

Canada's action a blow to G-20 declaration

Canada is a signatory to the declaration that G-20 nation should allow its territory to be used for promotion of terrorism in another country at the recently concluded G-20 Nations Summit held in Delhi.

Surprisingly, anti-India terrorist activities are being allowed to continue in Canada. It may be recalled that in 1980s, some Sikhs who advocate creation of Khalistan led a separatist movement and claimed the lives of thousands. The then PM Indira Gandhi urged Canada in 1982 to see to it that Sikh extremism is not allowed in that country.

Then Pierre Trudeau, who was the father of current Canada PM Justin Trudeau, was the Prime Minister of Canada. However, in 1984 as misfortune would have it, Sikh bodyguards of Mrs Gandhi claimed her life. In 1985, Sikh extremists had blown up an Air India flight after it taking off from Canada claiming lives of 329 passengers, including 268 Canadians.

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

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

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

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

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

of other countries.

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

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

Modi requested PMs of



Y SATYA KUMAR
BJP National Secretary

freedom of the speech.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

pared to maintaining economic and political ties with Canada.

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

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

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

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

Hearing in CBN's...

Continued from Page 1

Further, the Naidu's legal team, led by Supreme Court lawyer Pramod Dubey, was asked to file their counter, if any, on the custody petition by tomorrow.

Though the CID's prisoner on transit (PT) petitions in the AP FiberNet and Amaravati Inner Ring Road cases did not come up for hearing on Monday, Vivekananda observed that they are expected to be taken up one by one at a later date. However, he said that the court insisted on hearing the bail petition before the PT warrants as it is concerned with the personal liberty of an individual.

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

After the two-day police custody of Naidu ended on Sunday evening, the court had extended his judicial remand till October 5. On Friday, the Andhra Pradesh High Court dismissed the TDP chief's FIR quash petition, prompting Naidu to approach the Supreme Court.

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

New international...

Continued from Page 1

The ACA team, consisting of president P. Sarath Chandra Reddy, secretary S.R. Gopinath Reddy, and treasurer AV Chalam held discussions concerning a range of cricket development initiatives in Andhra Pradesh with BCCI president Roger Binny, secretary Jai Shah, vice president Rajeev Shukla, and other notable individuals.

Following these deliberations, Jai Shah purportedly provided ACA officials with assurance that he would soon make a visit to Vizag to evaluate the project and offer essential support for the construction of the new international stadium. The realization of this commitment remains to be seen in the near future.

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha

Tithi: Dvadashi: Sep 26 05:01 AM to Sep 27 01:45 AM

Trayodashi: Sep 27 01:45 AM to Sep 27 10:19 PM

Nakshatram: Shravana: Sep 25 11:55 AM to Sep 26 09:41 AM

Dhanishta: Sep 26 09:41 AM to Sep 27 07:10 AM

Rahukalam: 3:06 PM to 4:36 PM

Yamagandam: 9:08 AM to 10:37 AM

Varjyam: 01:16 PM to 02:42 PM

Gulika: 12:07 PM to 1:37 PM

Amritakalam: 09:52 PM to 11:17 PM

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:43 AM to 12:31 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Mostly Cloudy

Temp: 33°

Humidity: 77%

Sunrise: 5:57 AM

Sunset: 6:01 PM

Updated: September 25, 2023 5:00 PM

YSRCP hails passage of women's quota Bill

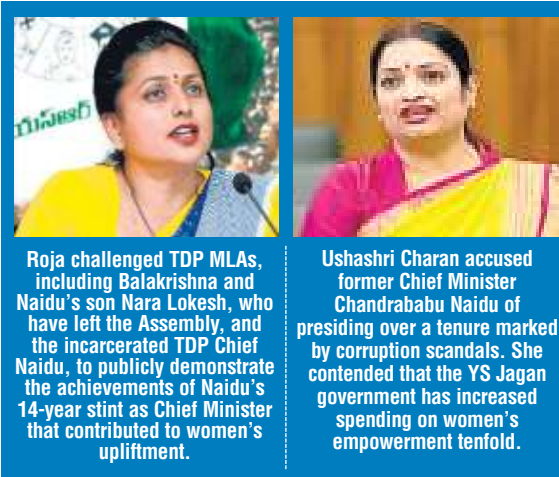
PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

In the wake of the historic passage of the Women Reservation Bill during the recent special parliamentary session, the Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) in Andhra Pradesh convened a special session to discuss the state government's initiatives and support for women.

Prominent ministers and MLAs from the YSRCP (Yuva Jana Sramika Rythu Congress Party) expressed their enthusiastic support for the Women Reservation Bill, which was introduced at the national level.

They emphasized their party's commitment to the bill, with Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy himself endorsing it on multiple occasions. It was noted that this bill's passage is expected to result in an impressive count of 58 women MLAs in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly.

On Monday, the Andhra Pradesh Assembly adopted a resolution commending the nationwide passage of the Women Reservation Bill in the new Parliament building. Following the resolution's presentation, several women legislators belonging to the ruling YSRCP delivered impassioned speeches on the topic of



Roja challenged TDP MLAs, including Balakrishna and Naidu's son Nara Lokesh, who have left the Assembly, and the incarcerated TDP Chief Naidu, to publicly demonstrate the achievements of Naidu's 14-year stint as Chief Minister that contributed to women's upliftment.

Ushashri Charan accused former Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu of presiding over a tenure marked by corruption scandals. She contended that the YS Jagan government has increased spending on women's empowerment tenfold.

women's empowerment.

Minister Roja, a prominent YSRCP member, took the opportunity to criticise former minister and TDP (Telugu Desam Party) chief Chandrababu Naidu for allegedly disregarding women's issues.

She highlighted the government's women-friendly welfare programmes, which have played a pivotal role in empowering women economically. She asserted that Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's leadership had brought solace to countless women during his four-and-a-half-year tenure.

Roja challenged TDP MLAs, including Balakrishna and Naidu's son Nara Lokesh, who have left the Assembly, and the incarcerated TDP Chief Naidu, to publicly demonstrate the achievements of Naidu's 14-year stint as Chief Minister that contributed to women's upliftment. She urged Balakrishna to present his accomplishments with the same confidence he displayed while in the Assembly.

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Centre blocking...

Continued from Page 1

Minister Vanitha reiterated that her government has been diligently providing clarifications in response to the objections raised by the Central government. However, inexplicably, the Union government has continued to withhold approval for the Act. Meanwhile, the Central government contends that the POCOA Act already suffices for all states and argues against the necessity of a separate Disha Act for Andhra Pradesh.

"The Central government and Ministry of Home Affairs have failed to grasp the intent of the State government. They have raised concerns about the inclusion of the death penalty for rapists," asserted Minister Vanitha. MLC KS Lakshmana Rao urged the State government to take the requisite steps to pass the Disha Bill as an Act and secure the President's approval.

YSRCP Member Pandula Ravindra Babu argued that his government had wholeheartedly forwarded the Disha Bill to the Union government for enactment.

Stressing that the protection of women and youth falls within the State government's jurisdiction, he maintained that no obligatory approval from the Centre is warranted, as the matter squarely rests within the State's purview.

Amaravati capital entails...

Continued from Page 1

The report also stated that poor planning led to wasteful spending of funds that includes Rs 208 crore wasted on underground cabling, Rs 268 crore on re-routing power lines, Rs 270 crore on piping works, Rs 44 crore on failed road extension, Rs 11.5 crore on unauthorized building of a grievance cell building, Rs 7 crore of water supplies left incomplete are among a few.

The system of Ward Secretariats was formed with the intention of decentralized governance without the participation of elected representatives at the ward level. CAG recommends that the Government should form Ward Committees and integrate Ward Secretariats with Ward Committees and Area Sabhas to realise self-governance.

The High Court suspended the Government orders issued for the inclusion of four villages into Tanuku Municipality. However, we observed in these four villages, the

Municipality was taking up developmental activities such as sanitation, collection of taxes, lighting, etc., and pre-election exercises like delimitation of wards and reservation of seats.

While seeking funds from the State Government, the recommendations of the State Finance Commission are taken as criteria as they are made after reviewing the financial position of ULBs.

So far, only three SFCs have been constituted and submitted their Reports and recommendations.

Due to the delay in the constitution of the SFCs, recommendations of previous SFCs were taken into consideration and funds were released. Due to the non-enforcement of Act provisions relating to the collection of property tax, we observed that an amount of Rs 262.21 crore was pending towards arrears of property tax from various kinds of defaulters in 20 test-checked ULBs.

Further, the Government waived interest on arrears of property

tax amounting to Rs 20 crores in 2018-19 in the test-checked ULBs and did not compensate. The government should ensure that ULBs enforce recovery of dues from defaulters of Property Tax.

The government had taken up 110 water supply works across all ULBs with an estimated cost of Rs 7,835.56 crore under various grants in 2017-18.

We observed that only eight out of 110 were completed by incurring expenditure of Rs 148.40 crore.

The remaining works (102) involving an agreement value of Rs 6,424.34 crore were yet to be completed. Expenditure incurred on these works was Rs 2,270.79 crore (February 2022). Further, in test-checked ULBs, water supply connections were not provided to 5,91,878 households out of 11,61,091 households as of March 2021.

The government and ULBs should coordinate to complete the remaining water supply works and provide water connections to all households.

TDP is a family and cadre our children: Bhuvaneswari

PNS ■ RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

Nara Bhuvaneswari, wife of TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu, on Monday termed the party as a family and the cadre as their children.

Bhuvaneswari told media persons after meeting Chandrababu, through mulaqat at the Rajamahendravaram Central Jail. Expressing her concern over the lathicharges on TDP activists as they want to see to it that the party flag gets elevated, she said that the way the women, who are taking part in the protest programmes, are being treated by this Government reflects what kind of leadership the State has.

Finding fault with the State Government for adopting suppressive methods not allowing even the protest programmes to condemn the illegal arrest of Chandrababu, she regretted that the party activists are facing false cases and are being sent to jail. The State police are not



considering even women and all these developments reflect what kind of leadership the State has now, Bhuvaneswari remarked.

All the party activists are the backbone to the TDP and without them, the party never exists, she stated. Bhuvaneswari thanked all those who are continuing their fight to stand by the TDP and its leadership. The State Government which has sent Chandrababu, who is a former chief minister, to jail in

a false case did not provide a table for him to take his meals, she said. The table was provided only after the advocate made an appeal, she stated.

Expressing serious concern that efforts are being made to subject Chandrababu to mental agony, Bhuvaneswari felt that such cheap tactics never move him. Bhuvaneswari said that Chandrababu is mentally strong and has a lot of self-confidence.

SC declines...

Continued from Page 1

In his plea, Naidu asserted, "The petitioner was suddenly named in the FIR registered over twenty-one months ago, arrested in an illegal manner, and deprived of his liberty motivated only by political reasons, even though there is no material against him."

The plea also contended that both the initiation of the inquiry and the registration of the FIR against Naidu were non-existent in law, as both had been initiated and continued without mandatory approval under Section 17-A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

Naidu was apprehended by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) in Nandyal on September 9. The following day, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) Court in Vijayawada remanded him to judicial custody for 14 days. On September 22, the CID was granted custody of Naidu for two days for interrogation at the Rajahmundry Central Jail, where he is presently confined.

Following the conclusion of TDP chief Naidu's two-day police custody on Sunday, the ACB court further extended his judicial custody until October 5. The alleged case revolves around the establishment of Centres of Excellence (CoEs) clusters in the state of Andhra Pradesh, with a total estimated project value of Rs 3,300 crore during Naidu's tenure as Chief Minister.

The CID has alleged that this purported fraud led to a substantial loss of Rs 371 crore to the state government.

Unusual calm in House...

Continued from Page 1

state, highlighting the transparent execution of various welfare initiatives. According to Nagarjuna, 26,98,728 students have benefited from Vidya Deevana, while 25,17,245 have received assistance through Vasathi Deevana. He also disclosed that the Jagan government had allocated a staggering Rs 63,689.58 crore for SC welfare from June 2019 to August 2023, surpassing the Rs 35,250.46 crore spent by the previous Chandrababu government from 2014 to 2019.

This stark contrast underscores Chief Minister Jagan's dedication to SC welfare and development.

MLA Kasu Mahesh Reddy inquired about financial relief for farmers, prompting Minister for Agriculture, Kakani Govardhan Reddy, to provide a detailed response. Govardhan Reddy disclosed that the government had disbursed Rs 31,005.04 crore in financial assistance to 52.57 lakh farmer families through the YSR Rythu Bharosa-PM Kisan scheme since 2019. He underscored the government's steadfast commitment to the welfare of farmers, especially during the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic.

MLA Mahesh Reddy com-

mended Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy for fulfilling every promise and contrasted this with the alleged failure of former Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu to deliver on his commitments, particularly regarding loan waivers. He noted that Chief Minister Jagan had diligently cleared the dues left behind by Chandrababu.

Denduluru MLA Kotharu Abbaya Chaudhary lauded CM Jagan's transformative impact on the education sector, which includes enhancing government school education and providing English medium teaching to students, preparing them for brighter futures.

MLA TJR Sudhakar Babu asserted that former Chief Minister Naidu had not adequately addressed the concerns of farmers, contrasting this with the positive steps taken by CM Jagan, particularly the Paalaa Velluva scheme that had greatly benefited dairy farmers.

MLA Alla Ramakrishna Reddy highlighted the revolutionary changes in the education sector under CM Jagan's leadership. He proudly noted that Andhra Pradesh students addressing the United Nations represented the remarkable transformation in the state's education system.

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
PANCHAYATI RAJ ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

No.63 to 64/T.O/2023-24, Dated: 22-09-2023

Online tenders are invited under e-procurement platform for 1 Package (15 Road works), and 1 Bridge work in Krishna District. Estimated Cost: Rs.3745.00 Lakhs under various grants. Bid download starting date: 26.09.2023 onwards. Further details visit: www.tender.approcurement.gov.in. Ph.No. 6305693265. Sd/- Superintending Engineer, P.O.No: 11020/CLAD/11/0221-22 Dt: 25.09.2023 Panchayati Raj, Machilipatnam, Krishna Dist.

Police foil ‘Chalo Vijayawada’ march by Anganwadi workers

Preventive arrests of union leaders and workers rattle city

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

A State-wide ‘Chalo Vijayawada’ protest was foiled by the Anganwadi and Midday Meal Workers’ Union by police on Monday. Seeking solution to long-pending grievances and applying pressure on the government, the AITUC, CITU, IFTU, and Pragatisheela Mahila Sangams had jointly called for the widespread demonstration in Vijayawada.

In response, a multitude of Anganwadi workers and helpers had endeavoured to reach the protest site. However, police intervened, apprehending union leaders and workers across various locations. The police made detentions at the Railway station, Bus stand, Eluru Road, Gandhinagar, and several spots within the city and its outskirts.

Subsequently, those apprehended were transferred to nearby police stations and Kalyana Mandapams. A total of 150 Anganwadi workers and helpers were detained at Gujjula Saraladevi Kalyana Mandapam, 100 members at Singnagar Lagadapati Raja



Police personnel apprehended Anganwadi Workers and Helpers in Vijayawada on Monday.

Gopal Rao Kalyana Mandapam, 100 more at Nakshatra Convention, and an additional 120 members at Auto Nagar Technician Association Hall.

In a notable turn of events, CPI and CPM leaders, who had attempted to organise a roadblock on Bandar Road to protest the unlawful detention of Anganwadi workers and helpers, also found themselves in police custody. Among those detained were CPM State secretary V Srinivasa Rao, CPM secretariat member Ch Babu Rao, Anganwadi Union State pres-

ident Baby Rani, secretary Subba Ravamma, and State leaders N Ch Supraja, V Umamaheswara Rao, Obulesu, among others.

Expressing outrage at the arrests, CPM State secretary V Srinivasa Rao and CPI State secretary K Ramakrishna vehemently condemned the crackdown on individuals who had come to Vijayawada for a peaceful demonstration. They asserted that Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy had failed to fulfill promises related to Anganwadi issues, salary increases, and other concerns.



Pic by Ch VIJAYA BHASKAR

Furthermore, they accused the police of refusing permission for the protest under the pretext of Sections 144 and 30 and highlighted that Anganwadi workers from all over the state had been apprehended. Family members of these workers were also taken to police stations, with allegations that many Anganwadi leaders were placed under house arrest.

“The police are behaving inhumanely, disregarding the dignity of these women. Ordinary citizens were also severely inconvenienced at bus and railway stations. The

government must take responsibility for this. Suppression of Anganwadi employees and workers amounts to nothing less than despotism,” they contended.

Calling upon all political parties, unions, and supporters of democracy to condemn the government’s actions, CPM and CPI state secretaries issued a plea for the immediate release of those detained. They also urged Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy to make a statement addressing the demands of the Anganwadi workers during the Assembly meeting.



5.5 lakh devotees expected for Dasara Sarannavaratri festival

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

In anticipation of the upcoming Dasara Sarannavaratri festivities at the Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam, atop the Indrakeeladri hill in Vijayawada, a crucial coordination meeting convened at the NTR district collector’s camp office on Monday. The Dasara festivities are scheduled to take place from October 15 to 23.

Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Endowment, Kottu Satyanarayana, alongside NTR district in charge and Minister for Home and Disaster Management, Taneti Vanitha, jointly presided over this inaugural coordination meeting. Representatives from various government departments, including the Endowment Department, Revenue, Police, Water Resources, R & B, Municipal, and Electricity, attended.

Addressing the Assembly, both ministers stressed the importance of seamless cooper-

ation among the participating departments to ensure the grand success of the festivities. They emphasised the need to ensure that devotees encounter no inconvenience during the nine-day celebrations and that all arrangements be made with utmost sensitivity to their sentiments.

Regarding concerns about landslides, the ministers reassured that the temple authorities were actively taking measures to prevent boulders from falling from the hilltop. However, they urged the relevant officials to remain vigilant regarding potential boulder falls. Additionally, they urged the Electricity department to provide sufficient generators to address any power interruptions during the festivities.

Furthermore, both ministers instructed all departments to establish special protocols to locate and assist any missing children during the celebrations, drawing on lessons learned

from past experiences. They emphasised the importance of comprehensive arrangements to enhance the convenience of devotees.

Durga Temple Executive Officer (EO), D. Bhramaramba, anticipated the arrival of approximately 5.50 lakh devotees during the nine-day celebration period. She noted that each day, up to 50,000 devotees would seek darshan, with an expected surge to around 1.50 lakh devotees on the auspicious day of Moola Nakshatram. Bhramaramba also provided details about ticketing and prasadam distribution.

Vijayawada Mayor Rayana Bhagya Lakshmi, MLAs Malladi Vishnu and V. Srinivasa Rao, MLC Ruhulla, Durga Temple Trust Board Chairman Karnati Rambabu, NTR district collector Dr S Dilli Rao, Police Commissioner Kanthi Rana Tata, Municipal Commissioner Swapnil Dinakar Pundkar, and other prominent dignitaries were present.

HEAVY RAIN FORECAST

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Meteorological Centre has issued a weather alert, predicting heavy rain in several regions of Andhra Pradesh over the next 24 hours and on September 28 and 29.

In an official statement released on Monday, the Meteorological Centre has warned of heavy rain at isolated locations in both North Coastal Andhra Pradesh and South Coastal Andhra Pradesh. This inclement weather pattern is expected to persist for the next 24 hours, with similar conditions anticipated on September 28 and 29.

The alert extends to the Rayalaseema region, where heavy rain is expected over the next 24 hours and on September 29th. Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning are also likely to occur in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh and South Coastal Andhra Pradesh during the same periods, posing additional risks.

The Meteorological Centre’s forecast indicates a likelihood of light to moderate rain or thundershowers in many areas of North Coastal Andhra Pradesh, South Coastal Andhra Pradesh, and Rayalaseema over the next seven days. Residents are advised to stay prepared for varying degrees of precipitation during this period.

The Southwest Monsoon has officially withdrawn from parts of southwest Rajasthan on September 25, which is slightly later than its normal withdrawal date of September 17.

During the last 24 hours, heavy rain was observed at isolated places in Vizianagaram district of North Coastal Andhra Pradesh, as well as in YSR District and Chittoor district of Rayalaseema. Meanwhile, rain occurred at numerous locations in Rayalaseema and a few places in Coastal Andhra Pradesh, while dry weather conditions prevailed in other areas.

GLP testing unit on AU campus

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

In what can be considered a noteworthy advancement for the North Andhra region, Andhra University is currently in the midst of establishing a specialised ‘Animal House’ facility dedicated to the execution of ‘Good Laboratory Practice’ (GLP) testing. This endeavour will enhance Visakhapatnam’s global recognition as a centre for GLP certification, a mandatory requirement for pharmaceuticals designed for both human and animal use.

The upcoming Animal House project with an estimated expenditure of Rs 1 crore will be linked to the Department of Pharmacy at AU at Element Block on the AU campus. This facility will function as a valuable asset for conducting pre-clinical assessments, particularly in the evaluation of medication safety and toxicity through authorized animal testing. In order to uphold ethical standards, laboratory animals will be



procured from a breeder duly registered with the Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA) under the Ministry of Fisheries.

Initially, the facility will be stocked with licensed rats, mice, hamsters, gerbils, guinea pigs, and rabbits obtained from suppliers in Hyderabad, Chennai, and Bengaluru. As the need arises, there is also the possibility of procuring these animals from the United States, Germany, and the United Kingdom in the coming time.

According to Andhra University Registrar Professor V Krishna Mohan, AU will establish this facility in collaboration with Rodenta Bioserve, a Hyderabad-based company.

This initiative is aimed at benefiting students majoring in pharmacy, biochemistry, botany, zoology, and biotechnology, while also providing valuable resources for the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and food industries.

Professor K Eshwar Kumar, the Pharmacology expert at AU, mentioned that construction on the facility has commenced and is expected to conclude within two months. However, before operations can begin, it is imperative to obtain No Objection Certificates (NOCs) from regulatory bodies such as CPCSEA and the Pollution Control Board.

Currently, pharmaceutical companies in the city are pursuing GLP certification from places like Hyderabad, Pune, and Chennai. Professor Eshwar Kumar noted that by establishing a local Animal House, they can provide GLP certification services locally. The center will be outfitted with a variety of state-of-the-art facilities.

Govt urged to procure MSME products

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Federation (AP Chambers) has demanded that the State government should take proactive measures to procure its required materials and goods from the MSME units spread across Andhra Pradesh. It stated that the procurement from MSMEs would not only provide much-needed support to these local businesses, but also stimulate regional economic growth.

A delegation of the AP Chambers led by its president P. Bhaskara Rao and accompanied by executive vice-president L. Raghu Ram Reddy, general secretary B. Raja Sekhar and director P. Koti Rao called on the Secretary to Government (Industries & Commerce) N. Yuvraj, at AP Secretariat, Velagapudi, on Monday. They submitted a representation to him on the government procurements



from MSME units in Andhra Pradesh.

AP Chambers’ office-bearers stated: “As per the Public Procurement Policy of the MSMED Act, 2006, the Union government set an annual target of 25 per cent mandatory procurement from MSME Sector effective from April 1, 2015. The various government departments, corporations, public sector undertakings,

etc., are not adhering to the mandatory guidelines stipulated for procurement of goods and services from within the State. Out of 25per cent, four pc is reserved for SC/ST entrepreneurs and three pc for women entrepreneurs.”

Stating that the policy was aimed to provide an assured market to MSMEs, the AP Chambers delegation said that the objective of the policy was

to promote and develop micro and small enterprises by supporting them in marketing of products and services rendered by them.

AP Chambers president Bhaskara Rao said, “There are 358 items reserved for exclusive procurement from MSMEs. Most of these reserved items are manufactured by MSMEs in the State. As part of the restart package, the Government of AP provided for preferential market access to micro and small enterprises in all government procurements. Unfortunately, the mandatory guidelines are not adhered to and the public procurement has been mainly happening from other States and other countries without transparent procurement policies.”

The Chambers leaders sought that the State government take proactive measures to procure its required materials and goods from the MSME units.

Rs 2 LAKH LOAN FOR HOUSING BENEFICIARIES FROM COOP SOCIETIES

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Minister for Housing Jogi Ramesh has said that the State government is making efforts to support the housing beneficiaries by providing additional loaning facilities from the Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) in addition to the Rs.1.80 lakh sanctioned by the State and Central governments. He said the system was being implemented in the Kaikaluru Assembly constituency, which gave good results.

During the question hour in the AP Legislative Council on Monday, the minister said that with the support of the PACS, every housing beneficiary got Rs.2 lakh loan to construct houses, he added.



Also, the State government is providing loans of Rs.30,000 to members of Self-Help Groups (SHG) to complete their houses as early as possible. Around 21.75 lakh houses were allotted under

the Prime Minister Awas Yojana (PMAY) Urban (BLC), PMAY Gramin and PMAY – Urban AHP (APTIDCO) schemes for the period from 2019 to 2023, he said.

Further, he said as of now as many as 6.50 lakh houses had been completed and the beneficiaries performed housewarming functions. Meanwhile, many people’s representatives urged the State government to sanction additional amounts to complete the Jagananna houses, as Rs.1.80 lakh was not sufficient, he said.

Following the requests from the members of both Houses and after having discussions with Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, the State government will take

steps to sanction an additional Rs.2 lakh from the cooperative societies, he said. The State government is constructing not only houses, but also new villages across the State, he added.

YSRCP MLC Jayamangalam Venkata Ramana said that in Kaikaluru constituency, the housing unit cost Rs.1.80 lakh plus the SHG loan of Rs.30,000. In addition, the PACS sanctioned Rs.2 lakh-loan to each beneficiary. Vizianagaram Local Body constituency MLC Raghu Raju and Council Chairman Koyye Moshen Raju asked about sanctioning new houses in place of old houses, which were constructed for two to three decades.

Mahalaya Amavasya, Tri Shakthi Peeth special trains on Oct 10, 27

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Ula Rail, the most successful Bharat Gaurav Train from the Ministry of Railways, will depart on October 10 as a Mahalaya Amnavasya Special to Prayag – Varanasi – Gaya – Ayodhya – Haridwar – Delhi – Mathura – Agra and Tri Shakthi Peeth Yatra to Kolkata – Kamakhya – Puri – Bhubaneswar on October 27.

Product Director Vignesh G said that Ula Rail was a special tourist train, well equipped with a variety of amenities such as 3AC, 2SL coaches, frameless pantry cars to provide unlimited South Indian food onboard and off-board, dedicated coach managers in every coach, coach security in every coach, PA Systems for entertainment and announcements, CCTV cameras, travel insurance, hotels at planned destinations, buses for sightseeing and transfers. The passengers can avail of the LTC/LFC facility.

He said the Mahalaya Amnavasya special train to Prayag – Varanasi – Gaya – Ayodhya – Haridwar – Delhi – Mathura – Agra departs on October 10, which offers a unique opportuni-



ty to explore India’s rich spiritual and cultural heritage. Passengers can board the special train from Gudur Jn, Nellore, Ongole, Chirala, Vijayawada, Rajahmundry, and Visakhapatnam.

He said Tri Shakthi Peeth Yatra to Kolkata – Kamakhya – Puri – Bhubaneswar would depart on October 27.

EIGHT NEW KVs TO BE ESTABLISHED IN STATE

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

The Department of School Education and Literacy declared plans to establish 87 new Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) across the country in a recent meeting held on September 20. Eight of these KVs are slated to be set up in Andhra Pradesh, marking a significant stride in enhancing educational accessibility in the region.

Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs), initially founded to educate the children of government employees, including Defense and Paramilitary personnel, have evolved into institutions striving for excellence in school education. They advocate for educational innovation and collaboration with esteemed bodies like the Central

Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). Additionally, KVs are dedicated to instilling a sense of “Indianness” and promoting national integration among students. The Department of School Education and Literacy officials have revealed the locations where these new KVs will be established in the state. The sites include Anakapalle in Anakapalle district, Valasapalli village in Madanapalle Mandal, Chittoor district, Palasamudram Village in Gorantla mandal, Sri Satya Sai district, Tallapalli Village in Macherla mandal, Guntur District, Nandigama in Krishna district, Rompicherla village in Narasaraopet Division, Guntur.

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Unlike Western countries where clinical pharmacists are seamlessly integrated into hospital settings, assisting physicians and patients with post-diagnosis medication decisions, India lacks a similar system. Despite offering a six-year medical programme called Pharma D (Doctor of Pharmacy) to train clinical pharmacists, there is no mandatory requirement for their placement in government and private healthcare institutions.

Speaking with on the occasion of World Pharmacist Day, Prof. Ganapathi, former principal of AU College of Pharma

Sciences, expressed concern over the lack of job opportunities for Pharma D graduates in Vizag, where numerous colleges offer the course. He emphasised the need for the Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) to make it mandatory for hospitals to hire clinical pharmacists and educate doctors about their role. Currently, only a few corporate hospitals hire them with minimal salaries, and their utilisation remains limited.

S Ravindra, a Pharma D degree holder, highlighted the potential benefits of clinical pharmacists, especially in government healthcare setups where doctors often have limited time to interact with patients due to high patient

World Pharmacist Day observed



loads. He explained that clinical pharmacists could step in after diagnosis, prescribing suitable medications, and considering factors like allergies, pregnancy, and diabetes. Unfortunately, this practice is

not yet implemented in Andhra Pradesh or India, and awareness among doctors is lacking.

Sai Lathia, clinical pharmacist and a native of Vizag who works for Cleveland Clinic,

Northeast Ohio, Florida, USA, lamented that even though clinical pharmacists possessed skills equivalent to those of doctors, there was a significant dearth of understanding regarding their role among both healthcare professionals and the broader public. “Pharma D graduates are discouraged because the government has not provided instructions for their placement in hospitals, even though they are eligible to use the ‘Dr’ title. The Association for Doctors of Pharmacy has expressed disappointment over the lack of assurance regarding jobs or recruitment from the Pharmacy Council of India.

On this occasion, the Pharmacy division at Andhra

University organised a procession along Beach Road, drawing enthusiastic participation from pharmacy students and faculty. University Registrar V Krishna Mohan emphasised the significant contributions of pharmacists in medicine and healthcare, particularly in managing various illnesses. Prof Jaganattaran Das, the Dean of GITAM School of Pharmacy, reiterated this year’s theme, “Pharmacy strengthening health systems,” on World Pharmacists Day. He highlighted the crucial role pharmacists play in safeguarding health and urged recognition and appreciation for their unwavering commitment to enhancing global healthcare systems.

Officials warned of action for laxity in sanitation works

PNS ■ GUNTUR

Municipal Commissioner Keerthi Chekuri has warned the officials in the sanitary department of action if laxity is found in maintaining cleanliness.

The Municipal Commissioner here on Monday conducted a surprise inspection at Zakir Hussain Nagar, Vinobha Nagar, Seelam Vari Street, Balaji Nagar, LB Nagar, Lalapet, Patnam Bazaar and other areas and inspected the sanitation works. She issued appropriate orders to the Public Health Officers and Sanitation Secretaries.

The City Commissioner warned the officials and staff concerned that strict action would be taken against officials and secretaries, if they were found negligent in sanitation work. She instructed them to carry out 100 percent garbage



collection. The Commissioner personally saw the household garbage collection through e-auto.

She asked the staff at what time the garbage collection starts and at what time it completes. She also inquired at what time the garbage collection comes from house to

house and the local people. She told them that door-to-door garbage collection should be carried out within the specified time and 100 percent garbage collection should be done from the allotted houses.

Special measures would be taken in the yard to reduce the unloading time at the auto

dumping point. She ordered the secretary to be along with the auto and make people aware that they should separate the garbage from wet and dry and not to litter it on the roads and canals. She said that the secretaries must be on duty at the time of muster and action would be taken against those who are negligent.

The MHO was instructed to clean the problematic areas in the division through gang work in the morning after the collection of garbage from the houses in the morning and to send them the gang work schedule, and attendance of secretaries and workers every day.

She expressed anger after noticing garbage on the road even after 10 a.m. in the Lalapet area. Corporator Mohamood, MHO Dr Bhanu Prakash, and other officials were among those who accompanied the Commissioner.



One killed as tipper hits bike

PNS ■ NARASARAOPET

A youth was killed when the motorcycle which he was riding was knocked down by a tipper lorry at Krosuru four road centre on Monday.

Police said that the deceased Ambati Ramakrishna (23) was going on his motorcycle. A tipper lorry knocked down his bike killing him instantaneously. The deceased belonged to Mittapalem village. The police registered a case and shifted the body to the government hospital for post-mortem.

Officials directed to speed up land acquisition for godowns

PNS ■ BHIMAVARAM

District Collector P Prashanthi directed the officials concerned to expedite the process of land acquisition for the construction of multi-purpose godowns.

The Collector held a video conference with the officials here on Monday and reviewed various issues including land acquisition for MPFS godowns, land resurvey process, election process, housing construction, and Jaganannaku Chebudam implementation.

The Collector inquired about the progress of the division and mandal-level officials. Various suggestions and advice were given to Mandal Tehsildars, MPDOs, and Panchayat Secretaries. She said that land acquisition for MPFC godowns should be accelerated and more focus should be laid on available government lands.

After the survey, the officials should speed up the stone plantation work, she told them. The district and mandal level



authorities should take steps to resolve the complaints received from the people within the time limit, she told the officials. The Collector advised the officials to resolve the applications received in the Spandana programme with clarity and ensure that they were not reopened.

Collector Prashanthi said that the house-to-house examination of the voter list is almost complete and the death, shifted, and repeated voters should be checked twice. Claims and objections received regarding the voter list in the district are being thoroughly examined. She said that anomalies should

be disposed of according to the rules and regulations issued by the Election Commission and officials should carry out field-level monitoring and update accurate reports.

The Collector said that the voters residing in the TIDCO planetary communities should collect the details from which areas they have come and prepare proposals to file the form related to the polling stations suitable for them.

Collector Prashanthi directed the officials to file a list of gender ratio and EP ratio at polling centers at Mandal Tahsildars in every village in the district and to do table work for allotment of suitable polling stations.

She also inquired about the progress of the construction works of houses and instructed the officials to perform the best results. DRO K Krishnaveni, district agriculture JD Venkateswara Rao and horticulture officer A Durgesh were among those who were present.

Correspondence at govt offices should be in Telugu: Vijay Babu

PNS ■ NELLORE

State Official Language Commission Chairman P Vijay Babu has directed the officials to do all official correspondence in Telugu only.

Vijay Babu held a meeting with the Joint Collector R Kurmanath and other officials here on Monday and reviewed the implementation of Telugu in official correspondence.

Speaking on this occasion, he said that the Telugu language is a unique language in the world. Everyone should remember the Telugu language on the line of how all remember and respect their mothers, he said.

"All the Telugu people have fondness and respect for the Telugu language, but they are lagging behind in the imple-



mentation of the Telugu language, and all officials should give priority to the mother tongue and conduct their correspondence in Telugu only in a way that the common people can understand," he told them.

Vijaya Babu said that even though there are some difficulties in the implementation of Telugu language in the administrative affairs of government offices in the computerized environment, the government

is also implementing necessary training programs to overcome them.

Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy has given utmost importance to the Telugu language, he said, adding that the official language Commission has been established to ensure the implementation of the use of Telugu in all government departments.

Vijay Babu claimed that in the context of globalization, the state government is promoting the English medium along with the implementation of the Telugu language for the needs of future generations. State Official Language Commission members Dr.D Mastanamma, Dr.T Venkatayya, and DRO Venkata Narayanamma were among those who were present.

Adjournment motion by PDF rejected

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

On the third day of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council session, Chairman Koyye Moshenu Raju refused the adjournment motion given by the Progressive Democratic Front (PDF) MLCs to discuss the gratuity and retirement benefits for the Anganwadi workers and helpers. Also, PDF MLCs condemned the detention of Anganwadi teachers, helpers and their union leaders not to participate in the Chalo Amaravati.

Soon after the beginning of the 43rd session, the Chairman spoke about the refusal of the PDF members to give an adjournment motion. While the Chairman refused their adjournment motion, PDF members KS Lakshmana Rao, I Venkateswara Rao Shaik Sabji and Pakalapati Raghu Varma went into the well and raised slogans demanding justice for Anganwadi workers and

helpers.

They demanded that the Chairman allow them to discuss the subject of Anganwadi workers and helpers' gratuity, minimum wages, and retirement benefits. They remembered that Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy had given an assurance to give wages more than in the Telangana state.

"As a question was scheduled in the question hour, the council will allow the members to discuss these issues," said Chairman Moshen Raju. That's why the adjournment motion was refused, he added.

The PDF members said that even after four-and-a-half years of rule, the YSRCP has not enhanced the wages. Also, the government did not implement the gratuity, as it was directed by the Supreme Court of India, MLC KS Lakshmana Rao said.

Further, KS said that the Karnataka Government was ready to implement the Supreme Court directions to enhance wages and implement gratuity and retirement benefits. Another PDF MLC Sabji said that the State government should give a minimum wage of Rs.26,000 to anganwadi workers and helpers.

After that, Minister for Women and Child Welfare KV Ushasri Charan replied that the State government had written a letter to the Central government to implement the Supreme Court orders regarding gratuity and retirement benefits. Also, she explained various schemes being implemented in the State for women and children.

Govt taking necessary measures for devotees' security Minister for Endowment Kottu Satyanarayana has stated

that the State government along with the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) is taking necessary measures for the security of the devotees to protect them from the attacks of wild animals when they are going to Tirumala on the route of Alipiri to Tirumala pathway.

As part of the measures, the government decided to allow children whose age is below 12 years with their parents on footpaths from 5 am to 2 pm only, to enable them to reach Tirumala before 6 am, he added.

Prior to this, the ruling YSRCP members M Hanumantha Rao, Raghu Raju, Pothula Sunitha and others requested the government to provide marketing facilities for the weavers who are making clothes individually.

Also, they urged the government to allow them to take Nethanna Nestham. However, Minister Amarnath said that the scheme was meant for the owners of the weavers societies.



Lord rides 'Aswa Vahana'

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

On the eighth day of the ongoing annual Srivari Brahmotsavams, Malayappa Swamy took out a celestial ride on 'Aswa Vahanam' to the accompaniment of 'bhajans', 'kolatas' and 'Mangala vaidyams'. The Lord in 'Kalki' avatar signified the completion of the eight-day 'Vahana Sevas'. The 'Ashwa Vahanam' procession denotes that He fights evil and protects the righteous.

TTD Chairman B Karunakara Reddy, EO AV Dharmara Reddy and others were present.

Train services affected due to landslide in KK line

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

The restoration works are being carried out on a war-footing at the site where a landslide occurred between Manabar- Jarati stations in the KK line of Waltair Division, which affected several train services.

A team of senior officials led by Divisional Railway Manager Saurabh Prasad reached the site and deployed heavy duty machinery and materials, and engaged workers in large numbers to speed up the restoration works. Despite inclement weather, the works are continuing to avoid inconvenience to the people. Several trains would be short-terminated.

The train No.18107 Rourkela-Jagdalpur Express leaving Rourkela on September 25 will be short-terminated at Koraput and will start on September 26 from Koraput as 18,108 to Rourkela, hence there is no service between Koraput - Jagdalpur on September 26.

The train No. 18447 Bhubaneswar-Jagdalpur



Hirakhand Express leaving Bhubaneswar on September 25 will be short-terminated at Koraput and start from Koraput to Bhubaneswar on September 26. Hence there will be no service between Koraput - Jagdalpur on September 26.

The train No. 18514 Visakhapatnam-Kirandul Night Express leaving Visakhapatnam on September 25 will be short-terminated at Koraput and return from Koraput as 18513 to Visakhapatnam on September 26. Hence there will be no service between Koraput -

Jagdalpur on September 26.

The train No. 08551 Visakhapatnam-Kirandul Passenger leaving Visakhapatnam on September 26 will be short-terminated at Araku and return from Araku as 08552 to Visakhapatnam on September 26.

The train No.18005 Howrah-Jagdalpur Samalawari Express leaving Howrah on September 25 will be short-terminated at Titlagarh and return from Titlagarh as 18006 to Howrah on September 26. People are requested to note the changes and act accordingly.



Telangana State Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan released a set of 15 volumes on the works of Deendayal Upadhyaya in Vijayawada on Monday. Pic by Ch VIJAYA BHASKAR

BJP HAILS DECISION

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The BJP welcomed the decision taken by the Governor, Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan, regarding the Governor's quota MLCs. Dr Tamilisai rejected two people recommended by the BRS government for Governor's quota MLCs.

Telangana BJP president G. Kishan Reddy in a statement issued on Monday congratulated the Governor and thanked her for taking this decision. Kishan said the Governor's quota and President's quota are nominated posts to be given to intellectuals, educated people, poets, artists and social workers.

The Governor rejected the names sent by Chief Minister KCR to the Governor as they

had many criminal cases, he said. Kishan said that there is no need to appoint people serving KCR's family as MLCs in the Governor's quota.

The Union Minister said that the BRS ticket is given to those who are close to their feet, to those who drink water from their elbow and to those who have no self-respect.

He said that it is not fair to give the Governor's quota-nominated MLC posts to such people. The decision taken by the Governor in this regard is welcome, he said. Kishan said that those who defected from other parties and those who serve only KCR's family have been rejected by the Governor.

The Telangana BJP president said that Modi, regardless of

parties and politics, got approval from the President when he proposed Vijayendra Prasad, a film writer from Telangana who has nothing to do with BJP, as an MP. The name of an international sports star like PT Usha was proposed and the President gave his nod, he recalled. "The decision taken by the Telangana Governor is bold. We thank her on behalf of the people of Telangana. If the decision is in favour of KCR then can Dr Tamilisai be considered a Governor? If you take a bold decision by pointing out the mistakes of KCR will you not like him as the Governor? The Governor acts independently. The post is not connected to any political party," Kishan said.

Collector commended for his compassion

PNS ■ ELURU

V. Prasanna Venkatesh, the Collector of the Eluru district, has garnered acclaim for his compassion and dedication towards the underprivileged and individuals with special needs within the district.

The AP Red Cross organisation offers escort services to disabled and senior citizens every Monday throughout the state at the Spandana venue. Dedicated Red Cross volun-

teers play a crucial role in assisting disabled and elderly citizens in reaching Spandana Hall, where they can meet with the District Collector.

Today, the Collector extended his support to special needs individuals who had gathered at Spandana to express their concerns and seek solutions. He attentively listened to their representations and pledged to provide them with all possible assistance to alleviate their issues.



Sangam Dairy achieves 22% growth in 2022

PNS ■ GUNTUR

Sangam Dairy Chairman Dhulipalla Narendra has said that Sangam Dairy has achieved 22% growth during the financial year 2022. The Sangam Dairy 10th annual general body meeting was held at Vadlamudi on Monday presided over by Narendra.

Speaking on the occasion, Dhulipalla Narendra said that though the state government had created many obstacles, Sangam Dairy has achieved 22% growth and the management is going to expand the dairy in Telangana state in the coming days.

Narendra said that by the time

he took over as the chairman of Sangam Dairy in 2010, the annual turnover of the dairy was Rs 238 crores. The annual turnover has exceeded Rs 1600 crores in the financial year 2022.

Narendra said that they were going ahead according to the plan with the aim of achieving Rs 2000 crore annual turnover in the coming days.

He said that the Sangam dairy milk procurement capacity per day is eight lakh litres. The milk procurement and processing is fully automatic. Plans were prepared to enhance the milk procurement from eight lakh litres to 12 lakh litres.



‘Rajiv first introduced bill for women’s quota in panchayats’

AICC spokesperson Pankhuri Pathak says senior BJP leaders voted against the Bill

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

All India Congress Committee (AICC) spokesperson Pankhuri Pathak has said that former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was the first PM who introduced a Bill in 1989 to provide reservations for women in gram panchayats. She recalled that Rajiv Gandhi who strived for women's empowerment in legislatures would stand as a champion.

The AICC spokesperson, on Monday, visited the Andhra Pradesh Congress Party (APCC) office Andhra Ratna Bhavan and addressed the media along with

APCC president and former MLC Gidugu Rudra Raju.

Further, she pointed out that it was the stalwarts of the BJP, including Lal Kishan Advani, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Yashwant Sinha and Ram Jethmalani, who voted against women's reservation. While the Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha, it was defeated in Rajya Sabha by a mere seven votes, she remembered.

Also, she said that tracing the implementation of affirmative action for women in Indian politics to 1992, under the then PM PV Narasimha Rao, the Congress party ensured that Rajiv Gandhi's vision was



realised by the 73rd and 74th amendments to the Constitution. She added that one-third of seats were reserved for women in Panchayati Raj institutions and offices of the chairperson at all levels of Panchayati Raj institutions, and in urban local bodies.

In several States, seats were reserved for women within the quotas for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

Today, the vision of Rajiv Gandhi has led to the empowerment of 1.5 million women—around 40 per cent of elected

representatives in India, she said.

Meanwhile, she said once again, the Congress-led UPA government introduced a Bill in the Parliament to ensure 33 per cent reservation for women in legislatures and included sub-quotas for SCs and STs. While the Rajya Sabha passed Bill 186-1 on March 9, 2010, it was not passed in Lok Sabha, she said. The Bills introduced or passed in Rajya Sabha do not lapse, hence the Women's Reservation Bill remained very much active, she explained.

Recalling that the Congress implemented reservations for

women in local bodies and passed the Women's Reservation Bill in the Rajya Sabha without having a majority, Pathak questioned why the Modi government did not implement the Women's Reservation Bill for nine-and-a-half years despite the BJP having a full majority. She asked why the BJP government was imposing conditions of census and delimitation as a delaying tactic.

APCC working president Sunkara Padmasri, Mahila Congress president L Tania Kumari and Congress city president Naraharasetti Narasimha Rao were present.

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



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



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



PNS ■ BHOPAL

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

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



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

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

PNS ■ GUWAHATI



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

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

PNS ■ CHENNAI

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The country has a target of



New and Renewable Energy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Voicing displeasure over the incident, the top court directed

the victim and other students involved in the incident by

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

PNS ■ PATNA

Kumar was accompanied, among others, by his current deputy Tejashwi Yadav, whose party RJD takes pride in having remained uncompromising in its opposition to the BJP. Yadav, who offered floral tributes before a statue of Upadhyay, one of the founding members of the BJP's former avatar Bharatiya Janata Sangh, insisted that his ideol-



However, the septuagenarian seemed displeased with the kite flying as he snapped, "What rubbish are you talking (Kya faltu baat karte hain)", even as Yadav, who stood by his side, grinned at the exchange. He also responded to queries on future activities of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) and voiced disapproval of his party colleagues calling him a "prime minister material".

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



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

Released against the backdrop of growing demand for

PNS ■ KOLLAM (KERALA)

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



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

FIRST COLUMN

EMBRACING LIFE...
THE UTMOST NEED

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



SAKSHI SETHI

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

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

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

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




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

Remember, there is no better time than autumn to begin forgetting the things that trouble us, allowing them to fall away like dried leaves. (The writer is an educator; views are personal)

Women's reservation Bill: A pathbreaking achievement

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



VINEETA HARIHARAN

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

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

The next step was the hugely successful campaign

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Digital medium and new economic paradigm

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



UTTAM CHAKRABORTY



SANTOSH KUMAR BISWAL

MONEY MATTERS

Rupee falls 20 paise to close at 83.14 against US dollar

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



IndianOil unveils India's first green hydrogen-run bus

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



Tamil Nadu accounts for sale of 4 lakh EVs in country

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



DGTR initiates anti-dumping probe into Chinese imports

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India has initiated a probe into an alleged dumping of flasks and bottles by Chinese firms in the country following a complaint by a domestic player.

The move is aimed at protecting domestic players from cheap imports of 'vacuum insulated flasks or vessels of stainless steel' from the neighbouring country.

The probe was started after a complaint by P Lacer International Pvt Ltd was received, which stated that the domestic industry is getting injured due to an increase in dumped imports.

Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), the commerce ministry's investigation arm, is probing the dumping of this product originating in or exported from China.

The products under consid-

eration for the probe include flasks, cups, bottles, kettle, carafe, and dispensers.

According to a DGTR notification, there is prima facie evidence of injury being caused to the domestic industry by dumped imports from China.

"The authority, hereby, initiates an anti-dumping investigation" on the imports, the notification has said.

If it is established that the dumping has caused material injury to domestic players, DGTR would recommend the imposition of anti-dumping duty on these imports.

The finance ministry takes the final decision to impose duties.

Anti-dumping probes are conducted by countries to determine whether domestic industries have been hurt because of a surge in cheap imports.



1-2 board members dominant even in big commercial banks

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday said the central bank has noticed "excessive dominance" by one or two board members even in "big commercial banks" and asked the lenders to desist from such practices.

Board discussions have to be free, fair and democratic, Das said, addressing directors of Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) at a meeting organised by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) here.

"There should not be an over-dominance or excessive dominance by one or two members of the board, or the chairman or the vice-chairman. We have seen this even in big commercial banks wherever we have seen this, we have told the bank that this is not the way," he said.

He said all directors need to be given a chance to speak and a particular director's say should not be the final one on a matter.

The governor, who made the point while illustrating the importance of a well-functioning board, however, did not



elaborate further. In the past, the Indian bank-

ing system has witnessed problems at the promoter-led YES Bank, which had to be bailed out in an SBI-led initiative, which was supported by the RBI and the government.

YES Bank Co-Founder Rana Kapoor, who was also its Chief Executive and Managing Director, was arrested in connection with the irregularities at the bank.

Earlier this month, Uday Kotak, the Chief Executive and Managing Director of Kotak Mahindra Bank, resigned from his post and will continue as a non-executive

board member.

Das said directors in UCBs -- who are elected to the post -- need to have expertise in various aspects of banking, such as risk management, information technology, etc.

He urged directors to go through agenda notes, which are prepared in advance, and ask relevant questions.

While a managing director should have the freedom to act as per what she or he feels right, it is also important for directors to get their doubts clarified, Das added.

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

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

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

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

Demat accounts grow 26% to 12.7 crore

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The number of demat accounts rose to 12.7 crore in August 2023, a surge of 26 per cent on a yearly basis, primarily due to attractive returns from equity markets, and ease of account opening process.

Also, the incremental additions of such accounts were higher in August in comparison to the preceding month.

Further, this was way higher than the average 21 lakh monthly additions in fiscal year FY23, according to an analysis by Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

The new account additions rose 4.1 per cent month-on-month to 31 lakh in August compared to 30 lakh additions in July.

Going by the data, a total of 12.7 crore demat accounts were registered with the two depositories -- NSDL and CDSL -- at the end of August 2023 as compared to 10.1 crore a year earlier.

The number of demat accounts was 12.3 crore at July-end.

TRAI recommendations on boosting telecom infra in northeast progressive: COAI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Industry body COAI on Monday said regulator TRAI's latest recommendations on boosting telecom infrastructure in northeastern states are progressive and will drive socio-economic and digital progress in the region.

TRAI's recommendation on exemption of Right of Way (RoW) charges in the rural, tribal and hilly regions for a five-year period will encourage telecom operators to invest further towards network

deployments in lesser populated regions, the association said in a statement.

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

Deeper participation in global value chains to help India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Steps like streamlining port and customs operations, and setting up of national trade network will help Indian firms integrate with global value chains and add USD 1.2 trillion in the country's foreign trade by 2030, according to a report.

The Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said that currently, India's limited participation in global value chains (GVCs) hampers its export potential, despite possessing substantial manufacturing capabilities across various GVC-relevant product cate-

gories.

The integration of Indian companies in the GVCs is fundamental as about 70 per cent of global trade operates within these chains, encompassing a wide range of products, from electronics and machinery to pharmaceuticals and apparel.

"India's weak GVC integration can be attributed to poor trade infrastructure, causing delays at ports and customs, which are detrimental to the timely flow of goods in these intricate value chains," GTRI Co-Founder Ajay Srivastava said.

Countries like China, Japan,

GTRI REPORT



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

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

domestic firms in GVCs.

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

CTI to Centre: Ban lentil import from Canada

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



Delhi traders' body CTI on Monday urged the Central government to ban import of lentil (masur) from Canada, over Ottawa's allegations relating to the killing of a Khalistani separatist on Canadian soil.

In a letter to Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, the Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI) said that there was a need to exert economic pressure on Canada.

A growing dispute between India and Canada has erupted

following allegations made by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau over the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

Chairman of CTI, Brijesh Goyal, said that the development has sent ripples through the business world. Indian traders have demanded that India should ban import of lentils from Canada, which is a major supplier.

"Canada is becoming a stronghold of Khalistanis and their anti-India sentiment was displayed by protests at the Indian embassy,

However, Trudeau is making politically motivated statements in view of upcoming elections in Canada," he said.

India's annual pulse consumption is estimated at around 23 lakh tonnes of which 15-16 lakh tonnes is produced domestically and rest is imported from other countries. In the last financial year, India imported 4.85 lakh tonnes of lentil from Canada, Goyal said.

The Central government may contact other countries for pulses like Russia, Singapore, and Turkey, he added.

BIS developing standard on paraffinic green diesel

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) on Monday said it has developed as many as nine standards on biofuels, and is in the process of developing a standard on paraffinic (green) diesel.

BIS Director General Pramod Kumar Tiwari said, these standards will significantly complement the objectives of Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA), the multilateral forum announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the G20 leaders' summit held recently in the national capital.

"We are committed to support this path breaking initia-

tive of the government through development of relevant Indian Standards and necessary quality parameters/performance specifications," he said in a statement.

He said development of standard on paraffinic (green) diesel, that is derived from second generation (2G) feedstock, is also under progress.

BIS is a national standards body of India that works under the aegis of the Food and Consumer Affairs Ministry.

According to the BIS, the USA, Brazil, and India are the major producers and consumers of biofuels. These three countries collectively con-



tribute 85 per cent production and 81 per cent consumption of ethanol globally.

The global ethanol market was valued at USD 99 billion in 2022 and is expected to grow at a compounded annual growth rate of 5 per cent by 2032, creating a huge opportunity for Indian industries and contributing to farmers' income, job creation and overall development of the Indian ecosystem, it said.

Currently, about 98 per cent of the fuel requirement in India for the transportation sector is met by fossil fuels and the remaining 2 per cent by biofuels.

Indian Oil Manufacturing

Companies (OMCs) are working towards provisioning new distilleries for production of first generation (1G) and 2G ethanol and Indian vehicle manufacturers are developing engines compliant with ethanol blended fuel.

The government has also started an interest subvention scheme for molasses and grain-based distilleries to promote ethanol production.

It is also foreseen that flex fuel vehicles, which are capable of utilising ethanol-blended gasoline up to 85 per cent, that are already operational in the USA and Brazil, are soon to make an entry in India, the BIS added.

Sensex, Nifty end 4-day losing streak

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty closed marginally up in highly volatile trade on Monday, snapping their four-day losing streak even as weak global trends and foreign fund outflows dented the investor sentiment.

After gyrating 461.6 points during the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex eked out a marginal gain of 14.54 points or 0.02 per cent to settle at 66,023.69. During the day, it hit a high of 66,225.63 and a low of 65,764.03.

Snapping its four-day losing streak, the broader Nifty settled marginally up 0.30 points at 19,674.55 as 24 of its components advanced while 26 declined. Gains in financials, consumer durables, realty and

banking shares were offset by losses in IT, oil & gas and pharma shares.

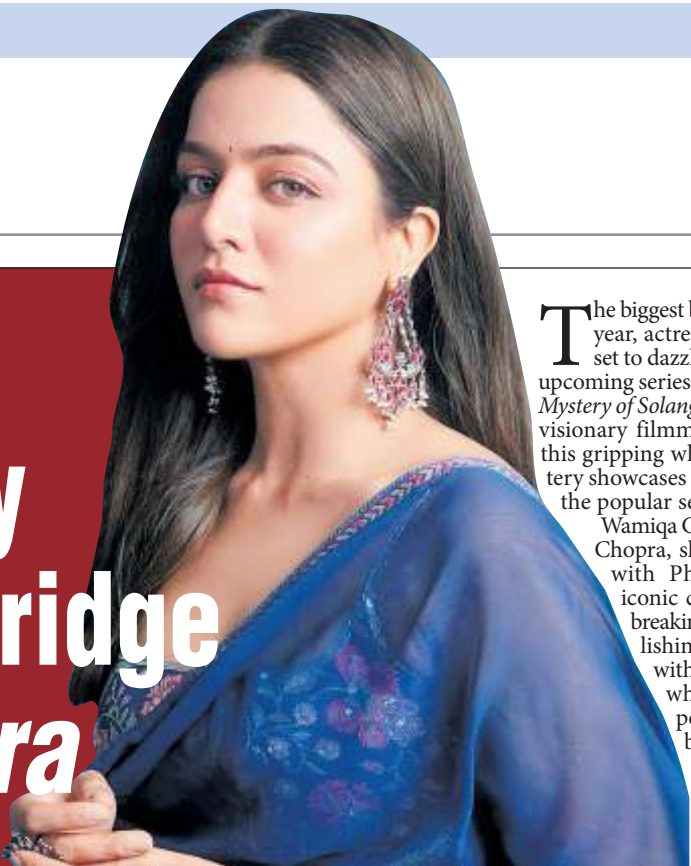
In the four sessions to Friday, the 50-issue barometer declined 3.37 per cent or 518 points while Sensex plunged 1,829 points or 3 per cent following a record 11-day rally.

Analysts said a fresh uptick in US treasury yields is making investors jittery amid rising concerns over inflation and high interest rates while FIIs continue to offload shares in local equities.

Among the Sensex firms, Bajaj Finance jumped the most by 4.64 per cent. Bajaj Finserv, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Asian Paints, UltraTech Cement, ICICI Bank, NTPC, JSW Steel and Tata Steel were among the major gainers.



Wamiqa reveals being inspired by Phoebe Waller-Bridge for *Charlie Chopra*



The biggest breakthrough star of the year, actress Wamiqa Gabbi is all set to dazzle the audience with her upcoming series *Charlie Chopra and the Mystery of Solang Valley*. Directed by the visionary filmmaker Vishal Bhardwaj, this gripping whodunnit murder mystery showcases a unique connection to the popular series *Fleabag*.

Wamiqa Gabbi's character, Charlie Chopra, shares a distinctive trait with Phoebe Waller-Bridge's iconic character in *Fleabag* by breaking the fourth wall, establishing a direct connection with the audience. *Fleabag*, which gained immense popularity for its groundbreaking approach, featured Phoebe Waller-Bridge's character frequently breaking the fourth wall. This technique allowed the character to connect with viewers on a personal level, especially during awkward and realistic situations, bridging the gap between the reel and real worlds. Inspired by this revolutionary style, Wamiqa Gabbi has incorporated a similar approach in her portrayal of Charlie Chopra. In *Charlie Chopra and the Mystery of Solang Valley*, Wamiqa's character engages in candid and direct conversations with the camera, effectively communicating with the audience on a one-on-one basis. This narrative technique adds a layer of intimacy and authenticity to the storytelling, making the series even more engaging and immersive. Wamiqa Gabbi shared her enthusiasm for this unique approach, stating, "In our series, my character breaks the fourth wall to create an atmospheric connection with the audiences directly. It's a creative

process and idea to have Charlie as a character to pamper the viewers involved in her expedition to solve the murder mystery. That I feel was very intriguing as a process to do."

She further continues, "The last time I do remember seeing and being greatly inspired where a similar approach was used but in a different genre was *Fleabag* where Phoebe's character would stare into the camera to connect with the audiences during awkward situations. I did use this as a reference point for myself".

Directed by the maverick filmmaker Vishal Bhardwaj, the series promises to be a thrilling roller coaster ride filled with suspense, mystery, and unexpected twists. With Wamiqa Gabbi's innovative portrayal of Charlie Chopra, viewers can expect a captivating and immersive experience that blurs the lines between the fictional world and their own.

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Rajneeti to Parineeti, Raghav-Parineeti begin their 'forever' journey

Parineeti Chopra and AAP leader Raghav Chadha have finally shared several pictures from their dreamy wedding in Udaipur.

The actress said that she finally feels blessed to be 'Mr and Mrs.'

Taking to Instagram, a day after her wedding on Sunday, Parineeti posted a string of pictures from their jai mala and pheras. A picture of her 'ghoonghat' shows "Raghav written on it."

The pictures were captioned: "From the very first chat at the breakfast table, our hearts knew. Been waiting for this day for a long time .. So blessed to finally be Mr and Mrs! Couldn't have lived without each other .. Our forever begins now."

The grand celebration took place on September 24 at the Leela Palace here in

presence of close friends and family. The jai mala and pheras took place around 4.30 p.m on Sunday.

Renowned personalities such as Sania Mirza, Arvind Kejriwal, Chief Minister of Delhi, along with Bhagwant Mann, Chief Minister of Punjab and Harbhajan Singh were among the other guests at the wedding. The couple had an ivory-themed wedding and the guests were seen dressed similarly. For the vidaai, the song *Dilwale Dhuilhaniya Le Jayengey* picturised on Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol was played.

For the wedding, Parineeti wore a pearl white ensemble by Manish Malhotra outfit, while Raghav was styled in the same colour as per the theme by his maternal uncle and fashion designer Pawan Sachdeva for the big day.

Salman Khan's niece Alizeh Agnihotri makes her acting debut

Since the last few days, many Bollywood celebrities have been sharing a cryptic story on social media that had *Farrey* written on it. And while this build-up to the film created great curiosity amongst fans, it looks like the cat is finally out of the bag.

Farrey is Alizeh's debut film which is being produced by Salman Khan Films. And finally shutting all speculations, the makers have dropped the teaser for the thriller today. *Farrey*'s very first glimpse seems to have sent the internet into a frenzy.

While fans are giving it a shout-out, the interesting teaser is piquing up excitement as Salman Khan also shared it on his social media. The superstar has been lending great support to niece Alizeh as she makes her Bollywood debut.

Being a doting uncle Salman shared a heart-felt post for Alizeh some time back. Well, fans have pointed out how natural and stunning Alizeh looks in front of the camera, and we agree.

Having said that, *Farrey* looks like an edge-of-the-seat gripping thriller at first glance, however, we will learn more about it only after watching more of it. So stay tuned! *Farrey* is directed by national award-winning director Soumendra Padhi and stars Alizeh, Zeyn Shaw, Sahil Mehta, Prasanna Bisht, Ronit Bose Roy, and Juhi Babbar Soni in pivotal roles.

Farrey releases on November 24, 2023.



OLIVIA RODRIGO GETS DATING ADVICE FROM A LITTLE BOY

Singer Olivia Rodrigo got some Sadorable dating advice from a little boy. The 20-year-old singer recently appeared on the *Recess Therapy* show and she straight-up asked a little boy named Miles for dating advice, reports etonline.com.

"How do you think that I find love in my life," she asked, prompting Miles to respond with, "Pick a person that looks kind."

The most adorable part came right after, when Miles put his tiny hand on Rodrigo's knee before telling her, "I really hope you find love."

Rodrigo was visibly moved by the kind gesture, but Miles wasn't done yet. He had her and host Julian Shapiro-Barnum cracking up when Miles also shared, "The only person you can't marry is your cousins." The sweet advice comes not long after Rodrigo dropped *Vampire*, which made waves after fans speculated the track is about her ex, Zack Bia. The DJ recently reacted to the speculation in a new interview with GO.

Rodrigo gained recognition for her lead roles on the Disney television programmes *Bizaardvark* and *High School Musical: The Musical: The Series* (2019-2022).

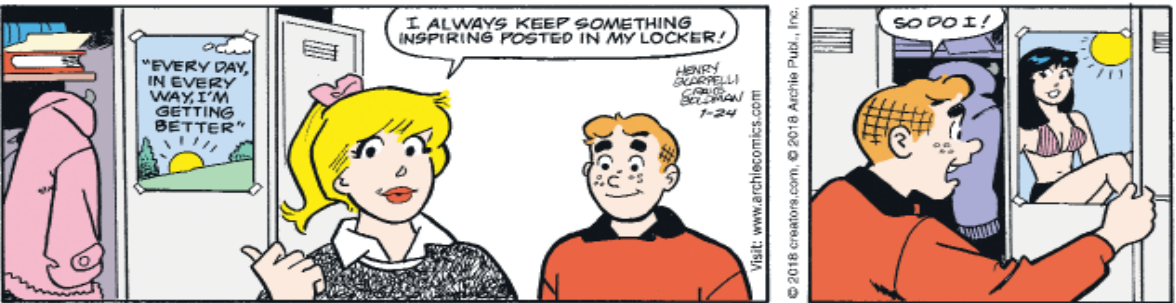
Rodrigo released her debut single, *Drivers License*, which broke various records and became one of the best-selling songs of 2021, propelling her to mainstream fame. She followed it up with singles *Deja Vu* and *Good 4 U*, and released her debut studio album, *Sour*, in 2021, which was met with critical and commercial success, winning various accolades including three Grammy Awards.

Rodrigo has achieved three Billboard Hot 100 number-one singles, two Billboard 200 number-one albums, and five multi-Platinum certifications by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA). She won an American Music Award, seven Billboard Music Awards and three MTV Video Music Awards. Time named her the 2021 Entertainer of the Year and Billboard named her Woman of the Year in 2022.



FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



NANCY



GINGER MEGGS



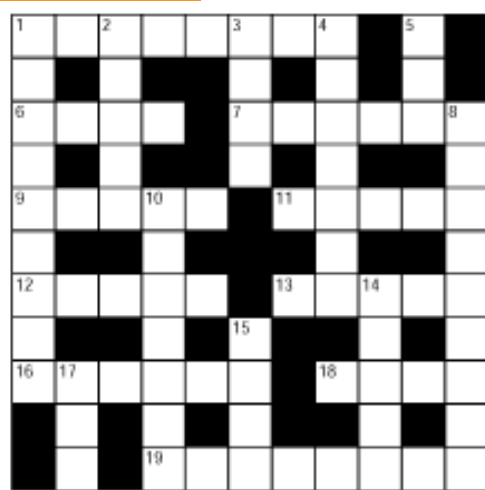
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



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



SUDOKU

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Yesterday's solution								
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- 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.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, CONFIDENCE

TEJAL SINHA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Charlie Chopra & the Mystery of Solang Valley

A maze of suspects and the hunt are intriguing

TANISHA SAXENA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

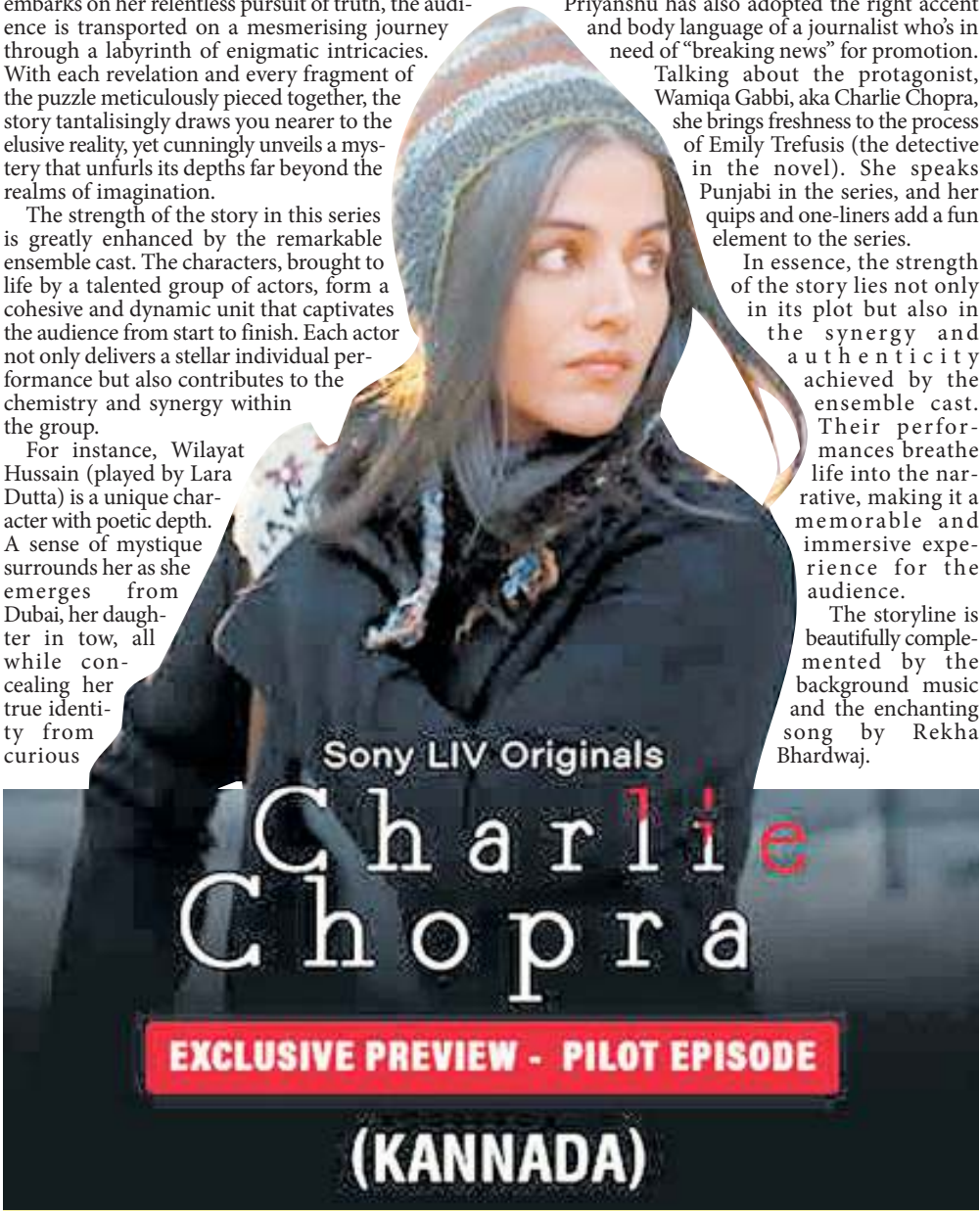
With a narrative that unfolds like an intricately woven tapestry, this character assumes a pivotal role as the steadfast companion to the protagonist.

Priyanshu has also adopted the right accent and body language of a journalist who’s in need of “breaking news” for promotion.

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

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

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



Director: Vishal Bhardwaj
Writers: Vishal Bhardwaj, Jyotsna Hariharan, and Anjum Rajabali
Cinematography: Tassaduq Hussain
Producers: Basi Akpabio, Leo Dezoysa, and James Prichard
Production: Vishal Bhardwaj Films, Vishal Bhardwaj Pictures, Tusk Tale Films, Agatha Christie

Cast: Wamiqa Gabbi, Priyanshu Painyuli, Naseerudin Shah, Lara Dutta, Neena Gupta, Ratna Pathak Shah, Gulshan Grover, Paoli Dam, Chandan Roy Sanyal, Imaaduddin Shah, Vivaan Shah
Streaming on: Sonyliv
Rating: 3/5

UNDERSTANDING ATRIAL FIBRILLATION

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

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

DETECTING ATRIAL FIBRILLATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

heart rhythms and prevent excessively slow or fast heart rates.

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

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



BUMRAH BACK FOR THIRD ODI



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

World Cup, BCCI sources said on Monday.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ruturaj, Mukesh released for Asian Games

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

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

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

PTI ■ HANGZHOU (CHINA)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

welcomed us in China."

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

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

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

Gold medal favourite Bopanna-Bhambri pair suffers shock exit

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

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

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

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



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

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

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

it 6-1 on Bopanna's serve.

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

Bhambri could not support Bopanna enough

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dalmiya, Dhumal re-elected in IPL GC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



representative in the Apex Council.

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

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

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

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

Pakistani players issued Indian visa for World Cup travel

PTI ■ INDORE

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

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

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

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

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



told PTI.

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

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

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

Hyderabad starting with the practice fixture against New Zealand.

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

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



Zverev advances to Chengdu Open final

AP ■ CHENGDU (CHINA)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fourth-seeded Anna Blinkova beat Viktoriya Hrunckakova 6-3, 7-5 and eighth-seeded Lucia Bronzetti defeated Swiss qualifier Jil Teichmann 7-6 (6), 6-4.

Also, Linda Fruhvirtova beat Rebeka Masarova 1-6, 6-2, 1-0 (retired) and Kateryna Braid defeated Yuan Yue 3-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Top-seeded Ons Jabeur and third-seeded Sorana Cirstea will play their first matches on Tuesday.

Asian Games 2023: Titas helps India to win gold

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

Titas Sadhu must be believing in pleasant coincidences. Else, how could she logically explain that two of the most defining spells in her short but eventful career read almost eerily similar.

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

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

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



splash at the pool.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

see and it was something that his Bengal women's team coach Shib Shankar Paul realised.

"I remember one of my former Bengal teammates Priyanka Mukherjee called me few years back. He said, 'Maco (his nickname), there is girl I coach, she is nearly 5 feet 9 inch tall and is quick for a 16-year-old. Why don't you check her out for senior Bengal team'," Paul recollected on the day.

"When I first saw her at the Bengal nets, I was surprised that she was way quicker for her age. Had a physique that you rarely find in a pace bowler from Bengal, Jhulan (Goswami) obviously was an exception. She bowled good outswing and had good grasping power. She was a good student and fared well in her 10th boards. I didn't waste time to convince erstwhile CAB secretaries Snehashish Ganguly and Debu Das to allow me to take her in senior Bengal team," said Paul, pride in his voice palpable.

So did he talk to Titas today after the final?

"Yes, she and Richa (Ghosh) both called up. Titas said, 'Thank You sir for all the support.'"

tollywood

AVANTIKA TRYING TO SPIN A LABYRINTH IN THE SOUTH

SHIKHA DUGGAL

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

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

Sure, she's spinning a labyrinth in

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

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

ground; she has seen how the work environment has a firm hand in comparison with Bollywood. But she does get nervous if I am put at the deep ends of the water."

In conclusion, the *Nenu Student Sir's* leading lady said, "I am open to every project. I am too fresh to choose! It's just the beginning of my career. I am hoping for opportunities."



Salaar shooting resumes but without Prabhas

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

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

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



Mansion 24 has multiple stories and actions, reveals Avika Gor

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

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

Avika added: "In this project, he has multiple stories and multiple actions, and his forte, which is horror and thriller, is what he is bringing to the table for the audience. I am glad that I have the opportunity to be a part of something on a large scale in the Telugu market, and I hope people appreciate this side of me."

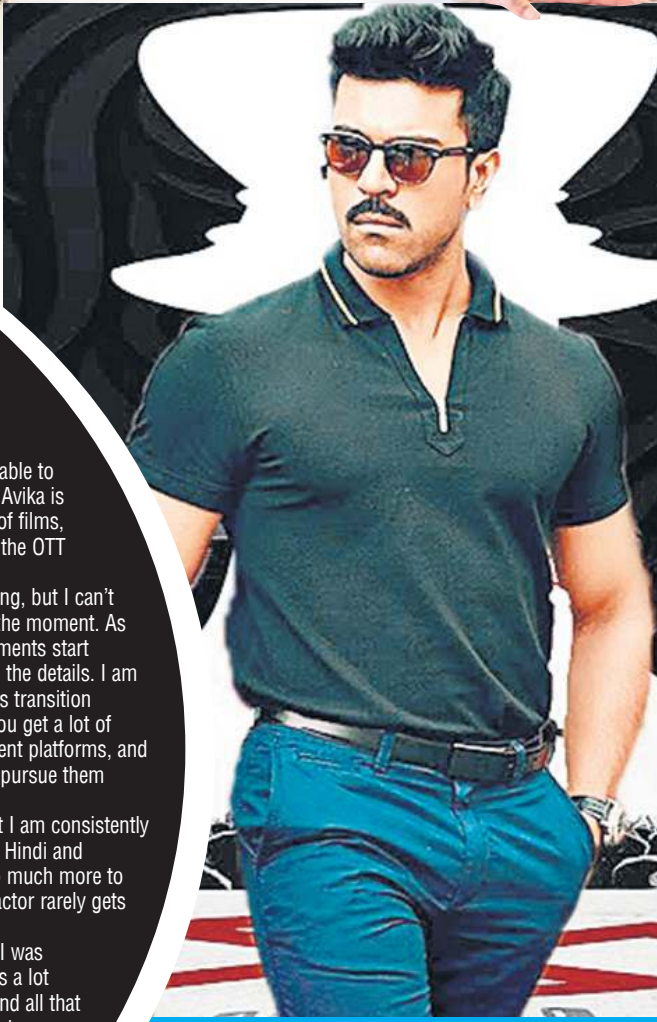
Talking about the poster of the series, the actress said: "Yes, the poster is extremely intriguing because you can't really figure out if I am the nice one, the bad one, or the victim. It's confusing, and I love that. None of my previous posters have been this intense, so I am excited about this one. Soon, the trailer will be

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

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

"I am also pleased that I am consistently working on projects in Hindi and Telugu, and there is so much more to come," she said. The actor rarely gets holidays.

"Even during Ganapati, I was dubbing, and there was a lot happening. Traveling and all that does happen. And I try to spend as much time with my family after and before the shoot. I am loving the whole process of being busy," she added.



Game Changer shoot put on hold after Ram Charan gets injured

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

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

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

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



JAYALALITA: WE THANK AUDIENCE FOR EMBRACING RUDRAM KOTA

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

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

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

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

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

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

MADdest youthful entertainer to tickle your funny bones from Oct 6

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

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

of Fortune Four Cinemas is co-producing the cinema.

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



Sivakarthikeyan-AR Murugadoss's upcoming film #SKxARM announced



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

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

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

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

to your narration. This film is going to be very special for me in all aspects and I can't wait to start filming Thank you so much sir and once again happy birthday sir," reads Sivakarthikeyan's post. Responding to Sivakarthikeyan, director AR Murugadoss wrote, "Thankyou so much Siva! Glad to join with you on the next project! Let's create some cinematic magic together! #SKxARM."

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

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



Director Vasu Varma arrested in drug case

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

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

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