



-SPORTS

Addressing a gathering on the occasion, he said, "Since I spent significant time with you, I know the issues faced by the poor and I have always tried to solve those issues. Today I am satisfied because my government has built four crore houses for people across the country."



Safety first, KCR advises people

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao said that the Telangana State immersed in spirituality during Ganesh Navaratri festivities and every street is filled with fervour by performing special pujas at all Ganesh pandals.

The State government made elaborate arrangements for Ganesh idol immersion, including in Hyderabad for a large number of devotees to witness the grand immersion programme.

The Chief Minister advised people to follow proper self-precautions in the wake of rains and participate in the immersion with joy and return home safely.

The Chief Minister said it is the will of God that Ganesh idol immersion and Milad-Un-Nabi are being celebrated on the same day on Thursday. He called upon people to spread the message of "Ganga Jamuni Tahzeeb" which is being practised in Telangana since decades and celebrate the festivals with gusto.

Political scene to be clear once Cong announces candidates

SNCN ACHARYULU ■ HYDERABAD

Political scenario in Telangana in the upcoming Assembly elections is not yet clear. With the announcement of candidates by the ruling BRS, only one side of the coin is seen. The other side of the coin will also be seen after the main opposition the Congress announces the list of its candidates. Then only the political picture in Telangana will be clear.

The BRS candidates' list led to discontentment among several party leaders who expected the Assembly tickets. Some discontented BRS leaders are jumping into other parties and some are still continuing in the party. Naturally, these developments are creating a problem to the ruling BRS and making the Congress happy.

But the real picture in the Congress will be known after the names of its candidates are announced. Like in the BRS, in the Congress also several leaders are aspiring for the party



ticket to contest in the next Assembly elections. To convince the discontented leaders, the BRS has a weapon of power. But the Congress does not have such a weapon.

To satisfy the discontented leaders the ruling BRS is giving nominated posts. When BRS MLC Patnam Mahendar Reddy planned to join the Congress, Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has taken him into the Cabinet. As BRS MLA Chennamaneni Ramesh was denied the ticket, he also planned to leave the party. But KCR has appointed him as

a government advisor. In the same way, KCR is likely to appease some prominent leaders like former Deputy CM and BRS MLA T Rajaiah, who was denied the Assembly ticket.

But the Congress has no such power to convince the discontented leaders who will be denied the Assembly ticket. In the Congress discontentment will be more serious than in the other parties. The BRS is waiting for the Congress list to know the discontentment in that party. The next Assembly elections are very crucial to the BRS as well as the

Congress.

The amount of discontentment in both the parties can be gauged only after the Congress announces its list of candidates. Some of the discontented leaders may jump into the other party and some may remain in the party.

The main problem to the BRS or the Congress will be how many discontented leaders will remain in the party, because both parties have a threat of backstabbing by such leaders to the official candidates. Now the Congress is feeling happy with the discontented BRS leaders joining it. But there is no guarantee for the Congress that after announcing the candidates, the discontented leaders will not leave the party.

It is common that leaders jump from one party to the other during election time. Sometimes, more leaders joining a party will prove to detrimental to it as it may lead to discontentment in the seniors in the party.

BANDI TO GO KCR'S WAY To contest from 2 seats?

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Karimnagar MP Bandi Sanjay is likely to follow the footsteps of Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao and contest from two seats in the Assembly elections of Telangana.

Highly placed sources said that Bandi seems to be favouring to contest from Karimnagar and Mudhole seats. Sources said that Bandi didn't want to contest as an MLA but the high command ordered him to pick whichever seat he wanted.

Bandi reportedly evaluated four assembly seats - Karimnagar, Mudhole, Vemulawada and Husnabad. Sources said that surveys indicated that Bandi will win Mudhole due to his influence on Bhainsa. In Karimnagar, there is huge anti-incumbency against Gangula Kamalakar.

In fact, independents were planning to contest opposite Gangula in a large scale.

Sources said that Bandi Sanjay, despite being National General Secretary, was visiting pandals and participating in immersion arrangements



Sources said that Karimnagar is to give a competition to the minister while Mudhole is going to be one-sided election. Meanwhile, Bandi has been spending lot of time in Karimnagar than in Hyderabad.

as part of the campaign itself.

He reportedly visited 200-odd pandals.

Sources said that Karimnagar is to give a competition to the minister while Mudhole is going to be one-sided election. Meanwhile, Bandi has been spending lot of time in Karimnagar than in Hyderabad.

He is either in Delhi or Karimnagar largely. BRS chief KCR will contest from his home constituency Gajwel, which is spread across Siddipet and Medak districts, and Kamareddy in the district of the same name.

Block road roller symbol

○ BRS requests EC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A three-member delegation of BRS led by General Secretary Soma Bharath Kumar called on a senior Election Commission official here and sought cancellation of allotted 'Road Roller' symbol to Yuga Thulasi Party in Telangana.

In the meeting, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leaders said the symbol 'Road Roller' is identical to the BRS party symbol 'Car' and this would create confusion in the minds of voters in the assembly election due in November.

They requested the EC to cancel the 'Road Roller' symbol and allot to the Yuga Thulasi Party any other free symbol not identical to the one given to the BRS.

Borlakunta Netha Venkatesh and M Srinivas Reddy were two BRS MPs who were part of the delegation. "...non-cancellation of the Road Roller symbol for Yuga Thulasi Party would definitely impact prejudicially the results of BRS party..." the BRS General Secretary said in a representation made to the EC.

Indian trio...

Continued from page 1

Kaushik said after the event, "I'm happy for my teammates and that we got a silver in the team competition. I'm just focusing on the positives at the moment."

"At least I have a medal to show. I am not coming back empty-handed, so I am happy about that. I'm happy about my country, about my teammates, about my staff and all the people working with us."

On whether her tears after her competition were happy or sad tears, she said, "Both. I'm happy for my team and for my country, but I need to work on myself. There are mixed feelings but I'm just focusing on the positive sides at the moment."

In the women's 25m pistol, Manu (590) topped the qualification round, Esha (586) finishes fifth. Rhythm (583) ended seventh but since only two shooters per country are allowed in the final, she missed the cut.

Manu, especially, was at the top of her game as she shot nine 10s and 1 nine to get a total of 99 and maintain her hegemony in the qualification. The Youth Olympic and Commonwealth Games champion started with a brilliant 99/100 in her first rapid series to signal her intention.

Malla Reddy's son-in-law bags Malkajgiri ticket



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS ticket for Malkajgiri Assembly constituency has been given to Labour Minister Malla Reddy's son-in-law Marri Rajasekhar Reddy for the upcoming Assembly elections. Malla Reddy himself announced it during a show of strength rally in the constituency. He said, "It is like Dussheera today. CM KCR and KTR blessed Marri Rajasekhar Reddy with Malkajgiri ticket. Lot of people came. He is going to every house since one week. He got huge response. Even we didn't understand why he was getting so much

response. Everyone is saying they will vote for BRS, KCR, KTR and Rajasekhar. Wherever we go, everyone wants Rajasekhar."

Mynampally Hanumantha Rao resigned from the BRS after his son Mynampally Rohit didn't get a ticket. He had hoped that the BRS would give his son a ticket from Medak constituency.

Malla Reddy and his son-in-law held a rally from Anand Bagh in Malkajgiri followed by a public meeting.

Rajasekhar Reddy had also previously contested for a Lok Sabha ticket from the same constituency and lost.

Chandrababu's arrest not limited to one state: Revanth

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee chief Revanth Reddy has reacted sharply to IT Minister KTRama Rao's comments on the arrest of Telugu Desam Party national president and former Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu. Interacting with media persons at Gandhi Bhavan on Wednesday, he said: "Minister KTR needs the votes of those who are protesting for Chandrababu but will they be deprived of their rights? People will slap them if they stop the protestors. Take a petition and give permission if necessary but it is wrong to refuse outrightly. Settlers will go against the BRS government in the elections. Their taxes are collected, their votes are asked, but their state problem is not our state. Is Hyderabad jagir of KTR to not accept when IT employees want to protest? CM KCR can go to Delhi and protest on Telangana issue. If the IT people here protest the decision taken by the AP government, what is stopping them? Chandrababu is a



national level person. People who have as much experience as Chandrababu can be counted on fingers."

Revanth continued: "KTR is talking like an unknowledgeable person. We staged a dharna in front of the White House during the Telangana agitation. We will do different things during the protests. Everyone has the right to protest."

The TPCC chief said that as per the party's surveys, BRS would not cross 25 seats, while the tallies of BJP and MIM will be limited to single digits.

Revanth said KCR got fever after seeing the success of VijayaBheri meeting. CM is fearing that he should vacate Pragati Bhavan. "Our leader, unlike KCR and KTR, is not a

bluff master. Rahul Gandhi speaks facts and figures", he said. Revanth said that Asaduddin Owaisi had been saying that where there was no MIM and BRS, vote for BJP. He said, Kavita came to the court as she doesnot trust KCR. Her arrest was stopped due to the court's intervention. "The Congress is trying 100 percent to give 34 seats to BCs. We will give more seats to BCs than BRS. Many BCs in Congress have made the PCC chief of the party. Has anyone become the BC president of BRS?", he asked.

Revanth said that if the 30% commission taken by the BRS leaders was controlled, the promises given by the Congress could be effectively implemented. "Mynampally will join the Congress on Thursday evening. The Congress has decided to give two tickets to the Mynampally family. Vemula Veeresham join soon", he said.

On Governor rejecting MLC candidature, Revanth observed: "Is KTR aware of the law, the selection of MLCs is done in many categories.

Supreme Court to hear Naidu's plea on Oct 3

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Supreme Court, on October 3, will hear the plea filed by Telugu Desam Party supremo and former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu against his arrest by the CID in connection with the Skill Development Corporation scam case, after Justice SV Bhatti on Wednesday recused himself from hearing the matter.

The Bench did not pass orders giving any fixed date in the matter but granted liberty to mention the plea afresh before CJY DJ Chandrachud for urgent listing.

Senior advocate Sidharth Luthra, appearing for the TDP chief, went to the courtroom of the CJJ for mentioning the plea seeking urgent hearing by a different Bench. However, a Bench headed by the CJJ did not pass any directions for urgent hearing by a different bench or grant any interim relief, but said that the matter would be taken up for hearing on next Tuesday.

Before the CJJ, Luthra said that Chandrababu was being "looped in FIRs after FIRs" only

because of the upcoming 2024 general polls. He added that the application moved by CID seeking police custody of the TDP chief after expiry of 15 days from arrest amounted to "mockery of the Criminal Procedure Code".

The CJJ clarified that the top court would not pass any orders restraining the trial court from deciding the application seeking police custody or stay any other pending proceedings before the trial court. On Sunday, the Vijayawada ACB court extended Chandrababu's judicial custody till October 5 after his two-day police custody came to an end on Sunday. On Tuesday, the ACB court adjourned hearing to September 27 on the bail petition of Chandrababu, as well as on a CID petition seeking his further custody.

Naidu has approached the Supreme Court by filing a Special Leave Petition after a single-judge Bench of Justice S Reddy of the Andhra Pradesh High Court on September 22 dismissed his petition to quash the FIR registered against him and to set aside his judicial remand.

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha

Tithi: Chaturdashi: Sep 27 10:19 PM to Sep 28 06:49 PM

Purnima: Sep 28 06:49 PM to Sep 29 03:27 PM

Nakshatram: Purva Bhadrapada: Sep 28 04:29 AM to Sep 29 01:48 AM

Uttara Bhadrapada: Sep 29 01:48 AM to Sep 29 11:18 PM

Rahukalam: 1:36 PM to 3:05 PM

Yamagandam: 6:09 AM to 7:38 AM

Variyaka: 10:24 AM to 11:50 AM

Gulika: 9:08 AM to 10:37 AM

Amritakalam: 06:42 PM to 08:07 PM

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:43 AM to 12:30 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Scattered Thunderstorms

Temp: 30°

Humidity: 77%

Sunrise: 6:06 AM

Sunset: 6:08 PM

Updated: September 27, 2023 5:00 PM

Record 91 Indian universities...

Continued from page 1

The Bharathiar University in Coimbatore moved up from the 801-1000 band last year to the 601-800 band, while Malaviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur has entered the ranking for the first time, breaking into the 601-800 band.

Seven IITs Bombay, Delhi, Guwahati, Kanpur, Kharagpur, Madras, and Roorkee opted out of THE World University Rankings in 2020, casting doubt on the rankings' transparency and standards.

IIT Guwahati reentered the rankings last year.

HC upholds...

Continued from page 1

It pulled up TSPSC for playing with the lives of the unemployed. The single judge had cancelled the examination after petitions were filed by some of the candidates alleging gross violations in the conduct of the examination. They complained that biometric attendance was not implemented and OMR sheets did not carry hall ticket numbers and photographs of the candidates.

Over 2.32 lakh government job aspirants had appeared for the exam conducted on June 11 for recruitment to 503 Group-I posts.

This is the second time that the exam has been cancelled. Earlier, the examination was held on October 16, 2022. Nearly 2.86 lakh candidates had appeared in the exam. However, TSPSC cancelled the examination in March due to question paper leak that had rocked the Commission.

Continued from page 1

Unlike the past governments, a house for the poor is not just a number for us."

"We work towards providing dignity to the poor by building a house for him. We are building houses as per the needs of the tribals, that too without the presence of any middlemen. Lakhs of houses were built and registered in the names of women. Though I don't have a house in my name yet, my government made lakhs of daughters house-owners," he said.

"Crores of women from tribal, Scheduled Caste and backward communities have now become lakhpati didi' because these houses registered in their names are now worth nearly Rs 1.5 lakh to Rs 2 lakh," he said.

The PM said World Bank president Ajay Banga was so impressed with the Gujarat education department's command and control centre in

India will soon emerge as economic...

Continued from page 1

Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and state BJP president C R Paatil were also present on the occasion.

"We are standing at such a phase that India will soon emerge as a global economic powerhouse," Modi said, adding that global agencies and experts are today talking on similar lines. "In a few years, India will be among the

world's top three economies. This is Modi's guarantee," the PM said. He appealed to the country's industry to think of sectors where India can explore new possibilities or strengthen itself, and how Vibrant Gujarat can give momentum to this mission. Modi highlighted how from a humble beginning, the Vibrant Gujarat events have turned into an institution and many states later followed it by organising their own investment summits.

Gandhinagar, called as Vidya Samiksha Kendra, that he urged him to start such centres across the country and said that the World Bank is ready to be a part of the project.

"The World Bank president recently visited the Vidya Samiksha Kendra. During our meeting, he urged me to start such centres in all districts of India and told me that the

World Bank is ready to be a part of this amazing project," Modi said.

The projects launched by PM Modi at Bodeli include those worth Rs 4,500 crore related to the education sector under the 'Mission of Schools of Excellence' project of the Gujarat government aimed at improving the quality of education in the state.

BRS manifesto...

Continued from page 1

Harish Rao said that the Opposition wanted to taunt KCR, who had been working tirelessly for the welfare of poor people. "Do you want snarling Opposition? Or do you want KCR giving kits in the form of welfare?", he asked.

KCR, a supporter of women, was implementing many welfare schemes for women.

"If truth is not propagated, lies will prevail.

If you want to counter the lies of the Opposition, you all should talk about the welfare schemes and development provided by the government.

Telangana was the only state which had not stopped welfare schemes and development even if in the face of an epidemic like Corona.

Asara pension was not stopped even in Corona disaster", he said. Harish Rao made it clear that Kalyana Lakshmi had not stopped.

Congress has...

Continued from page 1

KTR enumerated six things that he believes would happen in the state should the Congress come to power: farmers will have to suffer from power problems; people will fight for water in front of water tankers; farmers will have to stand in queue for fertilizers; every year CM will change; gram panchayats will become hamlets; and people will not have access to quality education and healthcare system.

"The Congress couldnot give Rs. 4,000 pensions in Rajasthan, Karnataka, or Chhattisgarh, but they promised to give Rs. 4,000 pensions in Telangana. They make these promises only for votes," KTR said.

"Congress leaders in Sircilla say I did not do any work and the Telangana Congress chief Revanth Reddy accuses me of taking all the funds to Sircilla. They speak to their advantage.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS REVIEWED

All set for Ganesh immersion

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister for Animal Husbandry Talasani Srinivas Yadav held a media conference on Wednesday on the special arrangements for Ganesh immersion.

He said, "This year, we have made special arrangements for Ganesh immersion and examined the routes of Shobha Yatra once again. According to the law, immersion in Hussain Sagar takes place."



"After the formation of Telangana State, the immersions are being conducted by the government. Wherever Nimajjana Shobha Yatra takes place, we are providing uninterrupted power supply and drinking water supply," the Minister added.

He also appreciated the Bhagya Nagar Ganesh Utsava Committee for extending full cooperation. From the beginning of Ganesh Chaturthi till immersion, everything is performed by the committee members. They used to bring cranes at their own expense for immersion. After the formation of the State, the govern-

TS State Disaster Response, fire services ready

In view of Ganesh immersion on Thursday within the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) limits, Telangana State Disaster Response and fire services have made necessary arrangements to meet any emergency. Boats will be positioned in different lakes within the GHMC limits. Rescue teams and fire tenders will also be positioned in strategic locations within the GHMC and will be in coordination with the Police and other departments. Senior Officers of the department will be monitoring and supervising the immersion process from the Control Room. Moreover, across 102 locations, various appliances such as water, ropes and boats are kept

ready. Multi-Purpose Tender will be catered across 17 locations, Water Tender will be catered across 14 locations, Advance Water Tender will be allocated for one location, Water Bowser will be allocated for two locations, Water-Cum-Foam Tender will be given for one location, Mini Water Tender will be disposed across four locations, Bronto sky lift will be disposed across one location, boats will be kept ready across six locations, Mist Bullet will be allocated across 30 locations and ropes and Lifebuoy Rescue party will be ready at 26 locations. In addition to this, over 500 manpower will be deployed across all cadres, from DFO to firemen.

pleted on Thursday at 1.30 pm," he added.

Home Minister Mahmood Ali, Mayor Gadwal Vijaya Lakshmi, Deputy Mayor Srilatha Shobhan Reddy,

Commissioner Ronald Rose, IVD Director Prakash Reddy, Hyderabad CP CV Anand were among those who participated in the media conference.

HMWSSB to set up drinking water camps

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) MD M Danakishore said that adequate arrangements are being made to satisfy the thirst of devotees who come for Ganesh immersion. He held a special review meeting with the higher officials at the head office in Khairatabad on Wednesday for the immersion on Thursday.

He said 122 special drinking water camps are being set up for the immersion. Water camps are already being organised at 74 baby ponds (water pools) established for immersion across the city, he added. In addition to this, a total of 33.50 lakh water packets are being made available. Apart from this, fresh water will also be provided in drums. He said that staff has been appointed in three shifts to serve the devotees round-the-clock. The quality of water in these camps would be tested by QAT teams from time to time and the chlorine percentage would be kept at the appropriate level.

Moderate rains lash parts of TS; spell to last till Sept. 30

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Parts of Hyderabad received moderate rains on Wednesday evening. The Indian Meteorological Department-Hyderabad (IMD-H) predicted that the city will experience rains till September 30.

As per the IMD report parts of Telangana received moderate rains on September 27; while thunderstorms are expected in isolated places in Telangana on September 28. Similar conditions are expected to prevail till September 30.

As per the Telangana State Planning and Development Society report, light to moderate rainfall is expected in parts of Telangana till September 30. The maximum temperature in the State is expected to remain 31-33 degrees Celsius while the minimum temperature is expected to remain 23-25 degrees Celsius.

Areas under the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation are likely to have a maximum temperature of 31-33 degrees Celsius while the minimum temperature is expected to be 23-25 degrees



As per the IMD report parts of Telangana received moderate rains on September 27; while thunderstorms are expected in isolated places in Telangana on September 28. Similar conditions are expected to prevail till September 30

Celsius. Parts of Hyderabad, including Begumpet, Panjagutta, Khairatabad, Secunderabad, Alwal, Malkajigiri, Neredmet, Sainikpuri, Bowenpally, Balanagar, Kukatpally and Quthbullapur received heavy rains. Areas including Begumpet, Panjagutta, Secunderabad (Tirumalgi) among others experienced traffic congestion.

Traffic restrictions imposed ahead of nimajjanam in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In view of Ganesh immersion on September 28, the Rachakonda Police on Wednesday issued a traffic advisory. The traffic restrictions will remain in place from 6 am on September 28 to 8 pm on September 29.



Traffic going towards Hayathnagar and LB Nagar should proceed through LB Nagar Junction, Kothapet, Dilsukhnagar, Venkatadri Theatre. Drivers are requested to take left after JC Brothers showroom, Shiva Ganga Theatre and take left towards Saroornagar Tank from there.

Commuters moving towards Vanasthalipuram should proceed through Panama Godown X Road, LB Nagar Junction, Kothapet, Dilsukhnagar, Venkatadri Theatre. Drivers are requested to take left after JC Brothers showroom, Shiva Ganga Theatre and take left towards Saroornagar Tank from there.

Traffic moving towards

Saroornagar should proceed through Kothapet X Road, take left Dilsukhnagar, Venkatadri Theatre. Drivers are requested to take left after JC Brothers showroom, Shiva Ganga Theatre and take left towards Saroornagar Tank from there.

Commuters going towards Nagarjuna Sagar Road should proceed through LB Nagar Junction, Kothapet, Dilsukhnagar, Venkatadri Theatre. Drivers are requested to take a left after JC Brothers showroom, Shiva Ganga Theatre and take a left towards Saroornagar Tank

from there.

Mettuguda T Junction- Heavy vehicles will not be allowed to proceed towards Malkajigiri X Road from Mettuguda, (Hyderabad city limits), and will be diverted toward Lalapet. The public can travel to Neredmet via Lalapet - ZTC - HB Colony - Ramadevi - ECIL.

Uttam Nagar RUB- General traffic from the AOC area will not be allowed towards Anand Bagh and will be diverted towards Goutham Nagar. The General Public who intend to go towards Malkajigiri may take the route via Goutham Nagar - Anutex - Malkajigiri X Road.

Neredmet X Road- Heavy vehicles from Neredmet X Road will not be allowed towards Safilguda Junction and will be diverted towards RK Puram. The general public who intend to go towards the Mettuguda side (Hyderabad city limits) may take the route via RK Puram - AOC area or Sainikpuri - ECIL - HB Colony - Lalapet.

TSFDC holds two-day meet on eco-tourism

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Manjeera Wildlife Sanctuary, Kanakagiri Hills, Khammam, Nandipet in Nizamabad and Kuntala Water falls in Adilabad will be taken up as holistic eco-tourism sites in the coming days by Telangana State Forest Development Corporation Limited (TSFDC).

The TSFDC has conducted a two-day conference on eco-tourism prospects and way forward in Telangana State on Thursday. The objectives of the workshop were to know best practices in various states, to know about

eco-infrastructure designs that blend with nature, community involvement and employment.

The workshop went on for two days (September 26 and 27) with experts from hospitality management, eco-architects and eco-tourism practitioners presented their experiences which can be replicated in the State.



The TSFDC has unveiled a brand and a logo for its upcoming projects "Deccan Woods and Trails", on the eve of World Tourism Day.

Experts from Kerala, Karnataka, Odisha, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh participated in the conference.

TS govt will preserve Ganga Jamuni tehzeeb

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K Chandra shekhar Rao extended greetings to Muslims on the occasion of Milad-un-Nabi festival on Thursday (September 28).

The Chief Minister made it clear that the government will continue efforts to preserve the spirit of Ganga Jamuni tehzeeb in Telangana. He said that Muslims consider Milad-un-Nabi, birthday of Prophet Muhammad, as the most auspicious day and the community believes Almighty Allah designated Muhammad as the last Prophet to spread the message of peace.

The Chief Minister wished that Prophet Mohammad's teachings - peace, compassion, religious thinking, charity, unity and equality of all human beings will spread all over the world.

The CM said the schemes launched by the State government for the socio-economic and spiritual development of the Muslim minority people are yielding the desired results.



Pakistan cricket team depart for Dubai from Lahore

Pak team arrive in city for Cricket World Cup

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Ahead of the Cricket World Cup 2023, the Pakistan Cricket team arrived in Hyderabad on Wednesday night at 9 pm.

Pakistan is set to face New Zealand in a warm-up match on September 29 at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium.

On Wednesday, the team took a flight from Lahore Airport on a private plane. The Pakistan squad comprises 18 players and 13 officials. The team flew to Dubai where there was a layover of nine hours before departing to India.

According to the schedule, the ODI World Cup warm-up match between the teams will

be held at Rajiv Gandhi Cricket Stadium.

However, due to festivals in Hyderabad, the match will be played behind closed doors based on the advice from local security agencies. In light of this decision, it has been announced that individuals who purchased tickets for the match will receive a full refund.

In Hyderabad, Pakistan is scheduled to play two warm-up matches in the ODI World Cup 2023. The first match will be against the Netherlands on October 6, followed by a match against Sri Lanka on October 10.

India and Pakistan are set to face off in the main draw on October 14 at the Narendra Modi Stadium.

Khairatabad Metro Station sees 30K footfalls these days

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Huge footfalls of over 30,000 entries and 30,000 exits per day are being experienced at Khairatabad Metro Station for the last few days.



In order to facilitate the anticipated heavy rush on the last day of nimajjanam, HMRL MD NVS Reddy had a meeting with L&TMRHL MD KVB Reddy and other senior officers of both organisations and made the special arrangements. Trains will be operated beyond mid-night.

The last trains in all directions will leave at 1:00 am and reach their respective destinations at around 2:00 am i.e., early morning hours of Friday. Additional Police and private security personnel will be deployed at Khairatabad and Lakdikapul Metro Stations and security arrangements will be monitored by DSP rank police officers of HMRL.

Additional ticket counters will be opened

at select Metro Stations to meet the demand. Additional trains will be operated on need basis. The MD appealed to the Metro commuters visiting Khairatabad to follow self-discipline and cooperate with the security personnel to avoid any stampede.

ADVANCING COMPUTATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

Mahindra varsity successfully hosts ICETCI-2023

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Third International Conference on Emerging Techniques in Computational Intelligence (ICETCI 2023) concluded at Mahindra University.

Attracting a diverse congregation of leading experts, scholars and practitioners from across the globe, ICETCI 2023 served as a dynamic platform for the exchange of groundbreaking ideas and the presentation of cutting-edge research within the Computational Intelligence domain.

The conference commenced with a full day dedicated to tutorial sessions,



laying the groundwork for two more days filled with stimulating discussions, keynote addresses and technical paper presentations.

This year's lineup of luminaries featured distinguished figures such as the guest of honour, Prof. Anil Sahasrabudde, Chairman of both the National Board of Accreditation and

National Assessment and Accreditation Council. Prof. Sahasrabudde shared invaluable insights on the pivotal role of innovation in academia.

Adding to the status, Dr. Kota Harinarayana, Former Director General of the Tejas Programme and former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hyderabad, was the chief guest, delivering a keynote address that underscored the critical contribution of computational intelligence to the development of cutting-edge technologies in diverse domains, focusing particularly on the aerospace and agriculture sectors.

ASSURED JOB PLACEMENTS

Special training launched in German

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A Special Training programme organised by Telangana Overseas Manpower Company Ltd (TOMCOM) for students selected for the Germany Ausbildung (vocational training) programme was inaugurated on Wednesday by Special Chief Secretary (LET and F), Rani Kumidini, and Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany to South India, Michaela Kuchler at the National Academy of Construction (NAC), Hyderabad.

The initiative is part of the Telangana government's efforts to upskill and create overseas



employment opportunities for the Telangana workforce in developed countries like the UK, USA, Japan and Germany and is organised by TOMCOM (a State government entity under the Department of Labour, Employment and Training), in collaboration with

M/s TGM Services Pvt Ltd and Goethe-Zentrum Institute, Hyderabad.

The training will include German language classes and an introduction to German culture. It is designed to prepare candidates for a 2 to 3-year apprenticeship pro-

gramme (Ausbildung) in Germany, followed by job placements. A total of 62 candidates have enrolled for the Ausbildung programme in addition to 16 nursing students who have obtained job offers in Germany.

Rani Kumidini reiterated the State government's commitment to take up more capacity-building initiatives and facilitate overseas employment opportunities for the youth of Telangana through safe and legal channels of migration. Dr. Vishnu Reddy, Special Secretary and CEO of TOMCOM, highlighted the benefits of joining the Ausbildung programme.

TS CID traces missing man after nine years

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Crime Investigation Department (CID) on Wednesday traced a missing man nine years after he went missing.

The missing person was identified as Sabhyasachi Das, a goldsmith who went missing on July 26, 2014 when he left his residence to go for work. Das's employer Ganesh Mondal filed a missing complaint with the Charaminar Police on August 2, 2014.

The Charaminar SHO registered a case under Section 363 of the Indian Penal Code and launched an investigation. On May 30, 2015, the case was transferred to Telangana CID. During

the investigation under the supervision of Superintendent of Police, Women Safety Wing, the investigation officer, K. Muthyala, Inspector, with the co-operation of P. Hareesh, Sub-Inspector of Police, Cyber Analysis Module, made sustainable efforts to trace the missing boy and finally located Das in Cuttack city of Odisha. A special team comprising G. Mallanna, Sub-Inspector of Police, K. Jagadishwar Rao (Police Constable) of Anti Human Trafficking Unit (ATHU), Women Safety Wing, Telangana, were deputised and they successfully traced the missing boy at Cuttack through technology and reunited him with his family.



GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
IRRIGATION AND CAD DEPARTMENT

No. 145E/2023-24

TENDER NOTICE

Dt: 27.09.2023

Name of the work: AMRSLBC Project - Operation and Maintenance estimate for providing with PU Injection of MC - Inject GL - 95 TX/MC 2700 (Acrylic hydro structure resin) to RCC Retaining wall wherever required to arrest leakage near columns of Pump house at AMRPLIS/Puttagandri. Estimate cost: Rs. 44.15 lakhs. Submission of Tender Documents last date : 13-10-2023 upto 5.00 PM. Further information visit www.tender.telangana.gov.in

Sd/- Superintending Engineer,
Irrigation Circle, G.V. Gudim, Nalgonda.

R.O.No: 7357-PPCL/AGENCY/11/2023-24, Dt: 27.09.2023



GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

'E' PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

NTT No. 12/CTO/GHMC/2023-24

Dated: 27-09-2023

Name of the work: Removal of unauthorized loadings/unloadings/shedders (Glow sign board) for advertisement structures and removal of unauthorized floor on various advertisement elements (Package 1 to 6). Start Date/Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids: Start Date & Time: 29.09.2023 @ 02.00 PM onwards. End Date & Time: 06.10.2023 @ 02.30 PM. Name & Address of Officer Call No : Cto, Chief Transport Officer, 4th Floor GHMC, Head Office, Tank Bund, Hyderabad, Sr. K. Ajay CTO, GHMC. Contact No: Mob.No. 7963363314. Address of the officer concerned Chief Transport Officer, GHMC. Mob. No. 7963363314. Further details can be seen at e-procurement at www.e-procurement.telangana.gov.in

Sd/- Chief Transport Officer, GHMC.

R.O.No: 7354-PPCL/AGENCY/11/2023-24, Dt: 27.09.2023

Office of the Director of Agricultural Marketing
Government of Telangana, Hyderabad.

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

E-procurement T. No. SE(AM)/TS/HYD/Ep/10/2023-24, Dated: 26-09-2023.

Online Tenders are invited by Superintending Engineer (AM), Hyderabad from the Registered Civil Contractors for the following (5) Works at Yadadri Bhongiri, Nagarkurnool, Warangal, Nalgonda and Hanamkonda Districts costing of Rs. 1,46,71,759/- E-procurement site opening Date on 29-09-2023 at 5.00 PM. The Non-refundable Processing fee shall be paid through online and counterfoal / receipt signed by the bankers with receipt journal number / UTR number shall be scanned and uploaded along with bids. Any other information can be had from the <https://tender.telangana.gov.in> or office of the Superintending Engineer (AM), Hyderabad.

Superintending Engineer (AM) Officiating
Chief Officer of Agri. Marketing
Govt. of Telangana

DIPR/O.No : 727-PPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/11/2023-24



HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

4th Floor, Swarnajayanti Commercial Complex, Amespet, Hyderabad

Public Notification U/s. 15(3) of HMDA Act, 2008
(Government Memo. No. 11640/Plg.1/11/2023, dt: 17.08.2023)

In exercise of powers conferred by Sub-Section (1) of Section 15 of HMDA Act 2008 (Act No. 8 of 2008), it is proposed to make the following draft variation to the land use envisaged in the notified Ersahwile HUDA Area Master Plan Budvel zone segment approved by the Government vide G.O.Ms.No.288, MA&UD dt.03.04.2008.

The site in Sy. No. 113/A, 113/AA, 115/A, 115/AA of Hyderabad (V), Rajendranagar (M), Rangareddy district, to an extent of 48134.16 sq. mtrs. or Ac. 11-16 gts. which is presently earmarked as Public & Semi-public use as per the notified Ersahwile HUDA Area Master Plan Budvel zone segment approved by the Government vide G.O.Ms.No.288, MA & UD dt. 03.04.2008, is now proposed to be designated as Residential use zone.

The details of the above are available in websites <https://gazette.telangana.gov.in/> and <https://hmda.gov.in/>.

Objection / Suggestions would be considered from any person or body to the said proposals. They can submit objections / suggestions in writing either to the M.C. HMDA or to Special Chief Secretary, MA & UD Dept., Telangana Secretariat, Hyderabad within Fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this Notice.

Sd/-
R.O. No. : 729-PPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/11/2023-24 Metropolitan Commissioner, HMDA



AIMIM leader, son get bail in Shaik Bawazeer's murder case

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

All India Majlis Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) leader and Jalpally Municipal Chairman Abdullah Saadi and his father Ahmed Saadi, who are accused in Shaik Bawazeer murder case were on Wednesday granted bail by the Telangana High Court.

The court ordered the two accused to furnish two sureties of Rs 50,000 each. They were also directed to appear before the Station House Officer concerned at 10 am daily over the next two weeks. Thereafter, the accused may appear for investigation whenever required.

G Anil Kumar, counsel for the accused, argued that the father-son duo were innocent and were falsely implicated in the murder case of Bawazeer, who was a rowdy-sheeter.

Kumar also contended that apart from Ahmed's confession, there was no other evidence collected by the investigating officer to implicate the petitioners. "The accused can't be put behind bars on the basis of a confession," Kumar argued.

CM LAUDS CHANDLAPUR, PEMBERTI GETTING TOURISM AWARDS

TS emerging as a tourist destination, says KCR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K Chandrababhu Naidu expressed happiness over the awards of 'National Best Rural Tourism Centres' to the villages of Pembarti and Chandlapur in the State.

Janagama district 'Pembarti' is world famous for handicrafts and Siddipet district 'Chandlapur' is distinguished by the production of prestigious Gollabham sarees and the natural beauty of the Ranganayak hills.

On the occasion of World Tourism Day, CM KCR congratulated State Tourism Department Principal Secretary Shailaja Ramayya, Pembarti Sarpanch Ambala Anjaneyulu and Chandrapur Sarpanch Suragoni Chandrakala who received national awards at the hands of the Central Tourism Department on Wednesday in Delhi.

On this occasion, CM KCR congratulated the State Tourism Minister Srinivas Goud, Director of Tourism Department, other higher officials and staff who are working for the development of the state's tourism sector.



On this occasion, CM KCR recalled the progress achieved by the Telangana tourism sector during the self-government. He reminded that Ramappa temple has already been recognised as a 'World Heritage Site' by UNESCO, and the recognition of Pochampally village as 'UNWTO Best Rural Village' has increased the reputation of Telangana.

If there was despair in the Telangana region due to the neglect of the erstwhile rulers, today Telangana is shining brightly with the development of water projects like reservoirs, ponds and other water resources, green forests, hills, bustling historical buildings, innovative buildings that proclaim humility and shrines that inspire spirituality.

The CM explained that Telangana, which is already maintaining a special position in the country with its historical wealth, has achieved further expansion with various development programmes including irrigation, greening, environmental and spiritual activities, prestigious structures and other strong measures.

The CM said that crores of domestic and foreign tourists have visited the Telangana region since the formation of the State till date due to the measures taken by the government for the development of the tourism sector. He said that apart from imparting knowledge and entertainment to the tourists, thousands of people are directly and indirectly employed.

CM KCR said that Telangana is emerging as a unique tourist destination in the country with the strong measures taken by the State government in self-governance. He has made it clear that the government will improve employment opportunities for the youth by implementing activities towards achieving further development of the tourism sector in the future.

Konda Laxman statue soon at Suryapet

PNS ■ SURYAPET

Minister for Energy G Jagadish Reddy on Wednesday paid tributes to Konda Laxman Bapuji on the occasion of his birth anniversary.

Speaking at a meeting, shortly after paying floral tributes to Bapuji's portrait, the Minister described Bapuji as a humanist. Bapuji was a democrat and fought on behalf of the poor. He fought for the welfare of the downtrodden.

The state government distributed awards constituted in his name for talented weavers. The Minister said that his statue would be installed in the town after identifying a suitable site.

MP Badugula Lingaiah Yadav, Collector Venkat Rao, Additional Collectors Priyanka and Venkat Reddy and others were present on the occasion.

Chinta Prabhakar lauds Konda Lakshman Bapuji
In sangareddy, Telangana State Handloom Development Corporation Chairman Chinta Prabhakar garlanded the statue of Konda Lakshman Bapuji along with additional collector Chandrasekhar



Minister for Energy G Jagadish Reddy offering floral tributes to Konda Laxman Bapuji in Suryapet on Wednesday

and paid floral tributes to the great leader.

ZP CEO Yellaiah appealed to one and all to remember the significant role that Konda Lakshman Bapuji had played during the movement for statehood to Telangana.

In 1969, when the first phase of the movement for Telangana was held he undertook fast unto death and quit his ministerial berth in the state cabinet of that day.

DRO Nagesh spoke. BC Welfare Officer Jagadish, district Padmasahli association president Mallesam and others took part. **Follow in the footsteps of Bapuji: ZP chief**

In Siddipet, ZP chairperson Roja Sarma, paying floral tributes to the veteran leader, appealed to the people to sustain his ideals and follow in his footsteps.

She appreciated Konda Lakshman Bapuji who resisted the atrocities per-

petrated by the Nizam rulers. He took an active part in the second phase of the agitation for statehood in Telangana at the advanced age of 96 years and observed fast at Zantar-Mantar in Delhi.

She recalled how the then TDP government demolished the Jaladrussam - the residence of Konda Lakshman Bapuji on the banks of Hussain Sagar when he let the TRS (now the BRS) run its activities from there.

She felicitated five handloom workers on the occasion.

Police Commissioner N Sweta on Wednesday paid floral tributes to Telangana protagonist Konda Lakshman Bapuji in connection with his 108th birth anniversary. **Chief Whip pays tributes to Bapuji**

In a programme held at Hanamkonda Collectorate, Government Chief Whip Vinay Bhaskar paid tributes to Konda Lakshman Bapuji and hailed him as the leader who motivated the participants of the first and second phases of the movement for Telangana.

Union Minister presents best tourism village award to Chandlapur sarpanch

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

Union Minister Ajay Bhat on Wednesday presented award to Chandlapur village sarpanch Chandrakala Ravi and to District Additional Collector Srinivas Reddy in Delhi for adjudging Chandlapur as the best tourism village.

Chandlapur village was chosen at the best village at national level from tourism

perspective.

Besides Chandlapur in Chinnakoduru mandal of Siddipet district, Pembarti village in Janagoan district also adjudged as the best tourism village.

Out of 795 villages that vied with each other for the coveted award, Pembarti was chosen as the village pays attention to safeguarding the activities of metal artisans.



Minister of State for Tourism Ajay Bhat presenting best tourism village award to Chandlapur sarpanch Chandrakala Ravi in New Delhi recently

Kamareddy Police arrest murder case accused, four persons

PNS ■ KAMAREDDY



Police parading the alleged inter-state gang of criminals in Kamareddy on Wednesday

The Kamareddy Police on Wednesday arrested five persons, including ringleader Julfi Singh who were allegedly involved in several robbery and two-wheeler theft cases.

Julfi Singh, the police said, had been evading the police for long after being released from jail in Amravati on parole. He was convicted in a murder case and he was released on parole during the Covid-19 pandemic.

He had been evading police since his release, the police. The arrested included Julfi Singh, Shaik Yunas, Shaik Shohal, Shoaib Ali and Ch Anjappa. Julfi Singh has also been facing charges of committing two robberies.

Kamareddy Superintendent of Police Srinivas told the media that Julfi Singh, along with his accomplices, had stolen two-wheelers. Julfi Singh, who hailed from Maharashtra, married a woman from Banswada. He was convicted of murdering an

employee during a robbery in a jewellery shop under Amravati police station limits in Maharashtra. After spending two years in jail, he was released on parole at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2013. He had been evading police since then.

The Superintendent of police said that Julfi Singh had committed several crimes in Kamareddy, Nizamabad, Karimnagar, Hyderabad and Medak districts.

The police took all five suspects into custody during the

vehicle check at the Kasturba Hospital area. The accused spilled beans during interrogation. The police recovered 51 motorcycles from them, he said.

Four more persons, who were found helping the gang, are still at large. A manhunt was launched for them, he said.

The Superintendent of Police said that he would recommend rewards and certificates to the police personnel who apprehended the alleged criminals.

Congress calls upon people to drive out BRS

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

Former MLA Yennem Srinivas Reddy has alleged that the present regime of the BRS is ruling the state against the wishes of the people and appealed to all parties to join hands to unseat the present regime.

Addressing media at the Congress office here on Wednesday, along with DCC president G Madhusudhan Reddy, he alleged that the BRS and BJP are the two sides of the same coin. He claimed to have joined the BJP thinking that it would fight against the BRS. But, there is no such a situation, he said explaining the reason for him to join the Congress.

The Congress only can fulfil the aspirations of people, he said. He vowed to work for the Congress party's victory in the next elections. He underlined the need for driving away the anarchic forces in the state.



Former MLA Yennem Srinivas Reddy speaking to the media in Mahabubnagar on Wednesday

The DCC president claimed that the Congress party getting overwhelming response from the people with each passing day. At the Congress public meeting addressed by Sonia Gandhi recently at Tukuguda, Sonia Gandhi announced six guarantees to the people. The moment Congress replaces the BRS in

the state after the elections, the Congress would implement them.

Earlier, the Congress activists felicitated Srinivas Reddy on his arrival at the Congress office. TPCC general secretary Vinod Kumar, leaders CJ Benhar Radha Amar and other functionaries were present.

Higher compensation Vattem Reservoir outstees demanded

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

Huzurabad BJP MLA Etala Rajender has alleged that inadequate compensation of Rs 2.04 lakh per acre was fixed to Vattem Reservoir displaced farmer Jangaiah and it led to two members of his family taking the extreme step of committing suicide.

Eatala on Wednesday visited the bereaved family members of Alloji in Kummera village.

Later talking to media, the MLA said that it was not proper to acquire land by paying inadequate compensation. It was necessary to acquire land for the project, but it was not proper not to give adequate compensation to landowners. A total of 19 acres of land



Huzurabad BJP MLA Etala Rajender interacting with Vattem Reservoir displaced persons in Nagarkurnool district on Wednesday

belonging to Jangaiah's family was not acquired for the project. A part of the land was meant for the project and the remaining was acquired for other purposes, he said.

On one hand, the government fixed Rs 10 lakh per acre to the agricultural land in some cases, but fixed a very low amount towards compen-

sation to Jangaiah's family, he said and blamed the government for the two farmers committing suicide.

Etala demanded payment of Rs 25 lakh compensation to each who committed suicide and a government job for one of the family members.

The government promised a compensation of Rs 10 lakh, he said, adding that suicide deaths were being reported from villages.

He threatened to launch a State-wide agitation if justice is not done to the deceased's family. National BC Commission Member Talloji Achary criticised the government alleging that the Kalwakurthy IJ Scheme project displaced farmers are yet to get the compensation.



BSP leader Perika Karan Jayaraj

BSP leader buys Nalgonda Ganesh laddu for 36 lakh

PNS ■ NALGONDA

BSP leader Perika Karan Jayaraj on Wednesday bought Nalgonda Ganesh laddu for Rs 36 lakh in an auction at Ganesh Idol pandal number one here.

An auction was held for Laddu after performing puja before the immersion procession started.

There was stiff competi-

tion with Congress MP Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, Nalgonda BRS MLA Kacherla Bhupal Reddy, BJP leader Nagam Varshit Reddy, eighth ward councillor Pilli Ramaraju and BSP leader Perika Karan Jayaraj and few others participated in the auction. At last, Jayaraj succeeded in buying the Laddu. The laddu at the number one Ganesh pandal fetched Rs 10 lakh last year.

Baby crocodile at Chintal Basti

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A baby crocodile was spotted in Chintal Basti of Khairatabad. Locals are worried about the crocodile coming near Bolkapur. A baby crocodile was seen by children where the construction of Nala bridge is going on.

A baby crocodile washed onto the road due to the rush of water in the background of rain. A team of anti-poaching squad of the Forest Department was rushed to the spot to catch the crocodile and shift it to it to zoo park.



Singareni recognised union election on October 28

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Election to identify recognised trade union in Singareni Collieries to be held on Oct.28. The Deputy CLC announced that the election date on Wednesday. Nominations will be received on October 6 and 7. After that scrutiny and withdrawal will be given. While polling will be held on 28th, counting will be done on the same day. However, the Central Labor Union has issued a notification to hold Singareni elections on May 22. However, the management of Singareni asked for postponement due to consecutive festivals. Rejecting the request of Singareni organization, the High Court ordered that elections be held by October.

Release of draft voters list is on Sept.30, display of final voters list is on Oct.5, filing of nominations on Oct.6-7, last date for withdrawal of nominations on October 9, scrutiny is on October 10.

HMDA collected Rs 6,944 cr from 21 plots

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) has held e-auctions for a number of plots in Kokapet, Budvel etc following recent successful e-auctions as an agent of Government of Telangana and fetched Rs6944.33crore.

The various-sized acres of the land parcels were divided into plots for multipurpose use zones with permission for high rise buildings and unlimited FSI. The overwhelming results of bids for multiple land parcels of various sizes in prime locations have been recorded with the highest response registered to be as high as Rs. 100.75 Cr per acre in Kokapet. Budvel layout have received as higher as Rs. 41.75 crore per acre.

Seven plots totaling 45-33 acres were offered for e-auction in Kokapet on 03.08.2023. The size of these plots varied from 3.60 acres to 9.71 acres. Here, the entire offered area was sold for a total of Rs. 3319.60 crores,

which is an average of Rs. 73.23 crore per acre.

Similar to this, the complete acreage i.e., 100-01 acres offered at the Budvel auction on 10.08.2023 was sold for a total of Rs. 3625.73 crores at an average of Rs. 36.25 crores.

For Kokapet and Budvel, the H1 bidders have made their payments on time and in accordance with the payment schedule.

However, in the Mokila layout, where modest plots were put up for auction and bought by members of the middle class specifically as individual purchases, the payment is a little tardy and not receiving within the stipulated time because of different factors, including the delay in loan sanctioning. The HMDA is pursuing the same and considering as per their requirements.



Rs 12 lakh looted from ATM

PNS ■ NIZANAD

Unidentified persons fled with about Rs 12 lakh after breaking open an automated teller machine (ATM) at Pachampad X road in the early hours of Wednesday.

According to police, a gang of unidentified thieves, who came by an Andhra Pradesh-registered vehicle, barged into the ATM cabin, broke it open and fled with the money. The ATM belongs to the State Bank of India. The police pressed into service the Clues Team and sniffer dog.



BIGGEST IN THE STATE

KTR inaugurates Lulu Mall in Hyderabad

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Lulu Group International on Wednesday launched its first supermarket in Hyderabad. Telangana IT and Industries Minister KT Rama Rao inaugurated the mall in the presence of Yusuff Ali, Chairman of Lulu Group.

The launch of the Lulu Mall and Lulu Hypermarket in Hyderabad underlines the group's progressive growth in the southern states, and it is considered the biggest hypermarket in the State with an amazing shopping experience.

This is the first venture of the Lulu Group in Telangana, and this first project in Hyderabad is part of the Rs 500 crore

investments that Lulu committed to the State. It is the outcome of several discussions and an MoU signed with the Government of Telangana during Industry Minister KT Rama Rao's visit to the World Economic Forum last year in Davos. The Rs 500 crore investment Yusuff Ali promised to the Telangana government was fulfilled within a short period of time.

"Several rounds of fruitful discussions were done with the Government of Telangana, and the speed at which they approved the project is commendable. Also, it'll ensure a world-class shopping experience in Hyderabad. Also, planned multiple investments



Telangana IT Minister KT Rama Rao and Lulu Group Chairman MA Yussuf Ali inaugurate Lulu Mall in Hyderabad on Wednesday

in the State, including a Food Sourcing and Exporting centres," Yusuff Ali said.

This Mega Mall hosts a global standard Lulu Hypermarket, over hundred local and international brands, a 5-screen cinema with a seating capacity

of 1,400, a multi-cuisine food court, a children's entertainment centre, etc. The mall is located at Kukatpally, near JNTU and will generate employment for more than 2,000 personnel.

The global standard Lulu

Hypermarket to be the highlight of the mall, which will offer an extensive range of fresh produce and groceries and have separate sections for fashion, home appliances, electronics, mobiles, IT, and lifestyle products under the brand names 'Lulu Fashion Store' and 'Lulu Connect. The mall extends an array of infinite choices in retail, food and entertainment.

Its offerings include an international multiplex experience, a relaxing spa, carefully handpicked delicacies at the food court, exciting fun games zone and the latest in fashion and lifestyle to make it Hyderabad's most preferred hub.

FIRST COLUMN

HOW TO GET HELP FROM GOD?

To begin with, accept the ‘Karmaphala’ principal’ — “what we sow we reap”




AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

We have to make suitable efforts to do that. God is unlike our parents, who are obliged to help, especially when we are quite young. In the case of God, we have to deserve His help. If it wasn't so, God would be obliged to help everyone. Even parents stop helping as children become self-supporting, except to guide, as required. Therefore, we have to get rid of this false impression that God will help no matter what. Yes, He will if we become deserving. In this article, I will detail some thirty ways we can successfully do that, and which are mostly simple.

The first one has to be following dharma because it is most dear to God. God even incarnates to re-establish dharma. (The Bhagavad-Geeta 4.7) Dharma is the bedrock upon which the creation is based. Don't we know what social and other norms are? Then, we must not cross their 'Maryada' (limits). The second one is to be dutiful because this is the only right given to us. (2.47) Goodness must follow in our behaviour. We must be headed towards purity, as practised by yogis. (5.11) We should try to remember God because He is everything. (7.19) This will lead to 'dhyana' – the process of meditation.

Now I take up processes involving others. The first one has to be charity. All of us have something to spare, whether material objects or personal time. Human birth demands that we become useful to others. How else can the creation go on? We must help/serve others and others will do likewise.

The next group of acts are when we directly address God. The first one has to be praying, which comes to us naturally, whenever we are in trouble; even children pray when fearful. We should express our thanks if God responds. Shouldn't we be highly obliged? If God still does not respond, it is time to seek forgiveness and begin repenting for sins done in the past. Shouldn't we wonder about God's non-response and what we must do to deserve His help? Gradually, we must begin giving our minds and intelligence to God. What does this mean? Simply stated, God must be brought into our psyche; we must begin to think about God.



By now we would have become humble enough to do 'namaskar' to God giving up our highly bloated ego; visit a nearby temple to have 'darshan' of God. These places are generally highly charged with spiritual energy, which will help us to become God-conscious. We can begin worshipping God in our homes. We can begin by choosing a photo of God in whatever form attracts us the most; God has multiple forms. Similarly, we can start chanting God's name or mantra, whatever appeals to us. All these will lead to our becoming inquisitive about God's instructions, as detailed in bona fide scriptures like the Geeta. We can try to do whatever God wishes us to do (16.24), which will ensure God's pleasure. By now, we would have become highly deserving of God's help, because we in effect would have taken God's shelter.

This takes us to another level. God takes charge of our lives; He begins to use us as His 'nimitta' (instrument). Our lives will begin to become greatly fulfilling. God will get everything done and we will get credit. We will become very useful and highly satisfied. 'Tapasya' will begin to come naturally, which will qualify us for more gains, because in the spiritual domain also, the 'karmaphala principle' works, the only difference being: in this case our acts are spiritual. The word 'yogi' will no longer be a distant concept, we will become one. Sky is the limit then, as Sanjaya of the Mahabharata fame has described, "Where there is the yogeshwar Shri Krishna and where there is the archer Arjuna (in our case us), there will be 'saubhagya' (opulence), victory, wealth and definite principles (morality)".

(The writer is an educator, views are personal)

Punjab is reeling under socio-economic distress



AS MITTAL

Without sustainable economic growth, local employment generation, and self-reliance, Punjab's well-being will continue to be a challenge



It's worrisome that Punjab only receives 45 paise for every rupee it contributes to the Centre's tax kitty. This is especially concerning when comparing it to states like UP and Bihar, which receive Rs 1.80 and Rs 1.20, respectively. This revenue-sharing disparity is a significant contributor to the socio-economic distress experienced by Punjab. As a landlocked border state, it's even more crucial for Punjab to overcome this fiscal distress since India's and Pakistan's bilateral trade also halted through the Wagah-Attari route majorly affected Punjab's economy only. The said cost-effective cross-border route can directly short-connect to Europe, a big potential to catalyse the Punjab economy as strong as the economy of Southern-Western States, because of near to seaports.

Being far away from the seaports is one of the major disadvantages that Punjab is struggling with, and has a crippling impact on industrial growth. Secondly, adjoining the sensitive Pakistan border not only halted the trade but Pakistan led to illegal arms supply and drug terror scuffed the social fabric and law and order of Punjab. Keeping these two major geographical disadvantages centre stage till any central government has not compensated Punjab as it faces odd challenges in comparison to other states. Not even a fair share of tax kitty given, the Rural Development Fund(RDF) and Mandi Fee of Rs 5337 crore have not been released for long. Thus, how long does a fiscally distressed state government alone take forward the most development and welfare-oriented expenditure?

When a state's economy weakens, its people and progress suffer together. This is evident in the current crisis in India-Canada relations, as Punjab's economic distress has led to a migration of its human resources to Canada. Unfortunately, this migration has created a breeding ground for radicals and anti-Indian khalistan extremist activities on Canadian soil, a globalised challenge that has gone unaddressed. The Canadian connection to khalistani is longstanding. Since the mid-80s, there has been a significant exodus of Punjabi youth to Canada, where they often



WHEN A STATE'S ECONOMY WEAKENS, ITS PEOPLE SUFFER. PUNJAB'S ECONOMIC DISTRESS HAS LED TO A MIGRATION OF ITS HUMAN RESOURCES TO CANADA

(The author is vice-chairman of Sonalika group, vice-chairman of the Punjab Economic Policy and Planning Board, and chairman of ASSOCHAM Northern Region Development Council. Views expressed are personal)

do odd jobs to sustain themselves. Unfortunately, some of these young people become prey to anti-India extremists.

It is not good to allow a lop-sided economic development of a sensitive state like Punjab. It has its serious repercussions. If we fail to ensure holistic development, then we will be accused of inefficiencies in handling human resources. Unemployment is a multi-faceted problem exacerbating the distressed places associated with poorer mental health, crime and drug abuse. There is enough evidence of drug abuse and distress in the law-and-order situation, that an issue of brimming, can be ascribed directly to unemployment.

Punjab, which used to be a prosperous and progressive state even during its toughest time, is currently facing a significant problem of uncontrolled unemployment due to distressed farming and an imbalanced industrial base. This has resulted in Punjab's GDP growth rate dropping to 6%, which is lower than the national growth rate of 7.24% in 2022-23. Punjab is currently ranked at the 19th position, whereas it ranked first in GDP among the states in 1981 and fourth in 2001. Interestingly, UP and Bihar, which were once part of the economically sick states known as 'BIMARU' (Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh), are now fast-growing economies. UP achieved an impressive growth rate of 16.8%, with a GDP of Rs 20.48 lakh crore in 2022-23, while Bihar's growth rate was 10.98% with a GDP of Rs 7,45,310 crore.

It is crucial to acknowledge that Punjab has immense potential that should not be overlooked when compared to the Southern and Western states. Presently, Punjab's contribution to the country's tax kitty stands at approximately 3%, and it only receives 1.8% of

the divisible pool of taxes allocated by the Fifteenth Finance Commission. In contrast, the Western and Southern states contribute 67% to the central exchequer but only receive a meagre 3-4%. While their argument may appear valid, it is essential to consider that the Southern and Western states account for 53% of India's total factories and have the advantage of being closer to seaports, which can drive economic growth and result in more contributions to the central exchequer. Punjab's sluggish growth may dampen overall economic sentiments, but it still holds enormous potential for growth and contribution to the country's economy.

Undoubtedly, Punjab has the potential to contribute 10-15% as it possesses a strong capable and committed entrepreneurial spirit to overcome this economic distress. This spirit has been evident in the past when it overcame the challenges of the partition of India in 1947 and 13 years of militancy in the mid-80s to mid-90s. Within a few years of these events, Punjab was able to rehabilitate its economy and become the richest state in India in the 80s. Today, Punjab seeks a fair interface without any political interference to compete on a level playing field and strengthen its economy, ultimately reducing unemployment.

It is important to consider Punjab's significant contribution to national food security. However, the large areas and population figures of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar provide them with additional leverage from the central tax pool. It is concerning that Punjab only received 1.8% of the Rs 8,16,649 crore distributed by the centre to the states during 2022-23. In contrast, Uttar Pradesh received the highest share at 18% (Rs 1,46,525 crore) and Bihar received the second-highest share

at 10%. This highlights why Punjab and other states argue that they are not receiving a fair share of funds, despite contributing more to the exchequer.

During the fiscal year 2022-23, Punjab contributed a sum of Rs 32,800 crore to the central taxes fund, which included CGST, income tax, corporation tax, wealth tax, union excise duty, customs, and service tax. However, in return, the state only received Rs 14,756 crore. This has led to Punjab raising the issue with the Fifteenth Finance Commission, as it believes it deserves a fair share of central tax. Despite its efforts, Punjab has been unable to secure an amendment to the Finance Act.

Constitutionally, the purpose of the finance commission is to create some kind of 'equalization' among advantaged and disadvantaged states. From the point of view of equalization, the adoption of population figures as one of the criteria of devolution needs to be justified. Therefore, the constitution provides for a fair share of union revenue to be devolved to the states to address this issue.

The Way Forward:


In a federal structure, the central government needs to prioritise the improvement of economic conditions and livelihood prospects for the people of Punjab, which are facing unique challenges in comparison to other states.

It is crucial to take a comprehensive approach that ensures employment opportunities and social respect regardless of demographic and political differences. Without sustainable economic growth, local employment generation, and self-reliance, Punjab's well-being will continue to be a challenge, which is indispensable for the overall well-being of our nation.

Goat-rearing can be an excellent source of livelihood in rural Bihar

To provide livelihood, the government should provide adequate training and information to landless, marginal farmers about the goat farming schemes

Anita Devi, a 40-year-old resident of Hussainpur village, located about 65 kilometres from the Muzaffarpur district in Bihar, lost her husband two years ago. Left with no means to support her family of seven, including four daughters and two sons, she started goat farming to earn a livelihood. She faced criticism when she began rearing goats as a woman farmer. However, Anita resisted because her motivation to provide for her family kept her going. She had started with just two goats. Today, she has eight adult goats and 20 young ones. Goat rearing enabled her to protect her family and improve her financial status.



SIMRAN KUMARI

(The writers is a student from rural Bihar; views expressed are personal)

Alongside manual labour, agriculture-based employment like cattle, poultry, ducks, and goat farming is a crucial source of income, especially for economically disadvantaged individuals like landless, small-scale farmers, agricultural labourers, and socially oppressed individuals. According to the latest 2019 Livestock census, India has a population of 150 million goats, the second largest in the world. In around half a million remote villages, 70 million farmers are involved in the goat farming business. The primary income from Goat farming comes from milk, which has a production of about 42000 Kgs and meat production, which stands at 8500 Kgs.

Like Anita Devi, Goat farming is an excellent means of self-employment for many rural women. Around rural areas in Muzaffarpur, many women earn their livelihoods through goat farming, becoming breadwinners for their families. 35-year-old Champa Devi, resident of the same village as Anita, also supports her three daughters and two sons by raising goats.

In other instances, older women in the village claim that their sons and daughters-in-law have stopped providing for them in their old age. These women have, therefore, started rearing 2-4 goats to earn a living. These women leave for the fields in the morning to



graze their goats and only return in the evening. Goat farming is a hard job, especially during the monsoons. It can be a challenge to find adequate fodder for the goats. The farmers rely on bananas, bamboo, and Banyan leaves to keep the cattle alive. People invest their capital into it. Even

after that, we see an increasing number of women who raise goats in the village. It has become a source of livelihood for many families.

Various non-governmental and government organisations run programs to strengthen the village economy through agriculture-based employment like cattle, poultry, ducks, and goat farming. The Bihar government provides subsidies up to 60% for promoting goat farming. Under the Integrated Goat and Sheep Scheme, there is a provision for subsidising ten goats plus one buck, and 40 goats and two bucks. The government also provides financial aid to disadvantaged communities like Scheduled Caste/Schedule Tribe and

Other Backward Classes. These continuously disadvantaged groups get up to 60% subsidy, while the rest get 50%.

In addition, the capital investment required for raising 20 goats with one buck is about two lakhs, and farmers can take a loan from the bank for this purpose. This process of approving loans goes through the Department of Animal Husbandry in consultation with the bank. After that, subsidies get deposited into the beneficiaries' bank accounts in two instalments. However, because of a lack of awareness, many rural families do not know these schemes, leading women farmers like Anita and Champa to take loans with

high interest rates to start goat farming. On top of that, due to their lack of training, It is difficult for farmers to acquire high-quality breeds.

To promote livelihoods, the government should provide adequate training and information to landless, marginal farmers, and labourers about the goat farming schemes. Details about these schemes should be available in the Panchayat office or Gram Sabha. Ward members should be responsible for disseminating information about these programs to goat farmers. Only then women in vulnerable situations will be able to continue goat farming as a career and give themselves and their families a better future.

MONEY MATTERS

Demand for EV chargers to grow at 65% by 2030

The domestic demand for EV chargers is likely to grow at a CAGR of 65 per cent to reach the 3 million unit mark by 2030, according to a report. More than 17,000 units of electric vehicle (EV) chargers were sold in 2021, the joint report of Customized Energy Solutions(CES) and India Energy Storage Alliance (IESA) said. The Indian EV charger market is poised to expand at an impressive CAGR of 65 per cent between 2022 and 2030 to achieve annual sales of 3 million units to meet the requirement of chargers to meet the national EV scenario (NEV) by 2030, the report titled 'India Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure & Battery Swapping Market Overview' said. The demand will be driven by government initiatives and private investments, it added. Rahul Walawalkar, founder and president, IESA, and MD of Customized Energy Solutions India, said: 'India's electric revolution is gaining momentum at an astonishing pace'.



Amazon to tie up with more banks for credit card offerings

Global e-commerce giant Amazon is looking to tie-up with more banks for credit card offerings, as it sees high growth in the segment, a senior official said on Wednesday. At present, the company has a tie-up with ICICI Bank for a co-branded credit card as part of which over 42 lakh credit cards have been issued as of June 2023. "as we think about expanding our credit offerings, we will absolutely look at whether we want to tie-up with more banks and also want to expand to more networks and (that is) something we are deliberating right now," Amazon Pay's whole-time director Vikas Bansal told reporters here. He said the bank looks at 'trends and customer problems' on a continuous basis, and also added that there is a 'strong interest' among small businesses to own a credit card. ICICI Bank had reported a 45 per cent jump in its credit card portfolio for the June quarter.



Rupee snaps two-day fall, recovers 6 paise against US\$

The rupee on Wednesday staged a recovery after two days of steep losses to end 6 paise higher at 83.22 (provisional) against the US dollar on positive cues from domestic equity markets. However, selling pressure from foreign equity investors amid elevated levels of American currency and surging crude oil prices weighed on the local unit, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 83.23 and traded in a narrow range of 83.18 to 83.24 against the greenback. It finally settled at 83.22 (provisional), registering a gain of 6 paise from its previous close. The rupee lost 34 paise in the past two sessions. It closed 15 paise lower at 83.28 against the dollar on Tuesday, a day after registering a decline of 19 paise. The downward movement of the rupee was attributed to a strengthening dollar amid a record rise in US Treasury yields.



High standards to help India become developed economy by 2047: Goyal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

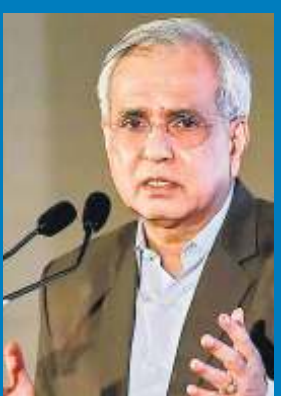
Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday said high-quality standards in products and services will help India achieve its ambition of becoming a developed economy by 2047. He also stressed that "standards must support creating robust enforcement ecosystem and that they are developed after extensive consultation with all stakeholder groups". Addressing the onboarding workshop for Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) technical committee members at the National Institute for Training in Standardization (NITS), Goyal said standards are a cornerstone of domestic trade and export, a facilitator of innovation and efficiency contributing towards national growth. As members of technical committees formulating Indian Standards, they have an enormous responsibility to ensure that standards embed the principles of sustainability, facilitate the fight against counterfeit goods and support MSMEs and startups to become more competitive, he said in a statement.

Onus with private sector to lead country on growth path

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government is facilitating holistic development but the onus lies on the private sector to lead the country on a sustainable growth trajectory, NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Suman Bery said on Wednesday. The private sector contributes 40 per cent of Research and Development (R&D) in the country, while its share in developed countries is 70 per cent, Bery said, while addressing an event organised by the Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI). "If we are to transit from the middle income trap, the private sector needs to enhance its contribution to R&D through its own investments and under corporate social responsibility," the NITI Aayog VC said. The onus is on the private sector to lead us on a sustainable growth trajectory, Bery said. He said the relationship between the public and private sectors needs to be redefined in the Amrit Kaal, to lead the country to a path of sustainable growth. Bery further said that

The relationship between the public and private sectors needs to be redefined in the Amrit Kaal, to lead the country to a path of sustainable growth. Bery further said that India's take-off moment has arrived, backed by the advantage of having the world's largest working population and resilient physical and digital institutions.



India's take-off moment has arrived, backed by the advantage of having the world's largest working population and resilient physical and digital institutions. "This is India's take-off moment... 1/5th of humanity will have rising living standards," he said. "India is on the move, there is no doubt about it... India has the largest working age population in the world, (and) resilient physical and digital institutions," he said.

Bery also pointed at the need to address significant challenges, including managing urbanisation, making regulations consistent and continuous, and adapting to disruptive technologies. Noting that India has the advantage of having the largest arable land and the highest population of bovine animals, Bery said the issue of raising agricultural productivity and having opportunities for displaced labour is a big challenge.

Travel, tourism sector sees 44% jump in hiring

PNS ■ MUMBAI

With the country witnessing a boom in the travel and tourism sector, the industry saw a 44 per cent growth in hiring demand in August, compared to the same month last year, a report said on Wednesday. This optimistic growth can be attributed to increased disposable incomes and higher spending on leisure and business travel in the country, a report by foundit (formerly Monster APAC & ME) said. Pre-pandemic trends indicate that the travel and tourism sector experienced a robust 16 per cent growth in 2019, however, with the pandemic-related disruptions, travel restrictions and lockdowns, there was a 47 per cent fall in job postings in 2020 and 27 per cent dip in 2021. While the industry began to bounce back with a marginal 3 per cent growth in hiring in 2022, it has dramatically recovered this year, as people regained confidence in travel, the report stated.

CENTRE TO BANKS

Depute doorstep executives to help bedridden pensioners

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has asked all pension disbursing banks to depute doorstep executives to help bedridden and hospitalised pensioners submit their life certificates. An order issued by the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) also asked all banks to create awareness about the convenience of obtaining the life certificate digitally by using the face authentication technology by super senior pensioners (those aged 80 and above). All pensioners have to give a life certificate (proof that they are alive) annually to continue receiving pension. There are about 69.76 lakh central government pensioners. In view of the digital life certificate through face authentication technology, it is now possible for every citizen to submit a digital life certificate (DLC) either from home using an Android smartphone or at



the bank branch, said the order dated September 25. "It is suggested that all banks may utilise the various platforms for creating awareness of the convenience of obtaining a life certificate by using the face authentication technology," it said. Banks can facilitate the submission of life certificates by deputing doorstep banking executives, said the order. They can widely publicise the methodology for submitting DLC by pasting information posters at branches and ATMs, it added. Banks may

send SMS/emails/WhatsApp messages to the pensioner with a link to the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for face authentication to empower the super senior pensioner to submit their life certificate through face authentication technology using their Android phone, the order said. The DoPPW has also asked the banks to circulate the SOP on DLC through face authentication via email among their concerned officials to enable them to get familiar with the usage of this technology.

Sensex rebounds on buying & positive trends



PNS ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark Sensex rebounded from early lows to settle higher by 173 points on Wednesday following buying in Reliance Industries, Larsen & Toubro and ITC and positive trends in Asian and European markets. The 30-share BSE Sensex rose by 173.22 points or 0.26 per cent to settle at 66,118.69 with 20 of its components ending in the green and 10 closing lower. The index opened lower and fell further to a low of 65,549.96 in morning trade. However, buying in Reliance, L&T, Infosys and Maruti helped it recover losses. Later, it jumped 226.8 points or 0.34 per cent to a high of 66,172.27. The Nifty gained 51.75 points or 0.26 per cent to end at 19,716.45. It moved between a low of 19,554 and a high of 19,730.70 in day trading. Among the Sensex firms,

Larsen & Toubro, ITC, Sun Pharma, Maruti, Reliance Industries, Axis Bank, IndusInd Bank and Hindustan Unilever were among the gainers. Titan, State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Tata Steel and Nestle were the major losers. "The market inched higher in the second half, driven by positive openings in European markets. Concerns about global interest rates and elevated oil prices are being balanced by several domestic factors, such as promising economic growth prospects and the potential for strong earnings, which validate the premium valuation," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. Persistent outflows of foreign funds and rising US bond yields are expected to keep the broader indices in bleak terrain, in the near term, Nair added.

SIG to invest 100 mn euro on Gujarat plant

PNS ■ AHMEDABAD

Leading packaging solutions provider SIG expects India to be among the top ten markets globally and will invest around 100 million Euro (Rs 878.8 crore) to set up its first plant here, its CEO Samuel Sigrist said on Wednesday. The company, which entered into the Indian market in 2018, has witnessed a "phenomenal growth" here, and expects it to "play a very important role for us going forward", he added. It is quite encouraged by the growth of the beverage industry in India, coupled with factors like the growing economy, income of the people and packed food consumption, he said. When asked whether India would figure in its top 10 markets in mid-terms (around 5 years) Sigrist said: "Easily. Our five-year CAGR for the packaged dairy business is in kind of the high teens, around 15-17 per cent." "We normally outgrow the market. We are the new entrant and the growth opportunity here is amazing. India will, over time, become a very, very sizable market price set. We are super excited," he added. However, he said, currently, India is small right now but is growing at a fast pace. Moreover, with the new plant and growth of the beverage industry in India, it would scale up.

‘Seeds available for Rabi season 20.70% higher than requirement’

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The availability of seeds for sowing in the 2023-24 rabi (winter) season for crops like wheat is estimated to be 159.03 lakh quintal, 20.70 per cent higher than the country's overall requirement, according to agriculture ministry data. The overall seeds requirement is estimated to be 131.75 lakh quintal for the 2023-24 rabi season. Sowing of rabi crops begins from October, while harvesting starts from March/April. Wheat

is the main rabi crop. As per the ministry's data, the availability of wheat seeds is estimated to be 123.43 lakh quintal, as against the requirement of 102.63 lakh quintal for the rabi season of this year. The availability of sorghum would be 1.04 lakh quintal for the rabi season, as against the requirement of 0.74 lakh quintal. In case of rabi pulses, the availability of chickpea seeds would be 25.04 lakh quintal, as against the requirement of 21.38 lakh quintal, while the seeds



supply of black gram would be 1.49 lakh quintal, as against 1.14 lakh quintal in the said season.

The availability of lentil seeds is pegged at 2.88 lakh quintal during the rabi season

Moody's downgrades Vedanta Resources

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Moody's Investors Service has downgraded the rating of Vedanta Resources Ltd because of the elevated risk of debt restructuring over the next few months, as the firm has not made progress on refinancing its upcoming debt maturities. Moody's said it has downgraded to Caa2 from Caa1, the corporate family rating (CFR) of Vedanta Resources Limited (VRL). At the same time, Moody's has maintained a negative outlook. "The downgrade reflects the elevated risk of debt restructuring over the next few months because VRL has not made any meaningful progress on refinancing its upcoming debt maturities, in particular the USD 1 billion bonds maturing each in January 2024 and



aggressive risk appetite and weak financial management." In August 2023, VRL sold a 4.3 per cent stake in key subsidiary Vedanta Limited (VDL) for around USD 500 million to stave off some of the pressure arising from the holding company's imminent cash needs. "Given that its entire shareholding in VDL and that VDL's entire 64.9 per cent shareholding in Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL), which holds around two-thirds of the group's consolidated cash, have already been pledged, this implies VRL has limited financial flexibility to raise financing," the rating agency said. Moody's said a softening commodity price environment will somewhat strain the ability of VRL's operating subsidiaries to generate cash flow.

Power Grid Corporation inks MoU with AIIMS Raipur to provide medical equipment

PNS ■ RAIPUR

Power Grid Corporation of India on Wednesday signed a memorandum of understanding with All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Raipur for providing medical equipment and an ambulance worth Rs 15.50 crore to the institute. PGCIL will provide Rs 15.50 crore for procuring one CT Scan Machine and ambulance, recovery cum patient shifting trolleys, foldable wheelchairs and e-rickshaws through its CSR funds, AIIMS Raipur Public Relations Officer S S Sharma said. PGCIL hopes that it will give immense relief

to patients in terms of the waiting period for a CT scan after the new machine is installed.



Under Urjit, RBI had a habit of making complete about-turns

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Under Urjit Patel, the then RBI Governor, the central bank had a habit of making complete about-turns on various issues, including electoral bonds and digital payments, former finance secretary Subash Chandra Garg said in his book titled 'We Also Make Policy: An Insider's Account of How the Finance Ministry Functions.' Citing some instances of about-turns by the then RBI Governor Patel, Garg in his book said, RBI had done so on the electoral bond issue and it had so in case of setting up of Payments Regulatory Board

(PRB). RBI also made unilateral decisions like ordering complete data localization for participation in the payment system, Garg wrote in the book which will hit the stands on October 1. "We humbly pointed out to RBI that the report (on PRB) was unanimous. If there was any dissent, it should have been made before the report was finalized. We would have gladly included the dissent note as part of the report and provided a rejoinder to the points raised by RBI.

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certain recommendations of the committee, RBI posted a dissent note on its website by way of a press release on 19 October 2018, it said. The 2007 PSS law remains unamended. The government

has still not notified the PRB as created by the Finance Act 2017. "The government did not take any action on the recommendations of the inter-ministerial group that I headed.

These recommendations had the potential to transform the payment architecture, infrastructure and institutional arrangements in the country. Though RBI is acting upon some of the recommendations made, India still has not institutionalized a good experimental regulatory sandbox," it said. Recently, in a paper issued by RBI, it said, it proposed opening up the payment space to NBFCs and other private entities. Patel's reluctance to part ways with reserves of the central bank for transferring it to the government of India prompted the Prime Minister Narendra

Modi to compare him with a 'snake who sits over a hoard of money'. Garg, who served as Economic Affairs Secretary between June 21, 2017 and July 25, 2019, also served as the finance secretary to the government of India, dealt with the politics of deciding the minimal support price (MSP) to farmers, introducing electoral bonds, recapitalizing banks and monetizing six airports, among others. However, the most contentious and talked about issue during his tenure was relationship between the Mint Street and North Block which houses the Finance Ministry.



Empowering community on cyber safety



PNS| HYDERABAD

THIS WEEK FOR OUR WEEKLY EDITION OF COMMUNITY WISE, WE BRING TO YOU ABOUT THE QUICK HEAL FOUNDATION, WHICH AIMS TO PRIORITISE AWARENESS AS THE PRIMARY TOOL TO TACKLE CYBERCRIME.

The Quick Heal Foundation is driven by its purpose of securing futures by enabling communities and society at large. Hence their programs are designed to be in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to create a better India with better opportunities for all. Their key focus areas are cybersecurity awareness and better healthcare for all. In this process, they also work to enhance employability through soft skills training.

Our Cyber Shiksha for Cyber Suraksha program aims to create awareness in society through street plays, workshops, and webinars for students across India. Furthermore, under our program Earn and Learn we train and motivate the volunteers to spread cyber security awareness amongst schools and colleges. We have organized workshops for underprivileged sections of society, like street vendors educating them on how to minimize risks on the internet. We have included all our employees, partners, schools & universities, local police, authorities, state administrations, and corporates across the country. We proactively spread awareness of cyber threats through e-learning on our website, social media, and PR campaigns. Since creating better access to



healthcare is also one of our primary objectives, we have been working in the public health space ever since inception. Under our Arogya Yan initiative, we donate state-of-the-art, fully equipped medical vans to NGOs operating in the rural areas of the country,' informs Anupama Katkar, the chairperson of the foundation.

Post-pandemic they observed that there was a marked increase in mental trauma of underprivileged students coming from slum areas. They then under their program, 'Arogyam Mansampada', proactively designed and conducted a 3-hour long session to address anxiety, stress, trauma phobia, and other problems including lack of attention and concentration. "The true impact of our initiatives comes in a non-tangible form, comprising a multitude of emotions like security, empowerment, self-awareness, gratitude, and above all, joy. We couldn't ask for anything beyond making cybersecurity a fundamental right for all while being carried forward to even the remotest corners of the country, and the smiles that we get to see on the faces of people who benefit from our health and educational programs."

In tangible terms, they take pride in having touched the lives of more than 4 lakh rural residents and 448 members of President Protected Tribes. They have donated 15 vans so far in 10 different states of India covering 600+ remotely located villages.

Besides, "The easiest way to safeguard yourself from malicious attacks is to install a good anti-virus solution and to activate your firewall. It keeps you protected from viruses, malware, and rootkits. It is advised to always keep the security software updated by applying the latest patches that are sent to your system to block and prevent new emerging threats. In a bid to educate the community at large on how to identify, report, and mitigate threats online, we have designed an e-booklet that is available on our website in multiple languages. Under one amongst many of our CSR programs, we conduct street plays and work closely with local administrations, NGOs, Universities, and Police to educate the marginalized sections of society on cyber safety. We have also organized workshops for underprivileged sections of society, like street vendors educating them on how to minimize risks on the internet."

The government's vision of 'New India' is more digital, self-sufficient, connected, and ambitious. With the country's internet user base growing and internet penetration increasing by the day, it is extremely important for robust steps to be taken at the policymaking level in order to increase cyber literacy in the country. It is important to foster cyber safety as a culture, empowering everybody in the organization and value chain with cyber safety education. It is also imperative for responsible industry stakeholders to join forces to spread awareness of safe digital practices to vulnerable communities at large.

Compelling acting craft and emotional depth

TEJAL SINHA

Popularly known for his role in *Bazaar* along with Saif Ali Khan, actor Rohan Vinod Mehra is currently getting all the much-deserved love for his recent stint in *Kaala*. And yes, now he's the talk of the town!

Rohan, who plays the character of Subhendu Mukherjee, is the son of the well-known actor Vinod Mehra. Enjoying the love and admiration for his role that he has gotten, he described his character's journey as nothing short of an 'immense roller coaster of emotions,' which according to him was also one of the factors that made him very thrilled to portray the role.

Rohan plays three different characters, of different age groups. However, according to him, "Playing the old man was difficult but I think the prep that Bejoy and I had done, we had done a lot of prep for the character to understand who he was, who were the people was around him. Once we got into the sets, we were all prepared to take on and shoot this character. It definitely was challenging and required a lot of efforts from my part and a lot of preparations were shown."

Something that he looked for in the script he says was how emotional the role would be! "When I first started reading the character and script, I thought that the role is definitely emotional but there's different elements to it. During the journey, when I was finding Subhendu and the truth in the scenes, I kept coming back to such a strong emotion of love, and the emotion for why this man is doing what he does. So that surprised me a lot about the character and the journey he took," he shares adding, "One thing that he really got to learn was doing a character that you can connect on an emotional and an instinctive level. It is the best way, and quite assuring as an actor because now that I see how the show is being loved so much, it's just so fulfilling. The character with whom you relate the most in the future will be the most fun to play since they will motivate you to move on."

The series also takes you on a rollercoaster ride of emotions and will give you shivers down your spine as you watch it. In a world where power, revenge, and wealth rule, the way to succeed in life often involves a complex maze of lies and clever tricks. Recalling at the most challenging scene to shoot, he shares, "It was definitely the army scene, the action part of the show because we had the location for a certain amount of

time and we were shooting on a real location. We had to get all of the aspects perfect. Everything had to be in sync to make it look realistic. We had to take multiple takes just for the choreography of the scene. My character in that particular scene, there was a lot of running. It was definitely demanding and you also had to make sure you don't lose the emotional connect of the scene."

To him, the most rewarding part of working on the series, he says, "Having to work with Bejoy. The trust and the freedom he gives you as an actor bring the life and soul of a lot of you into the character. He does not make any judgment on his part of the director. He always tried to figure out how are we doing the scenes, how the character was, and what decisions the character would take."

"The character affected me a lot off the camera as

well because we shot the whole thing in West Bengal, Kolkata, and Siliguri. My scenes were completely different as compared to the rest of the cast in terms of story and timeline. It was not like coming home to family and friends after the shoot. We were in a lot of isolated locations and there were not really network signals. It was lonely in that way. It was all about your character and what you're doing the next day. I'm not as lonely as my character in real life but I love to have my alone time and do things on my own," signs off the budding actor, who will next be seen playing another different character in *Adbhut*, starring alongside Nawazuddin Siddiqui.

Enrapturing hearts and winning all the right accolades with his recent stint in *Kaala*, actor Rohan Vinod Mehra, who is creating waves for himself in the industry, gets candid with *The Pioneer* about his character in *Kaala*, how the role affected him off camera, and more.



SECOND-HAND SMOKE CAN RESULT HEARING LOSS IN YOUR KID

When you breathe in other people's tobacco smoke (unintentionally or otherwise), it is called second-hand smoke or passive smoking. Second-hand smoke exposure results from mainstream or side-stream smoking. Side-stream smoke is produced while burning tobacco items, such as cigarettes, cigars, or pipes. Mainstream smoke is exhaled by a nearby smoker. Both sources emit airborne hazardous substances that have an impact on nonsmokers.

We have heard a lot about passive smoking being more harmful than direct smoking. However, we are only limited to knowing that be it direct smoking or second-hand smoking, it

affects the lungs and heart and can cause cancer but the negative doesn't stop here. Second-hand or passive smoking can also cause hearing loss which especially applies to children because their lungs are still undergoing vital stages of development, making them more susceptible to the harmful effects of second-hand smoke exposure. Even parents who deliberately limit their smoking to the outdoors unintentionally subject their children to the harmful chemicals that pervade the air.

Smoking is associated with decreased oxygen levels and increased blood viscosity, which can harm the fragile cochlear hair cells and result in probable hearing loss in

children. More than 4,000 different compounds are found in second-hand smoke, also known as environmental tobacco smoke in science.

Living with a smoker doubles the risk of hearing loss in nonsmokers. Your chance of having hearing loss increases with the number of cigarettes you smoke on average each day. Smoking during pregnancy increases a child's chance of having speech-language issues. It increases the likelihood of developing noise-induced hearing loss if you spend a lot of time near loud noise at work. Teenagers who are exposed to secondhand smoke have a two to three times higher risk of developing hearing loss, and they sometimes aren't even aware of

it. Infants and children with hearing loss who are not treated may experience substantial delays in speech and language development. The consequences include academic setbacks and socialization issues, highlighting the critical need to protect kids from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke. Quitting smoking will eliminate the source of exposure and foster a healthy atmosphere for the future of our children, which is the most efficient remedy for this urgent situation.

(The author Dr. Rohit Bhatia, MBBS, MS, (ENT Specialist) is the Director, Cochlea Advanced Surgical Center at Lucknow.)

what's brewing?



Rama Krishna and Kritika Roy

Actress Kritika Roy, along with the directors of IFS International Fashion School, graced the celebrations of its 3rd-year graduation fashion show and presented the students with certificates and mementos.



In an extraordinary display of talent, dedication, and sheer brilliance, Dr. Arimanda Vijaya Sarada Reddy Ph.D. has triumphed in the Super Classic Category, emerging as the distinguished winner of Mrs. India Telangana-2023. She has bagged over 40 National & International Awards and is a Double Guinness Book World Record Holder.



PARTY

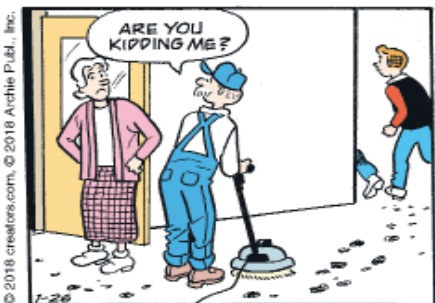
Photos by - SV Chary



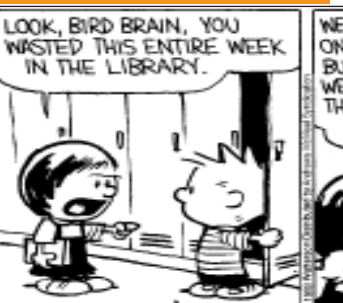
The grand culmination of 'Mamta Trivedi presents Mrs India Telangana and Andhra Pradesh 2023,' was unfolded during a dazzling evening at HICC-Novotel, celebrating the essence of womanhood, fashion, and cultural heritage.

FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



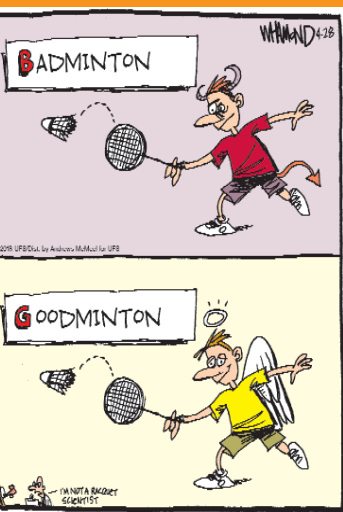
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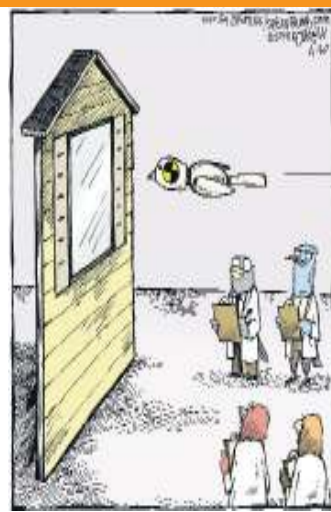
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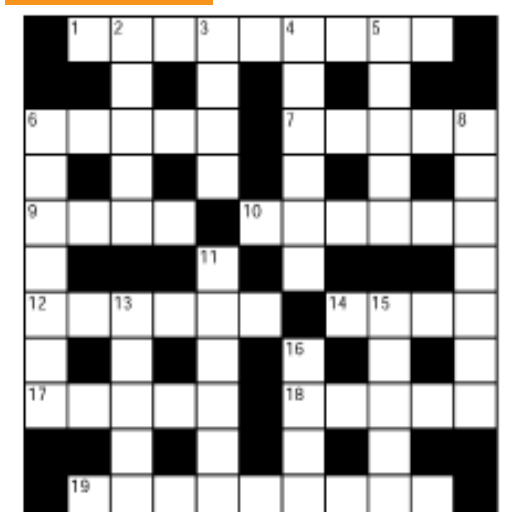
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- People who carve statues
- A soft type of bag for carrying books
- Straps held by a jockey
- Not difficult
- Say again
- Put this sachet in a teapot
- This insect flies at night
- The number of sides on an octagon
- A round thing with spokes
- Know by sight

DOWN

- Strips of fried potato
- Find pleasant
- Changed direction
- Lift up



SUDOKU

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

Rules

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

SAIEE MANJREKAR

DANCING ON THE ROCKY TERRAINS FOR SKANDA WAS A TEST FOR ME

SHIKHA DUGGAL

The month of September is drawing to a close, and it is the time when the entertainment industry gears up for a grand finale, releasing some highly anticipated films. *Skanda* among the lined-up releases, promises an entertaining cinematic experience.

Let's delve into the exclusive interview with one of the leading ladies Saiee Manjrekar, as she's set to hit the screens and captivate audiences in this final week of the month!

"*Skanda*'s whole set-up is actually really good. To cast Ram Pothineni was nothing short of eminence. We did trial after trial to get my look right, it's very important for an actress. But yes, somewhere down the line I would love to move away from doing the roles of just romantic interests," shared the *Major* fame.

Our cinema is a mirror that reflects time. So she's okay with not playing a decorative subject always, and rather become a strong force in the cinema. Thus far, "This doesn't mean the romantic interests I have played weren't solid, they were. In the movie *Major*—I had so much to do even as a wife. My style of acting has changed for *Skanda*. I have gone a step further."

Skanda is an action-packed entertainer directed by the illustrious Boyapati Srinu. The film, produced by Srinivasa Chitturi, is all set to premiere on September 28. But the protagonist spilled her guts out a little bit more. "We shot the popular song of the movie in the fields. Bits and pieces of it at the waterfall too! So dancing on such rocky terrains was a test for me. We were shooting in Mysore,

and then on and off Hyderabad.

As soon as our dance sequences used to finish, and cut to all of us gobbling down the local food of Mysore. The restaurants at Mysore were really cool."

A unique aspect of *Skanda* all of them will be seen in distinctive roles, promising a thrilling cinematic experience for their fans and the actress continues, "As a director and actor himself, my father is really happy with my filmography in South. The feedback is also getting better! Then Ram and I bonded over food and travelling a lot when in Hyderabad together. I always saw him taking care of the crew members as much as he could. Now when comparisons are being drawn between Sreeleela and myself, we can't be the same. Even after bagging so many projects, she continues with her hard work and has a very pleasant personality off-screen. I would love to have the mass popularity though. In fact, I even admire Keerthy Suresh's line-up. And I am not worried about the critics."

All set with her upcoming release, actress Saiee Manjrekar sits down with **The Pioneer** over an exclusive chat about *Skanda*, going a step ahead in acting with the project, and more.

tollywood



Tovino Thomas: Being chosen as India's official entry for the Oscars is an incredible recognition

The Malayalam film *2018: Everyone Is A Hero*, which stars Tovino Thomas and Kunchacko Boban, has been selected to represent India as the country's official entry at the 96th Academy Awards, by the Film Federation of India on Wednesday.

Hereafter, the film will compete in the Oscars if it is selected by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for the final nomination list.

The film narrates the stories of humanity overcoming the adversity set against the backdrop of the 2018 floods that devastated parts of Kerala. Tovino Thomas essays the role of a young man in the film who leaves the Indian Army with a fake medical certificate and redeems himself during the floods.

The film also stars Asif Ali, Lal, Narain, Kunchacko Boban and Aparna Balamurali in prominent roles.

Reacting to the news, actor Tovino Thomas said, "Being chosen as India's official entry for the Oscars is truly an incredible recognition for our film. It's not just a moment of pride for me as an actor, but for the entire team that poured their heart and soul into this project. *2018* is a reflection of the resilience and indomitable spirit of the people of Kerala in the face of one of the most devastating natural disasters of our time."

He further mentioned, "Through the film, we aim to remind everyone that amidst the chaos and destruction, there is always a glimmer of hope, and it's the human spirit that shines the brightest. This nomination serves as a shining example of our collective efforts, and I am hopeful that it will resonate with the international audience, just

as it did with our own."

2018: Everyone Is A Hero is one of the highest grossers of Malayalam cinema and clashed at the ticket windows with *The Kerala Story* - the Hindi film incidentally set on its soil. The makers of *2018: Everyone Is A Hero* even went on to market the Malayalam film as the 'Real' Kerala story and not the Hindi film which received the flak from a section of audience for staging a propaganda.

2018: Everyone Is A Hero in fact finds a mention in the top three highest-grossing Malayalam films of all time.

Produced by Venu Kunnappilly, C. K. Padmakumar, and Anto Joseph, *2018: Everyone Is A Hero* is directed by Jude Anthony Joseph. The film is also available to stream on Sony LIV.

The 96th Oscars for films released in 2023 will be held on March 10, 2024, in Los Angeles.



VD-Mrunal starrer VD13 completes half of its shoot

Vijay Deverakonda's movie with director Parasuram Petla went on the floors in July. Producers Dil Raju and Shirish on Wednesday revealed that the shoot of the untitled film has been completed to the tune of 50%.

Starring *Sita Ramam* actress Mrunal Thakur as the female lead, the film is firmly on its way to being released in theatres for Sankranti 2024. The reiteration by Sri Venkateswara Creations comes in the wake of rumours that Nani's *Hi Nanna* and Venkatesh's *Saindhav* might choose

the Sankranti slot due to the release of *Salaar* on December 22 this year.

Cinematographer KU Mohanan of *Maharshi* fame and *Geetha Govindam* composer Gopi Sunder are working on the movie. AS Prakash (art director), Marthand K Venkatesh (editor) and others are working on the project.

Besides this project, the *Kushi* actor is also doing a film with *Jersey* director Gowtam Tinnanuri. He will also be teaming up with Dil Raju on a film to be directed by Ravi Kiran Kola of 'Raja Vaaru Rani Vaaru' fame.

'If anyone finds MAD a lesser comedy than Jathi Ratnalu, we'll refund their ticket'

MAD, produced by Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas, will be released in theatres on October 6. Narne Nithin, Sangeeth Shoban, and Ram Nithin are joined by Sri Gouri Priya Reddy, Ananthika Sanilkumar and Gopikaa Udayan to headline this college campus comedy.

At an event on Tuesday, producer S Naga Vamsi promised that *MAD* will leave the audience in splits. "If anyone from the audience found *MAD* a lesser comedy compared with *Jathi Ratnalu*, we will refund their ticket amount," said the producer, known for films like *Bheemla Nayak*. The producer assured everyone that there is nothing vulgar about the comedy. "If,

on the release day, anybody finds even a single line crass, they can question me," Naga Vamsi said.

Meanwhile, Narne Nithin, who is Jr NTR's brother-in-law shared, "It was my sister Haarika who asked me to check out Nithin's profile. I liked him. Tarak garu didn't say anything in particular before the start of this film. He just asked me to do a good film with Nithin," Naga Vamsi revealed. Nithin later added that there is so much to learn from his 'bava'. "I have always wanted to become an actor. Even as a child, I had that strong desire. After my sister's marriage, that desire only became intense. I am glad that

I am debuting with a movie like *MAD*," he said.

"This is a mad fun film that is definitely not about the dreams and aspirations of Engineering undergrads. This is a pure entertainer, a no-holds-barred one at that," said director Kalyan Shankar. "I am hoping that *MAD* will bring me commercial success and also respect. The three male besties will make you laugh and also move you. You will be reminded of your best friend after you watch *MAD*. You will want to call him or her as you walk out of the theatre."

The makers will hold early paid premiers from October 3 in cities like Hyderabad if the content is ready by then.



Filmmakers shower praises for Kumari Srimathi

Creators of the upcoming Telugu comedy drama *Kumari Srimathi*, which exclusively premieres on Prime video from today, recently held a special screening of one episode of the series for media and friends from the industry. Filmmakers like Nandini Reddy and Hanu Raghavapudi, along with the cast including Talluri Rameswari, Prem Sagar, Nirupam, Mahesh Achanta and Praneeta Patnaik, director Gomtesh Upadhye, producer Swapna Dutta and Manish Meghna, Director and Head Content Licensing, Prime Video, graced the blue carpet.

At the end of the screening, all attendees gave a thunderous applause, appreciating the engaging narrative, humorous

storyline, and sincere performances delivered by the ensemble cast of the series.

Set in a village in East Godavari, the series hilariously encapsulates the tribulations in the life of a 30-year-old woman (played by Menen), who challenges stereotypes in a small town riddled with antiquity. The seven-episode series is produced by Early Monsoon Tales, a web division of Vyjanyanthi Entertainments with a legacy of 50 years, and directed by Gomtesh Upadhye.

Kumari Srimathi will exclusively premiere in India and 240 countries and territories worldwide on Prime Video on September 28 in Telugu, with dubs in Hindi, Tamil, and Malayalam.

Dochevarevarura to stream on Aha from September 29



Dochevarevarura, directed by Siva Nageswara Rao, is a comedy thriller starring Ajay Ghosh (in a dual role), Master Chakri, Bittiri Sathi (as a supari killer) and others. Now the latest update is that Aha Video is going to stream the movie starting September 29.

Starring Pranav Chandra (as the protagonist), Malavika Sateeshan (as the hero's love interest), Banerjee, Tanikella Bharani, Kota Srinivasa Rao and others, the film comes with a cynical understanding of the world: everyone in this society is seeking to exploit others. In *Dochevarevarura*, the male protagonist turns into a swindler to fund the treatment of an orphan child. With music by Rohit Vardhan and Karthik, its cinematography is by Ganesh Ari. Aha Video is also going to stream *Papam Pasivaadu*, starring Sreerama Chandra as the protagonist, on September 29. From October 6, *The Great Indian Suicide*, starring Ram Karthik and Hebah Patel, will be streamed on the platform. This Friday (September 29), a new episode of the Vishwak Sen-hosted *Family Dhamaka* will be out on the OTT platform.

Rohit Nanda: Even the visually impaired can watch the film and enjoy it

Starring Rohit Nanda and Anandi in lead roles, Ranjith S has produced the film *Vidhi* under No Idea Entertainment. This movie written and directed by Srikanth Ranganathan and Srinath Ranganathan and Sri Charan Pakala is providing music for this movie. Srinath

Ranganathan worked as a cinematographer. On Wednesday, the makers unveiled the first look of the film during an event, where the entire cast and crew had graced the event. On this occasion, Producer Ranjith said that *Vidhi* is a different concept, which will impress the audience.

Actor Rohit Nanda speaking at the event said, "The journey behind the making of *Vidhi* has been special for us. We are bringing this movie to the audience with audio descriptive technology. Even blind people can experience this movie. Sri Charan Pakala gave excellent music and background score. We are also going to show this movie to the visually challenged people. There are about ten lakh blind people in two Telugu states. 90 percent of them may not have been to the theatres. They all can go to the theater and enjoy this movie. Evidence Foundation, Delhi has helped develop this app.

Srikanth and Srinath were introduced through YouTube. I worked comfortably with Anandi. Sri Charan has given the classic music. Thanks to everyone who worked for our film."

Director and cameraman Srinath, who had initially worked in the media industry said, "I want the media to consider this movie as their own and take it forward. Thanks to the producer Ranjith for giving us a chance. Director Srikanth said, "*Vidhi* is our first film. It means it's our first lover. There are many memories. I will tell you all that in future events. Thanks to God and our team for giving us this opportunity. Small filmmakers like us need media support and we expect lot of love from you. During the writing time, both my brothers had fights. Fights are natural between brothers and sisters. But when he came to the sets, he was just professional and acted like nothing happened."

Australia beat India by 66 runs to score a consolation win in 3rd ODI

PTI ■ RAJKOT

Australia avoided an unprecedented series whitewash after registering a 66-run victory over India in the third ODI here on Wednesday. Chasing a massive 353 to win, India were restricted by Australia to 286 in 49.4 overs. India however won the three-match series 2-1.

The Aussies motored to 352 for 7 after Mitchell Marsh (96), Steve Smith (74), Marnus Labuschagne (72) and David Warner (56) made impact knocks.

Jasprit Bumrah took three for 81 and emerged the most successful among Indian bowlers. India made a fist of chase through captain Rohit Sharma (81) and Virat Kohli (56), but soon fizzled against the off-spin of Glenn Maxwell.

Earlier, Mitchell Marsh's stroke-filled 96 and Marnus Labuschagne's polished 72 took Australia to a commendable 352 for 7 against India in the third and final ODI here on Wednesday.

While Marsh missed reaching triple figures by a whisker, Australia's batters came good collectively in what will be their last official ODI before the start of the World Cup.

David Warner had himself to blame for his dismissal after a fiery 56 off 34 balls (6x4s, 4x6s), but he set the tone for Australia early on.

Steve Smith also put brakes on his poor run of scores to make a rapid 74 and towards the end, Labuschagne upped the ante with his 58-ball knock to help Australia post their challenging score. Labuschagne also became Australia's top run-getter in the ongoing calendar



year. On a hot and humid day, drinks were brought out more often than not between change of over while batters dropped down to their haunches, turning out to be quite a laborious effort for the Australian batters after their captain chose to bat.

Marsh took the attack to Jasprit Bumrah (3/81 in 10 overs), hitting two fours and a six and forcing India to take off the solitary slip since there was no early movement on offer.

Warner too shrugged off a slow start to hit Mohammed Siraj for two imperious sixes as Australia seized early

momentum.

The assault continued as Prasidh Krishna was hit for three fours and a six in his opening over with Warner taking the lead. The Australian opener completed his ninth fifty against India and 31st overall with a six over fine leg off Siraj. However, Warner's charge ended while trying to scoop Prasidh, walking across the wickets but only to edge it behind.

In search of a big score, Smith opted for consolidation with Marsh, who had long shifted gears to drop the anchor.

Bumrah was brought back for the 23rd over but Marsh clobbered him for

three fours and two sixes to collect 19 runs — he gave that many in two separate overs — which finally forced India to bring Kuldeep Yadav (2/48) into the attack.

While India found it difficult to penetrate owing to a placid surface, the Australian pair of Marsh and Smith amassed 137 from 119 for the second wicket.

However, the Australian pair did struggle with the heat and humidity late in the afternoon and increasingly looked for boundaries while sacrificing the doubles.

For the second time this year and against the same opponent, Marsh came close to bringing up only his second ODI century but missed it by four runs.

All the hard work of getting close to the mark while braving the conditions went in vain when Marsh hit straight to Krishna at cover off Kuldeep.

Smith perished soon after as Siraj pinned him in front of the wickets for 74 off 61 balls, including eight fours and a six.

Alex Carey (11) had a short stay as he misjudged a slower ball from Bumrah to chip it straight to Virat Kohli at cover in the 37th over.

Bumrah, mixing his deliveries well in this spell, cleaned up Glenn Maxwell (5) for his second wicket of the game but one that also dented Australia's hopes of acceleration in the remaining overs.

Australia's slide continued as Kuldeep had Cameron Green (9) caught at long on, but Labuschagne and Pat Cummins put on 46 to take them to their overall fourth highest ODI total against India.

Tough to look beyond Shreyas in WC playing XI: Azharuddin



PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Former captain Mohammad Azharuddin can't look beyond Shreyas Iyer in India's playing eleven in the ODI World Cup and also backed a possible last-minute inclusion of R Ashwin in the 15-man squad.

India find themselves in a problem of plenty in the middle with Iyer, Ishan Kishan and Suryakumar Yadav staking a claim for one spot.

Iyer, who was India's designated number four before a back injury ruled him out of the game for six months, struck an attacking hundred in Indore to put himself ahead of Kishan and Suryakumar in the middle-order race.

"Good competition always brings the best out of the players. Shreyas is an exciting player and he really batted well the other day after losing out on games due to his back issues. He is very positive with his intent and looks to score all the time."

"He can make a big impact in the game. It is very hard to look past him unless you are looking for a left-hander in the middle, then Ishan comes into picture. However, I feel Shreyas has done enough," Azhar told PTI on Wednesday.

Ashwin should find a spot in final-15

Ashwin, who had played only two ODIs since 2017 before being picked for the ODI series against Australia, is expected to replace Axar Patel in the squad if the latter doesn't regain full fitness. He gave a good account of his skills in the first two ODIs before being rested for the final game in Rajkot.

The wily off-spinner also has Azhar's vote.

"Ashwin is someone who should be in the team. It is not very easy to line up against him as he has got a lot of variations. The team has already been announced. It remains to be seen whether Axar is in there or not."

"Instead of two left-arm spinners, Ashwin can also bat well, he should find a place," said Azhar, who captained India in three World Cups.

While Shardul Thakur has done alright in the chances he has got, he doesn't match the skills of Mohammad Shami who should be preferred over the former in the playing eleven, said the 60-year-old.

The recent selection showed that the management has not fully made up its mind on the fast bowling combination. Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammad Siraj walk into the playing eleven.

"Shami has been doing well for a long time. Shardul too has done alright in the limited chances he has got. But you don't require everyone to bat in the 11. Shami has also batted well at times."

"Shardul is a bowling all-rounder not a batting all-rounder. When you already have Haridk Pandya you don't need Shardul in the playing eleven," he said.

For him, the Indian player to watch out for will not be Rohit Sharma or Virat Kohli, as he has put his money on Shubman Gill.

Gill has been in sensational form over the past 12 months and has racked up five ODI hundreds this year.

"This time, Gill will be the main player for India. Obviously, the others around him are also batting well. If he can give India a good start it will set the ball rolling," said Azhar.

'Pressure will be on India'

Considering India have not won an ICC event since 2013, Azhar feels the team is bound to feel the pressure of not being able to win knock-out games over the past decade.

"It is going to be a very competitive world cup. India have a very good team. Grounds will be full as India are hosting after a long time." Asked if India are peaking at the right time following the Asia Cup title and series win over Australia, Azhar said: "I really don't understand this peaking business. When you are playing you are playing well, doesn't matter whether you are peaking or not peaking."

"Sometimes you lose two three matches even after peaking and that has happened with this team. Rather than thinking about all of this, one should focus on the game, rather than thinking about semis and finals straightaway."

"Yes, there will be a lot of pressure to win an ICC tournament which we have not won for a long time. I am sure the boys are fully aware of that," he said.

His home city of Hyderabad will be one of the 10 venues staging the World Cup games. But Azhar is disappointed that Hyderabad is not hosting an India match.



Williamson likely to play World Cup warm-up matches

PTI ■ CHRISTCHURCH

New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson is set to return from a long injury layoff in his side's World Cup warm-up matches, starting in India this week.

The star batter hasn't played any cricket since March when he ruptured the ACL (anterior cruciate ligament) in his right knee while fielding for Gujarat Titans in the IPL. He underwent surgery in April.

"The plan is to be involved in the warm-up games. There is a strong desire to be involved as much as I can," Williamson said ahead of the team's departure to India.

"Basically, it's just wanting to progress what I am doing now - the running, the fielding, time in the middle with the bat."

New Zealand will take on Pakistan and South Africa in World Cup warm-up matches on September 29 in Hyderabad and October 2 in Thiruvananthapuram respectively.

"They play England in the

tournament opener in Ahmedabad on October 5.

Asked if he was still experiencing discomfort, Williamson said: "Not a huge amount."

"Although the load is going to keep increasing, so there is a little bit of an unknown. But it has felt pretty good really in the last few weeks."

"Although it's going well, you still have days that vary a little bit. So it's working through those warm-up games to get as much out of it as I can, and as a team, without bothering it too much," he added.

Williamson had played a crucial role in New Zealand's campaign in 2015 and 2019 editions when they reached successive finals.

Talking about the most difficult aspect of his recovery Williamson said: "Not so much the sprinting, more the slowing actually. From sprinting, the braking, a little bit of a change of direction. It's all been part of the plan, and introducing it towards the end of recovery."

Nepal batters break three world records in T20Is

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

Nepal batters smashed three world records en route to becoming the first team to amass a 300-plus total in T20Is, in the Asian Games here on Wednesday. Kushal Malla, a 19-year-old left-handed batter, struck the fastest-ever T20I hundred in 34 balls, eclipsing David Miller and Rohit Sharma's joint previous record (35 balls).

Batting at No 3, Malla smashed 12 sixes and eight



fours to remain unbeaten on 137 and power Nepal to the highest-ever T20I score of 314 for 3

against Mongolia, who opted to field. Their No 5 batter Dipendra Singh Airee also rewrote the record books, blasting a nine-ball fifty that bettered Yuvraj Singh's 16-year-old record.

Yuvraj took 12 balls for his fifty en route to scoring 58 in the World T20 match against England on September 19, 2007.

The previous record for the highest innings total in a T20I was held by Afghanistan, who had amassed 278 for 3 against Ireland on February 23, 2019.

Our ambition is to become biggest T20 league outside IPL: SA20 Commissioner Graeme Smith

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The kind of generational Indian T20 stars that IPL has produced in the last one and half decades has set the template to follow for a new franchise competition like SA20, former South Africa captain and commissioner of league Graeme Smith said on Wednesday.

"Our ambition is to be the biggest league outside India," Smith told PTI ahead of the second season's auction.

The SA20 comprises six franchises — MI Cape Town, Joburg Super Kings, Durban Super Giants, Paarl Royals, Pretoria Capitals, Sunrisers Eastern Cape, all of which are owned by the owners of IPL teams.

"I think IPL was there in the beginning. It took a couple of years to develop a number of generational stars and work within BCCI managed to create

outstanding depth of cricketers in India. It will be our goal too going forward," said Smith, who has always shared a cordial relationship with the Indian board, both as player and administrator.

"The highlight of the first season of SA20 was to see some youngsters and more established stars perform together. I think they played in the competition and were exposed to best practices by franchises — exposed to way of global thinking, getting the best coaches, best medical advice," said Smith, who is very satisfied with how the league has shaped up in just one season.

In fact, Smith is happy that SA20 has kept a salary cap of USD 2.3 million, offering the best pay scale outside IPL.

So, do you plan to increase the salary cap this time?

"Our salary cap is USD 2.3 million and teams can work with significant



numbers for a league outside the IPL. It gives us the ability to attract quality players," he said.

Smith believes that SA20 brought a lot of positivity in South African crick-

et. "The Season 1 exceeded all the expectations. We had such a limited amount of time to get up and running and we were able to attract six partners like six global franchises," said Smith.

As the league's commissioner, Smith has worked tirelessly with his team to deliver a product that is acceptable in the market. "Apart from the commercial side, it was important to bring some positivity back to South African cricket and see the fans flock to the stadium."

"Most importantly, the cricket in season 1 was outstanding. Some local young talent really stood up, global stars shone through and it was a very successful season," he said.

In Season 2, each franchise can buy up to 15 players with six uncapped ones, which will also help South Africa promote its own local talent, beneficial to the national team in future.

App revolutionises fantasy sports

Mumbai: The newly launched free-to-play app, by Sports engagement platform BeBeta,

prioritises community, unity, and sportsmanship over traditional betting. With personalised content and real-time updates, it offers

fans an engaging platform for Cricket, Football, and Kabaddi ahead of the Cricket World Cup.

"We believe that sports are best enjoyed with friends, and at BeBeta, we're committed to delivering an extraordinary experience that fosters a sense of belonging within a winning team, said Meet Shah, CEO & Founder of BeBeta.



Spain routs Switzerland in first home match since Women's WC title

AP ■ CORDOBA (SPAIN)

Spain's women's team received the support of a record crowd in its first home match since winning the World Cup title.

A crowd of 14,194 saw Spain rout Switzerland 5-0 in the Nations League on Tuesday, surpassing the previous record of 11,209 fans for a women's national team match in Spain, which was achieved in a friendly against the United States last year.

The local crowd, which did not fully fill the 21,000-capacity Nuevo Arcangel Stadium in Cordoba, showed their support for the players who have been fighting against sexism since their world title was tarnished by a scandal sparked by the former Spanish soccer federation president, Luis Rubiales, kissing player Jenni Hermoso on the lips during the World Cup awards ceremony. Players boycotted the national team but eventually a deal was reached with the federation and government mediators for significant reform in the beleaguered federation.

A banner shown by fans in Cordoba read "Your fight is our



pride. You are not alone."

Before the match, players from both teams got together and held a banner with the words "Se Acabo" — Spanish for "this is over" — followed by "Our fight is the global fight."

The "Se Acabo" slogan was started by Hermoso's teammate Alexia Putellas, Spain's star player, and has been a rallying call amid the scandal. New coach Montse Tomé left Hermoso out of the squad "as a way to protect her." Players also wore wristbands with the "Se Acabo" slogan, and raised their wrists while posing behind the banner.

The national team showed off the World Cup trophy to the fans, with Putellas and Irene Paredes raising it in front of the home crowd.

"We were excited about being able to celebrate with the fans," said Aitana Bonmati, who scored twice on Tuesday.

"It was an atypical week but we were able to overcome everything. The players showed that they are professionals."

Spain's first match after the World Cup was a 3-2 come-from-behind win at Sweden in the Nations League last week.



India continues winning streak at Badminton World Junior

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian team continued its winning streak at the badminton World Junior Championships with an impressive 5-0 win over Brazil in Spokane, USA on Wednesday.

In the opening match, the mixed doubles pair of Samarveer and Radhika Sharma triumphed over Joaquim Mendonça and Maria Clara Lopes Lima 21-14, 21-17 to give India a 1-0 lead.

In the boys' singles match, Lokesh Reddy Kalagolla faced a formidable opponent in Renan

Melo, who lost the first game 17-21 but fought back resiliently in the second game.

Lokesh managed to get the upper hand and ultimately won the second game by 24-22 to wrap up the match.

In the girls' singles section, Devika Sihag cruised to victory by defeating Maria Eduarda Oliveira 21-9, 21-6 in just 18 minutes.

In the boys' doubles category, Divyam Arora and Mayank Rana emerged victorious against Joaquim Mendonça and João Mendonça Taveira 21-19, 21-10.

Girls' doubles pair of Venana Kalagolla and Shriyanshi Valishetty then displayed their coordination on way to an impressive 21-13, 21-11 win over Maria Clara Lopes Lima and Maria Eduarda Oliveira.

Later in the day, group D leaders India will next face Germany, who is second in the group. The outcome of this match will decide who tops the group.

The team that finishes on top will face the winner of group C in the quarter-finals on September 28.