12 weeks to 26 weeks; were some of the significant health initiatives. As an outcome of these, we could achieve a decline in Maternal Mortality Rate from 130 in 2014 to 97 per lakh live births in 2018-20. Modi Government also facilitated holistic well-being development schemes such as Mission Poshan.

This was an integrated nutrition support programme to overcome the challenges of malnutrition in children, adolescent girls, pregnant women, and lactating mothers. Poshan Abhiyan has reported benefi-

ciaries of more than 100 million which includes more than 5 million lactating and pregnant mothers and more than 4 million children below 6 months.

Apart from social welfare, this Government has also ensured economic empowerment through various interventions beginning with opening more than 270 million Jan Dhan accounts and providing more than INR 200 million to women entrepreneurs through the MUDRA Yojana. There has been a 28% increase in registration of women-owned MSMEs in just 3 years.

More than 45,000 DPIIT-recognised startups have at least one woman director. Mahila Samman Savings Certificate (MSSC) for girls and women which was anno-

unced by Finance Minister Nirmala Seetharaman ji in the Union Budget 23-24, celebrates Nari Shakti by providing financial freedom and dignity for women and girl children. Apart from social and economic empowerment, this Government has also taken bold steps in bringing much-needed reforms for Muslim women. The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019 declared the pronouncement of instantaneous and irrevocable triple talaq by a Muslim husband as illegal. The Women's Reservation Bill is now the culminating transformation being introduced to ensure adequate women's participation in the electoral canvas of Bharat. The chequered legislative history of the Women's Reservation Bill

began 27 years ago when the H D Deve Gowda-led government introduced it in Parliament in September 1996.

Almost every government has since tried to push it through — the UPA government managed to get it passed in the Rajya Sabha in 2010 but later could not get it through in the Lok Sabha. The move has not come to fruition so far due to a lack of political will and consensus.

The bill will help to represent those who remain under-represented. The proportion of women MPs was just five per cent in the first Lok Sabha in 1952 reaching a figure of less than 15 per cent today. In Rajya Sabha too, women's representation is about 14 per cent and below 10 per cent in many state assemblies. Bring-

ing in the 1/3 representation will enable many more women's voices to be heard in the wells of the parliament houses. This will also ensure that women's issues and challenges in the most backward areas are represented before the policy and lawmakers which will go a long way in not just keeping our women and girl children safe in the country but also empowering them to play a critical role in nation-building.

The Women's Reservation Bill will be etched in the history of Modern Bharat and the Modi Government will always be known as the most progressive Government that provided 360-degree empowerment for the women of our country—social, economic and now electoral. A proud and jubilant moment in history for all of us.

MONEY MATTERS

Rupee falls 20 paise to close at 83.14 against US dollar

The rupee declined by 20 paise to settle at 83.14 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday due to rising crude oil prices and a strong American currency against major rivals overseas. Subdued equity markets and withdrawal of foreign funds also weighed on the domestic currency, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened weak at 83.04 and traded between a high of 83.04 and a low of 83.15 against the US dollar. It finally settled at 83.14 (provisional) against the dollar, registering a fall of 20 paise from the previous close. On Friday, the rupee climbed 19 paise to close at 82.94 against the US dollar. Friday's gain in the rupee was attributed to JP Morgan's announcement that it will include Indian government securities in its global bond index starting June 2024, a move which is expected to bring in USD 25-30 billion of inflows into the Indian debt market.



IndianOil unveils India's first green hydrogen-run bus

India's top oil firm IOC on Monday unveiled the nation's first green hydrogen-powered bus that emits just water as it takes the lead in bringing out unrivaled tools to replace fossil fuels. Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) will produce close to 75 kg of hydrogen by splitting water using electricity from renewable sources. This hydrogen will be used to power two buses which will ply across the national capital region for trial runs. Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, flagging off the buses, said hydrogen will be India's transition fuel for moving away from fossil fuels. IOC's R&D Centre at Faridabad is producing green hydrogen for the pilot run. Four cylinders with a capacity of 30 kg can run the buses for 350 km. It takes 10-12 minutes for the four tanks to fill. Hydrogen when burnt emits only water vapour as a by-product. With three times the energy density and the absence of harmful emissions, hydrogen shines as a cleaner, more efficient choice to meet the energy requirement.



Tamil Nadu accounts for sale of 4 lakh EVs in country

Tamil Nadu is inching towards realising its goal of becoming an electric vehicle (EV) hub in the country as the state accounted for sale of four lakh automobiles out of the total 10 lakh EVs sold pan India between January and September this year, the government said on Monday. Citing data shared by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, it said as many as 10,44,600 electric vehicles were registered country-wide of which 4,14,802 vehicles were sold in Tamil Nadu till September. "It is a significant record and speaks volumes about the diverse, vibrant multi-sector presence and the impetus for growth accorded by the government," an official release here said. With over Rs 50,000 crore investment expected in EV manufacturing by 2025 that would generate 1.50 lakh jobs, the industry would become the focus sector. Buoyed by the surge in EV sales, the government said by 2030 it aims to manufacture 30 per cent of all electric vehicles sold in the country and contribute substantially to global exports.



DGTR initiates anti-dumping probe into Chinese imports

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India has initiated a probe into an alleged dumping of flasks and bottles by Chinese firms in the country following a complaint by a domestic player. The move is aimed at protecting domestic players from cheap imports of vacuum insulated flasks or vessels of stainless steel from the neighbouring country. The probe was started after a complaint by P Lacer International Pvt Ltd was received, which stated that the domestic industry is getting injured due to an increase in dumped imports. Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), the commerce ministry's investigation arm, is probing the dumping of this product originating in or exported from China. The products under consid-

eration for the probe include flasks, cups, bottles, kettle, carafe, and dispensers. According to a DGTR notification, there is prima facie evidence of injury being caused to the domestic industry by dumped imports from China. "The authority, hereby, initiates an anti-dumping investigation" on the imports, the notification has said. If it is established that the dumping has caused material injury to domestic players, DGTR would recommend the imposition of anti-dumping duty on these imports. The finance ministry takes the final decision to impose duties. Anti-dumping probes are conducted by countries to determine whether domestic industries have been hurt because of a surge in cheap imports.



1-2 board members dominant even in big commercial banks

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday said the central bank has noticed "excessive dominance" by one or two board members even in "big commercial banks" and asked the lenders to desist from such practices. Board discussions have to be free, fair and democratic, Das said, addressing directors of Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) at a meeting organised by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) here. "There should not be an over-dominance or excessive dominance by one or two members of the board, or the chairman or the vice-chairman. We have seen this even in big commercial banks wherever we have seen this, we have told the bank that this is not the way," he said. He said all directors need to be given a chance to speak and a particular director's say should not be the final one on a matter. The governor, who made the point while illustrating the importance of a well-functioning board, however, did not



elaborate further. In the past, the Indian bank-

ing system has witnessed problems at the promoter-led YES Bank, which had to be bailed out in an SBI-led initiative, which was supported by the RBI and the government. YES Bank Co-Founder Rana Kapoor, who was also its Chief Executive and Managing Director, was arrested in connection with the irregularities at the bank. Earlier this month, Uday Kotak, the Chief Executive and Managing Director of Kotak Mahindra Bank, resigned from his post and will continue as a non-executive

board member. Das said directors in UCBs -- who are elected to the post -- need to have expertise in various aspects of banking, such as risk management, information technology, etc. He urged directors to go through agenda notes, which are prepared in advance, and ask relevant questions. While a managing director should have the freedom to act as per what she or he feels right, it is also important for directors to get their doubts clarified, Das added.

RBI 'not comfortable' with NPAs in urban co-op banks

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday said the central bank is "not comfortable" with the gross non-performing assets ratio of 8.7 per cent in urban cooperative banks (UCBs) and asked them to work towards improving the same. Addressing directors of UCBs in the financial capital at an RBI-organised conference, Das urged that such lenders should improve the governance

standards, avoid related-party transactions and focus on credit risks, among others. It can be noted that the UCB sector has been fraught with multiple challenges and also witnessed difficult times in the recent past, like the imposition of the city-headquartered Punjab and Maharashtra Bank. Das reminded the directors of the UCBs that banks run on depositors and added that

protection of the hard-earned money pooled in from the middle class, poor and retirees is far more sacred than going to a temple or a gurdwara. While the overall picture at an aggregate level looks nice, the situation on GNPA and capital adequacy is "not at all satisfactory", Das said. He said the overall GNPA have improved to 8.7 per cent, which is "not a good number."

No independent regulator in new e-commerce policy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The proposed e-commerce policy, which is under formulation, has no provision for setting up of an independent regulator for online retail platforms, a senior official said. The official also said regarding data related issues, the e-commerce firms have to comply with the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act and the proposed policy will not cover that area. The proposed national e-commerce policy is in the final stages and no new draft will be issued now for seeking views of stakeholders as that exercise has been completed

by the ministry. "The ministry has to give a presentation of the proposed policy to the prime minister's office. There is no plan to set up any regulator for the sector, at least not in the near future. As of now, it is not on the anvil," the official, who did not wish to be named, said. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) on August 2 held a detailed discussion with representatives of e-commerce firms and a domestic traders' body on the proposed policy. In that meeting, a broad level of consensus emerged among the concerned stakeholders on the proposed policy.



Demat accounts grow 26% to 12.7 crore

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The number of demat accounts rose to 12.7 crore in August 2023, a surge of 26 per cent on a yearly basis, primarily due to attractive returns from equity markets, and ease of account opening process. Also, the incremental additions of such accounts were higher in August in comparison to the preceding month. Further, this was way higher than the average 21 lakh monthly additions in fiscal year FY23, according to an analysis by Motilal Oswal Financial Services. The new account additions rose 4.1 per cent month-on-month to 31 lakh in August compared to 30 lakh additions in July. Going by the data, a total of 12.7 crore demat accounts were registered with the two depositories -- NSDL and CDSL -- at the end of August 2023 as compared to 10.1 crore a year earlier. The number of demat accounts was 12.3 crore at July-end.

TRAI recommendations on boosting telecom infra in northeast progressive: COAI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Industry body COAI on Monday said regulator TRAI's latest recommendations on boosting telecom infrastructure in northeastern states are progressive and will drive socio-economic and digital progress in the region. TRAI's recommendation on exemption of Right of Way (RoW) charges in the rural, tribal and hilly regions for a five-year period will encourage telecom operators to invest further towards network

deployments in lesser populated regions, the association said in a statement. "The industry is confident that if implemented in letter and spirit, these progressive recommendations will provide further impetus to proliferation of telecom and broadband services in the northeastern region of the country, thus propelling socio-economic and digital progress...", Cellular Operators' Association of India (COAI) Director General S P Kochhar said.

Deeper participation in global value chains to help India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Steps like streamlining port and customs operations, and setting up of national trade network will help Indian firms integrate with global value chains and add USD 1.2 trillion in the country's foreign trade by 2030, according to a report. The Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said that currently, India's limited participation in global value chains (GVCs) hampers its export potential, despite possessing substantial manufacturing capabilities across various GVC-relevant product categories.

The integration of Indian companies in the GVCs is fundamental as about 70 per cent of global trade operates within these chains, encompassing a wide range of products, from electronics and machinery to pharmaceuticals and apparel. "India's weak GVC integration can be attributed to poor trade infrastructure, causing delays at ports and customs, which are detrimental to the timely flow of goods in these intricate value chains," GTRI Co-Founder Ajay Srivastava said. Countries like China, Japan,



South Korea, Thailand, and Malaysia have excelled in GVCs due to investments in quality trade infrastructure.

The GTRI report has recommended six action points to the government which can help boost the participation of

domestic firms in GVCs. The suggestions include automating port and customs procedures, and implementation of green channel clearances for 99 per cent of shipments; analysing the top 10,000 exporters responsible for 85 per cent of India's exports; matching global best practices for ship turnaround times, reducing queues, speeding up infra-structure use; and enhance communication between traders and shipping companies, port operators, and Container Freight Stations (CFS).

CTI to Centre: Ban lentil import from Canada

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi traders' body CTI on Monday urged the Central government to ban import of lentil (masur) from Canada, over Ottawa's allegations relating to the killing of a Khalistani separatist on Canadian soil. In a letter to Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, the Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI) said that there was a need to exert economic pressure on Canada.

A growing dispute between India and Canada has erupted following allegations made by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau over the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar. Chairman of CTI, Brijesh Goyal, said that the development has sent ripples through the business world. Indian traders have demanded that India should ban import of lentils from Canada, which is a major supplier.



"Canada is becoming a stronghold of Khalistanis and their anti-India sentiment was displayed by protests at the Indian embassy. However, Trudeau is making politically motivated statements in view of upcoming elections in Canada," he said. India's annual pulse consumption is estimated at around 23 lakh tonnes of which 15-16 lakh tonnes is produced domestically and rest is imported from other

countries. In the last financial year, India imported 4.85 lakh tonnes of lentil from Canada, Goyal said. The Central government may contact other countries for pulses like Russia, Singapore, and Turkey, he added.

BIS developing standard on paraffinic green diesel

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) on Monday said it has developed as many as nine standards on biofuels, and is in the process of developing a standard on paraffinic (green) diesel. BIS Director General Pramod Kumar Tiwari said, these standards will significantly complement the objectives of Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA), the multilateral forum announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the G20 leaders' summit held recently in the national capital. "We are committed to support this path breaking initia-

tive of the government through development of relevant Indian Standards and necessary quality parameters/performance specifications," he said in a statement. He said development of standard on paraffinic (green) diesel, that is derived from second generation (2G) feedstock, is also under progress. BIS is a national standards body of India that works under the aegis of the Food and Consumer Affairs Ministry. According to the BIS, the USA, Brazil, and India are the major producers and consumers of biofuels. These three countries collectively con-



tribute 85 per cent production and 81 per cent consumption of ethanol globally. The global ethanol market was valued at USD 99 billion in 2022 and is expected to grow at a compounded annual growth rate of 5 per cent by 2032, creating a huge opportunity for Indian industries and contributing to farmers' income, job creation and overall development of the Indian ecosystem, it said. Currently, about 98 per cent of the fuel requirement in India for the transportation sector is met by fossil fuels and the remaining 2 per cent by biofuels. Indian Oil Manufacturing

Companies (OMCs) are working towards provisioning new distilleries for production of first generation (1G) and 2G ethanol and Indian vehicle manufacturers are developing engines compliant with ethanol blended fuel. The government has also started an interest subvention scheme for molasses and grain-based distilleries to promote ethanol production. It is also foreseen that flex fuel vehicles, which are capable of utilising ethanol-blended gasoline up to 85 per cent, that are already operational in the USA and Brazil, are soon to make an entry in India, the BIS added.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
 NIT/DB/D3/TUFIDOBanswacini/Amoor/2023-24 Dt: 25.09.2023
 No. of the works (05) under TUFIDOB Loan Assistance. Cost: Rs. 645.00 Lakhs; Closing Date: 03.10.2023 @ 04:30 PM; For details visit <https://tender.telangana.gov.in>. Contact No: -040-23325849, 9154299724. Sd/- Superintending Engineer (PH) West Circle, Hyderabad. R.O. No: 643-DPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/11/2023-24 Date: 25-09-2023

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA TRIBAL WELFARE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
ESIC WORKS TENDER NOTICE
 NIT No. SE/TW/HT/2023-24, Dt: 23.09.2023
 Name of the work: 1) Providing BT Road from Donur to Bosarrakotacheru Gudem. 2) Providing BT Road from Donur to Dubbagudem. 3) Providing BT Road from Theegala Dhanam road to Perumandugudem/Ho Kosunipally or Dhanapur (M) in Jagtial District (Package work) for Rs. 485.00 Lakhs. Bid Submission Starting Date: 26.09.2023 at 5:00 PM and Bid Submission Closing Date: 03.10.2023 at 3:00 PM. Further details can be seen at 'e' procurement market place @ <https://tender.telangana.gov.in/>. Ph. No: 9492770365. Sd/- Superintending Engineer Tribal Welfare, Hyderabad. R.O. No: 438-DPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/11/2023-24 Dt: 25.09.2023

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA TRIBAL WELFARE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
ESIC WORKS TENDER NOTICE
 NIT No. SE/TW/HT/2023-24, Dt: 22.09.2023
 Name of the work: Providing BT Road works in Certain Districts. No. of works-28. Total cost of 28 BT Road works for Rs. 3382.48 Lakhs. Bid submission Starting Date: 29.09.2023 at 5:00 PM and Bid Submission Closing Date: 09.10.2023 at 3:00 PM. Further details can be seen at 'e' procurement market place @ <https://tender.telangana.gov.in/>. Ph: 9492770365. Sd/- Superintending Engineer Tribal Welfare, Hyderabad. R.O. No: 440-DPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/11/2023-24 Dt: 25.09.2023

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
'E' PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
 NIT No. 13/E/HD/UPU/GHMC/2023-24 Date: 23.09.2023
 Name of the Work: For 4 Works "Attending of CC/RT cuttings, potholes and patches on Ganesh Procession roads for the year 2023 in Ward No.8-Habibnagar in Uppal Circle-2, L.B Nagar Zone, GHMC. (Reserved for SC Community Individuals and Societies) Attending of CC /RT cuttings, potholes and patches on Ganesh Procession roads for the year 2023 in Ward No. 10-Uppal in Uppal Circle-2, L.B Nagar Zone, GHMC". Estimate Amount: Rs.10.75 Lakhs, Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids: 25-09-2023 @ 11:00 AM. Name & Address Officer: Sri. A. Nagender, EE Executive Engineer, Uppal Div.No.2, GHMC. For further details can be seen at e-procurement @ <http://www.tender.telangana.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer Uppal Circle - 2, GHMC. R.O.No: 7211-PPCL/ADVT/11/2023-24 Dt: 25.09.2023

LIGHTS, CAMERA, CONFIDENCE

TEJAL SINHA

Wearing her heart on her sleeves, the beauty queen and actress Nimrit Kaur Ahluwalia is a woman of essence. A well-known face in the television industry and now a rising star in Bollywood, the diva has been the talk of the town for quite a while now. "I hope it's all for the right reason (we laugh out loud)." As we begin this fun chat, she feels grateful and blessed about it every day that she wakes up.

Bringing back-to-back bangers after *Zihaal-e-Miskin* and *Soniye*, she's once again taken her fans into a frenzy with her recent release, *Jaane Jaa*, starring alongside Sooraj Pancholi. With consecutive music videos, one after the other, she didn't really want to let it go since it was all nothing less than 'opportunities' for her. She shared, "I honestly feel like if great things are coming your way and you're getting to do different things, then just go ahead. *Zihaal-e-Miskin* is a sad, heartbreaking song, *Soniye* is a groovy dance number, and *Jaane Jaa* is all action. I felt that with all the opportunities that came my way, I'd been part of some great music and connected myself with some great talents. I never really planned it out. It just happened, and I felt that if you're getting to do something new and part of something that's so good, why not?"

Talking of *Jaane Jaa*, it also marks her second collaboration with the VYRL Originals, after the smacking hit *Zihaal-e-Miskin*, which has now crossed over 200 million views. A super enthusiastic Nimrit said, "When they made me hear the song, I really loved it. Atif Aslam, Asees Kaur being the voice of it, *Jaane Jaa* is an iconic song, plus there is DJ Chetas, bringing a new vibe to it, who can even say a 'NO' to it. I think the thing I liked the most was the action. It was just fun, so I was like, 'Let's just have some fun!'"

A fresh avatar of one of the masterpieces of the 1970s, where you have everything right from action to drama. But at a time when recreating a song is in contention, was there any sort of pressure on being compared to the iconic song? Well, not really, said the *Choti Sardarni* actress, as she explained, "I feel that when there are different people coming together and bringing their own creative energy, it is always going to bring something different from what it is. I don't think it's an attempt to recreate something, and like you said, it's so different from the original one. It's just to bring a whole different interpretation to this iconic song, and hopefully people are loving it. More than just the insecurity of what people say, nobody has done that (she giggled). I mean, it would be really stupid to recreate that. There is no recreation, but a different interpretation, and that's what I feel is beautiful about art in general."

The *Bigg Boss 16* fame further had all praise for her co-star Sooraj for the fun experience she's had while shooting *Jaane Jaa*. The song is a combo of action, adventure, and fighting for your love. Taking us through her preparations for the song, she shared, "We had a lot of fun while preparing for it because everyone was so into it. Even before we went on set, everything was photographed, and we were streaming it for a couple of days, and you know that experience was very kickass. We were very lucky to have Prateek sir, who was training us for it. It was just so easy because we had done all of the prep already, so we knew exactly what to do. I think there's a lot of fun when you're preparing for a lot of stuff—for anything, for that matter—because trying out something new is always fun."

When it comes to her projects, she does not really have a big list of criteria in her head, but she goes through her instincts. When it feels right on her head, and as long as she gets to do something different, you'll surely see her enrapturing your hearts again and again (wink). As an artist, she always looks for projects where she can explore herself and understand her strengths and weaknesses to do better. One of the well-known faces who has opened up about battling mental health issues includes Nimrit too. During her stint at the *Bigg Boss* house, Nimrit said that she has battled anxiety and depression and has also received treatment in the past. But now she shared that she's at a much better phase in her life. She explained, "I

think when things are not going right for you, like there may be many aspects and you feel like a burden, and trust me when I say, I'm a workaholic. I love doing work. I think I'm the happiest when I'm on the set and in front of the camera. Of course, there was work pressure, and I think that's something that's always going to be there. There were also a lot of things that I was battling internally, but I just feel very happy that I'm at a phase where it's been more than a year since I've been off my medication. I was on it for close to a year, and now it's been a year that I've been off it. I feel very proud, and I'm so happy where I am mentally and physically, so I think I've been able to come back with all of the things that are happening. There was at least this thing where I felt that if one thing went wrong, all the other things would go wrong. But now it's like I don't even think, 'Oh, this is going to burden me.' I just love working a lot. And I'm mostly in a very exciting phase, doing something different and working, and I'm the happiest when I'm at work."

Ending this fun chit-chat on a brighter note, she concluded, "The roadmap for me ahead is not to think too much. When you think too much, your roadmap starts to stretch more and you don't enjoy yourself. It's always good to work hard and look out for the right opportunities that I can relate to, and also try to do different things."

ENRAPTURING HEARTS EVERY TIME ON-SCREEN, MODEL-ACTRESS NIMRIT KAUR AHLUWALIA GETS CANDID WITH THE PIONEER ABOUT WORKING IN BACK-TO-BACK MUSIC VIDEOS, HER RECENT JAANE JAA, BEING NOW IN A MUCH BETTER PHASE IN LIFE, AND MORE.



Charlie Chopra & the Mystery of Solang Valley

A maze of suspects and the hunt are intriguing

TANISHA SAXENA

In a realm where every glance hides a clue and every whisper conceals a motive, *Charlie Chopra & The Mystery of Solang Valley* beckons you into the mesmerising universe of Agatha Christie-inspired intrigue.

The six-part series is based on Agatha Christie's novel, *The Sittaford Mystery*. In the midst of Solang Valley, within the confines of a remote dwelling, eight enigmatic figures gather closely, engaging in a mysterious seance. An air of suspense pervades the room as ethereal forces convey an unsettling message: "Brigadier... is dead. Murder."

The question arises: Is this a manifestation of dark sorcery or a sinister jest played by unknown hands? To ascertain the truth, there remains but one recourse: to embark on the arduous quest of locating Brigadier Rawat (played by Gulshan Grover). Crossing the treacherous snowdrifts that have rendered the roads impassable, Brigadier is found dead. Charlie Chopra (played by Wamiqa Gabbi) plays the detective who takes charge of proving his fiancée, Jimmy (played by Vivaan Shah), innocent.

Charlie Chopra and the Mystery of Solang Valley stands as a masterpiece of storytelling, distinguished by its artfully woven narrative. As Charlie embarks on her relentless pursuit of truth, the audience is transported on a mesmerising journey through a labyrinth of enigmatic intricacies. With each revelation and every fragment of the puzzle meticulously pieced together, the story tantalisingly draws you nearer to the elusive reality, yet cunningly unveils a mystery that unfurls its depths far beyond the realms of imagination.

The strength of the story in this series is greatly enhanced by the remarkable ensemble cast. The characters, brought to life by a talented group of actors, form a cohesive and dynamic unit that captivates the audience from start to finish. Each actor not only delivers a stellar individual performance but also contributes to the chemistry and synergy within the group.

For instance, Wilayat Hussain (played by Lara Dutta) is a unique character with poetic depth. A sense of mystique surrounds her as she emerges from Dubai, her daughter in tow, all while concealing her true identity from curious

onlookers. Her quiet disposition belies the intriguing complexity that her eyes seem to hold, promising an unexpected turn in Wilayat's narrative. She embodies the essence of a "Vishal Bhardwaj-inspired" character, inviting the artistic license required to craft a poetic depiction.

This ensemble approach allows for intricate character development and compelling interactions. Viewers become emotionally invested in the lives, struggles, and relationships of these characters.

The diversity of personalities and backgrounds within the ensemble adds depth and complexity to the narrative, making it engaging for a wide range of viewers.

Moreover, the ensemble cast's collective talent ensures that no character feels out of place or underdeveloped. Whether it's the charismatic lead, the quirky sidekick, or the enigmatic antagonist, each role is executed with precision, making the story's progression seamless and compelling. Another character in the series, for example, a journalist named Sitaram Bisht (played by Priyanshu Painyuli), is simply outstanding. His character emerges as a striking embodiment of both wit and humour, an exquisite fusion of intellect and levity.

With a narrative that unfolds like an intricately woven tapestry, this character assumes a pivotal role as the steadfast companion to the protagonist. Priyanshu has also adopted the right accent and body language of a journalist who's in need of "breaking news" for promotion.

Talking about the protagonist, Wamiqa Gabbi, aka Charlie Chopra, she brings freshness to the process of Emily Trefusis (the detective in the novel). She speaks Punjabi in the series, and her quips and one-liners add a fun element to the series.

In essence, the strength of the story lies not only in its plot but also in the synergy and authenticity achieved by the ensemble cast. Their performances breathe life into the narrative, making it a memorable and immersive experience for the audience.

The storyline is beautifully complemented by the background music and the enchanting song by Rekha Bhardwaj.



Director: Vishal Bhardwaj

Writers: Vishal Bhardwaj, Jyotsna Hariharan, and Anjum Rajabali

Cinematography: Tassaduq Hussain

Producers: Basi Akpabio, Leo Dezoysa, and James Prichard

Production: Vishal Bhardwaj Films, Vishal Bhardwaj Pictures, Tusk Tale Films, Agatha Christie

Cast: Wamiqa Gabbi, Priyanshu Painyuli, Naseerudin Shah, Lara Dutta, Neena Gupta, Ratna Pathak Shah, Gulshan Grover, Paoli Dam, Chandan Roy Sanyal, Imaaduddin Shah, Vivaan Shah

Streaming on: SonyLIV

Rating: 3/5

UNDERSTANDING ATRIAL FIBRILLATION

Atrial fibrillation (AFib) is a common cardiac arrhythmia that affects millions of individuals globally. It's a condition characterised by irregular and often rapid heartbeats, which can lead to various complications, including stroke. Understanding AFib, its detection, treatment, and stroke prevention strategies is crucial for effectively managing this condition and enhancing the quality of life for those affected. Dr. Aman Salwan, consultant and interventional cardiologist at CARE Hospitals, Nampally, Hyderabad, shared with The Pioneer in detail about atrial fibrillation, navigating detection, treatment, and stroke prevention.

Atrial fibrillation is a heart rhythm disorder that originates in the atria, the upper chambers of the heart. In a normal heartbeat, the heart's electrical signals travel in a coordinated and organised manner, allowing for a rhythmic contraction and the pumping of blood throughout the body. However, in individuals with AFib, these electrical signals become chaotic, resulting in an irregular and often rapid heartbeat. This irregular heartbeat can lead to inefficient pumping of blood, causing symptoms such as palpitations, shortness of breath, fatigue, dizziness, and chest discomfort. If left untreated, AFib can significantly increase the risk of stroke, heart failure, and other cardiovascular complications.

DETECTING ATRIAL FIBRILLATION

Early detection of atrial fibrillation is crucial for effective management and the prevention of complications. However, AFib can be challenging to detect as it may not always present noticeable symptoms. Regular check-ups and screenings, especially for individuals at higher risk, can aid in early diagnosis. An electrocardiogram (ECG or EKG) is the primary tool for diagnosing AFib. It records the heart's electrical activity, identifying any irregularities in the heart rhythm. Holter monitors, event monitors, and mobile health applications can also be used for longer-term monitoring, enabling the detection of intermittent or paroxysmal AFib.

Treating atrial fibrillation: The treatment of atrial fibrillation aims to manage symptoms, restore normal heart rhythm, and reduce the risk of complications. Treatment plans are personalised based on the patient's symptoms, overall health, and the presence of underlying conditions.

Medications: Medications are often the first line of treatment for AFib. Antiarrhythmic drugs help regulate the heart's rhythm and rate. Anticoagulants, also known as blood thinners, are prescribed to reduce the risk of blood clots and stroke, a significant concern for those with AFib.

Cardioversion: Cardioversion involves using electric shocks or medications to restore a normal heart rhythm. It's particularly effective for recent-onset AFib or when medications fail to control the irregular rhythm.

Ablation therapy: Ablation involves destroying or isolating the areas of the heart that are triggering abnormal electrical signals. This procedure can be done through catheter ablation and is often recommended for individuals with persistent AFib.

Pacemaker or implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (ICD): In some cases, a pacemaker or ICD may be implanted to help regulate

heart rhythms and prevent excessively slow or fast heart rates.

Stroke prevention in atrial fibrillation: Individuals with atrial fibrillation are at a significantly higher risk of stroke due to the potential formation of blood clots in the heart, which can travel to the brain and cause a stroke. Therefore, stroke prevention is a critical component of AFib management.

Anticoagulant therapy: Anticoagulant medications, such as warfarin, dabigatran, rivaroxaban, or apixaban, are commonly prescribed to reduce the risk of stroke by preventing blood clot formation.

Lifestyle modifications: Lifestyle changes, including a heart-healthy diet, regular exercise, limiting alcohol consumption, quitting smoking, and managing stress, can play a crucial role in reducing the risk of stroke and improving overall heart health.

Educating and empowering patients: Education and patient empowerment are vital in managing atrial fibrillation. Patients should be educated about their condition, treatment options, and the importance of adherence to medications and lifestyle modifications. Regular follow-ups with healthcare providers are essential to monitor progress and adjust treatment plans as needed.

Atrial fibrillation is a prevalent cardiac condition that requires comprehensive understanding and appropriate management to mitigate associated risks. Early detection, individualised treatment plans, and effective stroke prevention strategies are essential components of addressing AFib and improving the lives of those affected. With advancements in medical science and a proactive approach to healthcare, individuals with atrial fibrillation can lead fulfilling and active lives while minimising the potential complications of this condition. Regular communication with healthcare professionals and a commitment to a heart-healthy lifestyle are key elements in navigating the journey of atrial fibrillation.



what's brewing?



Pavani



Gurleen



Rinky



Tollegedayz organised a spectacular Global Education Fair that transcended borders, and opened doors to educational opportunities worldwide. Founded by Santosh Gupta, Chairman, and skillfully led by Managing Director Sanjay Gupta, the fair witnessed active participation from a multitude of countries, including the USA, Canada, Germany, France, Australia, and Singapore, to name a few.



Alakiya



Sanjay and Santhosh



Akashya



Ramya and Varsha



Lakshmi

PARTY

Photos by- SV Chary

LISTINGS

Children from govt. schools display scientific prowess

The NXplorers Carnival at Warangal was a spectacle of brilliance where over 146 meritorious students from MJP government schools from five districts, namely Warangal, Hanamakonda, Mahabubabad, Jangaon, and Bhupalpalli showcased their innovative ideas in the areas of

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). A total of 48 "change projects" were exhibited, which were finally selected from hundreds of entries. NXplorers Junior Programme is a global flagship Social Investment STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) educational initiative from Shell, which aims to benefit school children by enabling them to understand, navigate and address local and global challenges, as underlined in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The programme is also aligned with the National Education Policy 2020.

Amazon launches multi-channel fulfilment

Amazon.in announced the launch of Multi-Channel Fulfilment (MCF) in India. With this launch, sellers including D2C brands, manufacturers, and retailers from across industries can revolutionise their fulfillment operations and enhance their customer

experience by leveraging Amazon's pan-India presence, state-of-the-art fulfillment centers and logistics capabilities to handle customer orders received from a wide range of sales channels, including their own websites, enabling seamless fulfillment with exceptional speed and convenience. Through MCF, Amazon democratizes customer order fulfillment and enables sellers to expand their market reach in India by leveraging Amazon's extensive coverage of 100% of India's serviceable pin codes (20,000+ pin codes), opening up new business opportunities.

Adiyae slated to premiere only on Sony LIV on September 29

After winning hearts of both critics and audiences and earning an impressive IMDb rating of 7.6, Tamil sci-fi romantic comedy, Adiyae, is all set to make its OTT premiere on Sony LIV on September 29. In this quirky tale, a fatal accident thrusts the protagonist, Jeeva, into a world of alternate reality. But destiny intervenes, pulling him back into reality. Written and directed by Vignesh Karthik and produced by Prabha Premkumar, Adiyae features an outstanding cast, including G. V. Prakash Kumar, Gouri Kishan, and Venkat Prabhhu in pivotal roles. The music for the film has been composed by Justin Prabhakaran.

Best Agrolife limited expands its footprints in Hyderabad

Best Agrolife Limited announced the opening of its new office in the thriving city of Hyderabad. This strategic expansion marks a significant milestone for the company as it continues its rapid growth trajectory. Best Agrolife Limited is one of the fastest-growing companies in the agrochemical sector with a strong presence in the Western region and Southern states like Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala. Hyderabad is the epicenter of the company's southern business.

Motorola launches edge 40 neo

Motorola announced the launch of its latest offering in the edge series, the Motorola edge 40 neo. A device that embodies the edge family's mission to develop state-of-the-art technology and provide users with marquee features at cost-effective prices. Staying ahead of the curve, the Motorola edge 40 neo is a true headturner as it has been launched in PANTONE curated trend-setting color options, in an elegant, thin endless edge design. The Motorola edge 40 neo is a processing powerhouse, boasting the World's 1st MediaTek Dimensity 7030 lightning-fast processor which is a 6nm chipset supporting Wi-Fi 6e for incredible speeds and has MediaTek HyperEngine game Technology for the best gaming experience.

PhonePe announces the launch of the Indus appstore developer platform

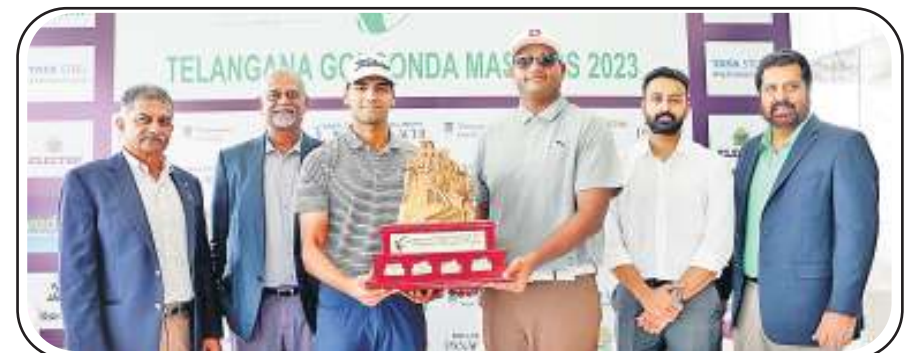
PhonePe announced the launch of the Indus Appstore Developer Platform. With this launch, Indus Appstore is inviting all Android app developers to register and upload their apps using the self-serve developer platform www.indusappstore.com. These apps will be listed on the soon-to-be-launched "Made-in-India" Indus Appstore, offering a localized experience in 12 languages, completely customized for Indian audiences.

"For Now, For A Lifetime"

It takes just seven seconds to turn a "yes" into a "no", before a decision made from instinct gives way to logic, reason, and hesitation. Every experience born from saying "yes" opens something hidden within each of us, unlocking something new—from what moves us, what makes us and even what we can't stand. The iconic Levi's brand launched its campaign "For Now, For A Lifetime" that celebrates these moments and how they go

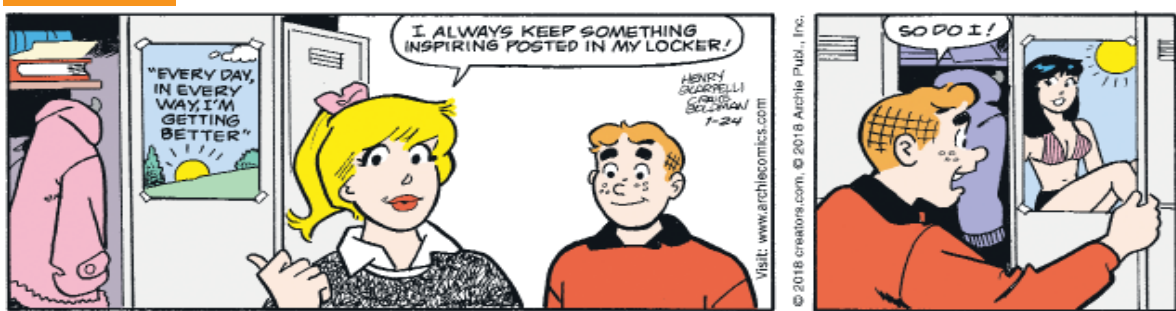
onto be memories that stay with us, and ultimately shape each and every one of us. The brand's "For Now, For A Lifetime" campaign captures what following your instinct looks like. The film, inspired by real-life moments and instances, starts with Deepika Padukone sneaking away from a set, hopping into an auto-rickshaw and disappearing into the night. Her impromptu adventure becoming the thread that ties together characters' experiences from ordinary to extraordinary moments, capturing a spectrum of emotions from joy, to the rush, laughter, but also the calm and bittersweet.

The Hyderabad Golf Association (HGA) and the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI), announced the Telangana Golconda Masters 2023, presented by Bollineni Panache and Telangana Tourism, which will be held at the Hyderabad Golf Club (HGC) from September 27 – 30, 2023. The prize purse has been raised to INR 1 crore this year.



FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



NANCY



SUDOKU

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Yesterday's solution
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 1 5 9 2 7 4 6 8 3
 5 4 1 3 9 8 7 2 6
 7 2 6 1 4 5 8 3 9
 9 3 8 7 2 6 4 5 1

Rules

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

ACROSS

- A game with a bat and ball
- Wear these on your feet
- A large group of soldiers
- School classes
- A small sharp nail
- A very large bird
- See old stuff on display here
- These are a kind of fungus that people eat
- A stand for holding an artist's painting
- World's highest mountain
- A greeting
- Metal money
- The tiniest particle
- Opposite of outer
- 17 We breathe this
- A person who shows you to your theatre seat
- Least dangerous
- Too
- A red sauce is made from these

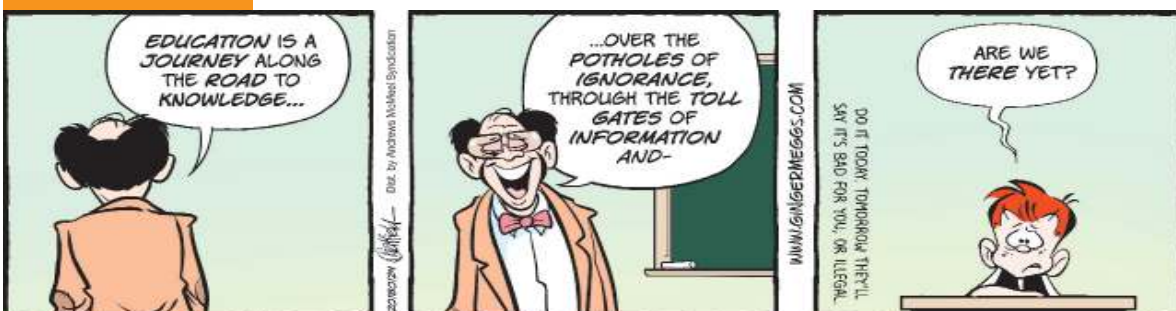
DOWN

- These make a torch work

SOLUTION

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GINGER MEGGS



AVANTIKA TRYING TO SPIN A LABYRINTH IN THE SOUTH

SHIKHA DUGGAL

The last project of actress Avantika Dasani, *Mithya's* paranoia kept the viewers on the edge of their seats. Because she was able to provide the satisfying ending it deserved, the newcomer bagged another project post-haste opposite Bellamkonda Ganesh.

In an exclusive chat with us, the *Mithya* fame, who feels she got lucky with the timing in the south, revealed, "I saw some extensive changes after the success of my debut show. My viewership increased, and so did acceptance. I felt so acquired by my audiences that doing a Telugu film didn't feel like a hurdle for me. My fans told me they wanted to see more of me and understand me, moving away from the fact that I am Bhagyashree's daughter. I got really lucky with the timing! I started shooting for this movie right after my debut, not restricting myself. These are my budding years in the industry, so I am like that sponge that can be moulded in any format."

Sure, she's spinning a labyrinth in

Yesteryear actress Bhagyashree's daughter, Avantika Dasani, is happy about the acceptance she got from the Telugu audience with her very first project, and she is set to clinch new heights with her upcoming work in the South. She spoke to *The Pioneer* about her next project with Bellamkonda Ganesh, working in the South, among others.

the Southern region as well. Who wouldn't, looking at the massive hits? Furthermore, speaking about his co-star Ganesh, she continued, "My co-star Ganesh is talkative. He was a good helping hand! I was finding it a tad bit difficult in terms of language. A lot of the time, he would end up being the translator for me. He understands this space better than I do, which is obvious. But most importantly, we bonded over food! I was irking him all the time for some recommendations in Vijayawada. He had a variety of biryani for all of us! I must say, their biryani is not pulao. (she laughed)." It is her mother who has been

encouraging her to test her waters in the regional film industry. Avantika revealed, "I had my fingers crossed for a hit, but it's okay. I am not so daring to expect any success at the moment; I am still not an established actress. My mother has in fact encouraged me a lot because she finds regional industries to be a good testing

ground; she has seen how the work environment has a firm hand in comparison with Bollywood. But she does get nervous if I am put at the deep ends of the water." In conclusion, the *Nenu Student Sir's* leading lady said, "I am open to every project. I am too fresh to choose! It's just the beginning of my career. I am hoping for opportunities."

Mansion 24 has multiple stories and actions, reveals Avika Gor

Actress Avika Gor, who will be seen next in the web series *Mansion 24*, said collaborating with the *Raju Gari Gadhi 3* director Omkar again was interesting.

The actress said: "It is super interesting to collaborate with director Omkar again. I worked with him in *Raju Gari Gadhi 3*, which was a massive success in Telugu. So I am very happy to work with him again," she said.

Avika added: "In this project, he has multiple stories and multiple actions, and his forte, which is horror and thriller, is what he is bringing to the table for the audience. I am glad that I have the opportunity to be a part of something on a large scale in the Telugu market, and I hope people appreciate this side of me." Talking about the poster of the series, the actress said: "Yes, the poster is extremely intriguing because you can't really figure out if I am the nice one, the bad one, or the victim. It's confusing, and I love that. None of my previous posters have been this intense, so I am excited about this one. Soon, the trailer will be

released, and I will be able to provide more details." Avika is working on a number of films, theaters, and series in the OTT space.

"There is a lot happening, but I can't share many details at the moment. As soon as the announcements start happening, I will share the details. I am really excited about this transition because as an actor, you get a lot of opportunities on different platforms, and I am glad I am able to pursue them simultaneously."

"I am also pleased that I am consistently working on projects in Hindi and Telugu, and there is so much more to come," she said. The actor rarely gets holidays. "Even during Ganpati, I was dubbing, and there was a lot happening. Traveling and all that does happen. And I try to spend as much time with my family after and before the shoot. I am loving the whole process of being busy," she added.

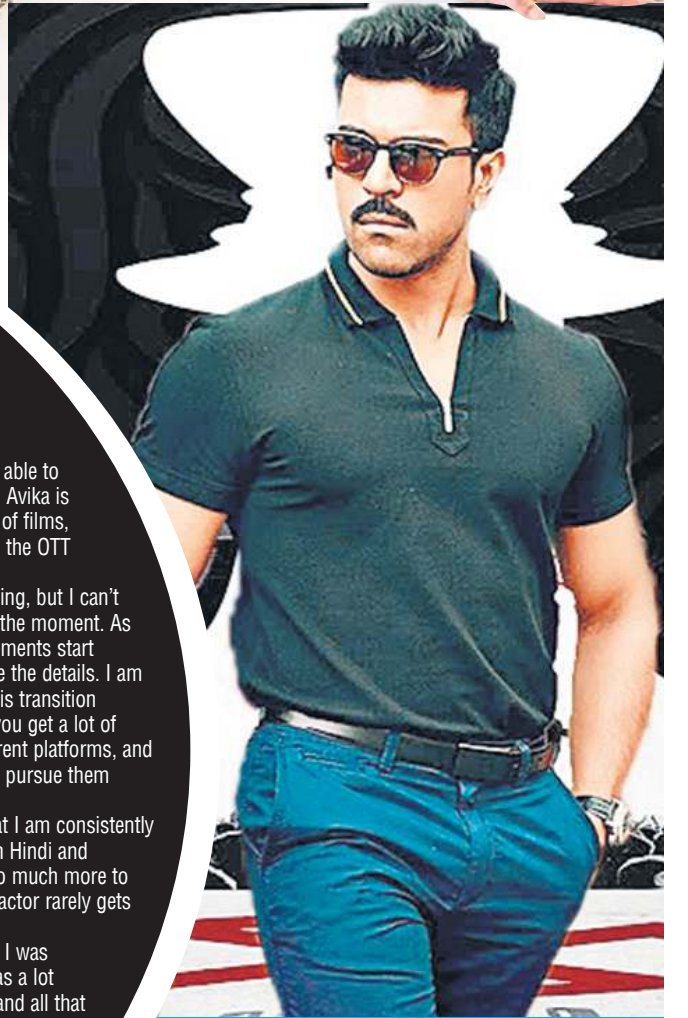


Salaar shooting resumes but without Prabhas

The much-awaited movie *Salaar* which was initially scheduled to release on September 28, has since been pushed back to the next year, though. The ongoing post-production work is the justification given by the producers for this delay. According to current sources, the movie's filming may still be ongoing. In Hyderabad, a recent eight-day program without Prabhas has begun. Fans were disappointed by this announcement because the producers had earlier said that the filming was complete. However, it appears that the team is doing some patchwork, which is typical for any movie.

The majority of the scenes that are currently being filmed do not involve the lead actor, and this development suggests that there may be further delays in the movie's release. The industry already believes that the movie won't be released this year. In order to give the movie a single release across India, director Prashanth Neel would need additional time to decide when to release it.

Shruti Haasan plays the female lead in the movie, and Prithviraj plays a significant villain. Hombale Films is providing funding for the endeavour.



Game Changer shoot put on hold after Ram Charan gets injured

After *RRR's* breakthrough, Ram Charan has become a household name. The Rajamouli action movie also took home the Oscar for Best Song, which brought honor to India. Ram Charan is a huge celebrity, so every one of his movies receives a lot of attention. To ensure that he doesn't let his fans down, he has paired up with the great Shankar for the movie *Game Changer*, which is being made by Tollywood's leading producer Dil Raju.

The movie has been in production for a very long time and the shooting is still ongoing. In Hyderabad, a new schedule was set to begin, but it was abruptly cancelled. Ram Charan has a facial injury, which is why the

doctors have ordered him to take 10 days off from acting. According to an update from Ram Charan's crew, the movie's new schedule won't begin until the last week of October 2023. Ram Charan already took a lot of time off while his wife Upasana was expecting their first kid. This has just happened, further disappointing fans.

The development of *Game Changer* has lasted for more than a year. Since the shoot has been repeatedly postponed, the producers have not decided on a release date. *Game Changer* will undoubtedly not be released until the summer of 2024 given all these delays. The female lead is portrayed by Kiara Advani in this movie, which has Thaman's score.



JAYALALITA: WE THANK AUDIENCE FOR EMBRACING RUDRAM KOTA

Rudram Kota, starring senior artist Jayalalitha in a pivotal role, is produced by Anil Arka Kandavalli. Written and directed by Ramu Kona, the film was released in theatres on September 22nd through Screen Max Pictures.

The film's success event was today held at Hyderabad's Film Chamber of Commerce building in the presence of the core team. Speaking on the occasion, the film's presenter

and main artist Jayalalitha sincerely thanked the audience for making the rural thriller a hit. She described *Rudram Kota* as a big success.

"I also thank the media for affording us very good publicity and helping it reach the public. We are glad that our movie is receiving a positive response wherever it has been played. The audience are talking about every aspect, be it the story, the screenplay, the

music, the direction, the performances, or my character. I hope they will continue to watch our movie in large numbers and make it bigger," she added.

Director Ramu Kona thanked the media for supporting the movie through reviews and in other ways. He said that presenter Jayalalitha has been very supportive and that the hard work of the entire team has paid off.

MADdest youthful entertainer to tickle your funny bones from Oct 6

Sithara Entertainments is now coming up with youthful and crazy entertainer *MAD*. The movie has a completely young cast and Haarika Suryadevara is debuting with this film as a producer. Suryadevara Naga Vamsi is presenting the film. Kalyan Shankar is debuting with the film as writer-director. Sangeeth Shobhan, Ram

Nithin, Narne Nithin, Sri Gouri Priya Reddy, Ananthika Sanilkumar, and Gopikaa Udyan are cast in *MAD* in leading roles. Now, the production house has announced the sensational crazy entertainer to release on 6th October. Already, teasers and songs released from the movie have become viral and created huge buzz for the film. Sai Soujanya

of Fortune Four Cinemas is co-producing the cinema.

Bheems Cecireleo is composing music for the film. National Award winning editor, Navin Nooli is editing the film. Production house has no holds barred approach for this film, as a craziest entertainer and have huge confidence that the *MAD* will be a huge Blockbuster post release.



Sivakarthiskeyan-AR Murugadoss's upcoming film #SKxARM announced



The maestro of blockbusters AR Murugadoss will next be joining forces with hero Sivakarthiskeyan who has witnessed phenomenal growth in the industry with his consistent hits, for an absolutely massive project to be produced on a large scale at a Pan India level by Sri Lakshmi Movies.

Right from the time the buzz was created, the expectations have been skyrocketing about this project, and now the makers have made the official announcement, on Murugadoss' birthday, which has excited the fans. Actor

Sivakarthiskeyan who enjoys a huge following among family audiences, especially kids, has confirmed the official news by posting images of himself with director AR Murugadoss on his social media page, which has become a viral topic now. The film *#SKxARM* which marks the 23rd project of Sivakarthiskeyan will be the costliest project for the actor.

"Dear @ARMurugadoss sir, Wishing you a very happy birthday sir Sir I'm extremely delighted to join with you for my 23rd film and I'm double delighted after listening

to your narration. This film is going to be very special for me in all aspects and I can't wait to start filming Thank you so much sir and once again happy birthday sir," reads Sivakarthiskeyan's post.

Responding to Sivakarthiskeyan, director AR Murugadoss wrote, "Thankyou so much Siva! Glad to join with you on the next project! Let's create some cinematic magic together! #SKxARM."

AR Murugadoss is a master storyteller and holds special mention for churning out blockbuster hits, which have been a breakthrough for

not just mass lead actors, but for everyone involved in the project. After a small sabbatical gap, the filmmaker is back now with a promising project, featuring Sivakarthiskeyan in the lead role. Murugadoss who previously produced the blockbuster *Maan Karate* with Sivakarthiskeyan will be directing the actor for the first time. Currently, the film is in its preproduction stage, and the official announcement about the others in the cast and crew will be announced soon.

Director Vasu Varma arrested in drug case

In the past few weeks, Hyderabad has seen two significant drug busts, which have led to the arrest of a number of politicians and celebrities. Tollywood director Vasu Varma and writer Manneri Prudhvi Krishna alias Divakar have just been detained in connection with a drug case.

According to reports, the Madhapur police detained him on suspicion of buying and using drugs. Additionally, Prudhvi Krishna, the aforementioned writer, is considered to be a recurrent drug user. Even though these two people were detained on September 5, Madhapur police have only recently informed the media of their arrests.

According to reports, several additional well-known people who are involved in the purchase and consumption of narcotics will have their names revealed as a result of the continuing inquiry.



BUMRAH BACK FOR THIRD ODI



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah will be available for the third ODI against Australia after being given a one-match break but all-rounder Axar Patel will be given a few more days to recover from his quadriceps tear ahead of the

World Cup, BCCI sources said on Monday.

While Ravichandran Ashwin has done decently in his two outings, the team management is still bullish about the fitness of Axar, the left-arm spin bowling all-rounder. "The team management wants to give Axar full chance of recovery. His forearm

and finger bruises have healed but may be in another few days, he would get fit for World Cup. India's first match is on September 8 and hence there is time.

"As far as Ashwin is concerned, we now know that he is match fit and in rhythm. If Axar can't make it, Ashwin walks in,"

a BCCI source privy to the development told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

The final squad announcement is on September 27 and it is understood that Axar still remains the team management's top choice for the reserve spinner's slot ahead of the Tamil Nadu veteran.

It is understood that young batting star Shubman Gill and bowling all-rounder Shardul Thakur have been given a few days rest ahead of the third ODI in Rajkot on Wednesday. "As per rotation policy of the team, Bumrah, who was given a couple of days off to freshen up is back along with skipper Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Hardik Pandya and Kuldeep Yadav. Gill, who has been playing continuously gets to cool his heels for 3-4 days along with Shardul Thakur," the source added.

Ruturaj, Mukesh released for Asian Games

India's Asian Games cricket team captain Ruturaj Gaikwad, who played the first two ODIs, have been released from the squad as he will link up with the Hangzhou-bound outfit. Also released is pacer Mukesh Kumar, who came as cover for Bumrah, who was given a break. It is understood that Washington Sundar is also supposed to leave on the evening of the game or day after.

While the Indian World Cup-bound team won't have any travelling net bowlers, Prasad Krishna, Akash Deep, Arshdeep Singh and Mukesh Kumar will be summoned as and when required.

Jemimah urges Indian men's team to aim for gold in Asian Games cricket

PTI ■ HANGZHOU (CHINA)

India's Jemima Rodrigues on Monday urged the men's team to aim for the gold after the women's team created history in the final of the Asian Games.

India Women's side beat Sri Lanka by 19 runs in the final to clinch the gold medal here on their maiden appearance.

Batting first, India posted 116 for seven on a difficult batting track before the Titas Sadhu-led bowling attack restricted Sri Lanka to 97 for eight in 20 overs.

"We have spoken to the men's team. We have told them that we are bringing the gold; you guys also bring it," an elated Rodrigues told reporters here.

"(It) feels great. Just to win the gold is special, and being the first Indian cricket side to win the gold will make people go back in history and see that this was the team that actually won the first-ever gold in cricket in the Asian Games. It's an amazing feeling," she added.

Rodrigues said it was a proud feeling to add to India's medals tally at the Games.

"It is a very different experience, wearing this India jersey is a (matter of) different pride. Also, we can add a medal to India as a sporting nation," she said.

Talking about the gold medal contest on a challenging surface, Rodrigues said the contest had its own challenges.

"It wasn't easy as Sri Lanka gave us a good fight. Their bowlers bowled spot-on, and we really had to apply ourselves. Very proud of the girls, and the way we played today displays our character," she said.

"It was an important partnership between me and Smriti (Mandhana) because the Sri Lankan bowlers were at the top of their game.

"We are glad the way we played and built the partnership, along with the other girls coming in and chipping in," said Rodrigues (42), who added 73



runs with Mandhana (46) for the second wicket in a low-scoring contest.

Rodrigues said the team had to adapt to different surfaces for every match. "We honestly did not know what to expect when we came over here," she said.

"We knew that we had to be ready for any condition, and in all three matches we had different kinds of wickets that we had to adapt to, which is the best part of our team's performance," Rodrigues added.

"It's been a great experience in general, the way everyone has

welcomed us in China."

"It's not been easy since the communication has been a problem. But, they (the organisers) went out of their way to make us feel comfortable and make our stay easy," she added.

India coach and former international Hrishikesh Kanitkar too was delighted to have added to the country's tally.

"We rank this gold right up there because it adds to the country's tally of gold medals. So, I think it's very, very important that we directly contribute to the country," he said.

Gold medal favourite Bopanna-Bhambri pair suffers shock exit

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

In a huge upset, gold medal favourites and top seeds Rohan Bopanna and Yuki Bhambri were knocked out of the Asian Games after being stunned by lower-ranked Sergey Fomin and Khumoyun Sultanov from Uzbekistan, here on Monday.

Bhambri struggled with his serve and strokes in the latter part of the match while the Uzbek players raised their game against their superior opponents to walk away with a 2-6-6-3 10-6 win in the second round.

The defeat will rattle the Indian pair all the more as Bopanna is a top-10 player in the doubles and Bhambri too is ranked among the top-100. The Uzbeks are not even in the top-300.



Serving at 3-4, 30-all in the second set, Bhambri served a double fault to go down by a break point. A wide backhand from Bhambri's racquet handed the Uzbeks the crucial break.

Sultanov made no mistake in serving out the set by consistently putting in his first serves.

In the super-tie breaker, the Uzbeks raced to a 3-0 lead and soon the Indians were down 5-1. The Uzbeks pulled off a stunning service return winner to make

it 6-1 on Bopanna's serve.

Fomin earned four match points with a backhand winner. The Indians saved the first but Sultanov found an inside-out forehand winner on the second to close the contest in their favour.

Bhambri could not support Bopanna enough

India coach Zeeshan Ali said that Bopanna did not get the required support from Bhambri in the match.

"At this level and being an experienced player, one cannot afford to make many errors at crucial moments of the match. You have to be able to grab any opportunity that presents itself," Zeeshan told PTI.

"Not taking anything away from the Uzbekistan players, they probably played

the best match of their lives, with nothing to lose. We had chances in the second set with a couple of break points at 3-all and, had we won that game, the outcome of the match would have been different."

The Indians could not convert 12 out of the 16 break-points they got in the match.

"Rohan played a good match but unfortunately did not get the required support needed to win today from his partner who otherwise has been having a very good doubles season," added Zeeshan.

Bopanna had ended his Davis Cup career last week, playing against Morocco in Lucknow. At 43, he is also playing his last Asian Games. He had won gold in the 2018 edition with Divij Sharan.

Dalmiya, Dhumal re-elected in IPL GC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former CAB president Avishek Dalmiya and current IPL chairman Arun Singh Dhumal have been re-elected in the IPL governing council as per decisions taken at the Annual General Meeting of the BCCI held in Goa on Monday.

The general body was apprised about BCCI earning more than 38 per cent from annual revenue generated by the ICC and also Rs 67 crore (approx) per match earning from media rights during the next cycle of bilateral series.

"All routine decisions happened. The list of names for the cricket committees and the sub-committees will be prepared by the office bearers as entrusted by the House. As far as IPL GC is concerned, IPL chairman Arun Dhumal and Avishek Dalmiya were supposed to be elected and it happened on expected lines," a state unit representative told PTI.

It has also been learnt that Ombudsman-cum-Ethics Officer will continue as per his contract which is due to expire next year.

"The Ombudsman-cum-Ethics Officer will continue till June, 2024. He will serve his full contract," the state unit source said.

The board members were also apprised about the new budget and the profit that BCCI made in the last financial year.

Former India left-arm spinner Pragyan Ojha will no longer be Indian Cricketers' Association's



representative in the Apex Council.

"The ICA will have its election and then choose their new representative."

There were talks about removal of Salil Ankola from the national selection panel as chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar, who is also from Mumbai, is already a part of the panel.

The BCCI has a convention that five selectors represent five zones and this time, there are two from West Zone.

"There has been no such discussion about this during the AGM. If there is anything, it can only happen after the World Cup. As of now, no selector is being changed," the source said.

Pakistani players issued Indian visa for World Cup travel

PTI ■ INDORE

Members of the Pakistan cricket team were on Monday issued Indian visas for the ODI World Cup, the International Cricket Council (ICC) confirmed, hours after the PCB raised serious concerns with the global body over the delay in the national team's travel to Hyderabad.

The visa clearance came less than 48 hours before Pakistan's scheduled travel to India in the wee hours of September 27. They play their first warm-up game against New Zealand in Hyderabad on September 29.

"Visas have been issued to Pakistan," an ICC spokesperson told PTI.

However, confusion remained in the Pakistan camp over the grant of visa.

"We have not got the call from Indian High Commission yet over visa clearance. Member of our team is stationed there," PCB spokesperson Umar Farooq



told PTI.

The confirmation from the ICC came after the PCB wrote to ICC CEO Geoff Allardice on Monday over the visa delay besides claiming the anxious wait has adversely impacted the team's preparation for the 50-over showpiece.

Pakistan were supposed to have a two-day team bonding session in Dubai before their scheduled arrival in Hyderabad on September 27 but was cancelled due to the uncertainty over Indian visa.

The Babar Azam-led side plays two warm-up games and as many World Cup matches in

Hyderabad starting with the practice fixture against New Zealand.

In the letter addressed to Allardice, the PCB also claimed that its concerns over visa being granted to players, team officials, fans and journalists for the World Cup in India have not been addressed for more than three years. It also added that such inequitable treatment to Pakistan will not be acceptable.

Reiterating those concerns, Farooq added: "There has been an extraordinary delays in getting clearance and securing Indian visas for the Pakistan team for ICC World Cup.



Zverev advances to Chengdu Open final

AP ■ CHENGDU (CHINA)

Top-seeded Alexander Zverev will play for a 21st career title after beating third-seeded Grigor Dimitrov 6-3, 7-6 (2) in the semifinals of the Chengdu Open on Monday.

The 26-year-old German will meet Roman Safiullin in Tuesday's final. The 55th-ranked Russian defeated second-seeded Lorenzo Musetti 6-3, 6-4.

Zverev hit 10 winners and four aces in the first set and his serve continued to be effective in the second set.

The 26-year-old Safiullin will be playing in his first career final in his eighth year on tour. At the Zhuhai Championships, top-seeded Karen Khachanov defeated fourth-seeded Sebastian Korda 7-5, 6-4 to move into the final in his second tournament since returning from injury.

Khachanov will face Yoshihito Nishioka in Tuesday's final. The eighth-seeded Japanese player beat Aslan Karatsev 6-4, 6-4.

In a tight first set, Khachanov gained the crucial break in the 11th game when Korda

found the net with a drop shot. The 15th-ranked Russian improved in the second set and dominated the baseline rallies to overpower the 23-year-old American.

On the first day of the Ningbo Open, Russian wildcard Vera Zvonareva upset seventh-seeded Katie Boulter 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (3) to advance to the second round. Zvonareva, a two-time Grand Slam finalist, will next play Clara Tauson, who beat Elna Avanesova 6-4, 6-1.

Yulia Putintseva, a semifinalist last week at the Guangzhou Open, defeated Daria Saville 6-4, 6-1. The Kazakh will play second-seeded Petra Kvitova, who beat Anna-Lena Friedsam 7-6 (2), 6-1.

Fourth-seeded Anna Blinkova beat Viktoria Hruncakova 6-3, 7-5 and eighth-seeded Lucia Bronzetti defeated Swiss qualifier Ji Leichang 7-6 (6), 6-4.

Also, Linda Fruhvirtova beat Rebeka Masarova 1-6, 6-2, 1-0 (retired) and Katerina Braid defeated Yuan Yue 3-6, 6-4, 6-3. Top-seeded Ons Jabeur and third-seeded Sorana Cirstea will play their first matches on Tuesday.

Asian Games 2023: Titas helps India to win gold

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

Titas Sadhu must be believing in pleasant coincidences.

Else, how could she logically explain that two of the most defining spells in her short but eventful career read almost eerily similar.

It was 4-0-6-2 in the ICC U-19 World Cup final against England and on Monday, playing only her second senior international match, her figures were 4-0-6-3 against Sri Lanka. A three-over first spell that literally ensured the gold medal for Indian women's cricket team.

"We all had a clear plan of what we had to do. Obviously, we got a good momentum in the first over itself. We had discussed during the innings break that we will keep calm and stick to what we had decided," said Titas, who hails from Hooghly district's suburban Chinsurah, where she had a sporty father Ranadeep, who encouraged her to take up every sport possible.

Father being a decent state-level athlete, Titas had taken the sport like fish to water and also at the same time making a



splash at the pool.

She got 93 percent marks in her state class Xth board exams but cricketing commitments prevented her from appearing for the plus two during the next two years. Cricket rather happened

accidentally as she would keep scores for her ancestral club Rajendra Smriti Sangha, near Hooghly Mohsin College in Chinsurah.

One fine morning, when her club side fell short of a net bowler, they called up Titas.

Since then, she has never looked back, even dropping out of school to pursue the sport.

The 18-year-old right-arm medium pacer from Bengal was delighted to win the gold for the country in the continental showpiece.

"It was a great opportunity we got this time, and the fact that we were able to grab that opportunity, I'm very glad and grateful," Titas said.

On the day, the bounce that Titas extracted off the surface was there for everyone to

