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-SPORTS

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Through the Government of India Act, 1919, the British had started allowing greater participation of Indians in the government. Two years later, revolutionaries Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt hurled bombs in the Assembly chamber from the public gallery after the House had passed the controversial Trade Disputes Bill.

Chandrababu Naidu’s arrest will have far-reaching effects

The sensational arrest of former chief minister of Andhra Pradesh and president of Telugu Desam Party N Chandrababu Naidu in the scam related to the Andhra Pradesh Skill Development Corporation's scheme for youth is bound to have far-reaching effects on the political situation in Andhra Pradesh, where Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy is seeking re-election solely based on his government's welfare benefits while the opposition parties are bent upon avoiding a split in the anti-establishment votes.

One of the unintended consequences of Naidu's arrest is the huge attention and widespread sympathy it has already drawn in various parts of the



PINPOINT

world. The sordid episode has attracted unusual attention from people belonging to many walks of life, including Telugu NRIs across the globe. The ruling YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) seems to be mulling how to wriggle out of the unpleasant situation due to its possible negative fallout.

On the face of it, Naidu's arrest is a positive development for the ruling YSRCP as its cadre can highlight the minus points of the administration during the Nandu regime. They can thus temper the 'do or die' spirit with which the TDP is apparently approaching the electoral battle.

Naidu has been steering the party for 28 years, apart from

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having had stints as chief minister in both combined and residual state of Andhra Pradesh. His questionable role in the scam involving Rs. 371 crore may affect his political life. So, the political atmosphere in AP has changed completely following his arrest. Many rallies have been held across the state, elsewhere in the country as well as abroad protesting the arrest of Naidu,

with critics dubbing it as "an undemocratic act on the part of the Jagan government". Jagan himself must have felt the impact of the arrest as, despite being in London on a personal trip at the time of Naidu's arrest, he witnessed protests organised by Naidu's 'sympathisers' in front of his camp in England. The protesters might be sympathisers of TDP but they had rallied in the



M D RATNA KUMAR
Senior Journalist

name of "Telugu people living on foreign soil in different countries across the globe". Such calibrated protests have embarrassed YSRCP.

The sympathy for Naidu, growing by the day, could

negatively impact YSRCP's prospects in the upcoming polls. The salient features of the skill development programme, involving 2.13 lakh students, were appreciated by the state government in 2021. The state government's present claim that Rs. 240 crore out of Rs. 371 crore allocated for the scheme had been misused by the previous government raises questions over how nearly 70% of the total amount could be swindled in a project that involves the operation of thousands of skilling centres.

Not many will buy the view in some quarters that Naidu's arrest was made by the CID without consulting Jagan. The project had been handed over to the state government in 2021. This implies that the

Jagan government did not act on this immediately but went ahead with the arrest of Naidu in view of the impending Assembly polls in the state. The state government has ensured maximum publicity to this episode for deriving political mileage.

Amidst all this, the ongoing protests, even in foreign countries, has altered political equations. Things have come to such a pass that TDP can now withstand the electoral challenges hurled by YSRCP from a position of strength based on new-found sympathy for Naidu.

The alliance between TDP and Jana Sena Party (JSP), announced JSP president Pawan Kalyan after his meeting with Naidu at the Rajahmundry Central Prison,

has given heft to both the opposition parties. The power of this alliance will be seen in the Assembly segments that had witnessed a split in the anti-establishment votes in the previous elections. This has sent shock waves to the ruling party, which had been during the JSP chief to go it alone in the upcoming elections. In any case, YSRCP cadre cannot effectively counter those protesting Naidu's arrest beyond the borders of the state.

Pawan may have faced criticism for being mere flag-bearer for TDP. In the changed political context, however, he could be a pallbearer for Jagan's rule in the forthcoming Assembly elections, considering that he has vowed to unseat Jagan at any cost.

NARA-DAGGUBATI PATCH-UP

A move to unite Kamma voter base?

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

In recent developments within Andhra Pradesh's political landscape, the BJP's association with the TDP has raised eyebrows and sparked discussions among political circles. The newfound rapport between BJP leader Daggubati Purandeswari and TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu has garnered attention, leading to questions about the BJP's motives in the state.

YSR Congress Party general secretary V Vijayasai Reddy's social media taunt directed at Purandeswari for her alliance with her brother-in-law Naidu has put the spotlight on the complex web of familial ties and political manoeuvring. This episode highlights both the historical connections between the Naras and Daggubatis and the visible internal divisions within the BJP.

Political analysts have noted the longstanding conflicts

between the Naras and Daggubatis, rooted in the legacy of NT Rama Rao. Purandeswari's efforts to bridge the gap with Naidu may signify her desire to unite the Kamma community, a demographic entity to which both she and Naidu belong. However, this move appears to run counter to the BJP's previous strategy of sidelining the TDP and consolidating Kamma voters in support of the saffron party.

Purandeswari has criticised the Jagan Mohan Reddy government for the arrest of Naidu in connection with a skill development scam. In contrast, Vijayasai Reddy has pointed out that the former Andhra BJP chief, Somu Veerajulu, did not express sympathy for the "tainted" Naidu, unlike his sister-in-law. Veerajulu may have aimed to exploit the TDP's vulnerability for the BJP's benefit in the state.

Since assuming leadership

With Andhra politics often polarised between the Kammass and the Reddys, Purandeswari and Naidu appear to be working together to strengthen the Kamma voter base. The shift in BJP leadership from Somu Veerajulu, a Kapu leader, to Purandeswari has fuelled speculation that their alliance aims to consolidate Kammass against the Reddys.

of the Andhra Pradesh BJP, Purandeswari has displayed solidarity with Naidu's family, which has faced continuous criticism from the ruling YSRCP government. This includes personal attacks on Naidu's wife, Bhuvaneshwari,

and Naidu's recent arrest. Allegations of Naidu's access to BJP president JP Nadda, facilitated by Purandeswari at an event commemorating her father NTR in Delhi, have further ruffled the feathers of the YSRCP. Purandeswari has also faced criticism for not inviting NTR's widow and her stepmother, Lakshmi Parvathi, to the event, given Parvathi's affiliation with the YSRCP.

The BJP appointed Purandeswari as its Andhra Pradesh chief following a disappointing election in Karnataka, with the aim of forming a new alliance with the Kamma community to bolster its presence in the state. A previous attempt to forge a coalition with the Kapus in 2019 had faltered.

The feud between the Daggubati and Nara (Naidu) families traces its roots back to NTR's tenure as chief minister when Naidu orchestrated a coup in 1995, leading to NTR's

removal from power. Purandeswari's husband, Daggubati Venkateswara Rao, supported Naidu during this coup but allegedly faced unfavorable consequences when Naidu assumed control of the party.

Despite historical animosities, Purandeswari's recent defense of Naidu suggests a willingness to move past earlier grievances. With Andhra politics often polarised between the Kammass and the Reddys, Purandeswari and Naidu appear to be working together to strengthen the Kamma voter base.

The shift in BJP leadership from Somu Veerajulu, a Kapu leader, to Purandeswari has fuelled speculation that their alliance aims to consolidate Kammass against the Reddys. Purandeswari's support for Naidu has led YSRCP leaders to label her as a 'jaati' (caste) leader.

CM inaugurates Rs 1,300 cr projects in Tirupati

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy inaugurated the Aakasa Veedhi - Srinivasa Sethu fly-over, the new hostel complex of the TTD -Sri Venkateswara Arts College and other facilities worth Rs 1300 crore besides distributing house site pattas to the TTD employees, here on Monday.

Inaugurating the 7-km Srinivasa Sethu built with a cost of Rs 650 crore, the Chief Minister said that it was completed in the last four years after the TDP Government laid the foundation stone and abandoned it and hoped it would be very helpful to the devotees.

Inaugurating the Rs.37.80 crore hostel college complex, it would provide more



accommodation to the students, he said.

He also inaugurated the Vakula mata Nilayam and Rachana complex built with Rs. 7 crore and Rs. 11.50 crore through donations respectively.

The Chief Minister formally handed over house site pattas worth Rs. 313 crore to 3518 TTD employees and said pattas would

be given to the remaining employees in the next 45 days.

He said lands of 8050 persons in Tirupati and 2500 persons in Chandragiri were removed from section 22A and the owners were given full ownership.

He hoped he would be able to do more good to the people in the future.

AP Rural Road Project earns...

Continued from Page 1

The AP Rural Road Connectivity Project (APRRP) received support from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank in the form of a loan, with the objective of repairing damaged rural roads in the West Godavari and Srikakulam districts. The aim is to enhance road infrastructure in residential areas with populations exceeding 250 in 13 districts across the State. The total project value stands at Rs 5,026 crore, with AIIB contributing Rs 3,418 crore as a loan, and the state government providing Rs 1,608 crore. Under this project, a total of 3,665 initiatives have been undertaken, encompassing construction and repair work on 7,213 km of rural roads. Notably, 3,231 initiatives covering 6,215 km have been accomplished under Component-1A, while 1,201 initiatives covering 2,450 km have already been successfully completed. An additional 2,030 initiatives, covering 3,765 km, are currently in progress.

Furthermore, the Panchayat Raj department engineers informed the Chief Secretary that, under Component 1B, they have undertaken 142 initiatives, spanning a total length of 364 kilometers, with all of them progressing at various stages.

The meeting was attended by Special Chief Secretary of the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department, B Rajasekhara, Finance Secretary KV Satyanarayana, State School Education Commissioner Suresh Kumar and others.

Naidu king...

Continued from Page 1

claiming that Naidu had been involved in corrupt practices totaling Rs 1,44,577 crore, a figure that had subsequently ballooned to Rs 6 lakh crore.

"Chandrababu Naidu is embroiled in numerous corruption cases, with a current tally of nine criminal cases against him. Therefore, it is not unjust to label him a criminal, given his participation in a criminal conspiracy and corruption. Politically, Naidu has betrayed multiple parties, including the BJP, Congress, and Communist party, so it is apt to refer to him as a turncoat."

"It is entirely fitting to dub him the 'king of all scams.'" Chandrababu Naidu stands as the mastermind behind a plethora of scams. Having governed Andhra Pradesh for 14 years, he has systematically exploited the state, effectively holding it back from progress," he concluded.

Dasara festivities...

Continued from Page 1

The darshan timings of the Goddess during the nine-day Dasara festival will be from 3 am to 11 pm, with an exception on the first day when devotees will be allowed in after 8 am due to special pujas, 'Snapanabhishekam, and other rituals. On the auspicious occasion of Moola Nakshatra on October 20, devotees can have darshan from 2 a.m. to 11 p.m.

As in previous years, Anthralaya Darshan will not be available to devotees or VIPs during the nine-day Dasara festivities. To accommodate the demand, the temple authorities have ensured the availability of 20 lakh 'laddu prasadam' in advance for the convenience of the devotees.

Additionally, Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy will present silk robes to the Goddess on the 'Moola Nakshatra' day, when the presiding deity will appear as Sri Saraswathi Devi Alankaram on October 20 (Friday). This year, approximately Rs 7 crore will be allocated for the festivities, with Rs 2.50 crore designated for engineering works.

The temple authorities anticipate the deployment of around 3,400 police personnel to maintain security during the Dasara festivities. To ensure the success of the celebrations, the temple authorities are actively coordinating with various other departments, building on past experiences and taking into account previous incidents.

CM presents silk robes to Srivaru



PNS ■ TIRUMALA

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy presented the traditional 'Pattuvastralu' (silk robes) to Lord Venkateswara on behalf of the government on the occasion of the Swami Vari Brahmotsavams here on Monday.

TTD 'archakas' tied the 'parivattam' to the Chief Minister at Bedi Anjaneyaswami temple

before he presented the 'pattuvastrams' and had darshan.

After the darshan, TTD vedic pundits blessed him in Ranganayakula Mandapam reciting hymns and handing over 'prasadam' and a portrait of the Lord. The Chief Minister also released the TTD diary and calendar for 2024.

Later, he inaugurated Vakula Mata Nilayam and Rachana complex built with

Rs 7 crore and Rs 11.50 crore respectively. While devotee Rajesh Sarma donated the amount for the construction of Vakula Mata Nilayam, Narendra Choudary donated the amount for the construction of Rachana Guest House.


In the two guesthouses, 24 rooms would be made available to the devotees. TTD Chairman B.Karunakara Reddy, donors Rajesh Sarma and Narendra Choudary participated in the programme.

Sivashankar Reddy denied bail in Viveka case

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The CBI court rejected the bail plea of accused Sivashankar Reddy in the sensational murder of former minister YS Vivekananda Reddy. The accused Sivashankar Reddy, who is A-5 in the murder case had previously filed a petition to grant bail to him.

Arguments on the bail petition concluded on August 24 and the CBI said that it would pass orders on August 28. However, Sivashankar Reddy filed another petition on August 28 seeking to hear more arguments on the bail. The court, which heard the matter on September 4, dismissed the bail petition on Tuesday.

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH**
PUBLIC HEALTH & MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
NIT No.1732(A)/DCPL/MP/ANRUT/WS/AT02023-1, Dt:16.09.2023
Name of work: Dacheepali Nagar Panchayat - AMRUT 2.0-Water Supply Improvement in Dacheepali Nagar Panchayat with 5 years Operation and Maintenance including 2 years defect liability period under AMRUT 2.0. Estimate Value: Rs.1245.93 Lakhs. Bid document download start date: 20.09.2023 from 11.00AM. Further Details visit: www.approcurement.gov.in. Ph. 9849905736. E.S.No: 10822/CLAD/NT/1732-1 Dt: 16.09.2023 Sd/- Superintending Engineer, PH/Q.C. Circle, Guntur

**HORNBILL FINANCE LIMITED**

Regd. Off.: Grace Mansion, Circular road, Dimapur, Nagaland- 797112
CIN: U65929NL2002PLC006840, Email: hfnlgnl@gmail.com

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the shareholders of Hornbill Finance Limited, a company incorporated under the companies Act, 1956 and Registered with Reserve Bank of India vide Certificate Number 8.08.00167 dated 07.11.2003 as a Non-Deposit taking Non-Banking Finance Company, with its Registered office situated at Grace Mansion, Circular Road, Dimapur, Nagaland- 797112, are intended to transfer the ownership and control of the company through the sale of shares to (1) TV Gopinath (2) K K Vijayakumar (3) Rajeevu M A (4) Dr Indira K R and (5) Tistemyen K Jamir (collectively referred to as 'Acquirers'). The new management / shareholders seek to acquire 98% of shares from existing shareholders.
The new directors to be appointed are (i) Shri TV Gopinath, #446, Vishwamanava Double Road, Kuvenumunagar, Mysore 570023, (ii) Shri K K Vijayakumar, Kompura, Anickad West PO, Kottayam- 686503 and (iii) Shri Rajeevu M A, Manakkunath House Paduva PO, Mattakkara, Kottayam 686504, and the resigning directors are (1) Chuba Pongen, Hino 009, Grace Mansion, Circular Road, War-09, Supply Colony Dimapur Sad, Dimapur, Nagaland - 797112 (2) Yongya Chingmak, H/No 1053, Block-1, NH-29, Near Woodstock School, Padampukunt Village, Padampukhuri, Dimapur, Nagaland - 797116 and (3) Tistemyen Kezevihu Jamir, Hino-247,Block 3, Chekiye Village, Chekiye, Dimapur, Nagaland - 797115. The proposed transaction will help the company to expand its business operation in other states too. The company can leverage the expertise of the new management in achieving the desired goals.
The above Notice is being given pursuant to RBI Circular NBR, (PO) CC, No.065/03.10.001/2015-16 dated 9 July 2015 and subsequent relevant Regulations. The RBI vide letter No. GNH/DGS.ADM.No.S151/01-09-167/2023-24 dated 8 September 2023 has provided their 'no objection' to the Company for aforesaid change in its control and management.
In case of any objection in respect of the above-mentioned sale / transfer of control/management, the same may be communicated in writing stating therein the nature of interest and grounds of objection within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice to Hornbill Finance Limited at its registered address with a copy to aforementioned new shareholders at their respective address or to the above mentioned Email ID. This Public Notice is being issued jointly by the Company and the above-mentioned Acquirers.
Dimapur 17.09.2023
Sd/-
Hornbill Finance Limited

TODAY
ALMANAC

Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha
Tithi:Panchami: Sep 19 01:43 PM to Sep 20 02:16 PM
Shashthi: Sep 20 02:16 PM to Sep 21 02:14 PM

Nakshatram:
Vishakha: Sep 19 01:48 PM to Sep 20 02:58 PM
Anuradha: Sep 20 02:58 PM to Sep 21 03:35 PM

Rahukalam: 12:09 PM to 1:39 PM
Yamagandam: 7:38 AM to 9:08 AM
Varjyam: 07:04 PM to 08:43 PM
Gulika: 10:39 AM to 12:09 PM
Amritakalam: None
Abhijit Muhurtham: Nil

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER
Forecast: Mostly Cloudy
Temp: 33°
Humidity: 74%
Sunrise: 5:56 AM
Sunset: 6:06 PM
Updated: September 19, 2023 5:00 PM

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Oppn MPs trying to shield corrupt Naidu: Malladi

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

State Planning Board vice-chairman and Vijayawada Central MLA Malladi Vishnu stated that the TDP MPs are involved in the protection of their corrupt leader Chandrababu Naidu A 37 in Rs 371 crore of AP Skill Development Scam, keeping aside the state's issues. He said that the public are treating protests and agitations of TD as artificial and instant plays towards the safeguard of corrupt Naidu hence they are not coming forward to participate in the TD programmes.

Planning Board vice-chairman criticized Chandrababu's two-eyed theory as the main reason for the AP state's severe loss due to the United Andhra Pradesh bifurcation. He said that it is ironic that if the YSRCP MPs are fighting tirelessly to achieve the promises of the AP Reorganisation Act including special category status, then the TD MPs are



making noise in Delhi that Naidu has been arrested. He opined that TD MPs, who should have taken the initiative in protecting the rights of the state shunned the responsibility and it was a shame to defend the corrupt Naidu and moreover, doing protests in Delhi for sympathy.

Malladi Vishnu said that the in-depth investigation of the CID officials has clearly revealed that there has been corruption of Rs.371 crores in

nently seated in the house in this election.

MLA Vishnu said that their government is working towards the development of all sections of society. He said that Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is implementing welfare schemes for the development of all communities. He criticized that the entire TD regime was full of lies and raw fraud. He said that if the previous government weakened the systems, this government has brought the systems closer to the people. He said that if the then Chief Minister Chandrababu stole the wealth of the state during Telugu Desam, then Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy in the present government distributed it to the poor. Malladi Vishnu stated that Jagan Mohan Reddy distributed Rs 2.50 lakh crore through Navaratnalu welfare schemes which shows the dedication of the Jagan government to the welfare and development of AP State.

Failing to get PG seat, doc ends life

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

A woman working as a doctor at a private hospital in Penamaluru of Krishna district committed suicide allegedly after she couldn't crack her postgraduate entrance examination. She was found hanging in her house, and police shifted the body to Vuyyuru government hospital and launched an investigation.

The police said, Doctor B Amrapali (28) reportedly ended her life at her residence at Penamaluru in Krishna district. She was working in a private hospital in Vijayawada and appeared for PG entrance. As she could not get a seat in PG, Amrapali, went into depression and resorted to the extreme step. Penamaluru police registered a case under Section 174 CrPc (Suspicious death). The body was shifted to the Government Hospital for post-mortem. A detailed probe is initiated.

Piety marks 'Vinayaka Chaviti' celebrations at Kavutaram

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Ganesh Navaratri festivities, celebrated with profound devotion throughout the country, were inaugurated at Kavutaram village in the Gudivada mandal on Monday. The Vinayaka Chaviti festival witnessed enthusiastic and joyful participation from the residents of Pedda Dalitwada. Kavutaram village underwent a complete transformation, enveloped in an atmosphere of devotion as villagers came together to worship and immerse themselves in the spiritual mood.

'Dharmakarya', an organisation dedicated to nurturing spiritual uplift and the evolution of Hindu dharma, conducted the Ganesh Chaturthi festival in the village, culminating in a heartwarming 'Annasamaradhana'. 'Dharmakarya' is also deeply committed to various noble causes such as 'Gou-Seva' (caring for cows), temple preservation, and the extensive promotion of Hindu culture.



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For more information about this spiritual organisation, one can visit their website at www.dharmakarya.com. The villagers of Kavutaram extend

their gratitude to 'Dharmakarya' for their support in making this Vinayaka Chaviti celebration an unprecedented success.

SEVA PAKHWADA 2023

Red Cross launches service programmes

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Commemorating the birthday of Prime Minister Modi and the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Government of India is observing Seva Pakhwada 2023 across the country involving the society and Government machinery in fields of health, education, and sanitation.

Indian Red Cross Society is actively participating in the Seva fortnight with a number of service programmes in all states.

Andhra Pradesh Red Cross has drawn a schedule of activities in all the districts with programs on blood awareness, the importance of oral hygiene, blood collections, and health check-up for orphan children in all the childcare institutions across 26

districts.

Dr A Sridhar Reddy, Chairman of AP Red Cross has said that Red Cross will always be associated with any program that mitigates the problems of a common man.

AK Parida, General Secretary of AP State branch has said that Red Cross in AP is contemplating to prepare One Million Volunteers to serve in emergencies.

BSS Kumar, State Coordinator for Red Cross Blood Banks and Projects said that the 18 Red Cross Blood Centers in the state are conducting 64 Blood Collection Camps and 50 Blood Awareness programs during this Seva fortnight. 30% of the blood units collected during this fortnight will be given to Government General Hospitals for free issue to poor patients.



Awareness camp on menstrual hygiene

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

An awareness session on menstrual hygiene for adolescent girls residing in the slums of Gamela Bazaar near Auto Nagar was organised on Tuesday, under the aegis of Inner Wheel Club of Vijayawada, Sunshine. President Dr Sumita.

Poor menstrual hygiene is the leading cause of serious health risks, like reproductive and urinary tract infections which can result in future infertility and birth complications. Cultural practices and taboos



around menstruation cause a barrier to proper knowledge and lead to a negative impact on the health of women and young girls.

To educate and create awareness regard-

ing this rarely talked about issue, Inner Wheel Club secretary Dr Bhargavi, who is MHM State coordinator and project lead, said that Tata Trust conducted the awareness session in a very child-friendly, simplified and interactive manner and explained the do's and don'ts related to menstrual hygiene.

Young girls shared their pains and problems in this regard. One girl said because of shyness she couldn't seek help from her parents and used folded papers during menstruation.

Nunna all set for wrestling tourney

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Zilla Parishad High School, Nunna, of Vijayawada Rural mandal and the School Games Federation of India (SGFI), Andhra Pradesh unit, are all set to conduct the first-ever Inter-district Wrestling Championship for under-14 and 17 category at the Vikas Group of Educational Institutions at Nunna from September 21 to 23.

Tournament organising committee secretary and ZPHS Headmaster Vazrala Bhupal Reddy released the invitation cards at the school here on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, he said that around 650 wrestlers from all 13 combined districts would participate in the tourney. Around 100 officials will also be part of the three-day tournament. Boarding and lodging facilities



would be provided for the participants and officials.

He said that the Vikas Group of Educational Institutions was providing ground facilities to conduct the tournament. All district teams should report at

the ZPH School at Nunna on September 20 evening.

High School First Assistant Surapaneni Ravi Prasad and Physical Directors T Vijaya Varma and T Sri Latha were present.

Rail coach restaurant opened at BZA

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Narendra A Patil, Divisional Railway Manager, Vijayawada Division, South Central Railway, and Shiv Kishan ji Agarwal, Chairman, Haldiram's, declared the Rail Coach Restaurant, set up at Vijayawada Railway Station, open for public from Tuesday. As part of providing enhanced passenger services and novel experience to the rail users, the Vijayawada Division has conceptualised an innovative idea by starting a Coach Restaurant in the East Entrance Circulating area of the Vijayawada Railway Station.

Rail commuters and the general public will now have a unique and pleasant dining experience at this restaurant. These services shall be offered round the clock for the convenience of the travelling public.



Speaking on the occasion, Vavilapalli Rambabu, Sr DCM, said that this innovative idea under the non fare revenue head was conceptualised by the Vijayawada Division to provide premium experience to the rail commuters by utilising old aged unserviceable coaches. This coach is redesigned to the needs of the Coach Restaurant by granting license to the entrepreneurs. The restaurant not only provides hygienic and

quality food to the rail commuters 24 X 7, but also generates revenue on a large scale to the Division. The Sr. DCM also thanked the Mechanical, Engineering and other department that were instrumental in setting up the restaurant.

Narendra A Patil complimented the Vijayawada Division officials for providing a good passenger amenity at the station utilising one sleeper coach. The DRM said that

appropriate arrangements under the coordination of all departments to immerse the idols below the Prakasam Barrage, next to the Saneeswara Temple in the Krishna River area, as part of which cranes and other facilities are being provided to immerse the idols in the river from tomorrow. He informed that a special sanitation management system has been adopted in the respective surroundings and garbage removal vehicles have been



PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Vijayawada Municipal Commissioner Swapnil Dinakar Pundkar has said that VMC, in an innovative manner, is taking measures to recycle flowers, leaves and fruits used during the immersion of Vinayaka idols. He said that necessary measures would be taken to avoid any accidents in coordination with the officials of all departments during the Vinayaka idol immersion as part of the Vinayaka Chavithi festival.

Swapnil Dinakar explained that VMC would make appro-

CM HAS LORD'S DARSHAN



Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy had an early morning darshan (Prathah Kala Darshanam) of Lord Venkateswara at Tirumal on Tuesday. Later, he was accorded 'Veda Aaseervadam' by vedic pandits at Ranganyakula Mandapam.

VMC TO RECYCLE FLOWERS, AND LEAVES USED FOR GANESH IMMERSION

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

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appropriate arrangements under the coordination of all departments to immerse the idols below the Prakasam Barrage, next to the Saneeswara Temple in the Krishna River area, as part of which cranes and other facilities are being provided to immerse the idols in the river from tomorrow. He informed that a special sanitation management system has been adopted in the respective surroundings and garbage removal vehicles have been

arranged to prevent waste from being dumped in the river. He stated that the organisers of the festival committee have been informed to cooperate with the authorities and follow their instructions to avoid any misunderstandings during idol worship. Commissioner Swapnil Dinakar Pundkar directed the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation to hand over the puja material i.e. flowers, leaves, and fruits used for puja to them without throwing the materials in the river or the canals. He said

that the flower waste management plant, with Green Waves recyclers collecting the puja materials and waste, will make the useless flowers into fragrant incense sticks and leaves and trees will be used as fertiliser for the bio mechanisation plant, and the remaining waste would be made as fertiliser through windrow composting.

The commissioner requested the public to put the waste in the bins set up by the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation instead of dumping in the river and drains. He asked the public to cooperate with the VMC towards keeping canals and River Krishna clean.

Curriculum change in line with NEP-2020: Ambedkar varsity V-C

PNS ■ SRIKAKULAM

The Vice-Chancellor of Dr BR Ambedkar University, Prof Nimma Venkata Rao, underlined the university's dedication to introducing significant curriculum changes in line with the National Education Policy (NEP), all with the goal of enriching the overall educational journey for students. Additionally, he unveiled the university's plan here on Sunday to co-host a national seminar, in partnership with the Indian Council of Social Sciences Research (ICSSR) in New Delhi, titled 'Implementing the National Education Policy-2020: Approaches and Strategies'. This seminar is scheduled to take place on the Etcherla campus on October 4 and 5.

Dr Venkata Rao articulated that the National Education Policy 2020, with its endorsement of the 5+3+3+4 education model, presented various merits that warrant exploration. This framework empowers students to concurrently pursue multiple courses, furnishing them with a versatile skill set that unlocks a multitude of prospects within esteemed companies. He underscored the university's dedication to

implementing the NEP's guidelines, citing instances of students achieving gainful employment at organisations like Aurobindo Pharma Limited and Krishnapatnam Port after completing their studies.

In a recent meeting held in Vijayawada, a thorough summary of the university's achievements was provided to the Governor and Chancellor S Abdul Nazeer. The Vice-Chancellor also high-

lighted that students participating in the MSc Chemical Technology programmes were gaining practical experience as part of an agreement with Nagarjuna Agrichem Limited, as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

"We recently launched post-graduate diploma programmes in fields like port operations, fire and industrial safety, and environmental health," he announced. Dr Venkata Rao emphasised the university's firm commitment to upgrading its infrastructure to meet national academic standards. He underscored the progress of current projects, which encompassed the construction of a new administrative facility with a budget of Rs 35 crore and the readiness of the YSR Boys Hostel.



Waltair divn bags award for loading

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

The Waltair Division of the East Coast Railway was honoured for achieving the highest loading performance in the current financial year. The award was presented by Darshana Jardosh, Minister of State for Railways, during a ceremony held at Rail Bhavan in New Delhi. The award was accepted by Senior Divisional Operations Manager



G Suneel Kumar on behalf of the Waltair Division.

During the current fiscal year, the Waltair Division has

accomplished the loading of 33.37 million tonnes of cargo, demonstrating an outstanding growth of 10.35% when juxtaposed with the 30.24 million tonnes loaded in the corresponding period of the prior fiscal year. This substantial upswing in freight loading has resulted in record-breaking earnings of Rs 3,653 crores as of August 2023, in sharp contrast to the Rs 3,103 crores earned

during the same period in the preceding fiscal year.

Divisional Railway Manager Saurabh Prasad conveyed his sincere congratulations to the entire Waltair Division team, giving special recognition to the Operations team for their remarkable achievements. Additionally, he expressed optimism about exceeding these accomplishments in the current fiscal year.

Pawan thanks EC for allocating 'tumbler' symbol

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Jana Sena chief K Pawan Kalyan here on Tuesday thanked the Election Commission of India for allocating the tumbler symbol once again to the JSP.

The Election Commission of India once again allocated the tumbler symbol to the JSP to contest in the next elections in AP and Telangana states. The JSP candidates contest on the tumble symbol in the 2019 elections. Meanwhile, Pawan Kalyan wished for the early recovery of Governor S Abdul Nazeer.

In a message here on Tuesday, he said that he invoked god for the speedy recovery of the Governor. "I wish that the Governor would recover soon and attend to his routine duties at the earliest," he stated.

Steps for special summary revision of voters' list: DC

PNS ■ BHIMAVARAM

District Collector P Prashanthi has said that steps have been taken to carry out a Special Summary Revision of the voters list.

State chief electoral officer and state chief election officer Mukesh Kumar Meena held a video conference and reviewed the voter's list preparation with the Collector and other officials on Tuesday.

The State Chief Electoral Officer and State Chief Electoral Officer discussed various issues with the Collator and another official including Electoral Rolls-Special Summer Revision 2024, Deaths, Duplicate Entries, Irregularities, Grievance Scrutiny, Rationalization of Polling Stations, and Epic Card Generation.

The Chief Electoral Officer asked the District Collector about the progress of house-to-house verification of the list of deleted voters for the Special Short Amended List of Voters and informed them through a



PowerPoint presentation in detail. He said that the actions taken on the issues raised in the meeting of political parties should be completed on time without any pending.

District Collector P Prashanthi explained to the State Election Officer that action was taken in the district as per the procedures of the State Election Commission, adding that the complaints received from the political parties were examined at the field

level and reports were handed over to them. She also told him that after examining the reports, they were asked to inform if there were any doubts.

The Collector said that the update of the electoral rolls was completed in all the constituencies except the Undi constituency, and it would be completed through the ERO after the amendment of the voters. According to the new system, where there is any

pending voter amendment, DSC, PSC, and shifting voters are being examined with the staff, she said, adding that the officials are speeding up the re-examination process.

As part of the Special Voter Revision Program-2024, the forms related to the respective claims have been collected and uploaded online, and the pending updated process would be completed quickly, she told him.

Collector Prashanthi said that the list of permanently shifted voters has also been examined. Every vote deleted in the district would be thoroughly examined and resolved, she said.

"As part of the rationalization of polling stations at the district level, a meeting with the political party representatives will be held this month and the final list will be submitted to the Election Commission," the Collector said to the Chief Election Officer, DRO K Krishnaveni, Bhimavaram RTO Desi Raju and others participated in the video conference.

Rs 60 lakh sanctioned for addl floor of wedding hall

PNS ■ ONGOLE

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has sanctioned Rs 60 lakh additional funds for the construction of an additional floor on the TTD Kalyana Mandapam at Yerragondapalem.

Official sources here on Tuesday said that the TTD had already sanctioned Rs 1.74 crore for the construction of TTD Kalyana Mandapam at Yerragondapalem.

The TTD sanctioned Rs 60 lakh additional apart from the already sanctioned Rs 1.74 crore. The construction of TTD Kalyana Mandapam in Yerragondapalem is being carried out expeditiously.

According to the previously approved design, there was a banquet hall in the lower part and a dining room on the first floor with an asbestos roof. People of the area appealed to make changes to it and make slabs instead of tiles on the upper floor and make arrangements for a dining room on the lower floor and Kalyanamandapam on the upper floor.

Hearing aids distributed to 181 beneficiaries

PNS ■ ELURU

District Collector V Prasanna Venkatesh here on Tuesday distributed hearing aids to 181 hearing-impaired people. The hearing aids were sponsored by the RBSK with the coordination of the Swaroop Charitable Trust.

A programme was held here for which District Collector V Prasanna Venkatesh was the chief guest. The Swaroop Charitable Trust of Kerala sponsored the hearing aids.

Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that with the cooperation of RBSK of Kerala, in collaboration with Swaroop Charitable Trust, 181 people aged between one year and 18 years were provided with hearing aids.

The Collector said that 9 people were identified for the operation of cleft lips and 5 of them have already undergone the cleft lips operations in the Vijayawada Government Hospital. Under a special grant, Rs 5,000 check was handed over to them, Prasanna Venkatesh said.

He said that money was given for their transportation and nutrition. In order to overcome the fact that parents are



not aware of children from poor families in identifying birth defects of hearing or many children are suffering from hearing loss, under the auspices of Rashtriya Bala Swasthya Program (RBSK), Swarup Charitable Trust will distribute free quality hearing aids on the 19th, 20th and 21st of this month," the Collector stated.

Collector Venkatesh said that the organization has also provided batteries for hearing aids

free of cost and if there are any defects in these devices, they can change the devices by calling the phone number given by them. The Collector congratulated the Swaroop Charitable Trust for distributing hearing aids.

Charitable trust director Suresh J Pilley, DMHO Dr Sharmist, hospital superintendent Dr. Seshidhar, DCHS Dr.Pal Satish, and RMO Srinivasa Rao were among those who were present.

NANDI NATAKOTSAVAM 2023

‘Selection done transparently’

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Posani Krishna Murali, Chairman, AP State Film, TV & Theatre Development Corporation, and the Nandi Natakotsavam Awards Jury members announced the 'list of selected at preliminary level' as part of Nandi Natakotsavam 2023.

Addressing the media persons on Tuesday, Posani said that the selection for the final competition to perform in the Nandi Natakotsavam Awards was not influenced by recommendations. The selections were conducted impartially and transparently without favouritism, following the instructions of Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy to give Nandi awards without any manipulation.

Krishna Murali revealed the details of the plays selected at the primary level for the 22nd Nandi Natakotsavam 2022 at the RTC convention hall in



Vijayawada under the auspices of the Nataranga Development Corporation.

Posani Krishna Murali said that the jury members have the final decision in the selection of dramas, and the jury members who have toured the state and seen drama performances have selected the performances that deserve the prelims. He said that speaking on the occasion, T Vijay Kumar Reddy, Managing Director of Andhra Pradesh State Film TV and Drama Development Corporation and also the

Commissioner of Information and Public Relations said that there were 115 entries in five categories for Nandi Natakotsavam 2022 awards.

He emphasized that of the 38 plays in 5 categories that were selected for the final competition, 10 out of 26 entries were in the Padya Natakam category, 6 out of 22 entries were in Social Play category, 12 out of 49 entries in social playlet category, Five out of 9 in child plays category and five out of 9 entries in the college/university category were selected.

Pomp and piety mark Ganesh Chaturthi in NTR district

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Ganesh Chaturthi festival was celebrated across NTR district in a grand manner. Various festival organising committees installed Ganesh Idols in pandals in every nook and corner and performed special pujas.

Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam atop Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada and other temples in Vijayawada and Krishna districts celebrated Vinayaka Chavithi. As part of this, the devotees decorated Vigneswara Swamy in many avatars and started the nine-day celebrations.

NTR District Collector Dr S Dilli Rao performed special pujas along with his wife and West Godavari Collector Prasanthi at the camp office in Vijayawada. He offered special pujas.

Also, various merchant asso-



ciations arranged different types of Ganesh idols and performed special pujas. Various cultural programmes were organised in many areas.

The NTR Vijayawada police had given permission to the festival committees to conduct the programmes. Also, they provided security for the processions staged as part of the immersion of the idols in the River Krishna, Polavaram Canal and other water bodies.

Meanwhile, NTR Police Commissioner Kanti Rana Tata inspected the places of

Ganesh Idols immersion and gave suggestions to the officers. He visited the Sitamavari Paadalu and other ghats of River Krishna.

He said that people celebrated Vinayaka Chavithi and the idol immersion peacefully. He directed the officials concerned to take steps to avoid untoward incidents during the idol immersion.

Further, he said that to conduct the immersion peacefully, the officials have arranged barricades and lighting at the ghats and water bodies.

VIT, PI Datacenters sign MoU

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the VIT-AP University and the PI Datacenters during the opening ceremony of the company's new headquarters in Hyderabad's financial district. Kalyan Muppaneni, the founder and CEO of PI Datacenters, and Dr SV Kota Reddy, Vice Chancellor of VIT-AP University, both signed the MOU.

The MOU was signed in the presence of Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary – ITE & C and Department of Industries and Commerce, Govt. of Telangana, Rebekah Drame - US Consulate General (Acting), Hyderabad, Gareth Wynn Owen, British Deputy High Commissioner Telangana and AP and Dr Ameet Chavan, Director of IIEC VIT-AP University.

As per the MoU, PI Datacenters will aid in executing awareness and capacity



building programmes, alongside promoting exchange of technical expertise and operational best practices in data center management and security that ensures top-tier performance, reliability, and data protection. Activities also include seminars, workshops, student internships, and faculty training.

Pi Datacenters has India's first Greenfield and world's fourth largest uptime Tier IV certified hyperscale data center, with locations in Vijayawada, Hyderabad, and Kochi, among others. VIT-AP University offers a well-rounded development environment for students, with a focus on computer science specialties.

100 bottles of liquor seized, one held

PNS ■ ELURU

The police seized 100 liquor bottles when being brought from Telangana state illegally at Tatiyakulagudem in Jeelugumilli mandal on Tuesday.

On a tip-off, the police conducted a check of vehicles. The



police spotted the accused Mungamuri Krishna moving on a motorcycle suspiciously. When the police checked the motorcycle they found 100 SOP liquor bottles which the accused was illegally bringing to the state to sell here. The police seized the motorcycle and 100 liquor bottles.

9 passengers injured as RTC bus overturns

PNS ■ ONGOLE

As many as nine passengers were injured when the APSRTC Indra bus overturned at Yelukachettu village in Yerragondapalem mandal on Tuesday. Police said that the Hyderabad-Markapuram Indra bus overturned while negotiating a curve. The bus veered off the road and overturned on a field. As many as nine bus passengers were injured in the accident. The injured were shifted to the GGH in Yerragondapalem.



School student killed as auto overturns

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

In a tragic accident, a schoolgirl student was killed and two students suffered bleeding injuries when the auto-rickshaw in which they were going home after the school overturned at Ibrahimpatnam near here on Tuesday.

Circle Inspector Srinivas told the media that some students of Don Bosco school were going home after attending the school. The driver of the auto rickshaw in a bid to avoid collision with a motorcycle lost control of the vehicle resulting in the auto rickshaw overturned on the road killing Navyasri (10) instantaneously.

The deceased girl was studying 5th Class. Two students suffered fractures on their legs and hands. The



injured were admitted to the Andhra Hospital at Gollapudi. The students said that the auto-rickshaw driver consumed liquor and he was in an inebriated condition. The police registered a case and shifted the body to the GGH for postmortem.

Plea to implement two-year childcare leave for women

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Members of the newly-elected Andhra Pradesh Joint Action Committee – Amaravati's (APJAC - Amaravati) Women's Wing has called on State government Advisor (Public Affairs) Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy, at his office at Tadepalli on Tuesday. Women's Wing chairperson P Lakshmi, general secretary P Vijaya Lakshmi and other executive committee members visited Sajjala.

APJAC-Amaravati chairman Bopparaju Venkateswarlu introduced the new executive committee to Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy. Later, the Women's Wing leaders felicitated Sajjala.

Speaking on the occasion, chairperson Lakshmi urged the State government to implement two-year childcare leave for women employees. As of now, the State government is sanctioning 180 days of leave, she said. Following the Central government, two-year childcare leave should be sanctioned for women employees, she said.

Further, she urged the government to set up



an Internal Complaint Cell (IPC) at all government offices. Also, she said that Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy had assured them of taking the two issues to the consideration of Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy.

Later, APSRTC Employees Union president Paliseti Damodara Rao thanked Sajjala for giving official recognition to his union in the Public Transport Department.

APJAC - Amaravati leaders VV Muralikrishna Naidu, Sambasiva Rao, B Ramakrishna and others were present.

Cong guarantees' cost exceeds TS budget

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Industries Minister KT Rama Rao said that the cost of implementing the Congress guarantees exceeds the Telangana budget.

He was speaking after Koneru Satyanarayana, the BJP President of Bhadradi Kothagudem district, joined the BRS. KTR said that not even a single development project was announced by the Congress. "Take money if the Congress gives as they did A to Z scams, but vote for the BRS," he said.

KTR said that Tummalala is trying to portray his agony as people's agony and asked why the Sita Rama Project wasn't completed until KCR came.

Making fun of the six guarantees of the Congress he said, "The Congress gives the power

cut guarantee, drinking water crisis guarantee, fertilisers and seed shortage guarantee, Rythu Bandhu and Dalit Bandhu will end guarantee, every year CM will change and political instability guarantee and the Telangana will go to the dogs guarantee."

He said that apart from screening movies like the 'Kashmir Files', 'Kerala Story' and 'Razakar', the BJP has done nothing more in the last nine years.

"They are trying to incite people. The 'Razakar' has reopened old wounds. The BJP is playing with the emotions," he said.

KTR commented that the BJP has not kept any promise included in the State Bifurcation Act.

"Modi is looting the country and tying it to Adani. If Kishan

is fond of Telangana he should hold a dharna in front of Modi's house to give jobs to the unemployed," he said.

"Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi come and shamelessly ask for a chance. What did they do when they were given power 11 times? They are giving false promises. Do you believe that those who have not given even Rs 200 in Congress-ruled states will give a pension of Rs 4,000 here? There is no guarantee who will become the CM in Congress. Such a party is giving six guarantees," KTR said.

He said that the Congress came to power in Karnataka by lying. "The Dalit sub-plan funds were diverted. People are suffering due to the power crisis in Karnataka. DK Shivakumar says that there is no money for development projects," KTR said.

‘People want Jagan to be CM again’

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Industries Minister Gudivada Amarnath has expressed strong support for YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's potential second term as Chief Minister, citing the consistent desire of the state's populace to maintain peace and unity. Minister Amarnath shared these sentiments during the Vinayaka Chavithi celebrations, hosted by NREDCAP Chairman and YSRCP Vizag North constituency in-charge KK Raju in Seethamadhara on Tuesday. He extended his wishes to the residents of the State, encouraging them to observe the upcoming Ganesha Navaratri in a peaceful and harmonious manner. Furthermore, he offered prayers to Lord Ganesha for the uninterrupted progress of the state's welfare



and development initiatives. In his interaction with the media, Minister Amarnath underscored the lack of significant contributions by Chandrababu Naidu to the state and its people.

Instead, he emphasized that Naidu had accumulated a series of mistakes over the years while evading legal consequences. Amarnath firmly stated that even if Nara Lokesh were to protest in Delhi or

America, it would not shield Chandrababu Naidu from the legal repercussions of his actions. The minister found the idea of organising rituals and protests in various states and countries to secure Naidu's release from prison to be absurd.

Amarnath also highlighted the importance of the legal system following its established procedures, ensuring that individuals engaged in corrupt activities would no longer evade punishment.

He emphasized that it now falls within the purview of the courts to decide whether or not bail should be granted to the individuals in question.

This underscores the crucial need to uphold the rule of law and accountability, particularly in cases involving corruption and wrongdoing.

Jagan calls on Guv Naseer

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy called on Governor Abdul Nazeer, who is undergoing treatment at the Manipal Hospital near here on Tuesday.

Immediately after returning from his Tirupati, Kurnool, and Nandyal tour, the Chief Minister drove straight from Gannavaram airport to the hospital and enquired about the Governor's health condition from the doctors and wished him a speedy recovery.

On Monday, Governor S Abdul Naseer was admitted to Manipal Hospital on Monday with complaints of pain in the abdomen. On further evaluation & investigations, he was diagnosed with acute appendicitis.

INDIA CORNER

Indian-origin Nihar Malaviya named CEO of Penguin Random House

Nihar Malaviya, an Indian-origin publishing executive, has been named permanent CEO of New York-based international publishing group Penguin Random House, nine months after he was appointed the interim chief executive, the publisher's parent company Bertelsmann said on Monday. Malaviya, 48, assumed the role of Interim CEO of Penguin Random House starting January 1, 2023. Malaviya will replace Markus Dohle, who departed after Penguin Random House's failed bid for Simon & Schuster last year. "Nihar Malaviya will lead Penguin Random House permanently as CEO," Bertelsmann said in a statement. Bertelsmann Chairman and CEO Thomas Rabe said: "In Nihar Malaviya, the right leader is at the helm of Penguin Random House at the right time. Nihar has proven exactly this over the past nine months, and I am delighted that he is now taking over responsibility for Penguin Random House on a permanent basis."



Former minister's PA convicted in wealth case in Tamil Nadu

The Madras High Court on Tuesday sentenced R Venkatakrishnan, PA to former AIADMK Minister R Indira Kumari, to three years Rigorous Imprisonment in connection with a disproportionate wealth case. Justice G Jayachandran also imposed a fine of Rs 5 lakh on Venkatakrishnan while allowing the appeals filed by the state government. The judge sentenced Venkatakrishnan's wife Manjula to 18 months RI in the case and also imposed a fine of Rs 5 lakh. The prosecution case was that Venkatakrishnan had amassed wealth in his name and in the name of his wife, 700 percent disproportionate to his known sources of income during his tenure as PA to Indirakumari during the period between 1991 and 1996. Originally, holding that the prosecution had failed to prove the case beyond reasonable doubt, a special court, which tried the case, had on January 11, 2012 acquitted both accused in the case.



More than 200 events lined up at 'Yashobhoomi'

More than 200 exhibitions and conventions have been planned at the India International Convention and Expo Centre (IICC) - Yashobhoomi - at Dwarka here in the next two years, a senior government official said on Tuesday. The focus sectors of these events would be digital innovation, hospitality, entertainment, healthcare, automobile, infrastructure, travel and tourism, and smart manufacturing. Kinexin Convention Management Pvt Ltd, a consortium of Korea International Exhibition Centre (KINTEX) and eSang Networks Company Ltd, are holding marketing initiatives all over the world to attract events at the centre, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 17. KINTEX has been appointed as the operator for exhibition and convention centre for managing the venue for 20 years. Modi unveiled the Rs 5,400-crore Phase 1 of the IICC on Sunday.



Nipah under control but threat is not over yet: CM

PNS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said on Tuesday the Nipah outbreak reported from Kozhikode district is under control but the threat of the infectious disease is not over yet.

He said that at present, it is not possible to rule out the chance of a second wave of the Nipah outbreak.

"It cannot be said that the threat of Nipah is completely over," the Chief Minister told a press conference here.

Vijayan said the state health system could effectively prevent the spread of the deadly virus.

"The health system is working cautiously. Early detection of the virus averted a dangerous situation," he said.

Narrating the steps taken by the government to check the



Vijayan said the state health system could effectively prevent the spread of the deadly virus. "The health system is working cautiously. Early detection of the virus averted a dangerous situation"

prevention of the disease, Vijayan said currently 994 people are under surveillance.

Samples of 304 people were collected, and of this, the test results of 267 people have been received, he added.

He said six people tested positive and nine people are under observation at Kozhikode Medical College.

The Chief Minister said even the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) could not

provide a clear answer to why Nipah cases are being reported from Kozhikode district.

Nipah cases were reported from the Kozhikode district on previous occasions in 2018 and 2021.

'Conspiracy being hatched against Sanatan culture in Chhattisgarh'

PNS ■ RAIPUR

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday alleged that a conspiracy was being hatched against "Sanatan culture" in the Congress-ruled Chhattisgarh.

He was speaking at a rally in Bhatgaon assembly constituency of Chhattisgarh as part of the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) 'parivartan yatra' campaign ahead of the state elections.

"A conspiracy is being hatched against Sanatan culture in Chhattisgarh. Since Bhupesh Baghel was elected as chief minister, the influx of Rohingya (refugees from Myanmar) in the state has become a major issue," the BJP leader claimed.

He also accused the Opposition's INDIA alliance of hatching a conspiracy to create "anti-Hindu" atmosphere in the country.

The Congress (when it was in power) allowed Bangladeshis to enter Assam illegally, he alleged, claiming that "lakhs of Bangladeshis are living in Assam."

"In Chhattisgarh, Rohingyas have started entering.... Bhupesh Baghel says he worships Gau-mata (cow) but we don't want this. We want you to say that you are a Hindu and devoted to Hinduism," Sarma added. Opposing education at Madrasas (Islamic seminaries) for children, Sarma said he closed Madrasas in Assam.

HC calls for imparting training to newly recruited prosecutors

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has directed the city government to impart training to the newly appointed public prosecutors in coordination with the Delhi Judicial Academy as prosecutors are an integral part of criminal court system.

The high court said it is imperative that the appointees are adequately equipped to shoulder the weighty responsibilities which the post of prosecutors carries.

Amicus curiae Rajeev K Virmani, who has been appointed friend of court to assist it in the matter, told a bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Sanjeev Narula that no train-



ing programme has been conducted for the newly appointed public prosecutors.

The high court directed the Delhi government to coordinate with the Delhi Judicial Academy to conduct training of the 60 newly recruited prosecutors.

"It has been brought to the

notice of the court that 60 public prosecutors have been appointed recently, however, alarmingly, no training has been imparted to them," the bench said.

"Delhi government shall also file a status report before next date of hearing regarding (i) the implementation of direction regarding training programmes and (ii) the latest position of vacancies in respect of public prosecutors," it added and listed the matter for further hearing on November 1.

The high court was hearing a batch of petitions, including a suo motu case (a matter initiated on its own), concerning issues related to recruitment, appointment and working of public prosecutors in the city.

Himachal BJP MLAs donate one month's salary towards SDRF

PNS ■ SHIMLA

BJP MLAs in Himachal Pradesh Tuesday donated their one month's salary towards the Aapada Rahat Kosh and presented a cheque of Rs 13.8 lakh to Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, leader of opposition Jai Ram Thakur said.

Speaking to media persons outside the Vidhan Sabha, Thakur said, "We had made a commitment to donate one month's salary towards the disaster relief fund," adding that 25 BJP MLAs have donated their one month's salary on Tuesday.

This step by BJP MLAs comes a day after the chief minister had pointed out that the BJP MLAs are yet to donate towards the Aapada Rahat Kosh. During the Assembly session on Monday, Sukhu said that the Congress MLAs have donated one month's salary towards the Aapada Rahat Kosh.

India expels Canadian envoy in tit-for-tat move

Trashes Canada's allegations over Khalistani terrorist's killing

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India on Tuesday rejected as "absurd" and "motivated" Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations of a "potential" Indian link to the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, and expelled a senior Canadian diplomat in a tit-for-tat action after Ottawa's expulsion of an Indian official over the case, marking fresh tensions to the already frayed bilateral ties.

Canadian High Commissioner to India Cameron MacKay was summoned and he was informed about the decision to expel the senior diplomat with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) saying the move reflects New Delhi's growing concern at the "interference of Canadian diplomats in our internal matters and their involvement in anti-India activities".

In a strongly-worded statement, the MEA also trashed comments by Trudeau and Foreign Minister Melanie Joly, asserting that "such unsubstantiated allegations seek to shift the focus from Khalistani terrorists and extremists, who have been provided shelter in Canada and continue to threaten India's sovereignty and territorial integrity".

Though New Delhi did not divulge the name of the Canadian diplomat who has



been asked to leave India within five days, people familiar with the matter said it is Canadian intelligence agency's station chief in New Delhi Olivier Sylvestere.

The Indian action to expel the Canadian diplomat came hours after Joly announced that a "top Indian diplomat" has been expelled from Canada. Nijjar, a Canadian Khalistani terrorist, was shot dead by two gunmen in Surrey on June 18.

Joly's office said the diplomat, who has been ordered to leave Canada, is Pavan Kumar Rai, the head of the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), according to Canadian broadcaster CBC news.

Canada's public announcement of expulsion of the Indian intelligence operative is seen as "rare" as such issues are generally handled in a discreet manner.

How scribes from across globe worked as 'one family' at G20 media centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

For many journalists from across the world who were here to cover the G20 Summit, sharing working space at the International Media Centre from September 8-10 made them experience the spirit of "one family".

On these three days, scribes and camerapersons from Italy to Singapore and Türkiye to Brazil worked from the facility at the newly built Bharat Mandapam -- the summit's venue.

In between work, they chatted over cups of coffee and Indian meals, and also learned about cultures of different countries from each other.

"It's interesting here to see that journalists who come from different countries and different cultures work in a similar way," Michael Hoefele, who works with German news agency dts, said on September 10.

The International Media Centre, a temporary working space, was spread over two floors in Hall No. 5 of the sprawling Bharat Mandapam complex.

G20 logos were splashed across huge decorative panels put up in the hall on the theme of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' -- 'One Earth. One Family. One Future'.

On September 9, on the ground floor of the hall, in a



corner, a TV journalist from Türkiye was doing a live broadcast while, near her desk, a German photographer was busy filing photos after the press conference of German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

On the second day of the summit, an Indian TV journalist in a saree interacted with

a delegate while a reporter from Italy, sitting at a terminal close by, filed stories on a laptop.

"We all have been working here for the last three days, from pre-summit briefing on September 8 to the main summit on September 9 and the closure of the event today. What I liked about the working space was that it has no walls to segment the space. A person sitting on one corner can see the person sitting at the other end," TV journalist from Istanbul, Asli Bilger Kutlugad, said on September 10.

It has been very tiring but a different experience of India, she said.

Govt rolls out mandatory quality norms for solder wires

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government has issued mandatory quality norms for solder wires, used in electronics and engineering industry, to curb the import of sub-standard goods and boost domestic manufacturing of these goods.

A notification in this regard was issued by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) on September 18.

Items under Flux Cored Solder Wire (Quality Control) Order, 2023 cannot be produced, sold, traded, imported and stocked unless they bear the

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) mark.

These orders will come into force with effect from six months from the date of publication of this notification, the DPIIT said on Tuesday.

Soldering is a critical process where quality of flux cored solder wire is of paramount importance as any failure will impact quality and safety of the products soldered particularly in electronic and automobile industry.

"The implementation of the Quality Control Order (QCO) for this product is crucial not only for the safety of consumers, but will also improve the man-



ufacturing quality standards in the country and curb imports of sub-standard products into India," it added.

Till now, BIS certification rules were not applicable on these products.

Violation of the provision of

the BIS Act can attract imprisonment of up to two years, or a fine of at least Rs 2 lakh for the first offence.

In case of second and subsequent offences, the fine will increase to a minimum of Rs 5 lakh and extend up to 10 times of the value of goods or articles.

According to the notification, to support domestic micro and small industries, relaxations have been granted in terms of the timeline for implementing the QCO.

Various initiatives, including the development of QCO, are being undertaken by the department to develop quality sensi-

sation among users and manufacturers alike.

These initiatives, coupled with developing quality testing labs and product manuals, would help build a quality ecosystem in the country, it said.

Mandatory QCOs help curb import of sub-standard products, prevent unfair trade practices, and ensure safety and well-being of consumers, as well as the environment.

These initiatives, coupled with development of testing labs, product manuals, accreditation of test labs would aid the development of a quality ecosystem in the country.

Census, delimitation, nod by state assemblies essential

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The women's reservation bill, introduced in Lok Sabha on Tuesday, will have to cross several hurdles before it becomes a reality, including support cutting across political lines and early census and delimitation exercise.

The provisions in the Constitution (128th Amendment) Bill make it clear that the women's reservation will come into effect only after the delimitation exercise or the redrawing of constituencies taking into account the data of the census conducted once the

bill becomes a law.

Constitutional experts said after the passage of the Bill by both Houses of Parliament, it will also have to be approved by at least 50 per cent of state assemblies to become a law.

The nod by state assemblies is necessary as it affects the rights of the states.

The Bill "...shall come into effect after an exercise of delimitation is undertaken for this purpose after the relevant figures for the first census taken after the commencement of the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty Eighth Amendment), Bill 2023 have



been published, and shall cease to have effect on the expiration of a period of 15 years from the date of such commencement," reads new Article 334A the draft legislation seeks to introduce in the Constitution.

According to Article 82 of the Constitution, as amended in 2002, the delimitation process can be carried out based on the first Census taken after 2026.

The first Census after 2026

was to be carried out in 2031, which would be followed by delimitation or redrawing of constituencies.

The 2021 census exercise was postponed by the government in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. It will have to be put on a fast track by the government for the Women's reservation to be turned into reality before the 2029 Lok Sabha elections.

In 2011, the census was carried out in February-March and the provisional figures were released on March 31 that year.

Another concern voiced by

experts is that women may become figureheads with their husbands wielding the real power, as has been witnessed at the panchayat levels.

The purpose of the legislation to uplift women would be defeated if the elected representatives under the quota were from the same families where male members are in politics, said Shilpi Jain, a prominent lawyer.

"There could be a provision to encourage women who are not from political backgrounds to contest, otherwise the purpose would be defeated by reservation," she said.



MINISTER DURAIMURUGAN URGES CENTRE Instruct Karnataka to release Cauvery water due to TN

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Tamil Nadu government on Tuesday urged the Centre to instruct the Karnataka government to release Cauvery water due to the state, Water Resources Minister Duraimurugan said.

Also, during the deficient period water could be shared with the lower riparian states on a pro-rata basis as awarded by the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT), he said.

"Karnataka has water but is refusing to release it as per the direction of the Cauvery Water Management Board. The neighbouring state has over 54 TMC water. They have constructed check dams to impound water in the KRS dam," Duraimurugan told reporters in the national capital after meeting Union Jal Sakthi Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

Though the Board had on September 13 said about 12,500 cusecs water could be given but it directed Karnataka to release 5,000 cusecs. "Till today we have got about 4,000 cusecs of water. Had Karnataka willed, they would have released the water yesterday itself. But they don't have the intention to release water," Duraimurugan who led an all-party delegation demanding the release of 12,500 cusecs Cauvery water from Karnataka, said.

"We are not asking the dam to be opened but want only our share of water," the Minister said and cited the CWDT which asked the parties concerned to share their water deficiency on a pro-rata basis.

During the meeting with the Central Minister, the TN delegation urged the Centre "to issue strong instructions" to the Karnataka government to release the water," he said.

Stree Shakti

The women's reservation Bill is set to turn into an Act, ending a long wait for female leaders

After a long 33 years when it was first tabled in Parliament, the women's reservation Bill is finally likely to secure passage. After Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Cabinet accorded it approval late on Monday, the decks are virtually clear for its approval in the special session of Parliament. The Bill has been tabled by the Union law minister Arjun Ram Meghwal. The women's reservation Bill provides for 33 per cent quota for the fair gender in the Lok Sabha and all State Assemblies. The Prime Minister had informed the House that while more than 7,500 public representatives have served in both Houses, the number of female representatives is a negligible 600 or so. The representation of women in the Indian political system has been abysmally low, and the reservation of seats sets to correct that anomaly. This crucial and overdue legislation seeks to counter the longstanding issue of underrepresentation of women in legislative bodies and encourage their active participation in shaping up the nation with their assistance of vision and strong voice. The central pillar of this Bill revolves around the reservation of 33 per cent of seats in both the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies for female candidates. This reservation will apply to constituencies across the spectrum, including general, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe.



To ensure diversity in the representation of women from various backgrounds, the Bill introduces a rotational system. Under this system, the reserved seats for women will change with each electoral cycle, facilitating broader representation with the passage of time. Within the overarching 33 per cent reservation, sub-reservations will be carved out for women belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. This provision seeks to address the complex issues of gender and caste-based discrimination simultaneously. This legislation is not a run-of-the-mill piece of law but rather a constitutional amendment. Consequently, it necessitates a special majority in both Houses of Parliament (a two-thirds majority of members present and voting) and ratification by at least 50 per cent of State legislatures before it can be enacted as law. Parties will be required to provide equal opportunities to women when distributing tickets, thus mitigating biases in the selection process. With enhanced presence of women in legislative bodies, the women's reservation Bill is poised to exert a profound influence on the Government's policy decisions. This may result in the formulation of more inclusive and gender-sensitive laws and policies by empowering women in political leadership roles. When enacted, this Bill has the potential to usher in a more inclusive and representative democracy. So, finally after twenty-seven years wait and 13 years after being passed by the Rajya Sabha, the Women Reservation Bill would become the law. However, the law would be implemented by 2029 Lok Sabha elections and would not affect the 2024 elections. It is indeed a big accomplishment for the Modi government for which it deserves all the praise.

PICTALK



Devotees carry chariot with Ganpati' idol on the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi festival, in Pune

Final blow to the colonial rule

Operation Vijay I was dexterously planned. India employed an overwhelming tri-service force to defeat the Portuguese garrison of 7000 personnel in Goa

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Goa, unlike its masters in Delhi who rule Bharat that is India, is not running a campaign to cleanse itself of colonial rule: that is why it is peaceful and civilised through recent invasions from the North have disturbed the market. But harmony has prevailed, thanks to leaders like Manohar Parrikar, offshore casinos, heritage fish markets duty liquors and Peoples rice beer. The Portuguese Consulate sits at the base of Altinho hill from where Goa is ruled today as it was for 451 years earlier. Portugal, which had occupied Goa, Daman and Diu was the last colonizer to be evicted from Indian soil on 19 December 1961 in the first Op Vijay. Last Sunday, the 76th anniversary of Operation Polo, the defeat of Nizam's forces in Hyderabad, was commemorated but the event was politicised.

India has not eschewed the use of force in national integration. Of the 562 princely states under the suzerainty of the British Crown, all were persuaded to accede to India except three: J&K, a Muslim majority state ruled by a Hindu raja; Junagadh with a Hindu majority ruled by a Muslim Nawab; and Hyderabad, a Hindu majority state ruled by the Muslim Nizam. In July 1946, Mr Nehru said no princely state could stand against independent India's Army. In May 1947 they were told that those who did not integrate would be treated as enemy states. Nawab of Junagadh fled to Pakistan on 26 October 1947 after he acceded to it. It was militarily coerced by 1 Armoured Division and by 9 November India assumed its administration. The J & K ruler signed the Instrument of Accession on 27 October 1947 after tribal raiders from Pakistan had begun the first war over Kashmir which has not ceased to this day. The Hyderabad Nizam insisted on remaining neutral, forcing India to launch Op Polo on 13 September 1948 in which my battalion 2/5 Gorkha Rifles (Frontier Force), winner of three Victoria Crosses (equal to PVC), participated. Hyderabad was liberated on 17 September.



What remained were French and Portuguese enclaves on the East and West Coasts. While France vacated occupied territories in 1956, Portugal refused, necessitating Op Vijay (Kargil is Op Vijay II). I was fortunate to visit the surrender site last week on Altinho Hill where the 2 Signal Training Centre (STC) of the Army is currently partly located. Vijay Vatika is well marked and indicates the place where Gen Vassalo e Silva surrendered to Lt Col Sucha Singh on 19 December 1961. Op Vijay was meticulously planned by GoC Southern Command, Lt Gen JN Choudhary (also led Op Polo). It was India's first tri-service operation involving the 17 Infantry Division and 50 Para Brigade led by Maj Gen KP Candeth and Brig Sagat Singh. Indian Navy's Op Chutney entailed recce and surveillance. On 11 December, the 17 Infantry Division was ordered to advance and capture Panaji and Mormugao. The assault began with artillery bombardment under air cover at 0400 hrs with the Portuguese opting to offer resistance. 50 Para Brigade of 1st Para Punjab and 2nd Para Marathas captured Panaji and Ponda the next day.

India employed an overwhelming tri-service force to defeat a Portuguese garrison of

7000 personnel, one Frigate and three Offshore Patrol boats. Casualties were on both sides – 22 Indian soldiers killed while the Portuguese lost 30 soldiers and 570 wounded with one frigate disabled and the remaining 4668 personnel captured. On 18 December Portugal urged the UNSC for a ceasefire and ending hostilities. The US disapproved of India's military action while the USSR used its veto to ensure surrender. By the evening of 18 December, most of Goa was in Indian hands, even as Portuguese soldiers were ready to defend the port town of Vasco da Gama, according to Op Plano Sentinel. The Portuguese President ordered a scorched earth policy but the Governor General refused to implement it. He ordered a ceasefire and surrender at 2030 hrs on 19 December. The surrender of the garrison marked the end of 451 years of Portuguese rule of Goa.

Just above the Portuguese Consulate is the Army House, the erstwhile residence of the Military Commander, Gen Vassalo e Silva. It is a 400-year-old Portuguese construction later acquired by the Governor General. It must have commanded a 360-degree view of Panaji. After the Signals Commandant was allotted the heritage house, many Chief

Ministers who also live on Altinho (anyone who rules Goa lives there)

have had an eye on the houses including Parrikar. 2 STC residents dispersed in the pockets of Panaji. Like the British, the Portuguese chose the best land for cantonments as well as several hill stations, especially in Himachal after the British CinC chose to initially live in Simla. Many of today's popular hill resorts were strategic locations covering Simla.

Many Goans have kept their links with Lisbon. Prime Minister Antonio Costa is half-Goan and has helped rev up India-Portugal amity. People in Goa affectionately call him Baboush (in Konkani, a young loved one). The Signals Army Unit in Goa maintains high standards of pride and decorum, co-habiting with Goans who look up to their Army for liberating Goa. Portuguese surrender should be commemorated befittingly as the first tri-service campaign at a time when theorisation is on the anvil.

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. The views expressed are personal)



MANY GOANS HAVE KEPT THEIR LINKS WITH LISBON. PRIME MINISTER ANTONIO COSTA IS HALF-GOAN AND HAS HELPED TO REV UP INDIA-PORTUGAL AMITY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

Sir — "Illegal immigrants" are the main reason behind the resurgence of extreme nationalism in many European countries in the 21st century. In their name, nationalists have won elections in many countries, but the problem of immigrants remains unchanged. For example, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, who won the election in the name of combating illegal immigration, now finds that the number of illegal immigrants coming to her country is increasing day by day. Unfortunately, there seems to be only one reason for these people's plight: illegal smugglers who, driven by greed, transport individuals from Africa and Asia to the borders of wealthy countries. But no one is willing to address the core issue: the poverty, hunger, unemployment, and civil wars that force millions of people to risk their lives and seek refuge in resource-rich countries via dangerous sea routes.

Therefore, if all the world's wealthy nations want to curb this influx, they must seriously consider providing resources to address the root causes. No immigrant leaves their homeland willingly; it is out of sheer desperation. Until a solution to the fundamental causes is found, the influx of immigrants will persist at any cost.

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

MORE DEPUTY CMS FOR KARNATAKA?

Sir — A minister in Karnataka's Siddaramaiah government has urged the Congress high command to appoint three more deputy chief ministers (DCMs) for the state, despite already having one in DK Shivakumar. It is ironic that as many as 12 Indian states have DCMs. The DCM post holds no constitutional importance; it serves as a selection post aimed at appeasing certain castes, communities, and individual egos. Furthermore, it is often used to placate dissenters or competitors within the party.

The question arises: does a stable state government require one or more DCMs when the chief minister is firmly in control? There are no clear guidelines that

India lifts Asia Cup in style



Hyderabadi Mohammad invaded Sri Lanka, and Mohammad Seeraj delivered a career-best performance, claiming 6/21 in just 7 overs. His invincible bowling shut down all avenues of escape for Sri Lanka, leading to their collapse with just 50 runs on the board. It was a one-man army act by Seeraj. On September

17, 2023, Sunday, it was all about Mohammad Seeraj. The apt description of the final is 'S vs. S' (Seeraj Vs. Sri Lanka).

The Asia Cup 2023 victory should be termed as a double victory for Seeraj and India. In a single over, he achieved 4 wickets, a first by an Indian in an international cricket match. He took 5 wickets within a span of just 16 balls, equaling the 'fastest in ODI' record of Chaminda Vaas (of Sri Lanka). (No Indian has taken more than 6 wickets in an ODI). He made 3 Sri Lankan batsmen duck out. All Indians hope that Seeraj can repeat this spell in the ODI World Cup matches to be held in October-November 2023, in India.

PV Madhu Nivriti | Hyderabad

define the role of a DCM. While high commands and chief ministers downplay the position of DCM by presenting it as equal among equals, the reality is that the DCM wields significant power, official or unofficial, second only to the chief minister. Therefore, it makes little sense to maintain the ornamental post of DCM. It should either be abolished or limited to just one DCM in a state.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

RBI'S NEW DIRECTIVE

Sir — The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has a consistent practice of issuing notifications that prioritize the interests of the public. In this regard, RBI has issued a significant directive pertaining to the release of movable and immovable property documents upon the full repayment or settlement of personal loans, along with penalties for violations of these instructions. This move aims to streamline practices and prevent customer grievances related to the release of such documents.

According to RBI's new guidelines, regulated entities (REs) are mandated to release all original movable and immovable property documents within 30 days after the complete repayment or settlement

of a loan account. This provision ensures that borrowers promptly regain ownership of their assets. Borrowers will have the flexibility to collect their original property documents either from the branch where the loan account was serviced. This added convenience enhances the borrower's experience. Transparency is also emphasized in loan sanction letters. RBI requires REs to specify the timeline and location for returning original property documents in loan sanction letters issued on or after the effective date. This clarity ensures that borrowers are aware of the process. In cases of a borrower's demise, RBI mandates that REs have a well-defined procedure for returning property documents to legal heirs. This procedure must be readily available on the REs' website, promoting transparency. In May, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das cautioned banks against aggressive growth strategies and loan evergreening, which leads to a rise in non-performing assets. It is commendable that Das is taking steps to address the gaps in bank governance practices.

Yash Pal Ralhan | Jalandhar

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Why does India trade with China?

India gains from Chinese imports as it allows for value addition in the country and helps create jobs

It is often asked why despite India's enmity against China, there is still a \$136 billion business between them. It is a fact that India shares quite unpalatable & hostile terms with China as it's one of the closest neighbours in Asia. But despite several border issues & dicey security threats to India flowing from China, the last year's (2022) bilateral trade between them was of \$136 billion. And just because of these high-yielding business figures, people tend to fall in ambiguity about India-China bilateral relations which are still financially affluent despite border disputes & China was being marked as Covid's epi centre by India.

So, the story is, actually India wants to subvert China's economic, diplomatic & geopolitical power and presence across the globe but India's economic stance & stature are not very competitive to send China out of the doors. Even in the contemporary era, no nation can afford to attack its enemy straightaway because the world has already witnessed a situation of stalemate



between Russia & Ukraine where not a single solution has come out.

The reason why India still opens its gates customs department to let Chinese products come inside is that, first of all, whatever products China exports to India are tangible items, not services. So, India has a hidden & special foreign trade policy to tackle China's abundance of exports to India, out of all those tangible products imported that India makes from China, a substantial part of it is of those goods that India imports in the form of raw material for shaping & polishing them further into finished goods. For example, the mics that news readers use are majorly manufactured inside China yet India imports them. Even though the metal stick used in eyeglasses is also from China, it is still being

imported by companies like Lenskart to procure just the raw material at a cheap cost from China & further convert that metal stick into stylish eyewear having more final value than its raw material's cost.

Another question the public raises is whose economy is dicier for India, the USA or China? So, it has already been propounded about the reason for India still being a bilateral trading partner with China. But Indians have less discourse about the nasty effects of the USA's economy on India. India in its bilateral trading ties with the USA is an importer because of the current account deficit. The sorts of goods & services India imports from the USA are unlike of China's which anyhow lead to some value addition in India. Brands like McDonald's & KFC have their genesis in the USA & India buys eatables from such multi-national food chains, but the crux is, that India cannot add any further value addition in a burger or a chicken bucket for selling it to some other party just like the case of China, where

India remains with a scope of doing 3 times valuation addition in a product imported as a raw material from China.

So, India has been more at the loss side in trading bilaterally with the USA in comparison to China because products India imports from the USA are directly consumed by the final customer, it may be a US Polo shirt, KFC's chicken, McDonald's burger, etc. Thus, there is no value addition in India. In questioning about the ideology of India's foreign trade policy, it was found that India restricts itself to importing completely manufactured products from others, it always nods to those products only having a scope of more value addition even when they are imported into India. It is so in the policy because it results in employment & income for Indians while they further process those unfinished products that were imported earlier.

(The writer is an expert on international business issues and has been featured in the International Business Times. Views are personal)



UTKARSH CHAUHAN

MONEY MATTERS

Gas price for Reliance to be reduced by 14% from October

The price of natural gas produced from difficult areas like KG-D6 of Reliance Industries is likely to be cut by about 14 per cent from next month in line with softening energy prices, sources said. For the six-month period starting October 1, the price of gas from deepsea and high-pressure, high-temperature (HPTP) areas is likely to be cut to around USD 10.4 per million British thermal unit from the current USD 12.12, they said. The government bi-annually fixes prices of the locally-produced natural gas -- which is converted into CNG for use in automobiles, piped to household kitchens for cooking and used to generate electricity and make fertilisers. Two different formulas govern rates paid for gas produced from legacy or old fields of national oil companies like Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd (OIL), and for newer fields lying in difficult-to-tap areas, such as deepsea. Rates are fixed on April 1 and October 1 each year.



CBI books Mandhana Industries in Rs 975 crore bank fraud

The CBI has registered an FIR against Mumbai-based Mandhana Industries (now GB Global Ltd) for allegedly defrauding a consortium led by Bank of Baroda of Rs 975.08 crore, officials said Tuesday. The CBI action follows a complaint from the bank which alleged that former Managing Director Purushottam Chhaganlal Mandhana, former Executive Director Manish Biharilal Mandhana, and a few others defrauded the consortium in a well-knit criminal conspiracy to funnel funds. The 39-year-old company controlled by the Mandhana family started availing credit facilities from the Bank of Baroda in 2008, but the account was declared a non-performing asset on December 31, 2016. The banks ordered a forensic audit which exposed a number of irregularities including diversion of funds to settle inter-corporate debts, not using a Trust and Retention Account (TRA) to route Rs 420.39 crore during July 2016-September 30, 2017, and fictitious purchases.



Salasar Techno Engineering gets Rs 75 crore order in Africa

Salasar Techno Engineering Ltd (STEL) has bagged an electricity transmission order worth around Rs 75.23 crore in Africa. The contract worth USD 9.40 million equivalent to Rs 752.38 million by Energy Development Corporation Ltd (EDCL) is for the Rwanda Transmission System Reinforcement and Last Mile Connectivity project, STEL said in a statement on Tuesday. The company is entrusted with the responsibility of providing end-to-end solution of designing, supplying, and installation of 110kv transmission lines connecting the African regions of Ruvinkwavu-Kirehe, Gabiro-Nyagatare, and Rulindo-Gicumbi, the statement said. The engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) order is expected to get completed within 18 months. "This order has enabled us to expand our presence in exports market. Africa, with its vast potential and growing energy demands, remains a region of promising market with enormous growth potential," a company spokesperson said.



Govt to soon tweak PLI schemes for pharma, textiles and drones

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government may soon tweak the production-linked incentive scheme for pharmaceuticals, drones and textiles sectors to encourage investment and boost manufacturing, an official said.

These sectors have been identified after inter-ministerial consultations on the performance of the scheme for various products.

The official also said that disbursement of production-linked incentives (PLI) for white goods (AC and LED lights) would start this month and that would push the amount of disbursement, which was only Rs 2,900 crore till March 2023.

The scheme was announced in 2021 for 14 sectors such as telecommunications, white goods, textiles, manufacturing of medical devices, automobiles, speciality steel, food products, high-efficiency solar PV modules, advanced chemistry cell battery, drones and pharma with an outlay of Rs



1.97 lakh crore. "We have identified the sectors. We are going to send the combined note to seek approval of the Union Cabinet. The changes include extending some time (for pharma sector) and adding some additional products in some sectors.

"In textiles, we are expanding the definition of certain other products in the technical textiles segment; in drones, we are increasing the amount," the government official, who did

not wish to be named said. The total amount allocated for the PLI scheme for drones and drone components is Rs 120 crore spread over three financial years.

A senior official of the commerce and industry ministry had earlier stated that some course corrections or tweaking were needed in PLI schemes that were not doing well.

PLI schemes for sectors which are not picking up well include high-efficiency solar

PV modules, advanced chemistry cell (ACC) batteries, textile products and speciality steel.

On the other hand, the scheme is doing well in sectors such as electronics, pharma, medical devices, telecom, food processing, and white goods.

The government is trying to sort out issues such as timely processing of claims, visa-related matters where vendors require Chinese professionals' expertise, and delay in getting environmental clearances that have been raised by certain stakeholders of PLI schemes.

The purpose of the scheme is to attract investments in key sectors and cutting-edge technology; ensure efficiency and bring economies of size and scale in the manufacturing sector; and make Indian companies and manufacturers globally competitive.

These schemes for all 14 sectors have been notified by the concerned ministries/ departments after due approval. These schemes are in various stages of implementation.

Google to integrate Bard with other Google apps, results in more languages

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Search engine Google has said it is opening up access to AI-powered chatbot Bard while integrating it with Google apps such as Maps, Docs and Drive and offering results in more languages and countries.

Touted as Google's answer to open-source GenAI platform ChatGPT, Google said Bard is now available in languages and countries worldwide. Users can collaborate on creative projects, start in one language and continue in up to over 40 languages and countries. Bard will be able to interact with information from Gmail, Docs and Google Drive to find, summarise and answer questions across personal content.

Google is also integrating real-time info from Maps, YouTube, Hotels and Flights - expanding Bard's capabilities by pulling in information from the Google apps and services. These extensions are enabled by default, and you can disable them any time, Google said.

UK says India trade talks 'continue as before' amid Canada allegations

PNS ■ LONDON

The UK government said on Tuesday that the "serious allegations" over the murder of a Sikh separatist leader in Canada will not impact its own ongoing trade negotiations with India.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's spokesperson at 10 Downing Street was asked about the impact the issue may have on India-UK relations after a government spokesperson said the UK remains in "close touch" with the Canadian authorities.

It follows Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's statement in Parliament on Monday that it is pursuing "credible allegations" of "potential" Indian links to the killing of Khalistani separatist leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar, the Chief of Khalistan Tiger Force and a designated terrorist. Canada also expelled an Indian diplomat.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in New Delhi on Tuesday strongly rejected the claims as "absurd and motivated" and dismissed a



"It would be inappropriate to comment further during the ongoing investigation by the Canadian authorities," the spokesperson said.

government spokesperson said.

"It would be inappropriate to comment further during the ongoing investigation by the Canadian authorities," the spokesperson said.

Later, when Sunak's spokesperson was pressed on the matter, he said work on the trade negotiations with India "continue as before".

India and the UK earlier this month agreed to continue to work at pace towards a "landmark" free trade agreement (FTA).

RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

IREDA inks MoU with Bank of Maharashtra



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) on Monday inked an initial pact with Bank of Maharashtra to finance renewable energy projects. The collaboration aims to promote and facilitate co-lending and loan syndication for a diverse spectrum of renewable energy projects across the nation, according to a statement.

"IREDA has signed a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) today, September 18," the statement said.

The MoU comprises several services, including co-lending and co-origination support for all renewable energy projects, facilitating loan syndication and underwriting, management of trust & retention

account for IREDA borrowers, and a commitment to establishing stable fixed interest rates spanning a period of 3-4 years for IREDA borrowings, the statement said.

Under the agreement, BoM can invest in the bonds issued by IREDA in accordance with the specified terms and conditions of the offering.

The MoU was signed by General Manager (Technical Services), IREDA, Bharat Singh Rajput, and General Manager (Retail & MSME Credit), BoM, Rajesh Singh, at IREDA's Business Centre here.

To address the substantial funding requirement of the renewable energy sector, including emerging technologies such as green hydrogen and offshore wind, IREDA has signed MoUs with public sector banks and financial institutions to collaborate on co-lending for big-ticket-size projects.

Germany's economy battling energy shock now

PNS ■ ESSEN (GERMANY)

For most of this century, Germany racked up one economic success after another, dominating global markets for high-end products like luxury cars and industrial machinery, selling so much to the rest of the world that half the economy ran on exports.

Jobs were plentiful, the government's financial coffers grew as other European countries drowned in debt, and books were written about what other countries could learn from Germany. No longer.

Now, Germany is the world's worst-performing major developed economy, with both the International Monetary Fund and European Union expecting it to shrink this year.

It follows Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the loss of Moscow's cheap natural gas an unprecedented shock to Germany's energy-intensive industries, long the manufacturing powerhouse of Europe.

The sudden underperformance by Europe's largest economy has set off a wave of criticism, handwringing and



debate about the way forward.

Germany risks "deindustrialisation" as high energy costs and government inaction on other chronic problems threat-

en to send new factories and high-paying jobs elsewhere, said Christian Kullmann, CEO of major German chemical company Evonik Industries

Steps for using AI to reduce pendency of consumer cases

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Consumer Affairs Ministry on Tuesday said it is working on using artificial intelligence (AI) to reduce the pendency of cases in various consumer courts in the country.

The ministry also said the National Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission (NCDRC) has successfully resolved 854 cases during August, the highest disposal rate in the current year.

This was possible due to proactive steps taken by the



NCDRC, streamlined processes and advanced technology like E-daakhil, which helped resolve cases faster than ever before, it added.

"In furtherance of keeping

the same momentum of disposal of cases, the Department has made filing of cases through E-daakhil in consumer commissions compulsory and soon going to launch the feature of VC (video conference) on E-daakhil," the ministry said in a statement.

As the scope of artificial intelligence is increasing rapidly, the ministry is "also working on using the AI facilities in reducing the pendency of cases in the National, State and District Consumer Commissions," it added.

JUTE PACKAGING

Jute mills foresee 30-50% production cuts on low procurement plan

PNS ■ KOLKATA

The jute industry is concerned over a threat of a 30-50 per cent production cut in three months till November, compared to the same period last year, because of a low demand for packaging material for foodgrains from various states, a senior official said on Tuesday.

The Indian Jute Mills Association (IJMA) has appealed to the Centre for a revision in the sixth (revised) supply plan issued by the Food & Public Distribution department. Foodgrain producers have to use jute as a packag-

ing material to a certain extent.

In the current jute season from September to November 2023, the actual demand indent placement is lower by 30-40 per cent. In September alone, demand indents are expected to be lower than 2.5 lakh bales against planned 3.21 lakh bales due to slow order placing by Maharashtra," IJMA Chairman Raghav Gupta told.

For the months of October and November, the indents are likely to be about 1.48 lakh bales against over 2 lakh bales as per the August plans, he stated.



Gold rises Rs 150; silver climbs Rs 400

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices rose Rs 150 to Rs 60,350 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday amid strong cues from global markets, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal had settled at Rs 60,200 per 10 grams.

Silver also climbed Rs 400 to Rs 74,800 per kilogram.

In the international markets, both gold and silver were trading higher at USD 1,936 per ounce and USD 23.33 per ounce, respectively.

"The Comex spot gold price surpassed resistance of USD 1,935 per ounce, following weakness in the dollar index and expectations that the Federal Reserve will keep interest rates unchanged at its September meeting," Saumil Gandhi, senior analyst of commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

Staff shortage at DGCA delays issuance of pilot licences

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is taking at least a couple of months to issue licences to trained pilots as the regulator is grappling with the shortage of staff at key positions, according to sources.

After training, individuals need to obtain a Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL) to be eligible to fly commercial flights.

Sources in the civil aviation ministry said that at present, a pilot has to wait for a couple of months to get his or her licence and the pendency time is likely to go up in the coming months. "The Directorate of Training and Licensing (DTL), under the Operations Department which deals with licensing, has a total of 129 sanc-

tioned posts of assistant directors. Of those, 92 posts or almost 72 per cent of the total strength are lying vacant," one of the sources said.

Till July 2022, the DGCA had only 72 sanctioned posts of assistant directors. In August 2022, the ministry created 57 new posts and the sanctioned strength rose to 129 positions.

"However, DGCA has failed to initiate any process to fill the 57 newly created posts. As many as 35 old posts out of the 72 that fell vacant due to retirement or promotions of the employees are also lying vacant," the source said.

When contacted, DGCA Director General Vikram Dev Dutt did not offer any comment on the issues.

However, a senior official on the condition of anonymity



said that the hiring process is tedious and time-consuming, and that is the reason for the delay in filling crucial posts.

As per the DGCA's own 'Standard of Service', after due process, a CPL has to be issued within three days.

Further, the source said the regulator published an adver-

tisement through the Union Public Service Commission (PSC) for filling entry-level posts in airworthiness, legal and air safety areas. However, no advertisement for filling the posts in the operations cadre at the entry level for assistant directors that deal with the licensing process has been

issued, the source added.

The sources at the ministry said that institutes which provide training for drone flying have to get a licence from the DGCA. Over a dozen such institutes have applied for licences but their applications are lying for approval for a considerable amount of time, they added. "Companies that sell drones to trained pilots have to obtain a UIN (Unique Identification Number) from the DGCA for each drone. Similarly, trained drone pilots also have to get a licence from the DGCA to fly drones.

Aviation experts, who are aware of the issue, said that the pendency time in issuing licences to pilots might go up as the operations department under DTL is under the restructuring process due to which the

files are moving among DGCA, the ministry and the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).

"So far as I know, even the higher positions such as the post of Deputy Director Generals (DDGs) are also facing severe shortage as the DGCA initiated new recruitment rules last year for these posts. "Out of total 18 DDGs posts at DGCA, 9 are vacant. As many as 7 out of these 9 posts were created in August 2022," Captain SS Panesar, Ex-Director of Flight Safety and Training at Indian Airlines, said.

According to him, in the absence of recruitment rules, the feeder cadre, -- directors from legal, airworthiness, operations, flying training aircraft and engineering, among other departments, could not be promoted.

SMEV seeks unified policy of road tax exemption for EVs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Society of Manufacturers of Electric Vehicles (SMEV) on Tuesday urged the government to formulate a unified policy of road tax exemption for Electric Vehicles (EVs) across the country.

In a letter to the Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, SMEV said a consistent and favourable policy environment is essential to accelerate the shift towards electric mobility in India.

"I am writing to request your esteemed office to weigh in on a unified policy of road tax exemption for EVs that will play a pivotal role in encouraging the adoption of

clean and sustainable transportation options, which is vital for our nation's environmental and economic future," SMEV Chief Evangelist Sanjay Kaul wrote. In July, SMEV had named Kaul as its Chief Evangelist to help revise the association's agenda.

In view of the Ministry of Heavy Industries' decision to reduce the subsidy component mid-way through the FAME II scheme, this input (unified policy of road tax exemption for EVs) from the government would become even more relevant and critical, he stated.

Road tax and registration fees aren't just bureaucratic formalities; they're pivotal factors influencing the rise or fall of EVs, Kaul said.

Richard Linklater's movie *Hit Man*, with Glen Powell, sells to Netflix for USD 20M

The Toronto International Film Festival may be over but it's biggest sale has just gone through. Netflix has acquired

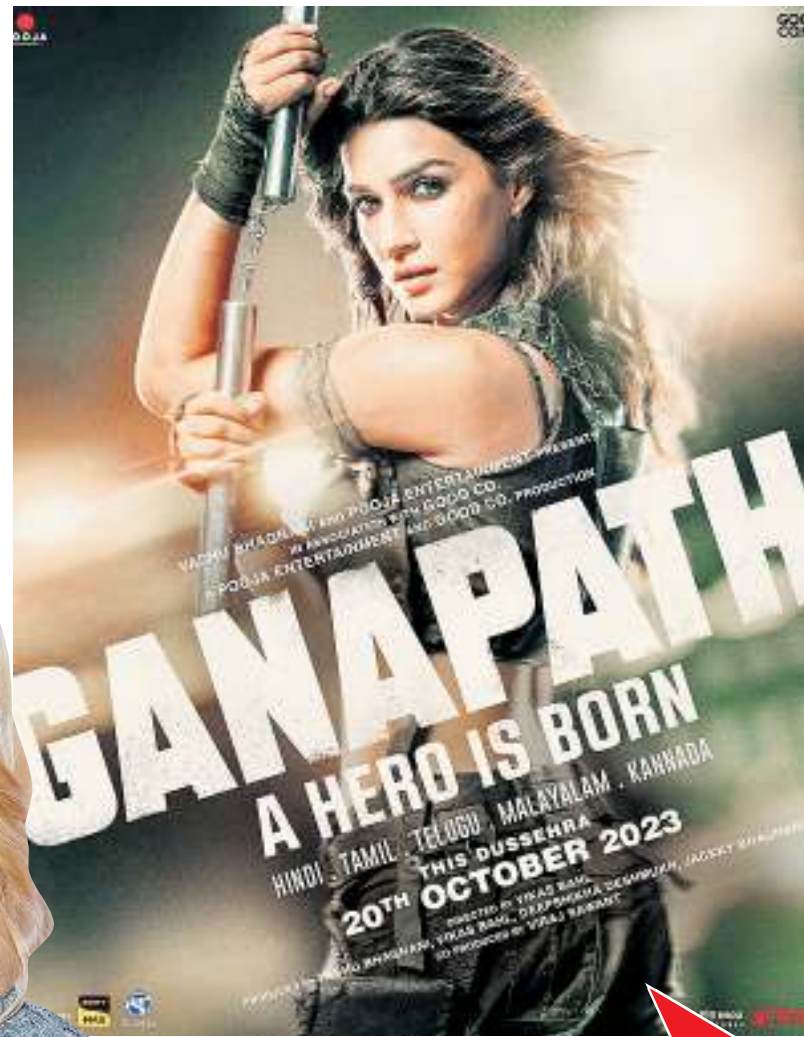
Richard Linklater's *Hit Man*, starring Glen Powell, for USD 20 million. *Hit Man*, which Linklater and Powell co-

wrote, stars the *Top Gun: Maverick* actor as a New Orleans psychology professor who also works undercover posing as a hit man for the police in sting operations to catch would-be murders.

The film, a comic, existential riff on the hit-man genre, was one of the breakout hits of TIFF, which concluded Sunday. Netflix didn't announce release plans yet for *Hit Man*, which also played at the Venice Film Festival. The film, which co-stars Adria Arjona as a wife who wants her husband dead, is loosely based on a true story detailed in a Skip Hollandsworth-written Texas Monthly article from 2001 about faux-hit-man Gary Johnson.

In an interview in

Toronto, Linklater, the veteran independent filmmaker of Boyhood said he and Powell elected to make the film before selling it to a distributor to avoid some of the pitfalls of modern Hollywood. *Hit Man* sale is the largest yet of the season.



Kartik Aaryan kickstarts Ganeshotsava in keeping with his tradition of day one darshan at Lalbaugcha Raja

The Ganpati Bappa festival is officially here and our celebs have also begun the festivities. Kickstarting the season like always in keeping with his day one Darshan, the ever handsome and young superstar, Kartik Aaryan visited Lalbaugcha Raja. Donning a pastel pink kurta, Kartik looked extremely dapper for the first day of Ganesh Chaturthi as he arrived early in the morning and started the season!

Taking to his social media the actor shared a sweet photo of him praying to the Lalbaug ka Raja and he wrote, "Its that joyous time of the year Ganpati Bappa Moriya #LalBagchaRaja"

The young actor has always been one to thank and take blessings of the lord, as he is traditionally seen visiting Lalbaug for the first day of the Ganeshotsava. He also follows a tradition of taking blessings of Bappa at Siddhivinayak on day one of his film releases. On the work front, his character of Sattu from *Satyaprem Ki Katha* continues to garner love on the internet meanwhile this superstar is busy with the shoot of his highly anticipated next with Kabir Khan, *Chandu Champion*.



Lili Reinhart opens about 'feeling insecure' about her arms

Actress Lili Reinhart says her "body dysmorphia has been going crazy" because she has been obsessing over the size of her arms. The *Riverdale* actress has criticised unrealistic standards of beauty and insisted most of the "skinny" limbs people see on pictures are only a natural size on teenagers as she said she regretted having "wasted" so much time worrying about her own biceps and triceps, reports [aceshowbiz.com](#). "I wish there were more average sized arms represented in mainstream media for women. My body dysmorphia has been going crazy because I feel like my arms need to be half the size they are currently?" she wrote on X (formerly Twitter). "We've glorified these skinny arms that, for most of us, can only be achieved if you're a literal adolescent. I truly wonder how anyone survives or gets through this life without having severe BD. Maybe it's a cruel amplified version

in combination with my OCD, but damn. The amount of time I've wasted thinking about my arms in the last few months is insane (sic)." The 27-year-old actress hoped her admission would offer support to other women worrying about their bodies. She added, "I wanted to throw my own thoughts out there to let other women know they aren't alone." This isn't the first time Lili has spoken up about unrealistic beauty standards as last year, she blasted Kim Kardashian for her "ignorance" when she revealed she had lost 16lbs in just three weeks to fit into Marilyn Monroe's dress for the Met Gala. Taking to her Instagram Story, she fumed, "To walk on a red carpet and do an interview where you say how starving you are ... because you haven't eaten carbs in the last month... all to fit in a f***** dress? So wrong. So f***** on 100s of levels."

KRITI SANON'S RAW AND RUGGED ACTION-PACKED AVATAR FROM GANAPATH UNVEILED

This Ganesh Chaturthi, brace yourself for a cinematic revelation that promises to redefine the way you perceive Kriti Sanon! Starring the dynamic trio of Tiger

Shroff, Kriti Sanon, and the legendary Amitabh Bachchan, *Ganapath: A Hero is Born* is a mass entertainer that promises to transport audiences into a futuristic world.

Following the poster launch of Tiger Shroff, this latest revelation of Kriti sanon's look takes the film's anticipation to new heights. In her raw and rugged action-packed avatar, Kriti Sanon hints at a remarkable transformation bound to leave audiences spellbound. This thrilling glimpse assures viewers that *Ganapath - A Hero is Born* is a roller-coaster ride of

action, emotions and entertainment. The movie promises a visual feast, seamlessly blending heart-pounding action sequences with a captivating musical score, offering an unforgettable cinematic journey. The excitement for this futuristic action thriller has been fueled by the much-anticipated reunion of action superstar Tiger Shroff and National Award-Winning Actress Kriti Sanon after nine years. Their on-screen chemistry is poised to set the silver screen ablaze once again, adding another layer of allure to the film.

Pooja Entertainment presents *Ganapath - A Hero Is Born* in association with Good Co directed by Vikas Bahl.

The film is produced by Vasu Bhagnani, Jackky Bhagnani, Deepshikha Deshmukh, and Vikas Bahl.

The film is set for a worldwide release in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada on October 20, 2023.

FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



NANCY



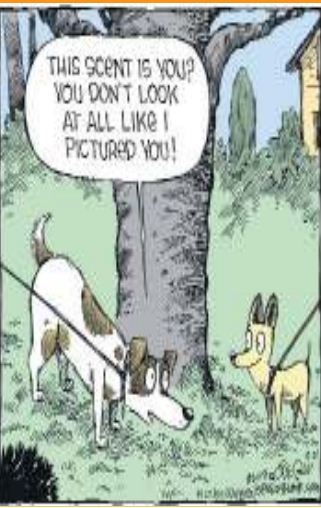
GINGER MEGGS



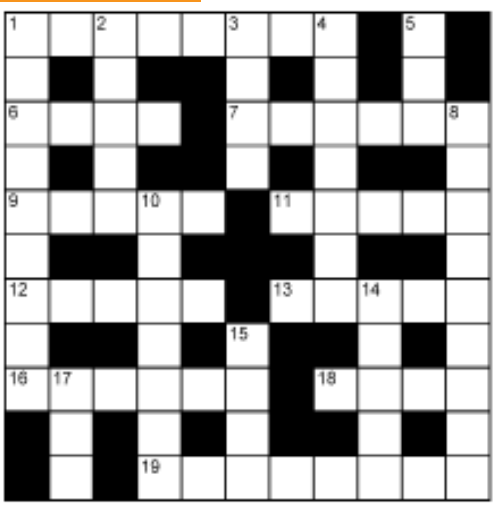
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Air-holes in your nose
- 6 Become larger
- 7 A spider's trap
- 9 Speaks
- 11 The body's pump
- 12 Uncles' wives
- 13 Took away illegally
- 16 Hot coals left from a fire
- 18 Meat from a cow
- 19 Unexpectedly, without warning

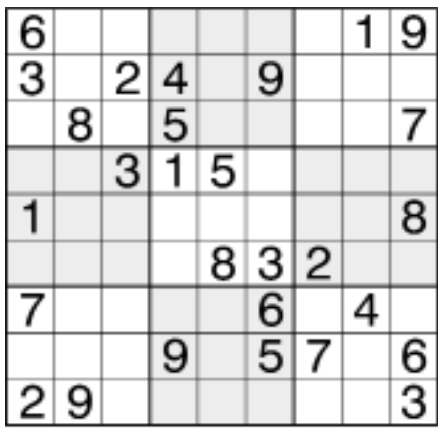
DOWN

- 1 A frightening dream
- 2 Small seat without a back
- 3 A feeling that makes you want to scratch

- 4 Topic
- 5 A chopping tool
- 8 An insect that flutters by
- 10 Baby cats
- 14 Sea
- 15 Second-hand
- 17 A month



SUDOKU



Yesterday's solution

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

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.

ECHOING THE FILM’S ETHOS THROUGH HIS MELANCHOLIC NOTES

TEJAL SINHA

Encapsulating the essence of a story through his music is none other than the musical maestro Mithoon—one of the busiest musicians we have in the industry. So much so that, every time one thinks of the astonishing B’wood music tracks, he’s been the man behind most of the chart-busters. Having been surrounded by musicians all throughout his childhood and his dad being a renowned expert in the music industry, Naresh Sharma, he never really had a Plan B. He began at an early age of 19, enthusing, “It was my father’s dream to see me where I am today, and I have made a lot of sacrifices and practice. I come from a gharana of practice, riyaz, and there was a lot of discipline that went into making me the musician that I am today. I feel that all those efforts have not gone in vain. I feel grateful that among so many people, I’ve had the privilege to do that, and people want to work with me so much that they come to me, work with me, and my listeners love me so much.”

His creations carry a melancholic note that echoes the film’s ethos. Though he had created a revolution in itself with the soulful tracks of *Aashiqui 2*, he also has credit to *Woh Lamhe Woh Raatein* (Zeher), *Maula Mere Maula*, *Javeda Zindagi* (Anwar), and *Aye Khuda*, *Phir Mohabbat* (Murder 2), to name a few. That’s a blockbuster to date. And now, with the recent *Gadar 2*, he has once again created a revolution. “Yes, you are right, *Aashiqui 2* was quite a revolution in the Indian music industry, and that was a very special phase in my career. After that, I’m very grateful to God that I’ve never looked back, and *Gadar 2* has once again been a revolution for cinema and music, and I just feel grateful. I feel the best of my career is yet to come.”

Just like the movie *Gadar 2*, the iconic tracks *Main Nikla Gadi Leke* or *Udd Jaa Kaale Kava* have once again brought the same old feelings and moments to relive the ardor. This time, even more! With these two iconic tracks, the *Ek Villain* artist had a very simple feeling—keeping the song, melody, and poetry alive with a lot of respect. “My idea was never to add anything to it or change the beauty of these songs. I have kept it very simple and clean, and I have respected the fabric created by the original creators. So my idea was to just pay respect and tribute and allow these melodies to shine by also bringing the original singers, Udit Ji and Alka Ji, so my intention was to let their works shine, and that’s what I have done, which has made people love it also.” Working on an iconic track is no less than putting immense pressure on oneself. But Mithoon, more than pressure, felt the responsibility that people were so connected to this

song that he could not afford to spoil them in any way. And no doubt, he has respectfully kept the chastity of the songs, the melody, and the poetry intact.

“It was quite an inspiring experience because of the kind of journey that they’ve had. We have grown up listening to their voices. They’ve worked so long in the industry that we call our ‘house’ today, and even to see their enthusiasm and commitment, both of them are such professionals. They rehearsed with me, gave me time in the studio, and would regularly call me up to check if I needed any changes that needed to be made. So this kind of focus and commitment even after achieving so much is highly inspiring for youngsters like us,” enthuses the *Darkhaast* artist, who attributes his success to emotions that connect people. For instance, he says, “If you see our songs *Dil Jhoom* and *Chal Tere Ishq*, both are trending. Emotions come from melody and poetry, so when the right melody and the right poetry meet, like what happened in *Gadar* as well, Uttam ji’s melody

and Bakshi ji’s poetry are why the songs are alive even twenty years later. Similarly in *Gadar 2*, my compositions along with the poetry written by

Sayed Quadri ji, I think the thoughts, words, and situations—even if you listen to *Khairiyat*—a father’s prayer. I feel it’s the emotions that people connect with ultimately, beyond the glamour and shimmer; if the emotion connects, then it becomes a success.”

Be it *Murder 2*, *Aashiqui 2*, or *Jism 2*, the music he has created for the sequels is astonishingly chart-busting in its own way. And no doubt, he has been given the tag of ‘Part 2 Music Specialist’! He couldn’t deny

the fact because he says, “Be it any project, I work on it with all my heart and honesty. If there is this tag getting attached to me, and I think as long as it allows me to do good music, I am open to the tag. If they call me the ‘Part 2 specialist’, I welcome the name.”

Classic songs being remade have always been a subject of debate, and in most cases, the recreated versions face criticism from audiences as well as the original singer and composer. Asking him about the same, he says, “If the creative interpretation has no definition, everybody will see the song differently. So at least I don’t really have a direct opinion on that.

But I definitely feel that one should at least take the necessary permission, and the legality of it should be in place before you do any cover or adaptation. A sort of attempt should be made to understand the heart of the original creator, that why did they use, make, and what is the essence of their creation, or the words that are very important, and I tried to do the same thing when I was working with *Gadar 2* as well.”

He also feels that the statistics are only an indication of how many people we are able to connect with. If one connects with people, the numbers will automatically come. Going ahead, Mithoon has been someone who has not really enjoyed recreating music, and with his songs being recreated, does he feel stressed or bothered? And he gleefully shares, “I don’t feel stressed, but I feel that, as an artist, I would not myself want to encourage the trend. I feel there’s a lot of talent in the country who can create good original music, and that should be encouraged. I myself have been vocal about not doing recreation in the past. In *Gadar 2*, I made an exception because it was a proper emotional sequence, and *Gadar 2* could not have been made without these iconic songs because this is a part of the story and family of Tara Singh, so that’s why I made an exception. I feel that for commercial reasons, the songs should not be recreated but rather encouraged to create new talent and a new legacy for the upcoming generation.”

On the work front, he is currently working with Mohit Suri for his next film, with Aditya Dutt for *Crakk*, and Anil Sharma for his next film.

MUSIC DIRECTOR-COMPOSER-LYRICIST MITHOON, THE MAN BEHIND SOME OF THE MOST ASTONISHING TRACKS WE HAVE EVERY YEAR, GETS CANDID WITH *THE PIONEER* ABOUT HIS MUSIC, THE MARVELOUS SUCCESS OF *GADAR 2* TRACKS, AND MORE.

‘I owe a lot of my life to football’

SHIKHA DUGGAL

In what comes as a great news to Hyderabad—our football club has completed the signing of versatile Brazilian attacker Felipe da Silva Amorim. It’s a huge task on his hands to replicate the kind of success that he’s been enjoying all these years, over here too. His addition has just further refined the squad and how!

Here we are speaking to the 32-year-old Brazilian football in an exclusive interview — “So well received by the Hyderabad team. They are used to a winning spree, and have been champions in the past. So, it’s a responsibility for me to leave my imprint too, I want to be part of these champions too.” Amorim becomes the fourth foreign signing of the club this summer. They also have a new coach, Conor Nestor, after Manolo Marquez shifted camps to join FC Goa this season. He continued his excitement, “The first goal I witnessed was against Corinthians by the phenomenal Ronaldo. It’s a wonderful memory and I will cherish this moment which will stay with me forever. The player that impressed me the most is Cristiano Ronaldo. His mentality and professionalism are top-notch. Even with so many achievements under his belt, he continues to always

want to be the best and I admire that.”

A Brasilia-born footballer, Amorim started his football career in his hometown, before joining Fluminense in 2016. He moved to Asia with Suphan Buri in Thailand and has spent the last three seasons in the country, amassing close to 100 appearances in all competitions, also winning the Thai FA Cup in 2021. “After God and my family, football is everything to me. It’s the sport I love and through it, I have been able to have a better life and I owe a lot of my life to it. Besides, I don’t think too much about personal records. But one I would like to achieve is to win as many titles as possible, with this club or wherever I am playing.” The versatile attacker who can play on either wing or through the middle, has represented Brazil U20s, has experience of the AFC Champions League, and has finished atop of his league seven different times, in five different leagues to date. Furthermore, in the conversation with us, he spilled, “My idol outside of football is Lebron James. I see the same in him as I see in Cristiano Ronaldo. The most memorable moment of my career was when I had the opportunity to play with Ronaldinho. It is another moment I will cherish all my life. So, I am trying to take it one step at a time. I still have a few years in football and when the time comes, I believe Jesus will help me in the next step that I must take.”

Brazilian attacker Felipe da Silva Amorim, who has recently joined the Hyderabad FC, speaks to *The Pioneer* sharing his excitement of being a part of the squad, his idol, and more.

Empowering sustainable change: biofuel integration in education

India’s quest for greener energy and amidst rising environmental concerns, biofuels offer a promising alternative to traditional fuels. It stands as a vital player in India’s energy mix, addressing around 5% of the nation’s energy demands. Promoting biofuels in educational institutions has become crucial, as they play a significant role not just as centres of education but as platforms nurturing awareness, innovation, and sustainable practices among young minds. This is transformative, as students empowered with new perspectives emerge as drivers of extensive biofuel adoption, prompting conversations within homes and communities. The article explores schools’ vital role in cultivating an understanding of biofuels and inspiring students to advocate for renewable energy solutions.

NURTURING CRITICAL THOUGHT AND ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

The integration of biofuel promotion

within education draws inspiration from the effective communication strategies employed in impactful campaigns. Just as these campaigns encourage sustainable behaviours, educational modules dedicated to biofuels nurture critical thinking among students. This empowers them to make informed choices, pondering the consequences of their energy consumption.

Incorporating the promotion of biofuels into educational curricula is essential for students to grasp the environmental and economic benefits of sustainable energy. To achieve this, academic institutions can employ various strategies. They can integrate biofuel-related topics across subjects, develop lesson plans with real-world examples, organise hands-on activities for experiential learning, hold interactive workshops with industry experts, arrange field trips to biofuel facilities, assign projects, invite guest speakers for diverse perspectives. To make the concept more approachable, schools can think about hosting a TED talk, which is a pow-

erful way to share thoughts and create a real impact. These strategies encourage students to consider the lasting impact of their decisions, fostering a sense of responsibility towards the environment.

A BRIDGE TO REAL-WORLD INSIGHT: COLLABORATIVE AND PRACTICAL LEARNING

Understanding the intricacies of biofuel production, distribution, and utilisation requires collaboration between schools, local biofuel initiatives, and industries. Schools become conduits for fostering partnerships that provide invaluable insights with real-world exposure to the production, distribution,

and utilisation of biofuels in India. Schools can adopt various strategies, such as organising visits to production sites and workshops led by experts, inviting indus-

try professionals for guest lectures, and facilitating internships and apprenticeships with biofuel organisations. Collaborative projects, student competitions, and industry mentoring also play pivotal roles. Developing educational resources with local biofuel initiatives, conducting awareness campaigns, offering skill development programmes, and engaging in joint research endeavours further enrich students’ practical learning experiences.

Through these efforts, students are prompted to engage in discussions surrounding the ethical dimensions of energy use. By participating in local biofuel initiatives and engaging in practical projects, students bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world application, enriching their understanding.

GUIDING THE PATH FORWARD: A SUSTAINABLE ETHOS

Essentially, schools are driving the biofuel narrative beyond mere concepts to instill an overarching ethos. By nurturing interdisciplinary viewpoints and fostering environmental consciousness, they impart values that transcend classroom boundaries. As students navigate the complexities of biofuels, energy choices, and ethical considerations, schools emerge as beacons of inspiration, guidance, and empowerment. This preparation equips the next generation to passionately advocate for integrating biofuels within an ever-evolving energy landscape. In a world where sustainable energy solutions are the need of the hour, schools are sowing the seeds of change. They are nurturing young minds to not only embrace the potential of biofuels but also to lead the charge towards a greener and more sustainable future.

(The author, K. J. Jasmine, is the principal of Orchids The International School, BTM Layout.)



ASHWIN BACK IN WORLD CUP RECKONING

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Seasoned off-spinner R Ashwin on Monday made a comeback to the Indian ODI team for the three-match series against Australia and will be competing for a potential World Cup berth with Washington Sundar if Axar Patel doesn't get fit in time for the global event.

Senior players including skipper Rohit Sharma, senior batter Virat Kohli, all-rounder Hardik Pandya and in-form spinner Kuldeep Yadav were rested from the first two games, giving them a chance to get mentally fresh for the mega event.

K L Rahul will lead the side in the first two games against Australia before Rohit returns to lead a full strength squad in the third and final ODI ahead of the World Cup beginning October 5. The squad for the third game is effectively the 15 picked for World Cup and Ashwin and Washington.

Ashwin, who last played an ODI back in January 2022 in South Africa, could be a last minute addition to the World Cup side if Axar doesn't get fit before the September 28 deadline set by the International Cricket Council.

Axar had sustained a quadriceps tear during the recently held Asia Cup in Sri Lanka and missed the final against Sri Lanka on Sunday.

Chief selector Ajit Agarkar said both Ashwin and Washington are in contention for the replacement slot if Axar doesn't recover in time.

"There are couple of guys anyways, him and Washington. Look basically, what is being made known to us about Axar's injury is that he should be okay



and call we will make it once we know that but it leaves us with option to check these guys if they need to go that way," Agarkar told the media during a virtual session.

"If the need arises, we will look at that way but I don't think there is any need to speculate right now because we are hoping that Axar is fit," he added.

When the Ajit Agarkar-led selection panel had picked the 15-man squad for the World Cup at home earlier this month, questions over non selection of an off-spinner were raised with some of the opposition side's top order having multiple left-handers.

After the squad announcement on Monday, captain Rohit

was asked why Ashwin was not part of the Asia Cup squad if he was in the scheme of things. The India skipper responded by saying that a proven performer like Ashwin can be straightaway drafted into the team if the need arises.

Ashwin, who was sidelined from the India ODI set up following the Champions 2017 Trophy, made a recall to the side in January last year for the ODI series in South Africa. He made his comeback after four and a half years only to be sidelined again.

Ashwin's T20 career has also had a similar trajectory with the 37-year-old being left out of the team following the World Cup in Australia last year.

Injury-prone Shreyas Iyer,

who could only play two games in the Asia Cup due to a back spasm, is also available for all three ODIs.

"He got through his batting programme fine and at the moment, he is fit. We hope that he gets through all these three games," said Agarkar.

The first ODI will be played in Mohali on September 22, second in Indore on September 24 and third in Rajkot on September 27.

Following that, India will their two World Cup warm-up games against England and Netherlands on September 30 and October 3 in Guwahati and Trivandrum before playing their tournament opener against Australia in Chennai on October 8.

Squad for the first two ODIs: KL Rahul (captain), Ravindra Jadeja (vice-captain), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shubman Gill, Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar Yadav, Tilak Varma, Ishan Kishan (wicketkeeper), Shardul Thakur, Washington Sundar, R Ashwin, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohd. Shami, Mohd. Siraj, Prasidh Krishna.

Squad for third ODI: Rohit Sharma (captain), Hardik Pandya, (vice-captain), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar Yadav, KL Rahul (wicketkeeper), Ishan Kishan (wicketkeeper), Ravindra Jadeja, Shardul Thakur, Axar Patel (subject to fitness), Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, R Ashwin, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohd. Shami, Mohammed Siraj.

With Ashwin, lack of game time is not much of concern: Rohit

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ravichandran Ashwin finds himself in contention for a World Cup spot despite lack of game time but it doesn't concern skipper Rohit Sharma one bit.

The 37-year-old Ashwin, who last played an ODI in January 2022, was picked for the upcoming three ODIs against Australia alongside Washington Sundar. Both the off-spinners will be fighting for that potential World Cup spot if Axar Patel doesn't get fit in time for the global event beginning October 5.

"With the kind of experience Ashwin has, close to 100 Tests (94), close to 150 ODIs (113) and yes it is all in the past but he has been consistently playing Test cricket and with guys like Ashwin having game time is not so much of a concern," said Rohit after the squad was announced for Australia series beginning September 22.

"...With guys like him, it's all in the head, more than body and the stuff. We made the decision speaking to him and understanding where he is at with regards to his body and stuff like that.

"It's not like he is not playing any cricket. Yes, he hasn't played the format but he has been playing Test cricket in West Indies, and if I am not wrong, played T20 as well



and although no comparison there but there is still some cricket there, and it gives us chance to look at how he is bowling," he said.

The selectors have rested in-form Kuldeep Yadav for the first two ODIs.

Asked if that was done to keep an element of surprise in the World Cup, Rohit said, "Kuldeep is a wrist spinner and needs rhythm but we also deliberated that his bowling form is great and as Ajit (chief selector) said we needed to give some of the players chance as they played only one match in Asia Cup and are there in WC squad and we needed to check them as well.

"Kuldeep, we have seen for last 18 months and we didn't want to expose him. He will be playing in the last match and the best decision to see him is in 3rd match. We have two practice games and he will be back in bowling

rhythm," said the skipper.

Rest given to senior players in the first two ODIs will provide opportunity for fringe players like Tilak Varma and Ruturaj Gaikwad.

"Our endeavour is to give everyone a chance. If we only play 11 through the year, then you can't create bench strength. You can see that some other teams are facing injury problems because it also involves lot of travelling and we have to play 11 matches and criss-cross the country," Rohit said when asked about travelling involved over the course of the World Cup.

"So, we will have a lot of travelling and a lot of matches. We want to make sure that some of the guys sitting out have enough confidence by playing a few games and not like suddenly they are thrown in. Eventually players need to be ready and anyone can be called at any time.



Pujara suspended for one game after Sussex docked 12 pts

PTI ■ HOVE

India international Cheteshwar Pujara has been suspended from one county game after his team Sussex was docked 12 points in the County Championship due to a code of conduct breach during the match against Leicestershire.

Pujara received an automatic suspension after the club reached the threshold of four fixed penalties in the same season and won't be available for this week's game against Derbyshire, according to a report in ESPN Cricinfo.

Sussex have also made the decision to stand down three players - Jack Carson, Tom Haines and Ari Karvelas - for behaviour that in the words of head coach, Paul Farbrace, "tarnished" the dramatic 15-run win over Leicestershire last week, the website reported.

"We have made Jack and Tom unavailable for selection for this game at Derbyshire," Farbrace said. "Following the umpires and match referee's decision to charge both players with on-field level one and level two offences, we needed to take a stance, and show them we will not condone such behaviours.

"Ultimately it has cost us the availability of Cheteshwar and we have been deducted 12 points."

Rajinikanth to be 'distinguished guest' during WC: BCCI

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Superstar Rajinikanth will "grace" next month's ICC World Cup as a "distinguished guest," the BCCI said on Tuesday, while extending him the Golden Ticket that allows unhindered access during the multi-country tournament.

BCCI Honorary Secretary Jay Shah presented the Golden Ticket to the top star, BCCI said on its X handle, sharing a photo of the two.

"The Phenomenon Beyond Cinema! The BCCI Honorary Secretary @JayShah presented the golden ticket to Shri @rajinikanth, the true embodiment of charisma and cinematic brilliance. The legendary actor has left an indelible mark on the hearts of millions, transcending language and culture," it said.

"We are thrilled to announce that Thalaiva will grace the @ICC @cricket-worldcup 2023 as our distinguished guest and will light up the biggest cricketing spectacle with his presence.



#GoldenTicket," BCCI added.

The marquee tournament will kick off in Ahmedabad on October 5, with the 2019 edition finalists-England and New Zealand- facing off in the inaugural tie.

The golden tickets are a promotional strategy used by the BCCI for the showpiece event it is hosting, with the recipients granted VIP treatment during World Cup matches.

Finland vs Canada in Davis Cup quarterfinals



AP ■ LONDON

Finland's reward for beating the United States of America and Croatia to reach the knockout stage of the Davis Cup is a quarterfinal match against defending champion Canada.

Finland has never reached this stage before in the top team event in men's tennis.

The draw for the Final 8 was made on Tuesday. Serbia will play Britain, the Czech Republic will meet Australia and Italy will take on the Netherlands in the other matches in the quarterfinals.

are issuing these charges on the ECB's behalf," ICC said in a statement.

Sanghi has been charged under Articles 2.2.1 and 2.4.6 of the Anti-Corruption code.

The Article 2.2.1 pertains to "Placing bets on the results, progress, conduct or other aspect of International and Domestic Matches."

We are world champions, we will be favourites at Asian Games: Sen

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Young star Lakshya Sen said India, the Thomas Cup champions, are favourites to win the Asian Games men's team gold in badminton, and he is also nourishing the dream of meeting compatriot and Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra during the quadrennial event.

Sen, a 2021 world championships bronze medallist, was one of the architects of India's epic Thomas Cup victory in May last year. He said India will be a top contender for the gold at Asian Games.

"Definitely, the team is looking really good. It is the same team that won the Thomas Cup, so we are going as world champions. I think the players who are playing against us know that it is not easy (to defeat India), as we can beat any team in the world," Sen told PTI.

Sen underlined the need for a collective effort at the Asian Games.

"I don't think we lack confidence. We have this camaraderie, and we know how to go about it. All the teams are tough and we have to give our best.

"We will need a good, collective effort to do well there. The whole team is positive and we are hoping for a good result," Sen said.

The 22-year-old from Almora, who won a silver at the 2018 Youth Olympic Games and a gold at the 2022 Commonwealth Games, will be playing only the team championships at the 19th edition of the showpiece.

"It will be my first experience at the Asian Games. It is a similar kind of atmosphere, like the Commonwealth Games and Youth Olympics. "So I am looking forward to the event and also I will be getting a chance to meet other



onships at the 19th edition of the showpiece.

"It will be my first experience at the Asian Games. It is a similar kind of atmosphere, like the Commonwealth Games and Youth Olympics.

"So I am looking forward to the event and also I will be getting a chance to meet other

Indian and foreign athletes, and learn about their sports and life," said Sen.

"In the Commonwealth Games last year, we were there with the TT contingent, as only we played from the first to last day of the tournament. Their matches were in next hall. So, I watched a lot of TT

matches. I didn't have time to see other events," he said.

Sen, who is currently ranked world no. 11, missed the individual event at the Asian Games after he lost to Kidambi Srikanth in the selection trials in May this year.

Sen hoped that it will give him some to meet Chopra, who will be competing in the javelin throw, in person.

"I'm only playing team event. So, I look forward to meeting Neeraj Chopra. If I get some time, I would love to go and watch him perform and support him.

"I have spoken to him before but never met him in person. So, I am really looking forward to that," he said.

The Indian players, who didn't get time to have a long training session due to busy international schedule, are currently honing their skills in a week-long camp in Hyderabad.

"This time there were some big events like China super 1000 and World Championships, which were kind of unavoidable.

"But we have been competing very recently and it is the same for everyone. The match preparation is there and it is all about playing well on the day.

"It is like a big pressure tournament, a lot of people in India give importance to Asian Games. So, I am going (to the Asian Games) with my full intention and expecting good results," he said.

Badminton events will start with the team competition on September 28.

Visa issues hit inaugural MotoGP race in India

PTI ■ GREATER NOIDA

Some of the riders and team

Officials bound for the inaugural MotoGP round in India, including six-time champion Marc Marquez, are awaiting their visas ahead of the race this weekend.

Sources in Repsol Honda Team said that the arrival of its riders Marquez and Joan Mir in India has been delayed due to visa issues.

Both the Spanish drivers were scheduled to attend a promotional event near Delhi on Wednesday but now that visit stands cancelled.

"The riders are yet to reach India due to visa issues.

So there was no option but to cancel tomorrow's event," a source said.

Dorna Sports are the organisers and rights holders of the event. Fairstreet Sports are the local promoters of the event.

Sources in Fairstreet said that around 1800 visas needed to be applied for personnel in the paddock but a technical glitch in the application system caused the delay. However, sources said, as of Tuesday, most of the visas have been issued barring a few lacking proper documentation.

"The visa were applied on September 5 but due to a technical glitch on the part of the travel agency, the delay happened. 600 visa applications were pending till yesterday, now most of them have been cleared including the visa to Marquez.

"Few individuals who have not filled up the form properly are left. You can't do anything about that as one has to follow law of the land. Majority of the team officials and riders are already here," said a source.

India is hosting an event of this magnitude for the first time since the now defunct Formula 1 Indian Grand Prix. The race was dropped from the calendar following the

2013 season due to financial, taxation and bureaucratic issues.

Dorna and Fairstreet have signed a seven-year MoU for the race in India but the event's future hugely depends on how this weekend unfolds.

Earlier this year, India hosted its first FIA World Championship status in 10 years when the Formula E race was held in Hyderabad. It is unlikely that the championships will return next year after not finding a place on the provisional calendar for 2024.

Formula E was not pleased with how the local organisers left the preparations to the very last minute.

‘Rudram Kota will have scenes that no one has shown till now’



Director Ramu Kona, who has previously directed over 5000 TV serial episodes, is debuting as a film director with *Rudram Kota*. He speaks about the movie, his journey and more.

PNS | HYDERABAD

Rudram Kota, starring senior artist Jayalalitha in a pivotal role, produced by Anil Arka Kandavalli, is written and directed by Ramu Kona. Starring Rudhra, Vibhisha and Riya in lead roles, the thriller is going to be released in theatres on September 22 through Screen Max Pictures.

Director Ramu Kona, who has previously directed 5000 TV serial episodes, is debuting as a film director with this movie.

Speaking about how he forayed into the entertainment industry, he said, “I entered the industry in 2001. Tried to be an actor. I tried a lot but it didn’t work out. At that time, I worked for a TV serial named *Padmavyuham* for a few days through a make-up man. After that, I stopped doing it due to some issues. I moved to Madras. Through a friend there, I joined director Suresh as an assistant director to work for a serial. I learned a lot of things from him. After that, I worked as a prompter for some TV serials. That’s how my career took off. So far, I have directed hit serials for all major TV channels. Till now, I have directed more

than five thousand episodes. I have also done serial production for Zee Telugu and Maa TV. That time I got an opportunity to direct this movie *Rudram Kota*.”

Rudram Kota is a film based on some real incidents which were happened near the place *Rudram Kota*. This is a coming-of-age love story that grows up in a graveyard. The story takes place in the backdrop of *Rudram Kota*, a village near Bhadrachalam. According to the director, the film will have scenes that no one has shown till now. The movie has elements that will appeal to all sections of the audience. “It can be said that it is a youthful entertainer with love and lust at its centre. There is also a message,” the director said.

Senior actress Jayalalitha has played the lead role in this. The director shared, “Her performance as Kotamma is amazing. Rudhra acted as the hero. Although this is his first film, he acted without any inhibitions. He is convincing in his role. Also, heroines Shakti and Vibhisha both acted so well. Every character is crucial to the story. Jayalalitha’s role as Kotamma is the biggest highlight of the movie. There are five songs in this movie. Subhash Anand and Niranjana are the two music directors who have worked on the music. Recently, songs have been released via Tips Audio. The response has been fab.”

The movie was entirely shot in 26 days in a village called *Rudram Kota*.

Lastly, the director spoke about his inspiration and said, “Rajamouli is my role model as a director. He also first did a serial called *Shanti Nivasam*. After that, he directed films and took Telugu cinema to the Oscar level. I find him exemplary and inspirational.”

Tamil actor Vijay Antony’s daughter allegedly dies by suicide

Meera Antony, the daughter of Tamil actor-composer Vijay Antony, allegedly died by suicide on Tuesday at her home in Chennai. She was reportedly 16.

Reacting to an old tweet by Meera’s mother, film trade analyst Ramesh Bala tweeted, “In March of this year, Fatima Vijay Antony was so happy that her daughter Meera Vijay Antony became the cultural secretary of her school students association.

We all congratulated her on Twitter. She was the world to her parents. Can’t imagine the pain.”

Meera was a Class 12 student of a private school in Chennai.

According to reports, Meera, who was under pressure and was getting treatment for the same, was taken to a private hospital after being found hanging at her Chennai residence. Upon examination by the doctors, she was declared her dead.

Meera was found hanging at the



residence around 3.00 a.m. by the house help. The shocked family rushed her to the hospital where she was declared dead.

Meera is survived by her father, mother Fatima and her sister Lara.

Martin Luther King in cinemas from Oct 27, marks Sampooranesh Babu comeback

Sampooranesh Babu, a renowned actor in Tollywood, is known for his distinct parody humor, which can be seen in movies like *Kobbari Matta* and *Hrudaya Kaleyam*. Not only were these movies entertaining, but they also were huge box office hits. Sampooranesh Babu, however, participated in a number of Telugu movies after the initial uproar surrounding *Hrudaya Kaleyam*, but he found it difficult to repeat his prior popularity.

Sampooranesh Babu is about to make a triumphant return to Tollywood with a political comedy named *Martin Luther King* after a protracted absence from the big screen.

Recently, the movie’s official title and first-look poster were



revealed, sparking much enthusiasm among fans and cinema buffs alike. The first look poster for *Martin Luther King* is unlike anything we’ve seen before.

It features Sampooranesh Babu donning a crown on his head, surrounded by political leaders actively campaigning for votes. The intriguing visual has piqued the curiosity of moviegoers, suggesting that this film promises to deliver something extraordinary.

Actors Nareesh and director Venkatesh Maha, who will both play significant roles in the film, will join Sampooranesh Babu in the cast.

There is excitement for this comeback endeavor because the film’s production team has already revealed that *Martin Luther King* will be released in theaters on October 27.

SS RAJAMOULI ANNOUNCES DADASAHEB PHALKE BIOPIC

Filmmaker SS Rajamouli has announced the biopic on Dadasaheb Phalke titled *Made In India*, which will be directed by National Award-winning filmmaker Nitin Kakkar.

Taking to Instagram and X, where he shared the teaser of the project, Rajamouli, who will be presenting the movie, said that making the biopic is tough.

“When I first heard the narration, it moved me emotionally like nothing else. Making a biopic is tough in itself, but conceiving one about the Father of Indian Cinema is even more challenging. Our boys are ready and up for it...”) With immense pride, Presenting *Made in India*...” Rajamouli captioned the video.

Made in India is said to be based on the ‘Father of Indian cinema’ Dadasaheb Phalke.

The film will be released in six languages --



Marathi, Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam and Kannada.

The film will be produced by Varun Gupta of MaxStudios and SS Karthikeya of Showing Business.

Other details about the film are still under wraps.



Ravi Teja unveils Dhekho Mumbai from Rules Ranjann

Kiran Abbavaram, who shot to fame with *Raja Vaaru Rani Gaaru*, *SR Kalyana Mandapam*, *Vinara Bhagyamu Vishnu Katha*, will be seen alongside DJ Tillu fame Neha Sshetty for the entertainer *Rules Ranjann*. The film, helmed by Rathinam Krishna, the director behind films like *Nee Manasu Naaku Telusu*, *Oxygen*, releases in theatres on October 6. Produced by Divyanga Lavania, Murali Krishnaa Vemuri under Star Light Entertainment, the film is presented by noted producer AM Rathnam.

Rules Ranjann struck a right chord with the supremely engaging trailer launched recently. Amrishi scores the music for the film and all the three songs - *Enduku Ra Babu*, *Sammohanada*, *Naalo Lene Lenu* - are a hit with listeners. The fourth song from the film - *Dhekho*

Mumbai - was launched by Mass Maharaja Ravi Teja on Tuesday. He was full of praise for its catchy tune and the appealing picturisation, predicted it would be a chartbuster. Adnan Sami and Payal Dev have crooned for the number which has lyrics by Kasarla Shyam and well-known Hyderabad rapper Megh-Uh-Watt. Renowned dance choreographer Sireesh has worked on the catchy number. ‘Dekho Mumbai..Dosti Mazaa..Peeke Karlo Masti Mazaa..Zindagi Jeevincheddam..Jaaneeman...’ the song starts on a jubilant note where the protagonists - Kiran and Neha Sshetty - explore Mumbai together.

The number is delectably shot in among the most iconic spots of the city; there’s great energy in the moves and the lead actors portray its celebratory vibe with enthusiasm.

The vibrant lyrics, with the liberal mix of Hindi and Telugu words are easy on the ears and the rapper Megh-Uh-Watt’s lines lend it a trendy exterior. It’s indeed a pleasant sight to notice the joy with which both Adnan Sami and Payal Dev go about their rendition. By the end of the number, the protagonists gradually fall in love with one another. The video aptly ends with the lines ‘The heart is full, the streets are alive, the city of dreams Mumbai, where love never sleeps *Rules Ranjann* centres around protagonists who’re polar opposites - a traditional boy who goes by rules and traditions in contrast to a freespirted woman who has a voice of her own. The film focuses on the various quirky situations that surface during their relationship, offering a right mix of romance, humour and emotions.

Chiranjeevi blood bank supplies 100 units to state govt aiding poor

Megastar Chiranjeevi has always been at the forefront in serving the people and never backed down to any extent to help them in times of emergency.

This has been Chiranjeevi’s commitment to the people who supported him in the movies and elevated him to a higher position. Mega fans understood his wish and has always stood in his support for the cause. Megafans continue to donate blood regularly as per Chiranjeevi’s blood bank, so no one loses their life due to lack of blood.

He has already given lakhs of units of blood free of charge in order to help in times of emergency. Such generosity has once again been done by Chiranjeevi Charitable Trust. 100 units to Osmania Hospital, Hyderabad, 100 units to Gandhi Hospital, 100 units to Niloufer Hospital, 100 units to poor patients being treated in Warangal, 100 units to poor patients being treated in Mahbubnagar, Chiranjeevi donated blood through Red Cross Society for the needs of poor patients.

In this background, Dr. Madhavi praised the fans and blood donors who supported such a massive program, saying that this blood donation by fans is bringing light to the lives of many poor people.



Dil Raju: Rakshasa Kavyam is the perfect movie for current generation

Abhai Naveen, Anvesh Michael, Pawan Ramesh, Dayanand Reddy, Kushalini and Rohini are starring in the movie *Rakshasa Kavyam*. Damu Reddy and Shinganamala Kalyan are producing this film under the banners of Garuda Productions, Pingo Pictures and Cine Valley Movies. Naveen Reddy and Vasundara Devi are co-producers. Umesh Nigg is the executive producer.

The film *Rakshasa Kavyam* is directed by Sriman Keerthi. The film is going to hit the screens on October 6. Recently the trailer of this movie was released by ace producer Dil Raju. On the occasion, Producer Dil Raju said, “I watched the trailer of *Rakshasa Kavyam*. This is an attempt made by the newcomers in the industry for the current generation. After watching the trailer, I understood that the director has so much potential. Director’s are making



good films. If you come with a good story, you will surely succeed. The producer has made a good effort with the newcomers. If the film is good, the audience will surely love it. Content coming with negative characters is becoming successful. I am afraid that even if I make a film with a positive story, it will not work out. The makers caught the trend. He made a film that is needed

for today’s audience. When the point is being made that heroes should win and villains should win. The film is going to be released on October 6th. In the meantime, taking your film to the audience is a big challenge. If you can bring people to the theaters and if the movie is good then the media will support and the audience as well.”

Meanwhile director Sriman Keerthi expressed his gratitude towards Dil Raju, and said, “The inspiration of watching different concept movies like *Dil Raju’s Arya* and *Dil* remained somewhere in my mind. I can say that the inspiration for *Rakshasa Kavyam* is definitely there. Our movie gives the feeling of watching a different movie. See you in theaters on October 6.”

“If Dil Raju garu comes to any movie event, the buzz will be more. *Rakshasa Kavyam* movies will remain special in my career. Because I have not acted in such a character till now. Thanks to Sriman anna for giving me this opportunity. This is a movie that takes you to a new world for two hours. As an audience, I have seen this movie, so I am sure that you will like it. If you like our trailer, share it with your friends,” shares hero Abhai Naveen.



Sai Pallavi to join NC23, cue makers

It is known that Akkineni’s young hero Naga Chaitanya is doing his next film under the direction of Chandu Mondeti. As Naga Chaitanya’s 23rd film is coming to the screen, expectations are slowly increasing. Because the director is going to cast Chandu Naga Chaitanya in the role of Never Before. Naga Chaitanya is going to be seen in the role of a fisherman in this movie. This movie is being made based on real life incidents. The director took a lot of time for the pre-production work of this film. After many workshops,

they decided to start the film with a side plan. And the works related to this movie have almost reached the final stage.

It is known that in 2018, 21 fishermen who went for hunting on the coast from Gujarat were caught by the Pakistan Coast Guard. Director Wendi is going to bring this movie on the screen based on the life of one of them, Rama Rao. Naga Chaitanya had already gone to Sriakulam district and saw the lifestyle of the fishermen there. While various names were under consideration till now, Sai Pallavi seems to have been fixed. It has not been officially announced yet but a special video has been released by the film’s unit members in which Sai Pallavi’s face is not visible. And if you see those gestures, you will understand that it is Sai Pallavi. It can be said that their combination will definitely be a hot pick.

PA...PA... MOVIE FIRST LOOK OUT

Tamil blockbuster movie *Da...Da...* presented by Olympia Movies and produced by S. Ambeth Kumar is now ready to release in Telugu under Smt. Neeraja Presents, Pan India Movies and JK Entertainments collaboration. Produced by M. S. Reddy Garu and Srikanth Nunepalli and Sashank Chennuru as Co Producers, *Da...Da...* is going to be released as *Pa...Pa...* in Telugu. On this occasion, producer M.S. Reddy said, “*Da...Da...* is youthful, love and family entertainer movie and it is a blockbuster movie in Tamil collected crores and now I feel proud to say that we are releasing this movie in Telugu as *Pa...Pa...*. We faced a lot of competition and we spent a good amount of money bagging the rights to show it to our Telugu people.”

“As of now, we released the first look of the movie and within a short time, we will release the trailer in a grand way. As Telugu audiences always encourage new talent, I am expecting that this movie also will be a huge hit by Telugu audiences,” he concluded.

