



**- Kavitha Kalvakuntla, MLC**

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**-SPORTS**

tives earmarked for the Bhimili constituency, emphasizing the Chief Minister's unwavering commitment

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## 2



The officials said that the State

The Jagan Mohan Reddy government is providing financial assistance of Rs 10,000 to each driver-cum-owner of auto, taxi, maxi cab, and MDU operators to handhold them to meet expenses towards insurance premiums, fitness certificates, etc.

## 2



In a setback for Chandrababu Naidu, his quash petition filed in the Supreme Court was postponed to October 3.



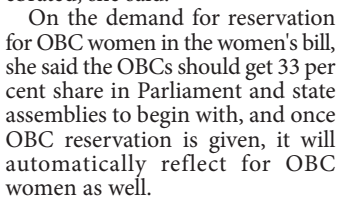
Lokesh embarked on the 4,000-km

As the Supreme Court has agreed to hear Naidu's plea in the skill development scam case on October 3, the TDP Action Committee has called a meeting of senior leaders on Friday to discuss the future course of action. Lokesh is expected to attend the party meeting through video conference. With party chief Naidu sent to judicial remand and Lokesh staying put in the national capital, the Opposition party leaders are clueless about the leadership.

The MP also submitted to the President and the Union Home Minister that the CI

Uninterrupted study sessions, child safety and overall well-being as families embrace a future where the internet is both a resource and a sanctuary," Singh said.

"So, it's a very clear sign and signal to the women of this country that passing the Women's Reservation Bill is like giving a post-dated cheque. We have signed the cheque. The amount is written but we do not know when you can cash it. There is no point or purpose to this whole exercise. It just looks like tokenism to me," she said video





# Will Naidu gain public sympathy enough to hit back at critics ?

The arrest of Telugu Desam Party president and ex-chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu for alleged involvement in the 'AP skill development scam' has given rise to a theory that he could benefit significantly from the sympathy factor that has emerged as a fallout of the way he was put behind bars. The larger question is: Can he gain public sympathy that is enough to beat his opponent? That is a moot question because in the past riveting political dramas involving politicians did not yield expected gains. But Naidu's admirers insist that he will get public sympathy enough to gain an upper hand over his critics. Neutral political observers have, however, kept a stiff upper lip.

After Naxalites made an attempt on his life in October 2003, Naidu, then combined AP's chief minister,

with his hand in plaster cast, used to be greeted by a large number of people every day for a few days at his home. People who had poured into Hyderabad from different places across combined AP used to chant "long live Naidu" before dispersing. Despite the show of strength by people described by the party as Naidu's die-hard supporters, the TDP suffered a humiliating defeat in the subsequent Assembly elections that brought Congress party's YS Rajasekhara Reddy to power. YSR went on to become the most popular chief minister in the annals of combined Andhra Pradesh.

Now, with Naidu in Rajahmundry Central Jail, the scene is being repeated for obvious reasons. A section of the media is projecting the visit of the rich and mighty, IT professionals and oth-

ers to Rajahmundry amid the perceived sympathy wave across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Neutral political observers see the present predicament of Naidu as just another episode in his mission to grab power. When he was the chief minister, he embraced the new economic policies, thereby distancing himself from not only the poor but also farmers and agricultural economists. He was praised to the skies by a section of the foreign media whose representatives had visited the combined Andhra Pradesh on a conducted tour. His affair with the media ended when the Congress bounced back to power in the combined Andhra Pradesh with a massive majority under the leadership of YS Rajasekhara Reddy. Despite succeeding in bringing together all non-Congress parties, including



SRIRAMULU K

the Communists, to beat YS Rajasekhara Reddy, Naidu suffered humiliation. He could rebuild his political career only after the tragic death of YS Rajasekhara Rao and the arrest of his son YS Jagan Mohan Reddy.

In the 2014 Assembly elections,

the missteps of Jagan Mohan Reddy took their toll on YSRCP. In just four years, the political fortunes of Naidu nosedived. What happened in four years and what led to Naidu's humiliating defeat once again in 2018 is attributed to people's anger over his policies that did not allow the benefits of the growing economy to trickle down to the poor. This is also one of the assessments by agricultural economists.

Naidu was accused of transforming the police force into instruments of state repression when mounted police personnel used their horses to suppress protesting Anganwadi women. Naidu's admirers may not hold him responsible for such events, but these painful events remain fresh in people's minds.

Today, the police in Andhra

Pradesh are not seen as instruments of repression. He, however, has given carte blanche to the special force, called the Crime Investigation Department, to target high-profile politicians. They are doing their job and how! Even at court, Naidu's lawyers, instead of repudiating the charge of his involvement in the Rs 360 crore skill development project scam, harped on the failure of the CID police get the mandatory prior sanction under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act before instituting criminal proceedings against the former chief minister.

Naidu owes people an explanation about the disappearance of his personal assistant P Srinivas, an aide to him for many years. Even the Income Department officials examined Srinivas. The IT

Department even served a notice to Naidu over unaccounted income totalling Rs 100 crore. The Jagan Mohan Reddy government too should explain why the CID has not issued a lookout notice for Srinivas so far.

Followers of YS Rajasekhara Reddy recalled how Telugu Desam Party leaders had mocked them when Jagan Mohan Reddy was arrested and how they tried to tarnish the image of YSR. The TDP leaders threw mud at YSR, though it did not stick to the departed leader. Considering that the skill development case is sub judice, suffice to say that Naidu seems to have lost his capacity as a great strategist. It remains to be seen how he wriggles out of the current situation.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

## AU inks MoUs with defence groups

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Andhra University recently inked MoUs with several defense institutions, which include the College of Air Warfare in Secunderabad, INS Vishwakarma in Visakhapatnam, the Indian Air Force Academy in Dundigal, and the Kendriya Sainik Board (KSB).

Within the framework of these collaborations, KSB provides a bachelor's programme specialising in human resource management, the College of Air Warfare administers a postgraduate programme in strategic studies designed for senior officials, INS Vishwakarma has launched an undergraduate course focusing on naval architecture and shipbuilding, and the Indian Air Force Academy in Dundigal delivers a postgraduate diploma program tailored for young officers.

These programmes will be delivered within the aforementioned defense establishments, and upon completion of



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the courses, Andhra University will confer certifications and degrees to the officials.

Professor PVGD Prasad Reddy, Vice-Chancellor of AU, highlighted that traditionally, state universities establish affiliations with degree-granting, postgraduate, or engineering

colleges. However, AU has entered into affiliations with multiple defense institutions. Presently, AU has attracted 38 prominent defense officials who have enrolled in Ph.D. programmes.

Furthermore, approximately 5,000 officials have success-

fully completed preparatory courses provided by the university across various fields such as cyber-security, artificial intelligence, and marine engineering.

In order to enhance its support for the academic and research requirements of defense personnel, the university has elevated the status of its Centre for Defence Studies, which was originally inaugurated in 2017 by former President Ram Nath Kovind, transforming it into the 'School of Defence Studies.'

The Vice-Chancellor further mentioned that the university has entered into approximately 35 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with various defense forces over the past three years, and all of these agreements are currently in operation. He expressed his satisfaction with the participation of all 38 officers enrolled in the Ph.D. programme in a recent conference organised by the university's trans-disciplinary research hub.

### One drowned, two rescued during Idol immersion

PNS ■ BHADRADRI KOTHAGUDEM

One person drowned in the Godavari river during Ganesh idol immersion on Thursday. The incident happened when the three persons participated in the Ganesh idol immersion at the river.

According to police, three persons entered the river to take a bath while attending the immersion of Ganesh idols.

Alerted by people, the personnel of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) swung into action and rescued two persons. The third person, identified as Ganesh was missing. The youths came under Tekulapally mandal in the district.

## ISRO provides assistance for space science research at universities

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is actively engaged in backing space science research at universities and research institutions, following the guidance and recommendations provided by the Advisory Committee for Space Science (ADCOS) said P. Pradeep Kumar, Deputy Head, ISRO Atmospheric and Space Science Avionics and Checkout Division.

Delivering a distinguished lecture titled "Payloads and More" at GITAM Deemed to be University here on Thursday, organized by GITAM Career Guidance Center in association with the EEC department, P. Pradeep Kumar emphasized that the current initiatives and ongoing projects are creating captivating prospects for drawing young research scientists and students into the field of space science. He noted that there has been significant interest and a surge in expertise, leading to the submission of proposals by scientists and students for new missions.



He provided an overview of the vital components of Chandrayaan and underscored the significance of spacecraft payload design in any space mission, especially the intricate process of creating the specific instruments, sensors, experiments, or payloads that a spacecraft transports and utilizes in space.

He expressed that payloads have established themselves as a valuable and indispensable resource for investigating and comprehending outer space. He highlighted that the design of payloads demands expertise

in engineering, science, and technology, coupled with the capacity to effectively manage the payload's objectives, limitations, and associated mission risks.

He discussed a range of space experiments, with a particular focus on missions such as Chandrayaan-3, Aditya Mission, and Gaganyaan. He conveyed that space research has the potential to enhance various critical areas, including agriculture, weather prediction, public health, safety, land surveying, and environmental concerns. He encouraged students to actively engage in space research as a means to contribute to the nation's development.

GITAM School of Technology Director Prof K Nagendra Prasad presided over the function. Joining him were Prof. GB Seventh Line, who heads the EEC department, Dr. Rosina Mathew, the Competence Development Director at GITAM, Vamsi, the Director of the Career Guidance Center (CGCG), Deputy Director Anil Kumar, and various other participants in the programme.

## Capital shift...

Continued from Page 1

He stated that the State government had been actively implementing various welfare programs aimed at elevating the lives of underprivileged individuals, increasing their income levels, and providing access to English-medium education for their children. Narayana Swamy urged the public to consider the assistance they have received from State government welfare initiatives when making their voting decisions. He firmly asserted that no Chief Minister other than CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy could deliver on promises and stand by their words.

Former minister Avanti Srinivas expressed optimism about the positive transformations that the Anakapalli region is poised to undergo, with a significant increase in employment prospects on the horizon.

The Bhimili region is indeed taking centre stage as it prepares for the monumental shift of the state capital to Visakhapatnam.

## 'Non-Political JAC'...

Continued from Page 1

a corrective measure to the previous government's approach. He stated, "The Sivaramakrishnan committee was opposed to the creation of a super city like Amaravati and instead favoured decentralised development. By intervening in the case, our aim is to present our perspective on why Vizag might be the most suitable location for the Executive Capital."

Professor Rai also disclosed that the JAC has proposed the establishment of High Court benches in both Vizag and Vijayawada if the existing High Court relocates to Kurnool.

He added, "We have put forth a plan for the creation of mini secretariats in Vijayawada and Kurnool in the event of the secretariat

moving to Visakhapatnam as part of the Executive Capital plan. The distribution of administrative functions among different cities and regions would foster balanced development throughout the State."

Furthermore, he said that designating Vizag as the Executive Capital would stimulate comprehensive development.

Professor Rai highlighted Vizag's international connectivity and its appeal to international delegates, intellectuals, and tourists as unique factors in its favour. On October 15, 2022, a rally called 'Visakaha Garjana' was organised under the auspices of this non-political JAC. Despite heavy rainfall on that day, thousands of people and regional representatives participated in the rally.

## Iconic agricultural...

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Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi, Chief Minister M K Stalin, leaders of farmers' bodies including P R Pandian condoled Swaminathan's death. The Congress party described him as the key scientific architect of the Green Revolution and hailed his contribution to the agriculture sector.

Modi said on X: "Deeply saddened by the demise of Dr MS Swaminathan Ji. At a very critical period in our nation's history, his groundbreaking work in agriculture transformed the lives of millions and ensured food security for our nation."

Beyond his revolutionary contributions to agriculture, Dr Swaminathan was a powerhouse of innovation and a nurturing mentor to many. His unwavering commitment to research and mentorship has left an indelible mark on countless scientists and innovators.

"I will always cherish my conversations with Dr Swaminathan. His passion to see

### CM, Governor...

Continued from Page 1

The Governor offered his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy expressed grief over the passing away of MS Swaminathan, father of Green Revolution, the agronomist whose verdant vision has changed the rural landscape. Recalling the contribution of the Padma Vibhushan and Magsaysay Awardee MS Swaminathan to agriculture, the Chief Minister said his efforts had made the nation strong in food production, enriching rural economy and his memory lives in the lush fields forever.

India progress was exemplary. His life and work will inspire generations to come. Condolences to his family and admirers. Om Shanti," he said.

## Grand finale to ganesha

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The 10-day Ganesh festival concluded with great solemnity and grandeur at Hussain Sagar Lake on Thursday. Several Ganesh committees across the city gathered here to bid farewell to Lord Ganesha by immersing the idols in the water.

The Shobha Yatra of the famous Khairatabad 63-foot Bada Ganesh idol has begun with great splendour. With the aid of police forces, the Ganesh committee members were directed to start their yatra early in the morning from Khairatabad to NTR Marg. Lakhs of devotees gathered along the way from the Secretariat to Tank Bund to get a final glimpse of the tall idol. The committee members put the idol on a trolley consisting of 26 tires that carried a weight of 55 tons.



Police and Disaster Response Forces were allocated at the assigned locations to maintain a peaceful procession.

The traffic police strictly prohibited the commuters from entering into the locations and directed them to alternate routes. Following a five-hour

procession, the Khairatabad Ganesh idol was immersed in the Hussain Sagar with the aid of a crane.

Many Ganesh idols of different sizes transported by the local Ganesh committees, including the idols carried by the devotees, were also immersed here.

# Women's quota Bill a post-dated...

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Asked if the winnability factor is cited to stop representation for women, she replied in the affirmative and said more efforts are needed to enhance representation for women and other sections of society in the political system.

Kavitha, who is the founder of 'Bharat Jagruti', a cultural organisation, said she is keen on taking up workshops on leadership across the country to prepare women for roles at the helm. Asked if she would convince her party BRS to ensure adequate representation of women, she, however, replied in the negative. "I am a very small first time MP and first time MLC kind of junior leader. So, nobody can convince the parties. Wasn't Indira Gandhi an important voice in the party? Wasn't Sonia Gandhi the only voice in the party. The issue here

is you need to give policy protection to the vulnerable section of the society which starts from women," she said. It could be upper class women, OBC women, Dalit or Adivasi women but women need policy protection, she said. How soon the women's reservation legislation can be implemented and provide representation to OBC women is a larger fight, she said.

On parties like BJP questioning BRS on its friendship with AIMIM which was the sole opponent of women's reservation in Parliament, she said BRS and AIMIM are "friendly parties" and they have never been alliance partners.

The AIMIM is entitled to have its views, she said. The party's opposition did not stop the women's reservation bill, she added.

Asked if she saw Congress's momentum picking up in Telangana ahead of the Legislative Assembly elections, Kavitha, daughter of Chief

Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, expressed confidence that the people would support the BRS having seen the rapid pace of development in the state. She said the BRS would come back to power in the coming elections as Telangana has witnessed transformative changes during the BRS regime. She alleged that Congress could not ensure basic needs like supply of drinking water and irrigation during its long rule in undivided Andhra Pradesh.

The BRS government worked for the people despite the Centre not supporting it, she claimed.

Referring to the Cauvery water row between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, she asked why Congress cannot make the chief ministers of the two states sit together and solve the issue forever as DMK is its partner in the INDIA alliance. Asked about the allegations against her in the Delhi excise policy case, she said it is the 'modus operandi'

of the BJP. "There is nothing special about Kavitha. It is just that Telangana is going to election, so they have to trouble BRS as a party," she said, speaking about the Enforcement Directorate questioning her in the case.

Not only she, but many other leaders of BRS are being "targeted" as well, she claimed.

Asked about her stance on the 'India-Bharat' debate, she said they are non-issues. The names 'India' and 'Bharat' have been loved and used interchangeably and both the names are equally important, she said.

"Just because opposition comes together and calls themselves INDIA, the BJP gets scared and they want to call the whole country with a different name. They are taking their insecurities to the next level," she said.

Asked about the stance of BRS on Uniform Civil Code, she reiterated her party's opposition to it.

## SCR extends special train operations during Oct, Nov

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during October and November 2023, the South Central Railway (SCR) extended the operation of special trains on Thursday.

Services of Train No. 07091 (Kazipet - Tirupati) and Train No. 07092 (Tirupati - Kazipet) will be extended from Oct 17 to Nov 28. Service of Train No. 07631 (Hyderabad - Narsapur) will be extended from October 7 to November 25, whereas services of Train No. 07632 (Narsapur - Hyderabad) will be extended from Oct 8 to Nov 26.

Services of Train No. 07643 (Hyderabad - Tirupati) will be extended from October 9 to November 27 while services of Train No. 07644 (Tirupati -

Hyderabad) will be extended from October 10 to November 28. Moreover, services of Train No. 07185 (Machilipatnam - Secunderabad) and Train No. 07186 (Secunderabad - Machilipatnam) will be extended from Oct 8 to November 26.

Additionally, services of Train No. 07481 (Tirupati - Secunderabad) will be extended from October 15 to November 26, whereas services of Train No. 07482 (Secunderabad - Tirupati) will be extended from October 16 to November 27.

Services of Train No. 07509 (Hyderabad - Tirupati) will be extended from October 12 to November 30 while services of Train No. 07510 (Tirupati - Hyderabad) will be extended from October 13 to December 1.





Muslims taking out a rally on the occasion of Milad-un-Nabi in Vijayawada on Thursday.

Photo: **Ch. VIJAYA BHASKAR**

# Special prayers, rallies mark Milad-un-Nabi celebrations

**PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA**

Milad-un-Nabi was celebrated by the Muslim community all over AP State with special meetings, rallies, and prayers. The Muslims in large numbers joined the Milad Un Nabi meetings in which Muslim scholars and Moulvis recalled that the prophet Muhammad preached peace through Islam and explained that Islam is not a religion but a way of life.

Muslims organised a huge rally at the Panja Centre in the

old city of Vijayawada city. The Muslims in large numbers from Singh Nagar, Bhavanipuram, Chittinagar, and other areas came in numbers for this demonstration. The demonstration started from Panjacenter and continued till KR Market. Muslim religious leaders participated in this programme and explained the life history of the Prophet. Namaz prayers were held in Iconic Jumma Masjid.

The relics (hair) of Prophet Muhammad were preserved in

the Jumma mosque and Muslims visited the relics after the Namaz. Jumma Masjid Khatib Maulana Abdul Mustafa said that in 1898, the traditional trustee of the mosque, Mir Shah Zahoor, made a pilgrimage to Mecca, brought the hair of the Prophet and preserved it in the Jumma Masjid. He said that the Prophet's hair is also preserved in Hazrath Bal shrine and this Jumma Masjid, is also the oldest mosque in the state with the Prophet's relic.

AP Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat

state co-convenor and Sufi mentor Altaf Ali Raza headed the Milad-un-Nabi rally at Kondapalli on Thursday. The flag of Islam was hoisted on the Sharai Khana at the Jamia Masjid. Later special prayers were held. Altaf Ali Raza said that the Prophet Muhammad has indicated the path for the survival of peace for mankind and prayed that everyone should work for world peace by walking on that path and that all people should live in harmony and peace without differences.

## APRSA State Council meet on October 1

**PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA**

Andhra Pradesh Revenue Services Association (APRSA) State president Bopparaju Venkateswarlu and general secretary Chebrolu Krishna Murthy have said that the 17th APRSA State Council will be conducted at Tummalapalli Kalakshetram in Vijayawada on October 1. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the 17th State Council meeting which was scheduled in 2020 was not conducted, they said.

The leaders said that a huge number of Revenue employees from the Village Revenue Assistants (VRA) to Deputy Collectors would attend the State Council meeting. Also, they urged the employees to make the meet a grand success.

They said that Minister for Revenue Dharma Prasada Rao would attend the State Council's inaugural function as chief guest. Also, Chief Commissioner of Land Administration G Sai Prasad and NTR and Guntur District Collectors would attend the meet, they added.

Further, they stated that as per the schedule fixed earlier, the election process would be held at the AP Revenue Bhavan near Lenin Centre in Vijayawada on Saturday.

## VMRDA land auctions at Madhurawada from today

**PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM**

The Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region Development Authority (VMRDA) is optimistic about generating significant revenue by selling 14 large land parcels covering 87.8 acres in the upscale Madhurawada area. This decision stems from Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's choice to move to Visakhapatnam for the Dasara festival, as it is the planned administrative capital of Andhra Pradesh.

The sale of these land parcels, named 'Madhurawada Heights', has garnered substantial interest. The base price is set at Rs 30,000 per square yard, and VMRDA expects to generate a minimum of Rs1,200 crore in revenue. Many builders are expected to participate in the auction, given VMRDA's strong reputation for conducting sought-after auctions.

This land sale comes at a time when real estate prices have surged due to limited land availability for apartment complexes, gated communities, and commercial projects. Visakhapatnam has grown into a major cosmopolitan and financial center since the 2014 bifurcation.



Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy expressed his intention to establish Visakhapatnam as the administrative centre during the Dasara festival. The auction for the 14 land parcels in Madhurawada is scheduled for September 29 and 30.

A Mallikarjuna, the District Collector and VMRDA Metropolitan Commissioner mentioned that the 87.8-acre land parcel has been divided into plots ranging from three to 12 acres, following the master plan's mixed-use zoning. Each parcel offers access to essential amenities and is near an 80-ft road connecting to the National Highway.

VMRDA is also planning the monetization of 13 acres of

land, known as the LuLu Group land, transferred to it by the government from the APIIC. The UAE-based mall owner relinquished this land after the YSRCP government canceled the previous TDP administration's plan for a Rs2,200 crore international convention center, five-star hotel, and multiplex.

VMRDA refrained from auctioning extensive land parcels due to the pandemic and instead sporadically sold residential plots. The largest urban development authority in Andhra Pradesh has not undertaken any housing projects since constructing row houses in Rushikonda and the mega housing venture Harita Complex in Madhurawada.

## TTD chief releases book

**PNS ■ TIRUPATI**

TTD Chairman B Karunakara Reddy released a book, "Tirumala the Seven Hills of Salvation", published by 'The Hindu', at the Chennai Information Centre on Thursday. This book features the history of Tirumala and other significant details.

Chennai Local Advisory Committee Chairman Shekhar Reddy, The Hindu CEO Navaneeth, Business Line Editor Raghuvveer Srinivasan, Magazines, Special Publications Head R Srinivasan, Tamil Nadu Circulation Division Senior General Manager Babu Vijay participated in the event.



## Taneti Vanitha offers prayers at Kanaka Durga Temple

**PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA**

Minister for Home and Disaster Management and NTR district in-charge Taneti Vanitha worshipped goddess Durga Devi at the Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam atop Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada on Thursday.

She offered special prayers in view of the Dasara Sarannavatri festivities that will take place from October 15 to 23.

Temple Trust Board



Chairman Karnati Rambabu and Executive Officer (EO) D Bramaramba gave a warm wel-

come to the Home Minister. Speaking to reporters, Minister Vanitha said that before

the Dasara festivities begin, she wanted to visit the temple and pray for the successful conduct of the Sarannavatri programmes. With the coordination of all government departments, the temple authorities will make the celebrations a grand success, she added.

Further, she asked the Trust Board chairman and the EO to make elaborate arrangements for the festivities. They were expecting that 5.50 lakh to 6 lakh devotees would visit the

temple on the occasion.

Later, temple scholars and priests gave blessings to the minister at the Veda Ashirvachanam Mandapam. Chairman Rambabu and EO Bramaramba presented laddu prasadam and Amravari portrait to the minister.

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Mayor Rayana Bhagyalakshmi, Temple Executive Engineers Koteswara Rao and Rama Devi and others accompanied the minister.

## Krishna district rugby teams selected

**PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA**

The Krishna District Rugby Association (KDRA) has selected the district junior boys' and girls' teams for the Andhra Pradesh State Inter-District Junior Rugby Championship, which is scheduled to be held at Kurnool on October 1 and 2. As many as 55 players attended the selection trials that were held at the Zilla Parishad High School at Nunna near Vijayawada on Thursday.

Association secretary N Chandra Kala started the selection trials.

Junior boys: K Rahul, L Muralidhar, U Venkata Ramana (Vikas Polytechnic College, Nunna), P Yaswanth Kumar (Andhra Loyola College), G

Billahari Sai Babu (Sri Chaitanya, Bhavanipuram), M Lakshminarayana (KBN College), Y Jikri Reddy, Abhishek, T Rajamouli, G Amar Subhash (ZPHS, Nunna), M Harshitha Kumar (ZPHS, Unguturu), M Durga Prasad (Vijayawada), K Suguna Rao (Coach), MV Satya Prasad (Manager).

Junior girls: D Chinni (SRR & CVR), G Ganga Bhavani (Sri Chaitanya), S Keerthana, Y Sudharani, Y Nandini (ZPHS, Unguturu), T Harika (United Hotel Management), V Geethasri (GJC, Krishna Lanka), G Ramya Sri (Sri Chaitanya Bharathi, H Junction), K Divya, D Saranya, V Vidya Rani, S Likhitha (ZPHS, Nunna), T Sri Latha (Coach), Kranthi (Manager).



## Make 4<sup>th</sup> phase of 'Varahi Yatra' a huge success: Manohar

**PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA**

Jana Sena Party (JSP) has appealed to the people to make the fourth phase of 'Varahi Vijaya Yatra' of Pawan Kalyan a big success.

Addressing the district and city presidents of the Jana Sena Party on Thursday, JSP Political Affairs chairman Nadendla Manohar said that the fourth phase of Varahi Vijaya Yatra would begin on October 1 in Avanigadda.



The programme would be announced after discussions with the coordination committees, he said. Manohar said that the first, second, and third phases of 'Varahi Vijaya Yatra' were successful and in the same spirit, the fourth phase should be a big success, he added. He asked the cadres to make elaborate

arrangements for Pawan Kalyan's public meetings.

Referring to the alliance with the TDP, he said that after discussing with the TDP leaders a "common action plan" would be evolved. He asked the JSP leaders to work with the TDP leaders without misunderstandings. A host of JSP leaders including Kandula Durgesh, Kotikalapudi Govinda Rao, Dr Pasupuleti Hariprasad, and Nerella Suresh were among those who were present.

## Pawan condoles death of Swaminathan

**PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA**

Jana Sena chief K Pawan Kalyan condoled the death of Agriculture scientist MS Swaminathan.

"I am saddened to know that MS Swaminathan, the famous agronomist who pioneered the green revolution in our country, has breathed his last. I pray to the Lord Parameswara that his soul rests in peace," he said in a message here on Thursday.

The farmers and agricultural experts of the country would never forget the efforts made



by Swaminathan in bringing the required food grains to meet the needs of the growing population of our country, he stated.

"Many experiments in that direction are still going on in our country today due to the design of high-yielding paddy and wheat varieties. Apart from doing much research through the research foundation named after him, Swaminathan strived hard till now to protect the mangroves as a part of environmental protection and continued studies on climate change. His death is a great loss to the Indian agriculture sector. I extend my deepest condolences to the family of Swaminathan," Pawan Kalyan added.

## Farmers' leader Yerneni Nagendranath no more

**PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA**



Andhra Pradesh Drainage Board former member and former minister Yerneni Seetha Devi's husband Yerneni Nagendranath, 80,

passed away at a private hospital in Vijayawada on Thursday. He had been ill for a few days and was admitted to a private hospital for better treatment. He breathed his last at the hospital.

Later, Nagendranath's family members shifted the body to his native village Konduru of Kalidindi mandal in the erstwhile Krishna district, now in Eluru district. He formed the Andhra Pradesh Rathanga Samakhyia and worked along with Andhra Pradesh State Agricultural Mission vice-chairman MYV Nagi Reddy.

Yerneni Nagendranath was well known among the farmers in the State as well as farmers' association leaders. He was a leader of the Krishna Delta Parirakshana Samithi and fought for the rights over Krishna water.

## Land rights document distribution 100% in NTR district

**PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA**

NTR District Collector Dr S Dilli Rao has told the Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh Dr KS Jawahar Reddy that the district administration distributed the land rights documents (Bhu Hakku Patralu) without any pendency in the second phase of the land resurvey. Also, they are resolving all petitions received at the 'Jagananna Chebudam' (1902) within the stipulated time, he explained.

The Chief Secretary conducted a video conference with all district collectors and joint collectors to discuss Bhu Hakku-Bhu Raksha of land resurvey of the YSR Jagananna Sasvatha scheme and the document distribution, Jaganannaku Chebudam, Swachatha Hi Seva and other matters, from his camp office in Vijayawada on Thursday.

Dilli Rao explained to the Chief Secretary that as of now, the land resurvey in the first phase was completed in 14 villages. Stone plantation and land rights documents were distrib-

uted 100 per cent in these 14 villages, he said.

In the second phase, this scheme is being implemented in 15 villages. As many as 8,638 stone plantation processes were held in seven villages against 12,968 plantations in 15 villages, he added. The remaining stone plantations would be completed soon. Also, 2,190 land rights documents were distributed, he added.

Meanwhile, the Collector reported that the third phase of the land re-survey would be started in 100 villages and the ground tooting and validation process would be completed by the end of December 31. Further, he said that the 'Jaganannaku Chebudam' petitions were cleared without any delay.

Joint Collector Dr P Sampath Kumar, DWAMA PD J Sunetha, Panchayat Raj Executive Engineer K Venkateswara Rao, District Agricultural Officer S Naga Manemma, RWS SE SV Ramana, Survey Department AD Srinivas and others attended the video conference.

## Centre of Excellence opens at SRM varsity-AP

**PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA**

Prof Umesh V Waghmare, President - Indian Academy of Sciences, Bengaluru delivered an insightful session on "How Materials Shape Technologies: Past, Present and Future" as part of the 16th edition of the University Distinguished Lecture Series organised by the institute. Prof. Waghmare was welcomed by SRM University-AP on the occasion of the inauguration of the Centre for Computational and Integrative Sciences as the speaker of the 16th University Distinguished Lecture.

Prof Waghmare said "Material Science is an interdisciplinary field of science that witnesses the confluence of natural sciences and engineering. The history of materials (its processing) influences its structure and thus the mater-



ial's properties and performances. These diversified materials have influenced humankind significantly from the beginning of our civilization to the 21st century", stated Prof. Waghmare in his lecture. He also expounded on how materials have been the key to technological revolu-

tions, the impact of Quantum Physics in Material Science and combating present challenges to energy and environment through modern materials and technologies. He elaborates on how utilizing machine learning as a tool can enhance the predictive capabilities of Quantum

Physics and contribute to solving fundamental challenges, ultimately expediting the introduction of technology to the market.

SRM launched its eighth Centre of Excellence that embraces true interdisciplinary collaboration in alignment with the mission of SRM University-AP.

Prof. Waghmare acknowledged the tremendous research infrastructure of the institute that intensifies and cultivates research, innovation, and entrepreneurial spirit on campus. The Centre which is a dedicated platform for computational research was launched in the presence of Prof V S Rao, Advisor; Dr R Premkumar, Registrar; Prof Ranjit Thapa, Dean-Research, Dr Mahesh Kumar Ravva, Co-ordinator of the centre, and faculty of SRM University-AP.

## Vizag Zoo's wildlife week from Oct 2

**PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM**

The Indira Gandhi Zoological Park here has scheduled a slew of activities during National Wildlife Week from October 2 to 8 in an effort to enhance awareness about wildlife conservation and biodiversity among children, while tapping their creativity.

With entry being free for children below 12 years of age, they can participate in essay writing, drawing, and photography competitions and other fun activities that have been lined up, including a bird walk, forest exploration walk, coastal cleanup, fancy dress competition, nature trail and others, an official said on Thursday.

## For now, Nandigama KV to be run from Kaleswara Bhavan

**PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA**

The third Kendriya Vidyalayam sanctioned by the Union Government for NTR district will come up at Nandigama. As of now, there are two Kendriya Vidyalayas in the district -- Kendriya Vidyalaya-1 at Madhurawada (Vijayawada) and Kendriya Vidyalaya-2 at Rayanapadu.

Classes will commence at the newly sanctioned Kendriya Vidyalaya from the 2024-25 academic year. The district administration is taking steps to set up the KV at the Ayyadevara Kaleswara Rao Trust Bhavan on Madhira Road in Nandigama temporarily. After the bifurcation of the State and districts, the State government had been trying to get the third Kendriya



Vidyalaya for the district. At last, the Central government sanctioned the KV recently.

To start the Kendriya Vidyalaya temporarily, the district administration checked several buildings. As per the directions of the district administration, the Nandigama Revenue Divisional officials identified the Ayyadevara Kaleswara Rao Trust Bhavan building, which is not in use. However, a Congress party office is functioning on its premises.

Sources said that the property belonged to Ayyadevara Kaleswara Rao Trust. After consulting the Trust representatives, the building will be

allotted for the Kendriya Vidyalaya, the officials said.

Nandigama is the prominent place for seven mandals in NTR district and it borders the districts of Telangana State. So, many government employees are settled in Nandigama and surrounding areas. For their children's education, the newly started Kendriya Vidyalaya will be useful, the sources added.

### Temporary accommodation facilities

Speaking to The Pioneer, Nadinaga Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) A Ravindra Rao confirmed that as per the direction of the district administration, Ayyadevara Kaleswara Rao Trust Bhavan will provide temporary accommodation facilities.



# Tributes paid to Jashuva

PNS ■ GUNTUR

Rich tributes were paid to renowned poet Gurram Jashuva in Guntur and Ongole on his 129th birth anniversary. ZP chairperson Henry Christina, Mayor Kavati Manohar Naidu, MLA M Giridhar Rao, MLC Dokka Manikya Varaprasad, and State Library Parishat Chairman Mandapati Seshagiri Rao paid rich tributes to Gurram Jashuva by garlanding the state at Nagarampalem here on Thursday.

Mayor Manohar Naidu said that the state government was celebrating the birth anniversary of poet Gurram Jashuva as a state event. He said that he would appeal to the Chief Minister to include the biography of Gurram Jashuva in the curriculum so that the school children would know about Gurram Jashuva.

MLC Manikya Varaprasad that Jashuva created a new era in Telugu literacy. Jashuva had striven to eradicate social disparity and untouchability through his writings, he stated. Taking forward the aspirations of Gurram Jashuva is a real tribute to him, he observed.

Later Mayor Manohar Naidu garlanded the portrait of Jashuva in the Collectorate.



Social welfare DD Madhusudhan Rao, R&B SE Gurram Brahmaiah, DPO Keshav Reddy BC corporation ED Durgabai, and a host of other officials were present.

Meanwhile, in Ongole, Joint Collector K Srinivasulu, flanked by Mayor Gangada Sujata and municipal commissioner M Venkateswara Rao paid rich tributes to renowned poet and social reformer Gurram Jashuva on his 128th birth anniversary here on Thursday.

They garlanded the statue of Jashuva on the premises of the Collector's office. Speaking on this occasion, the Joint Collector praised Gurram Jashuva for bringing awareness

among people on the inequalities and untouchability in society. He recalled that Joshua brought a change in people's thoughts through writings like Gabbilam and Phiradousi.

Mayor Sujata said that in the spirit of the writings of Gurram Joshua who fought tirelessly against the inequalities in the society, Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy introduced many welfare schemes. She said that the Chief Minister is allotting a large number of posts so that the people of the weaker sections can take a step forward politically.

Municipal Commissioner M Venkateswara Rao said that a statue of Gurram Jashuva is being installed on the premises

of the Collectorate at a cost of Rs 16.75 lakh of which the municipal corporation bears Rs 5 lakh.

President of Gurram Joshua Sahitya Samskritika Seva Samiti Usurupati Brahmaiah thanked the state government for ordering Joshua Jayanthi to be celebrated as a government event. He said that the installation of the bronze statue of Jashuva and the gardening work would be completed by November 2023 and the statue unveiling ceremony would be held on a grand scale in the presence of the District Collector, Ministers, and other public representatives. Assistant Social Welfare Officer Udayashree and other officials were present.

## Woman kills daughter, ends life

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

In a shocking incident, a woman killed her three-year-old daughter and later committed suicide in n Vijayawada on Thursday. The incident took place in the Patamata Police Station limits of the NTR District Commissionerate.

According to the Patamata police, Tagaram Jyothi Rani, 35, her husband Arun Kumar, a real estate professional, and their daughter were living together at Prasadampanu.

Mary Jersey has been suffering from an illness for a few days and they faced financial problems for medical treatment, the police said. In this situation, Jyothi Rani killed her daughter later she committed suicide by slitting her throat with a knife.

Jyothi Rani's husband Arun Kumar called his wife on the phone but in vain. He then called his brother-in-law and informed him that his wife was not lifting the phone. He asked him to go home and find out if anything went wrong. To his shock, his brother-in-law found his sister and her daughter dead. On receiving information, the police rushed to the spot, took a complaint from the deceased woman's father, and registered a case of death occurring under suspicious circumstances.

# Ramayapatnam seaport works in fast lane: Official

PNS ■ NELLORE

The works of Ramayapatnam seaport are being carried out expeditiously and the first ship would enter the port during December 2023, State Industries and Commerce Secretary N Yuvaraj said.

Yuvaraj inspected the works at the Ramayapatnam Port along with District Collector M Harinarayan on Thursday. Port MD Pratap Reddy explained to them the progress of the work.

Talking to the media on the occasion, Industries Department Secretary Yuvaraju said that dredging, berth construction and providing of infrastructure would be completed by December 2023 to enable the first ship to enter the port.

He inquired about the geographical condition of the surrounding areas of the port. He also examined the master plan and maps. He also inquired with the officials whether all the permissions were obtained according to the master plan.

The necessary infrastructure of the port such as roads, railway lines, protective wall overhead tank, customs buildings, berths, north-south



breakwater works, dredging works, and stockyard clearing works was thoroughly reviewed. The revenue officials explained to the secretary about the rehabilitation of the people of the area and the collection of port waste.

Sub Collector Sobhika, RPDCL officers Port MD Pratap Reddy, Venkateshwar Reddy, Padmavati Port officers Sudhakara Rao, Seshubabu, JD Industries Sudhakar and others among those who accompanied the secretary.

## Man murders wife

**VIJAYAWADA:** A man brutally murdered his wife by slitting her throat at Jujjuru village in Veerulapadu mandal on Thursday. Police said that the accused Venkateswara Rao had been suspecting the fidelity of his deceased wife Nalini (33) for the last couple of years. After a heated quarrel with her, she slit her throat in their house in which she died instantaneously. He fled the scene after committing the murder. The police registered a case and shifted the body to the GGH in Nandigama for post-mortem.



## 1 killed, another hurt in cylinder blast



**KAKINADA:** A teenage girl was killed and another person critically injured when a domestic gas cylinder exploded at U.Kothapalli village in the district on Thursday. Police said that a domestic gas cylinder exploded while lunch was being cooked in the house of deputy sarpanch Mamidi Mallibabu killing Shrevani (14) was killed instantaneously while another person Chinababu (25) was injured critically in the mishap. The kitchen, the household articles, and the utensils were damaged in the gas cylinder explosion. A leak of LP gas from the cylinder is suspected to be the reason for the accident. Pithapuram GI Srinivas visited the scene of the accident, registered a case, and shifted the body to the GGH for postmortem.

## 5 red sanders logs seized, 1 held

**KADAPA:** The police seized five red sanders logs and arrested a woodcutter at Kalavalapalli village in Railway Koduru forest division on Thursday. Task Force DSP Chenchubabu said that on a tip a police team led by RSI K Ali Basha conducted combing in the forest area. They spotted some woodcutters carrying red sander logs in the forest area. On noticing the police, the woodcutters started fleeing the scene. However, the police chased and arrested a woodcutter, Murugan Ponnu Swamy, and seized five logs.



# TDP activists take out silent rally protesting Naidu's arrest

PNS ■ NARASARAOPET

A large number of Telugu Desam Party (TDP) activists, led by their leaders, took out a silent rally in Vinukonda to register their protest against the arrest of former chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu.

The TDP activists led by former MLA GB Anjaneyulu took out a silent rally by tying a black cloth around their mouths. The TDP activists held banners denouncing the arrest of Naidu and sported black bands.

The TDP leaders garlanded

the statue of Ambedkar near the RTC bus station. The silent rally went through the main thoroughfares and reached the Arun theatre where the TDP activists observed a relay hunger strike protesting the arrest of Naidu.

Addressing the crowd, ex-MLA Anjaneyulu alleged that anarchic rule prevailed in the state. Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy has created a problem for himself by getting Naidu arrested in a false case.

They described the arrest of Chandrababu Naidu as an unde-



mocratic act, stating that many national leaders condemned the arrest of Naidu. "The YSRCP leaders are plundering hundreds of crores of rupees of public money. They also plundered

hundreds of crores of rupees of natural wealth," he blamed.

Anjaneyulu alleged that Naidu was arrested without specific evidence and he was implicated in false cases. "The arrest

# Collector inspects EVM godown

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

District Collector K Venkataramana Reddy, along with political party representatives and officials, inspected the EVM godown located in the warehouse compound on Thursday.

District Collector K Venkataramana Reddy along with SDC Srinivasulu, Srikalahasti RDO Rama Rao, and representatives of political parties inspected the EVM Godown in the Warehousing Corporation compound at Renigunta and the Ballot Unit and Control Units that reached the godown.

Talking to the media, the collector said that on the orders of the chief voter registration officer of Andhra Pradesh state for the newly formed Tirupati district, 6780 ballot units and 4270 control units have reached the central warehousing godown from the Bangalore Bell Company.



The Collector said that the representatives of Bell Company would come soon and scan and upload the details, as per the date specified by the Election Commission next month. The first round of checking of the functioning of these EVMs in the godown would be conducted. Those EVMs which work properly would be retained and those that were not working properly would be sent back to the company.

He said that elaborate security including round-the-clock police security, monitoring of CC cameras, and visiting register have been arranged as per the security standards of the Election Commission.

Representatives of political parties YSRCP spokesperson Prabhakar, CWC manager Ramesh Babu, Election Tehsildar Suresh, and Renigunta Sub Tehsildar Prem were among those who accompanied the Collector.

# Canadian aviation firm keen on MRO unit in AP: MP

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) Lok Sabha member Dr M Gurumurthy has said that a Canadian aviation company has shown interest in setting up an MRO (maintenance, repair, and overhaul) service unit here.

Gurumurthy said here on Thursday the aviation company representatives met him after a survey of the infrastructure available at Tirupati and apprised him of their feasible assessment.

They had earlier along with Invest India representatives inspected the locations at Tirupati for infrastructure feasibility to set up the MRO unit. They also visited the electronic manufacturing cluster near the airport. Speaking later

to reporters here, the MP said he had approached the Union Aviation ministry several times to promote an MRO unit at Tirupati.

Recently after the Invest India summit at Hyderabad, tenders were invited from interested global companies to set up an MRO unit. He said on the directions of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy the MRO service unit is part of an all-round development plan to develop infrastructure in Tirupati district. The Lok Sabha MP said within six months, after the Canadian company submitted their proposal and action plan, to the Union Aviation Ministry, the MRO service unit will come up at the temple town.

## Section 30 imposed in NTR district

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

To maintain law and order and prevent untoward incidents in the NTR District Police Commissionerate, Police Commissioner Kanthi Rana Tata, on Thursday, imposed Section 30 of the Police Act 1861 in the district for three months, i.e. October 1 to December 31.

He said that, following these restrictions, public meetings, protests, processions, agitations, and dharnas could not be organised without the permission of the police.

If anyone violates the Police Act, stringent action will be taken, he warned.

He said that the police took the step to facilitate people without any inconvenience and protect the law and order in the district.

# Cleanliness drive launched in city canals

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

On the occasion of World Maritime Day on Thursday, the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation took a proactive step towards promoting cleanliness and environmental awareness by organizing a canal cleaning event. The event witnessed the active participation of officials including NTR District Collector Dr S Dilli Rao, Vijayawada West MLA Velampalli Srinivas, Central MLA Malladi Vishnu, MLC Ruhulla and Mayor Rayana Bhagyalakshmi.

The primary objective of this event was to clean the canal bund and raise awareness about responsible waste management practices. All the officials, including the collector and people's representatives, actively participated in cleaning the canal bund. They worked tirelessly to remove debris and even cleared the grass that had overgrown on the bund.

To emphasize the importance of cleanliness and the city's water resources, the officials embarked on a symbolic boat ride, commencing from the Bandar Canal, located opposite the VMC building. This boat



ride went around all three major canals - the Eluru Canal, Ryves Canal, and the Bandar Canal, travelling for a kilometre.

Collector Dilli Rao spoke on the occasion and appreciated Commissioner Swapnil Dinkar Pundkar for the remarkable activities undertaken by the civic body as part of the Swachh Vijayawada initiative.

"Not just a Swachh Vijayawada, but a Sampoorna Swachh Vijayawada can be achieved. Vijayawada is gradu-

ally moving towards that goal with such commendable activities. I felt like I was in Kerala, Italy or Paris, beautifully cleaned by VMC," he stated. This initiative highlighted the exemplary work done in beautifying the city, including the Netaji Bridge beautification.

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner Swapnil Dinkar Pundkar shared significant insights. He revealed that he has initiated the process of seeking permission for commercial boating on the canal, which would not only enhance recreational opportunities but also contribute to the economic development of the region.

Also, the Commissioner extended his gratitude to the public for their active involve-

ment and addressed some critical issues. He requested the citizens of Vijayawada not to dispose of waste or garbage into the river and urged them to avoid pouring household wastewater into the drains along the riverbanks. He explained that this wastewater eventually merges with the three major canals of the city, which serve as the primary source of drinking water for rural areas.

MLA Malladi Vishnu spoke on the significance of River Krishna, which flows through Vijayawada, shaping landscapes, and impacting two districts -- Krishna and Eluru. He appreciated the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation's proactive efforts to prevent river pollution.

Vijayawada West MLA Velampalli Srinivas took the opportunity to acknowledge the remarkable cleanliness efforts undertaken by the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation. He pointed to the canals as shining examples of the city's commitment to maintaining a clean environment.

Mayor Rayana Bhagyalakshmi, Deputy Mayors Bellam Durga and Avuthu Sri Sailaja and others spoke at the event.

# HOW WILL BJP FACE ELECTIONS?

## ■ Party leaders lash out Kishan Reddy

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana BJP leaders lashed out at state BJP president G. Kishan Reddy saying that they



do not understand what the party is doing and how it is going to face the Assembly elections.

They said that they are spending money in their constituencies trusting the party, but the party leadership is just sitting in offices and holding meetings.

The BJP office bearers meeting was held on Wednesday night. It is reported that this meeting was held under rough conditions and that many leaders directed flak at Kishan Reddy.

ly at the party meeting. However, Sankineni Venkateswara Rao, a key leader, criticised Kishan saying that they don't know what to do

tell him as it is 10 years since he joined the BJP. It is reported that leaders said that not many people came to the Narendra Modi Sabha held at Warangal and the Amit Shah Sabha held at Khammam.

Kishan was asked to bring people in large numbers to Prime Minister Modi's meetings being held on October 1 and 3.

On the other hand, the Telangana BJP's official spokespersons complained that they are not allowed to hold press conferences at the state office. They asked Kishan to explain their role as official spokespersons.

## Will meetings attended by national leaders help TS BJP?

K VENKATESHWARLU ■ HYDERABAD

Will the meetings attended by the BJP's national leaders help the Telangana BJP?

This is the question that arises in the minds of Telangana BJP leaders as the BJP is thinking of organising 30 to 40 public meetings in Telangana which would be attended by the BJP's national leaders. The Telangana BJP is going to invite national leaders like Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP president JP Nadda and Chief Ministers of BJP-ruled states to these public meetings. It is learnt that the party is going to explain the social welfare schemes implemented in BJP-ruled states and the development projects executed in the nine years of rule by Modi.

The party has also decided to explain the work done by the Centre in Telangana apart from attacking the BRS government. However, one BJP leader

from Hyderabad city expressed anger at the party. Responding to the party's efforts, he told "The Pioneer" on condition of anonymity that "the party is trying to search for Dal in cooking utensils after losing it in the field."

"What is the use of conducting public meetings without doing the needful to infuse confidence among leaders, cadres and the people? The party was on a strong wicket some time ago, however, it lost ground due to mistakes like the removal of Sanjay and other issues. National leaders can work as catalysts in strengthening the party if the state leadership is in a strong position," he said.

Even Konda Vishweshwar Reddy, on Wednesday, echoed the feelings of the above party leader saying that the party has to do more to gain strength in Telangana. Vishweshwar did not reveal what to do, however, he said that they had discussed what to do to make the party strong.







## Big guns roll out

The BJP leadership is taking no chances in Madhya Pradesh, fielding 3 Union Ministers in Assembly polls

With elections to five Assemblies scheduled by this year end, political temperature is already on the rise. However, as the situation persists today, the battleground of Madhya Pradesh has taken the lead in evoking competition and wonderment more fierce than in the other four States. As the X factor in these elections for the BJP is the party's decision to bring back to fight the Assembly polls three Ministers from the Union Government, at least four sitting MPs representing the State and other senior party office bearers holding influence across castes, religion and region. The ruling party has come up with its second list of 39 candidates for Madhya Pradesh. This move comes as the party faces tough competition from the Congress. The BJP has made a bold move by fielding heavyweights, including Union Ministers, to maintain its stronghold in the State. Union Ministers Narendra Singh Tomar, Prahlad Patel and Faggan Singh Kulaste, along with party MPs Rakesh Singh, Ganesh Singh, Reeti Pathak and



Uday Pratap Singh, as well as general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya, will now contest the Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections. The inclusion of these prominent leaders as candidates has also opened up the field for chief ministership aspirants; Narendra Singh Tomar, Prahlad Patel and Kailash Vijayvargiya are now considered strong contenders.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan has held the CM's post for nearly 20 years, with a brief interruption after the 2018 elections. The BJP is concerned about fatigue setting in regarding Chouhan. During a recent rally, Prime Minister Modi did not mention Chouhan even once. Meanwhile, Congress is emerging as a formidable contender under former CM Kamal Nath's leadership. This election promises to be a riveting showdown, with significant implications for Chouhan, besides the State's political future. Though Chouhan has served as the Chief Minister for multiple terms and is widely credited as a popular leader, his reputation and political future are now closely tied to this poll's outcome. If the BJP manages to secure a comfortable majority, it will consolidate his position within the party and strengthen his leadership in the State. On the other hand, a loss could raise questions about his ability to win elections and govern effectively. Kamal Nath, a seasoned politician, is working to consolidate the party's base and capitalise on anti-incumbency sentiments. The Congress' performance in recent byelections has been promising, boosting its confidence. The party is banking on issues such as unemployment, rural distress. Its campaign is centred on the promise of "change and improved governance". Meanwhile, the BJP's decision to field its stalwarts is an ominous sign for Chouhan and shows the party's dwindling faith in his leadership. Anti-incumbency and a number of unsavoury incidents have led to the erosion of his reputation which could cost the party an important State in the Hindi heartland. The BJP would not like that to happen just ahead of the 2024 general elections.

### PICTALK



ISRO chief S Somanath with others at Aadi Jyotirlinga Shree Somnath Mahadev Temple in Saurashtra on Thursday PTI

## Impact of menopause on sleep can be debilitating

It is imperative that both individuals and society recognise the significance of addressing sleep issues during menopause

Menopause is a phase that marks the cessation of menstruation and reproductive function. Beyond the widely known physical changes, menopause brings a range of challenges, and one often underrated area of impact is sleep. Sleep becomes elusive for many women during this phase.

**Menopause and sleep** Menopause typically occurs between the ages of 45 and 55, with the average age being around 46 for Indian women. As the ovaries cease producing estrogen and progesterone, various physiological changes occur, giving rise to a multitude of symptoms. One of the most common complaints is sleep disturbances. According to the National Sleep Foundation, about 61% of women going through menopause report experiencing sleep problems. The hormonal changes that accompany menopause have a direct impact on sleep.



asleep through the night. Hot flashes and night sweats, affecting up to 75% of menopausal women, further exacerbate sleep. These sudden surges in body temperature can awaken women from deep sleep, leaving them fatigued and irritable during the day.

**Sleep efficiency:** Studies show that sleep efficiency—the percentage of time spent asleep while in bed—drops significantly during menopause. The post-menopausal women often see this number drop to 70% or lower.

**Insomnia:** Insomnia becomes a prevalent issue during menopause. According to the National Sleep Foundation, the risk of insomnia doubles during this phase, and about 40% of menopausal women experi-

ence insomnia symptoms.

**Sleep duration:** Menopause can lead to shorter sleep durations. On average, women in their 40s and 50s sleep about 30 to 60 minutes less.

**Daytime fatigue:** The ripple effects of disrupted sleep patterns are felt during the day. Women undergoing menopause often report increased daytime fatigue, leading to reduced productivity and a diminished quality of life.

**Strategies for improved sleep** Despite the challenges, there are effective strategies that can help women improve their sleep quality during menopause.

● Create a sleep-conducive environment by keeping the bedroom dark, quiet, and comfortably cool. Invest in a comfortable mattress and pillows. Make sure to avoid any screen time for at least an hour or two before sleeping.

● Establish a regular sleep schedule by going to bed and waking up at the same time every day, even on weekends. This helps regulate the body's internal clock.

● Practices like medita-

tion, deep breathing, and progressive muscle relaxation can help reduce stress and promote better sleep.

● Engage in regular physical activity but avoid vigorous exercise close to bedtime. Limit caffeine and alcohol intake, especially in the evening.

● Consult a healthcare professional if sleep disturbances become severe.

Menopause is a natural phase of life, and while sleep disturbances may seem inevitable, they are not insurmountable. By understanding the science behind these disruptions and embracing strategies to mitigate them, women can embark on a journey toward restful nights and energized days. From healthcare providers offering tailored guidance to workplaces providing flexibility to accommodate sleep-related challenges, collective efforts can foster an environment where women can navigate this transitional phase in a better manner.

(The writer is Co-Founder and Head of Health Outcomes and Programs, Elda Health; views are personal)



AMEEYA KULKARNI

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## Air pollution renders antibiotics ineffective

A 'Lancet' study has established a connection between bacterial antibiotic resistance and air pollution; inhaling PM 2.5 can lead to antibiotic resistance

There was a sense of palpable urgency to address climate change, air pollution and degradation of the environment at the recently concluded three-day G20 summit held in New Delhi. Led by India, the G20 nations agreed to urgently accelerate their actions to address environmental crises and climate change challenges with the help of a green development plan. This in a way reflects the prophetic warning to world leaders by the UN Secretary-General António Guterres at the 27th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27) held in 2022, that humanity is on a "highway to climate hell with a foot on the accelerator". Because 80 per cent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions emanate from G20 nations, the member nations needed to understand the gravity of the problem and ensure meaningful progress in this regard.

As the stakes for mankind keep rising thanks to rising pollution and climate change, keeping global average temperatures below 2 degrees centigrade alone may not be the urgent goal of the nations. Newer and more perilous problems are arising due to unabated pollution levels. A recent study published in the health journal "Lancet" has established a connection between bacterial antibiotic resistance and air pollution, particularly PM 2.5. The study suggests that PM 2.5 contains elements of antibiotic resistance, and inhaling this pollutant can lead to an increase in the spread of antibiotic resistance. The authors of the study aimed to estimate the global premature death toll caused by resistance to antibiotics due to PM 2.5 pollution.

PM 2.5 refers to particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 micrometres or smaller. These particles, consisting of solid and liquid elements, are of varying sizes, with some, like dust and soot, visible to the naked eye and others, such as PM 2.5, only observable under electron microscopes. Inhaling these pollutants can pose serious health risks, especially to the respiratory sys-



tem. The Lancet study compared and analysed the PM 2.5 levels with levels of antibiotic resistance and made a disturbing discovery that the higher the pollutant level, the greater the antibiotic resistance. PM 2.5 are smaller than human hair and contains antibiotic resistance elements.

As these pollutants travel through the ambient air, they disperse antibiotic resistance elements, which can then be inhaled by humans which in turn sets in motion the resistance. The concerning aspect is that antibiotic-resistant bacteria can withstand antibiotic treatments, rendering the drugs ineffective against them. Antibiotics are primarily used to eliminate microorganisms, especially bacteria, but resistant bacteria are impervious to their effects.

The data for this research was collated from 116 countries utilising sources like ResistanceMap, the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control Surveillance Atlas, and the PLISA Health Information Platform. Overall, nine pathogens and 43 drugs were analysed. It was observed that the surge in antibiotic resistance among bacteria is largely attributed to the indiscriminate use of antibiotics. Repeated and widespread

SOME MAJOR STEPS ARE THE NEED OF THE HOUR FOR INDIA. FIRSTLY, IMMEDIATE CURBS ON AMMONIA RELEASE IN FARMS ARE ESSENTIAL, THIS MUST BE FOLLOWED BY A FULL BAN ON REFUSE BURNING

antibiotic usage can empower bacteria to develop resistance over time, often facilitated by Antibiotic Resistance Genes (ARGs). Pathogenic bacteria, responsible for infections and diseases, can acquire antibiotic resistance through ARGs in a process known as horizontal gene transfer.

The Lancet health report concluded that the need of the hour is to address the PM2.5 levels. Without this, antibiotic resistance may increase by approximately 17%, with related deaths rising by 56% globally by 2050. Conversely, adhering to the World Health Organization's recommended PM 2.5 level of 5 µg/m³ could lead to a 17% reduction in antibiotic resistance and a 23% decrease in deaths. But this is easier said than done. Of the world's 30 cities with the worst air pollution, 21 are in India. Capital New Delhi is the worst with PM 2.5 being nearly 10 times higher than the World Health Organisation levels.

According to the CleanAir organisation India sees 2 million early deaths and a loss of 95 billion to the economy due to PM 2.5. Given these bleak conditions, India needs to cover a lot of ground to rein in PM 2.5 levels while there is still time. The National Clean Air Program (NCAP) is a deter-

mined step in the right direction, but it needs more grit and resolve behind it if the initiative has to succeed.

Some major steps are the need of the hour for India. Firstly, immediate curbs on ammonia release in farms are essential, this must be followed by a full ban on refuse burning. Apart from this rural brick kilns must be persuaded to shift to cleaner kiln-firing technologies. Urgent efforts also need to be made to convert coal-based power plants to clean energy, as this by itself will make a huge difference. To make this a reality, India must make a push for creating the correct financial architecture through investment funds with a dedicated green focus that can play an instrumental role in catalysing the growth of green industries and simultaneously addressing the twin problems of air pollution and climate change. These funds would combine a returns-driven strategy with the sustainability imperative and accelerate investment in green industries. Measures such as these can help India fight air pollution and prevent a calamitous future where common antibiotic efficacy is not held to ransom by polluted air.

(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### SIMULTANEOUS ELECTIONS

Sir — The 22nd Law Commission of India is poised to submit a report on the feasibility of conducting simultaneous elections in the country and is likely to recommend it for the 2029 elections. The Commission, led by Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi, has diligently worked on this final report since February 2023. The report, destined for submission to the Law Ministry, currently headed by Arjun Meghwal, arrives at a pivotal juncture. It coincides with the government's formation of a high-level committee, under the leadership of former President Ram Nath Kovind, tasked with examining and providing recommendations for simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha, state assemblies, municipalities, and panchayats, all in the name of 'national interest'. According to reports, there's a possibility that the government may forward the Law Commission's report to the Kovind-led committee for their consideration. The Law Commission is likely to propose synchronized elections within the next five years, with the goal of implementing simultaneous elections by 2029.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

#### IS BJP ANTICIPATING THE INEVITABLE?

Sir — Is the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) sensing the inevitable? If not, then why does the BJP's recent move in Madhya Pradesh (MP) signal the party's intention to contest the elections under collective leadership, with prominent figures from different regions in the fray? In a surprising development that has set political circles abuzz, the BJP has announced its decision to field seven Lok Sabha members, including three union ministers—Narendra Singh Tomar, Prahlad Singh Patel, and Faggan Singh Kulaste, as well as its national general secretary, Kailash Vijayvargiya. One can't help but wonder whether this move signifies that the BJP lacks strong candidates in MP, necessitating the deployment of Lok Sabha members, many of whom owe their electoral success to the Modi wave. By fielding these seven sitting MPs, the

#### Dada Saheb Phalke Award for Waheeda



Congratulations to the versatile actor, Waheeda, who, at the age of 85, has earned the prestigious Dada Saheb Phalke (lifetime achievement) award for 2023. Her illustrious acting career spanning five decades, from 1955 to 1991 and then from 2002 to the present, not only showcases her exceptional acting skills but also highlights her endearing, friendly, and controversy-free persona. Beyond her acting prowess, she is a multifaceted personality—a generous philanthropist, a passionate advocate for education, and a dedicated worker for poverty eradication through the Rangade organization. Her cinematic journey has embraced various languages, including Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Bengali, Marathi, and English. Her latest endeavor, "Skater Girl" (2021), is a bilingual

film in Hindi and English, leaving us eagerly anticipating her next project in 2023-2024.

Waheeda has been rightfully honored by the Government of India with prestigious civilian awards such as the Padmashree (1972) and the Padma Bhushan (2011). Her contributions have been multidimensional, collaborating with two generations of iconic families in the film industry, including Raj Kapoor, Amitabh Bachchan, Sunil Dutt, Dharmendra, and many more. One might ask, with which distinguished actor or director did she not collaborate?

She has worked alongside all major heroes and directors of her time, such as Gurudutt ('Pyasa', 'Kagaz Ke Phool'), Manoj Kumar ('Aadmi'), Rajendra Kumar ('Kaala Bazaar'), Devanand ('CID', 'Guide'), Dilip Kumar ('Ram Aur Shyam'), Dharmendra and Rajesh Khanna ('Khamoshi'), Sunil Dutt and Amitabh Bachchan ('Reshma Aur Shera'). Notably, she even took on a double role in "Man Mandir" (1971). We wish Waheeda, now 85 years old, a life filled with happiness, excellent health, peace, prosperity, and continued progress, along with her family. We eagerly await news of her next movie.

PV Srinivas Sreelekha | Secunderabad

#### INDIA-CANADA TIES

Sir — The recent discussions by Canada's Defence Minister regarding bolstering ties with India underscore the importance of nurturing strong international partnerships. In a world grappling with numerous challenges, collaboration among nations assumes increasing significance.

Canada and India share democratic values and common interests, making this relationship particularly noteworthy. Enhancing diplomatic, economic, and defense ties between these two nations can yield mutual benefits and contribute to global stability.

Md Maimul Safui | West Bengal

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com







MONEY MATTERS

## Eveready relaunches Ultima brand to push premiumisation

Eveready Industries has relaunched its 'Ultima' brand in a new avatar to tap the dry cell battery market, a growing premium segment. Company managing director Suvamoy Saha said the company expects a double digit growth in the second half of the current fiscal driven by good monsoon. Emphasising on the company's focus on the dry cell battery segment, he said, "Our volume from the premium segment is currently just 4-5 per cent, but we expect it to double in the next 3-4 years." He attributed the growth to the increasing demand for high performance batteries driven by the penetration of new devices. The premium battery segment, which currently accounts for only six per cent of the total battery market, is rapidly expanding at a compound annual growth rate of 25 per cent. The total battery market is estimated to be approximately Rs 3000 crore and Eveready commands 53 per cent market share.



## Emami acquires 26% stake in Axiom Ayurveda

Homegrown FMCG maker Emami on Thursday announced the acquisition of a 26 per cent stake in Axiom Ayurveda, which markets beverage products under the brand 'AloFrut', for an undisclosed amount, paving its entry into the juices segment. Through this strategic investment, the Kolkata-based leading personal care and healthcare maker has entered into the packed juice category by acquiring a 26 per cent stake in Axiom Ayurveda and its subsidiaries, according to a joint statement. "This investment is in line with Emami's strategy to invest in the Health & Wellness segment and will also help Emami to enter into this growing segment," said a regulatory update by the company. The acquisition of 26 per cent Axiom shares is "through primary infusion and secondary buyouts" and is expected to be completed within one month, the company said.



## Net claims of non-residents on India rise to US\$ 379.7 billion

Net claims of non-residents on India increased US\$ 12.1 billion to US\$ 379.7 billion in the June quarter on account of higher rise in foreign-owned financial assets, according to RBI data released on Thursday. Increase in reserve assets, at US\$ 16.6 billion, was the largest contributor to the rise in Indian residents' foreign assets during the April-June period, followed by direct investment, loans and trade credit, as per the data on India's international investment position' for June-end. "The rise in net claims of non-residents during the quarter was on account of higher rise in foreign-owned financial assets in India (US\$ 36.2 billion) when compared with Indian residents' overseas financial assets (US\$ 24.1 billion)," the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said. "Inward portfolio investment (US\$ 15 billion) and foreign direct investment (USD 8.9 billion) together accounted for two-thirds of the rise in foreign liabilities of Indian residents," it added.



# Govt inks 8 MoUs with IBM to provide curated courses

## Equipping youth with future-ready skills

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Agencies of the ministries of education and skill development and entrepreneurship have signed eight agreements with IBM under which curated courses will be provided to empower youth in India with future-ready skills.

Minister of Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan presided over the signing of the MoUs on Wednesday.

"The collaboration will focus on the co-creation of curriculum for skilling learners across school education, higher education, and vocational skills on emerging technologies like AI (including generative AI), cyber-security, cloud computing and professional development skills," the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship said.

Speaking at the MoU signing event, Pradhan said that India, with its vast and youth-



ful population, stands at the cusp of tremendous potential. To harness this demographic dividend, it is crucial to equip the youth with the necessary skills to excel in today's modern workforce.

"This collaboration marks a significant stride toward our vision of a 'Skilled India' and in scaling up digital skills training and skill building in emerging technologies using IBM SkillsBuild platform," the minister stressed. He said the

partnerships will go a long way in making our learners harness the true potential of technology, making them future wealth creators and entrepreneurs of the society.

The collaboration between IBM and Ministry of Education and Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship spans across three core levels of education. IBM will provide access to digital content from IBM SkillsBuild for high school

students, teachers, and trainers on cutting-edge skills in schools identified by the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS), National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS). This program will be offered online, via webinars and in-person workshops conducted by IBM's CSR implementation partners.

In addition, IBM will refresh CBSE's AI curriculum for Grades 11 and 12, develop a cyber skilling and blockchain curriculum for high school students to be hosted on IBM SkillsBuild.

IBM will continue its partnership with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and work closely with the Directorate General of Training and state vocational education and skilling departments to onboard job seekers, including long-term unemployed, and school dropouts to IBM SkillsBuild and enable them to gain the technical and professional skills required to re-enter the workforce.

## India retains 40<sup>th</sup> rank in the Global Innovation Index 2023

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India retained its 40th rank out of 132 economies in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2023 rankings, according to a report by the Geneva-based World Intellectual Property Organization.

Government think tank NITI Aayog said in a statement on Thursday that India has been on a rising trajectory over the past several years in the GI -- from 81st position in 2015 to 40 this year.

The consistent improvement in the GI ranking is owing to the immense knowledge capital, vibrant start-up ecosystem, and the amazing work done by the public and private research organisations, it added.

According to the statement, the GI is a reliable tool for governments across the world to assess the innovation-led social and economic changes in their respective countries. Over the years, the GI has established itself as a policy tool for various governments and helped them to reflect upon the existing status quo, the statement added.

## Ban on rice export is regulation, not curbs for food security

## India to WTO's agri committee meet

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India has said that the export ban on rice is a regulation rather than a restriction and is crucial for securing the food security of 1.4 billion people, according to an official.

This was stated by India in response to concerns raised by a group of countries including the US during a meeting of the WTO's Committee on Agriculture in Geneva on September 27.

The Geneva-based official said that in the meeting, India reiterated its commitment to ensure food security in importing countries by granting exemptions to those in need upon their governments' requests.

The Indian government has already allowed exports of non-basmati rice to Bhutan (79,000 tonnes), UAE (75,000 tonnes), Mauritius (14,000 tonnes) and Singapore (50,000 tonnes) through the National Cooperative Exports Ltd (NCEL).



On July 20 this year, India banned exports of non-basmati white rice to boost domestic supply and keep retail prices under check during the upcoming festive season.

"The Government of India has the commitment that in case of food insecure, vulnerable countries and neighbouring countries request, it will provide with the required quantity of rice or wheat," the government official said.

India has also argued that, in order to prevent private players from manipulating market

conditions, advance notifications were not provided in the WTO.

Furthermore, these measures are temporary and are regularly reviewed to allow necessary adjustments based on domestic demand and supply situations.

A group of member countries of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) including the US has raised concerns about banning the export of non-basmati white rice by India, saying the decision may impact import-dependent nations, the Geneva-based trade official said.

## New investor registrations on NSE hit 1 cr in last 8 months

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Leading stock exchange NSE on Thursday said the number of new investor registrations reached 1 crore mark on its platform in the last eight months, taking the total to over 8 crore.

These new investor registrations are not restricted to top-tier cities and cities beyond top 100 accounted for 45 per cent of new investor registrations, the National Stock Exchange (NSE) said in a statement.

"The eight crore unique PAN investors correspond approximately to around 5 crore unique households in India amounting to around 17 per cent households directly investing in the Indian stock market via the NSE's extensive nationwide network of trading members," it said. Total number of unique client code accounts registered with the exchange was at 14.9 crore -- clients could register with more than one trading member and included all registrations done to date.

In terms of regions, states from northern part of India accounted for 43 per cent towards the last 1 crore new investor registrations, followed by west (27 per cent), south (17 per cent) and east (13 per cent).

## Brookfield, Axis Energy Ventures JV plan green energy projects

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Brookfield and Axis Energy Ventures announced on Thursday that their second joint venture aimed at establishing a renewable energy development platform.

Axis Energy Ventures will contribute with its existing wind and solar power projects spread across the country. Brookfield, through the Brookfield Global Transition Fund II (BGTF II), has committed to provide equity capital of up to USD 845 million for the construction of power projects.

Under this strategic partnership, both partners will lever-



age their expertise and resources to provide curated energy solutions to industry participants, including government entities, corporate customers and emerging industries like green hydrogen.

Nawal Saini, the Managing Director of Brookfield said, "Building on our successful

collaboration, we are delighted to be partnering again with Axis Energy Ventures to develop high-quality renewable power projects. We foresee strong growth in India due to the Government's target of 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030, and its objective of energy security.

## Credit growth may moderate to 13-13.5%: Report

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The credit growth is likely to moderate to 13-13.5 per cent this fiscal but will improve slightly to 13.5-14 per cent next financial year as the economic pace picks up, according to a report.

The biggest factor driving the moderation is low demand in wholesale credit, which constitutes as much as 60 per cent of the overall credit. Wholesale credit is seen slowing to 11-11.5 per cent this fiscal from a decade high of 15 per cent in 2022-23, Crisil Ratings said in a report on Thursday.

A key monitorable, which will determine credit growth going forward, is the extent to which deposit growth picks up for banks, Crisil Ratings said. The retail credit demand will



continue to go up in this fiscal but corporate credit demand is lagging, which is likely to pick up in the next fiscal on capex revival, the report noted.

In absolute terms, overall bank credit stood at Rs 148 lakh crore in FY23, clipping at 15.9 per cent year-on-year, and this is likely to grow to Rs 168 lakh crore or 13-13.5 per cent this

fiscal and further grow to Rs 191 lakh crore or 13.5-14 per cent in the next, it added.

According to the agency, the credit demand moderation this fiscal will be because of the following four key reasons -- gross domestic product growth is expected to fall to 6 per cent this fiscal from 7.2 per cent last fiscal, which will impact the

overall credit growth.

Secondly, the easing of inflation with some softening in commodity prices. A significant part of the growth in wholesale credit (comprising corporates and micro, small and medium enterprises) last fiscal was driven by higher working capital demand in a high-inflation environment.

Going forward, inflation levels are expected to be lower than the last fiscal.

Thirdly, robust bond issuances in the first half of this fiscal with the changes in interest rates have seen a substitution of bank credit with debt capital, which also supported wholesale credit growth last year, especially in the first half. But this is not seen to the same extent this year.

## FSSAI to food vendors: Don't use newspapers for food packaging

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Food regulator FSSAI has asked food vendors and consumers to immediately stop using newspapers for packing, serving and storage of food items citing significant health risks. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is closely working with state food authorities to monitor and enforce regulations in this regard.

FSSAI Chief Executive Officer (CEO) G Kamala Vardhana Rao has "strongly

urged consumers and food vendors across the country to immediately stop using newspapers for packing, serving and storing food items."

He expressed concern over the use of newspapers for wrapping or packaging food and also pointed out significant health risks associated with this practice. "The ink used in newspapers contains various bioactive materials with known negative health effects, which can contaminate food and lead to health issues when ingested," FSSAI cautioned on



Wednesday. Additionally, printing inks may contain chemicals, includ-

ing lead and heavy metals, that can leach into the food, posing serious health risks

over time, the regulator said.

"Moreover, newspapers are often subjected to various environmental conditions during distribution, making them susceptible to contamination by bacteria, viruses or other pathogens that may transfer to the food, potentially causing foodborne illnesses," FSSAI said. FSSAI has notified the Food Safety and Standards (Packaging) Regulations, 2018 which strictly prohibits the use of newspapers or similar materials for storing and wrapping food.



## Equity investors become poorer by Rs 2.95L cr as markets fall

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Investors' wealth eroded by Rs 2.95 lakh crore on Thursday as markets fell by nearly 1 per cent amid feeble global cues and unabated foreign capital outflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 610.37 points or 0.92 per cent to settle at 65,508.32. During the day, it plunged 695.3 points or 1.05 per cent to 65,423.39.

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms fell by Rs 2,95,144.09 crore to Rs 3,16,65,937.80 crore.

In Asian markets, Shanghai ended in the green while Tokyo and Hong Kong settled lower. Trading was closed in South Korea for a holiday.

European markets were trading in the negative territory. The US markets ended on a mixed note on Wednesday. Global oil benchmark Brent

crude dipped 0.38 per cent to USD 96.18 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors' (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 354.35 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

"After a firm opening, markets lost ground immediately and plunged deep into the red in the second half, as IT, metals, FMCG and automobile stocks led the slump in key benchmark indices. Markets were range-bound in the last few sessions and one was anticipating a sharp fall, and the weak global factors have been weighing on investors' minds for quite some time.

"If the US dollar and bond yields maintain their ascend, the downward trend may continue for some more time," Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd, said.

# ICO to help curb child labour in coffee plantations

PNS ■ BENGALURU

The International Coffee Organisation would focus on social sustainability in the coffee sector, especially farming, to ensure there is no child labour involved in it, its executive director Van sia Nogueira has said.

The ICO is the main inter-governmental organisation for coffee, bringing together exporting and importing governments to tackle the challenges facing the world coffee sector through international cooperation.

Its member governments represent 98 per cent of world coffee production and 67 per

cent of world consumption.

"If we talk about social sustainability, we have very, very restricted laws in many of these countries. I'm not sure where we are doing a benchmark right now about the social part but that's our focus in the future," Nogueira told PTI in an interview on the sidelines of a World Coffee Conference here.

According to her, there are some countries that are very strict about child labour, but there are also some others where the laws are more flexible.

"There is a discussion for example, in terms of the child labour. There is a discussion



about what they call the family business. It is a part of your family, it is your sons, your daughters, then this is a family business, then this could

not be considered as a child labour but it has been questioned in a lot of countries," she said.

Nogueira, however, pointed

out that sometimes child labour or children assist their parents in their family business in some countries but the ICO "would need to check how to do it."

"...we need to be sure that the children will have access to school, they have to be inside the education system in the country. They need to have access to the house," she said.

In her country Brazil, child labour is prohibited completely even for family-run businesses.

To a question on rating coffee producing countries in terms of best practices in farming, sustainability and other benchmarks, she said

Costa Rica was doing well in the management of farms and the profitability of the business.

"If you talk about productivity, then we will talk about Brazil and Vietnam; the productivity per hectare. These are the benchmarks for Robusta and Arabica," she said.

Bengaluru hosted the four-day World Coffee Conference-2023, where representatives, businessmen and growers from over 80 countries took part, which concluded on Friday. According to Coffee Board of India officials, Karnataka contributes about 70 per cent of total coffee production in the country.





### ‘Anyone who says I can’t cut a cucumber... it was sliced, it was cut,’ says Kendall Jenner

In The Kardashians season 4 premiere, Kendall Jenner tackled a pressing KarJenner issue: Cucumber-gate. The 27-year-old supermodel went viral in May 2022 over a Kardashians scene that showed her trying to cut a cucumber in the most awkward way. Despite the incident happening over a year ago, she had to set the record straight about the whole thing.

Kendall Jenner Addresses Cucumber Cutting Controversy On The Kardashians. “By the way, guys. I cut that cucumber safely,” she said. “So anyone who says I can’t cut a cucumber... it was sliced, it was cut.” When it comes down to it, the end result is all that matters. Kendall may have struggled to easily slice the vegetable, but she got the job done. Kendall continued, “People really think it’s like a diss now. It’s like, you’re hanging out with her? She can’t even f\*\*king cut a cucumber. You think that you’re offending me? ‘Cause you’re not. Like, who gives a sh\*t? Seriously.” Kendall declared that this was “the last thing I’ll say about this f\*\*king cucumber thing.” Kendall, Kylie Jenner, Kim Kardashian, and Khloé Kardashian engaged in a guacamole-making contest while in Cabo. Thankfully, no cucumbers needed to be cut. Kim, 42, noted that Kylie, 26, and Khloé, 39, are the best cooks in the family. The SKIMS founder said she’s “probably” the worst cook. “Probably right under that cucumber that Kendall can’t cut,” Kim quipped. In May 2022, a viewer tweeted that Kendall’s cucumber-cutting skills were “the most tragic thing ever witnessed.” The 818 Tequila founder mocked herself and responded, “Tragic!” Kendall continued to troll herself over the cucumber controversy months later. She dressed up as a cucumber for Halloween. “I’m giving out fruits and veggies tonight,” Kendall captioned her Instagram post. Kendall was decked out in a sliced cucumber costume, dark green leggings, and boots. She also held a knife similar to the one she attempted to cut a cucumber with months before. New episodes of The Kardashians season 4 drop Thursdays on Hulu.

## Adrian Stoica & Hurricane take home the title of America’s Got Talent 18

The spectacular season 18 finale of *America’s Got Talent* took place on September 27, 2023. This talent reality programme has been a fan favourite ever since it debuted in 2006. As the top 11 acts hit the stage for one more performance to win over the audience, the anticipation was at its highest.

Adrian Stoica & Hurricane, the winners of *America’s Got Talent* season 18, took home a spectacular award: a \$1 million cash prize and the lead role in the Superstars Live performance at the Luxor Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. Adrian Stoica & Hurricane gave a thrilling performance as the show’s closing act to Queen’s “Crazy Little Thing Called Love.” Even Sofia Vergara made a surprise cameo in the performance, joining Stoica on stage.

From the very beginning of their AGT journey, Adrian Stoica and his devoted dog, Hurricane, won the hearts of spectators. They performed remarkable skills during their audition to Meghan Trainor’s “Better When I’m Dancing.” They kept impressing the judges and the crowd with performances set to songs like Cyndi Lauper’s “Girls Just Wanna Have Fun” and Smash Mouth’s “I’m a Believer” throughout the competition. Standing ovations were given to them and the judges all praised them for their efforts.

The pair stunned the audience with a performance during the show’s finale set to Queen’s “Crazy Little Thing Called Love.” When Sofia Vergara joined them on stage, it added a particular touch to the performance.

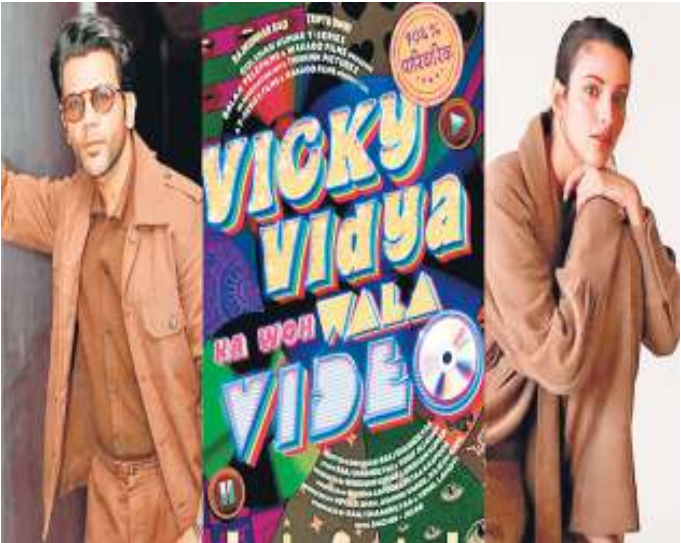


## Rajkummar Rao and Triptii Dimri starrer Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video to soon go on floors

Produced by T-Series, Balaji Telefilms and Wakao Films in association with Thinkink picturez, *Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video*, directed by Raaj Shaandilyaa, is touted to be a pure masala entertainer set in the swinging 90s.

Get ready to embark on a 90’s rollercoaster ride of laughter and drama as T-Series Films and Wakao Films in association with Thinkink picturez proudly announce their upcoming production, *Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video* (VVKWV). The film, directed by the talented Raaj Shaandilyaa, promises to be a hilarious cinematic experience bringing the 90’s tadka back. Starring the incredibly versatile Rajkummar Rao and Triptii Dimri, this family entertainment is all set to captivate audiences with its unique story.

The collaboration between industry giants Bhushan Kumar & Krishan Kumar, Shobha Kapoor & Ektaa R Kapoor, Vipul D Shah, Ashwin Varde & Rajesh Bahl, Raaj Shaandilyaa & Vimal Lahoti has set the stage for a film that is sure to leave a



lasting impression. Earlier today, the makers also unveiled an intriguing poster with the initials of the film’s title, VVKWV teasing the audience and leaving them guessing the title.

Furthermore, revealing the quirky title of the film. The film also marks the first ever on-

screen pairing of Rajkummar Rao with the talented Triptii Dimri, whose previous individual performances have garnered them a dedicated fan base. Gulshan Kumar, T-Series, Balaji Telefilms & Wakao Films In Association with Thinkink Picturez present *Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video*.

## King’s latest love anthem Sarkaare from the album New Life is a treat for fans

Global Music Artist artist King has rightfully attained the quintessential new-age popstar title with his groundbreaking music. Having collaborated with various international artists in the past including Nick Jonas, Rayvanny and more, the musician has now dropped a new love song from his highly anticipated album *New Life*.

Titled *Sarkaare*, the song is a sweet romantic number featuring actress Sonia Rathee opposite King. Offering a great chemistry between the singer and the actress, *Sarkaare* celebrates the essence of traditional love with its powerful lyrics and emotions. Fans had been eagerly waiting for the release of *Sarkaare* post the massive success of his song *Crown*.

Here to shake the world of music yet again with his art, King’s *Sarkaare* is expected to set new records in the music scene globally. Teasing his fans with one single at a time from his album, King’s songs are always highly anticipated, leaving music lovers wanting more.


Talking about *Sarkaare* and the *New Life* album, King said, “As an artist, I like to challenge myself and try to surprise audiences with my music each time. Working on ‘New Life’ was an exciting experience. *Sarkaare* is a




beautiful love song that takes us back to the old school romance and we have all had someone special in our lives at some point in time. I’m hopeful that my fans will resonate with the song and enjoy it. For me, *Sarkaare* is about that beautiful innocence of love.”

For the album *New Life* has a total of 12 songs, all from different genres of music. The expectations for this album is already soaring high and the fans are expecting nothing less than a power packed album. Sung and written by King, Composed by King, *Sarkaare* is now streaming on all music platforms and is available to watch on King’s YouTube page.


ARCHIE



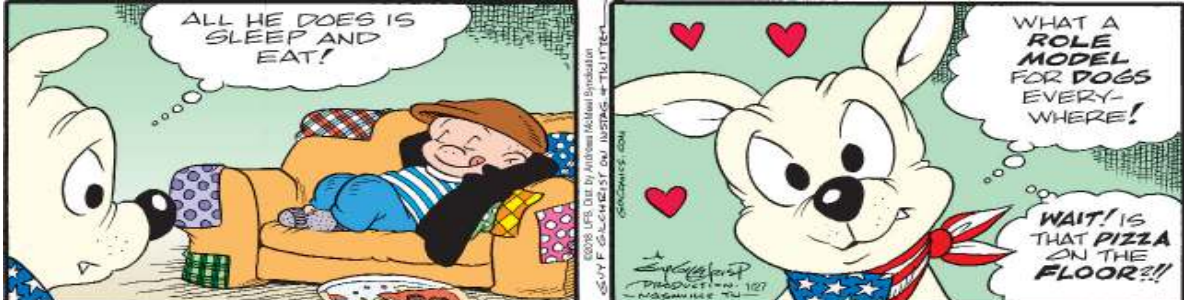
CALVIN AND HOBBS




GARFIELD



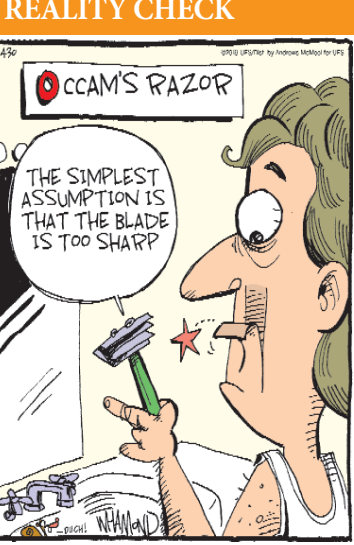
NANCY




GINGER MEGGS



REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



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Yesterday's solution

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

Rules

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

ACROSS

1 A season

3 Strike with an open hand

7 Jump over

8 Having a sharp sour taste

10 Applauded

13 Bumped

16 Sleepy

17 A biling, jumping insect

18 Require

19 Something built over a river

6 A permit to drive

9 The language of Spain

11 Concealed from view

12 Shouted

14 Gown

15 A strong box for storing valuables

DOWN

1 Not sick

2 Just about

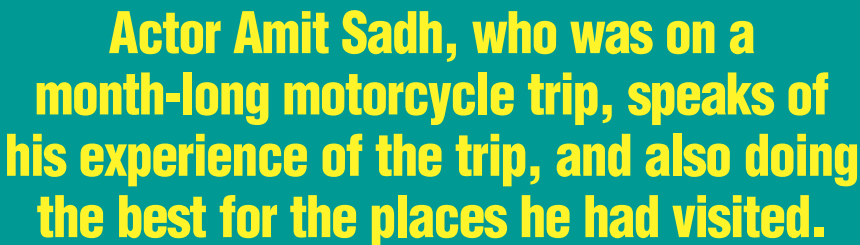
4 Overdue

5 A talking pet bird

SOLUTION

S	C	U	L	P	T	O	R	S
H	I	U	A					
T	H	I	N	K	R	E	I	N
E	A	S	Y	D	E	E	P	A
T	E	A	B	O				
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E	I	G	H	T				
U	O	A	V					
R	E	C	O	G	N	I	S	E





(The author, Dr. Sanjay Bhat, is a Sr. Consultant - Interventional Cardiology, at Aster CMI Hospital.)

Now as we come to an end of the amazing chatter with the adept actor, he goes on to share about his upcoming projects. "I have absolutely two brilliant films coming up one is with Tarsen Singh from Hollywood. Filmmaker from Punjab making films and ads in Hollywood for almost 30 years. He has made his first Indian film set in Punjab based on a true honour killing. It is already running in a lot of film festivals and completion in British Film Institute. They are planning a big release in the US. The second film is called *Monkey Man* where I have a very different character in that, gearing up for a big release in North America," signs of the affable actor.





# PLEASED PLAYERS RETURNING FROM INJURIES GOT ‘GAME-TIME’

PTI ■ RAJKOT

India coach Rahul Dravid is relieved that key players such as Jasprit Bumrah, KL Rahul and Shreyas Iyer, who are all coming back from injuries, could get enough miles in their legs ahead of the ODI World Cup, starting in a week's time.

Bumrah, who was troubled by a back issue that kept him out for long, bowled his full quota of overs in Mohali and Rajkot — the two matches he played against Australia — but was a bit expensive in the series-concluding third ODI.

The fast bowler had made a comeback during the T20 series against Ireland last month and also competed in Asia Cup in Sri Lanka.

Iyer, who is expected to bat at number four, struck a hundred in Indore and also contributed 48 in Rajkot.

Rahul not only batted in an impressive fashion, scoring two half centuries, he also kept the wickets, allaying concerns around his fitness. "For all those guys game-time was important. The fact that they have been able to get that is I think something that we are much better off for it," Dravid said after the third ODI that India lost by 66 runs.

"Jassi has been able to play a couple of games and bowl his quota of 10 overs, Siraj (was) suffering from a little bit of bug but he got back and was able to bowl," he said.

"(For) Ashwin, it was really nice to see the way he bowled in the first two games. KL as well, the keeping right through the 50 overs, he is coming off after almost 6-7 months. "Shreyas has played a couple of really good knocks in the last couple of games. We know we have to keep improving but also hope that we carry this momentum into the World



Cup," the India coach added.

Off-spinner R Ashwin's inclusion in the squad for the Australia series had triggered speculation that he might be included in the final World Cup squad. However, David was non-committal.

All the teams are required to finalise their World Cup squads by Thursday.

"We have to wait for an official confirmation or a decision on that. The NCA is in touch with the selectors and Ajit

(Agarkar) so I will not make any comments on that. If there is any change you will get to hear about it officially, as of now there are no changes," Dravid said, hinting that Axar Patel will be retained in the 15-man squad.

The India coach expects India's full strength squad to assemble in Guwahati ahead of the first warm-up match against England on September 30.

India had only 13 players to pick their

final eleven against Australia here on Wednesday as some members Shardul Thakur, Hardik Pandya and Mohammed Shami returned home while Ishan Kishan missed the contest due to a bug going around in the group

"The two practice or warm-up games, generally people play 15 versus 15, it is tough to sometimes get the intensity in those games but as we have seen in these three games, in hot conditions there has been a lot of intensity as well," Dravid added.

"There was a bit of juggling we had to manage in this game but I am hoping that we have got about a week, we have got a few days. We should have the full strength squad, hopefully the bug around the group has cleared out as well. It will be nice if that happens," the coach said.

Talking about the big loss in the Rajkot ODI, Dravid blamed it on giving away too many runs in the first half of the Australian innings.

"In the overall scheme of things probably 350 was 30 (runs) too many. We should have been chasing 320 if we had bowled better in the first half," he said.

Rohit Sharma (81) and Virat Kohli (56) added 70 runs but the team lost the plot after their partnership was broken. Dravid, however, was pleased to see the two senior batters were among runs right after a break.

"We were on par when Virat and Rohit were batting. We needed one of the top three to get 130 or 140. In these chases you need these kinds of scores," he said.

"Unfortunately it did not happen, but a good thing from our perspective is that both of them batted really well — that is a positive. They are coming off not playing cricket for a week so it was nice to get straight into it and get runs for us," he said.



## Pakistan is a weaker team than India at this moment: Waqar

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Legendary pacer Waqar Younis rated India a better side over Pakistan going into the World Cup while basing his observation on the better preparation of the Rohit Sharma-led team ahead of the quadrennial big bash.

India had recently won the Asia Cup and handed a massive 228-run defeat to their arch-rivals in a Super 4 match at Colombo.

In the World Cup, India will face Pakistan on October 14 in Ahmedabad, and Younis said pressure will be there on both the outfits but said Men in Blue just could have an edge.

"As we all know, it (India vs Pakistan) will be the biggest game, mother of all the games.

So, when you play in Ahmedabad, you will have to control your nerves, and not only Pakistan will be under pressure since it is a weaker team as compared to India. "But India will also be under pressure because the crowd in the stadium will create pressure on both the teams," Younis told Star Sports. "However, if we judge purely based on the team's performance, India definitely will be a better team," he added. Younis was also mindful of the Pakistani's unstable form, and said the injury-enforced absence of pacer Naseem Shah could put them in a significant disadvantage.

"If I talk about Pakistan, they are a miss and hit this time. The absence of Naseem Shah will be a big disadvantage because

Naseem and Shaheen (Afridi) used to complement each other with new ball."

"Though Hasan Ali has been declared as his replacement; he has got a lot of experience and gave brilliant performances in the past, but I feel, to suddenly come and perform on this kind of big stage will not be an easy task for him," said Younis.

Analysing the Indian squad, Younis said the team has great spinners, while its bench strength is equally potent.

"If we only talk about ticking the boxes then we will see no other team can match India right now because they have good spinners, who are playing right now in the starting XI such as Kuldeep, Jadeja. But they also have strong bench strength."



## We deserved to win gold in Asian Games: Harman

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian women's cricket team captain Harmanpreet Kaur on Thursday said they deserved to win the Asian Games gold medal, considering their domination over neighbouring teams, though she admitted that the expectations put a bit of pressure on the side.

Playing in their maiden Asian Games in Hangzhou, India fulfilled the expectations on them and clinched the yellow metal, beating Sri Lanka by 19 runs in the final.

"It was a great experience, we played really well. When we left for the Asian Games, we knew our team is pretty strong and we had in mind that we need to prepare like this for future tournaments. We deserved to win the gold," Harmanpreet said on the sidelines of a felicitation function organised by the Sports Ministry here.

"The team performed very well in Hangzhou and we managed to return with the gold. Before leaving we mentally knew that our team is very strong and

we can win the gold.

"We will approach future tournaments with the same mindset and prepare ourselves the same way we did before the Games," added the star cricketer.

Harmanpreet refused to compare the Commonwealth Games silver with the gold in Hangzhou, saying both the feelings were different.

"That moment was different because we could have won that match. Despite playing good cricket we got the silver. Here it was completely different because there was different sort of pressure on us as we have done well against the Asian teams.

"There was extra pressure on us because we have been dominating Asian cricket," she said.

Harmanpreet said the support provided by the government to the cricket teams in preparation for the Asian Games was very helpful.

"There are a lot of changes. As a sportsperson when you get so much support from all sides, it feels really motivating. This

year we witnessed a new thing and that is the government has given us money for preparation.

"These are the new things which never happened in cricket. As a sportsperson when you know there is not so much financial burden on you, you can play freely and that matters a lot," she said.

The skipper refused to compare rising pacer Titas Sadhu with legendary Jhulan Goswami but said the young Bengal bowler has a lot of promise.

"She (Titas) performed very well in Under-19 World Cup. She bowled really great there and whenever she gets a chance she is always ready to bowl for the team," Harmanpreet said.

"I can't compare her (Jhulan) with anyone but they are from the same state and I think Jhulan is working a lot on her, they keep on talking to each other."

During the ceremony, Sports Minister Anurag Thakur gave away cash awards to the shooting, rowing contingents besides the women cricketers, including Shafali Verma.

PTI ■ RAJKOT

All-rounder Glenn Maxwell will have a big role to play in the ODI World Cup for Australia as he brings a lot of balance to the side as the third spinner, said Mitchell Marsh.

Returning to top flight cricket after six months due to soreness to his ankle and birth of his son, Maxwell came up with career-best 4 for 40 to bowl Australia to a convincing 66-run win over India in the third and final ODI here on Wednesday night.

"It was a great spell. He came back after having not played much cricket for the last (few) months," Marsh said during the press-conference.

"It was great to see him back. It is the energy that Maxi brings to the team, his presence and the balance that he gives us.

"We obviously know that his batting is absolutely class but what he can do with the ball,

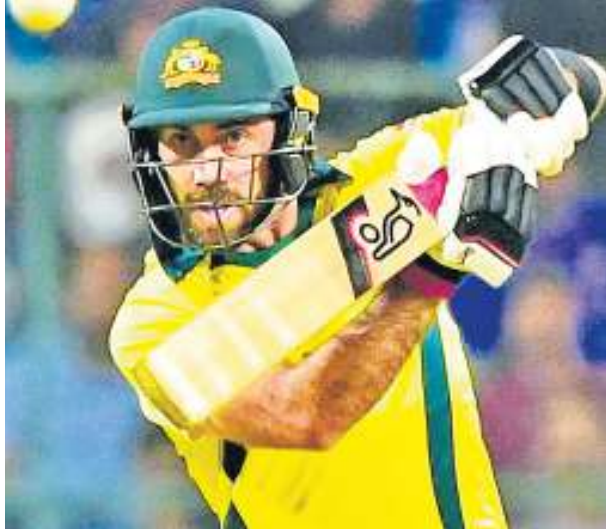
## Mitchell Marsh backs Maxwell to play big role in World Cup campaign

and the options that he will give us with our all-rounders is vital for us going into the World Cup."

Talking about Maxwell's role in the World Cup, Marsh said, "There may be wickets where he's the third spinner through this World Cup.

"But just the ability for us to play the three quicks, a spinner and have Maxi who has the ability on the right wicket to bowl ten overs, think you see a lot of teams around the world have guys like Maxi; it gives you a lot of flexibility with the teams you can pick or the way you can structure your batting line-up."

Marsh, who struck a match-winning 96 in the first half, could not field in the second



innings as he was cramping up after batting in extreme heat and humidity.

"It was as tough as (anywhere) I have batted in. When I came off, I was absolutely exhausted, (had) full body cramp but obviously (it was) nice to contribute to a win like that. I thought we played outstanding (cricket)," he said.

"I wanted to (bowl), basically bowled a couple of balls (during warm up) but basically had cramps all the way up my legs.

"It has been a big couple of weeks, I have played 10 out of a possible 11 games in the last three weeks so with what is to come, the staff said to cool my jets for the fielding innings," he said.

## Shakib hints at retirement after 2025 Champions Trophy

PTI ■ DHAKA

Bangladesh all-rounder Shikib Al Hasan wants to call time on his illustrious international career after the 2025 Champions Trophy in Pakistan.

He has also asserted that while he plans to retire from Tests following the forthcoming ICC Cricket World Cup in India starting next month, he is also likely to quit T20s after the ICC T20 World Cup next year in West Indies and the United States of America.

Talking to T-Sports, as reported by ESPNcricinfo, Shakib said, "The 2025 Champions Trophy for ODIs and the 2024 T20 World Cup for T20s. Tests may be sooner. Maybe (after the World Cup)."

"I will retire all at once, but I will stop playing each format one by one. I will announce my retirement after the 2025 Cham-



pions Trophy." Shakib will be leading Bangladesh during the World Cup, having also captained the side during the Asia

Cup earlier this month in Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

It was his second stint as the unit's leader. Under him, the

Tigers did make it to the Super 4 of the Asia Cup, but failed to make it to the final.

In the meantime, Shakib has

confirmed that his outing in the upcoming World Cup will be his last as the skipper and will be quitting captaincy as a whole.

"Given the current reality, I am captain only till the World Cup. Not a day more."

"I resigned from the captaincy on the 17th [of September]. The reasons were the same when I didn't want to captain ahead of the Asia Cup."

"I don't think my captaincy is adding value at this stage of my career. I wanted to just bowl my 10 overs, give my best in fielding, and do my batting." "The easiest thing to do for me would have been not to take the captaincy. At this age, I didn't want to take this pressure. I want to smile, enjoy my game, perform for Bangladesh," he added.

Bangladesh take on Afghanistan in its opening fixture of the World Cup on October 7 in Dharamsala.

## We believe we can win ODI World Cup: Rabada

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

South Africa pacer Kagiso Rabada believes the Proteas have what it takes to shed the chokers tag and win their maiden world title in the upcoming ICC ODI World Cup in India.

Despite having some star players, South Africa has never progressed behind the semi-final stage of any of the World Cups till date but Rabada said this time they have the arsenal at their disposal to create history.

"One thing we have never lacked as South Africans is belief, so going into the tournament we do believe we can win it," Rabada was he was quoted as saying by ICC.

"We've got the players to do so, so hopefully we can make our

first final and win this competition. It's going to be hard, but it's going to be really enjoyable.

"It's exciting to have the best players in the world playing against each other, competing for one prize, and we are up for the challenge."

The Proteas failed to advance beyond the group stage four years ago but are yet to taste a series defeat in ODIs this year.

The four-time semi-finalists struggled in 2019 but have since risen to fourth in the men's ODI team rankings, and are full of confidence after a 3-2 series victory over Australia.



## Bavuma returns home due to personal reasons

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

South Africa suffered a setback Son Thursday with their ODI skipper Temba Bavuma returning home from India due to personal reasons ahead of the side's two warm-up games of the ICC Cricket World Cup.

The Proteas are scheduled to take on Afghanistan and New Zealand in their first and second warm-up games on here September 29 and October 2 respectively.

As per an update on South Africa cricket's social media handles, Bavuma has returned to South Africa due to personal reasons.

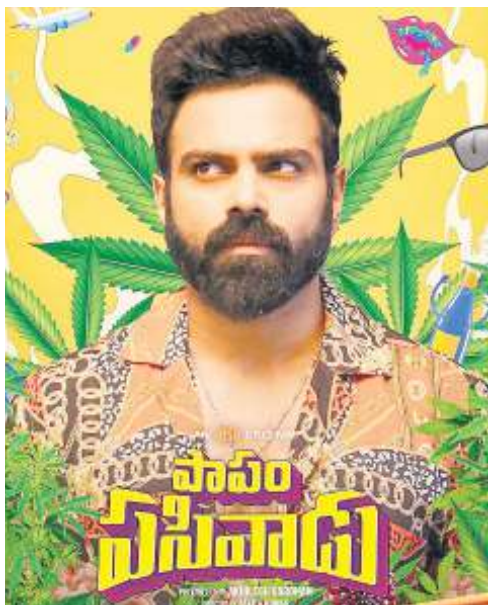
T20I captain Aiden Mark-



ram will be leading the side in the two warm-up clashes in absence of Bavuma, who is likely to rejoin the team ahead

of their opening game. South Africa opens their World Cup campaign against Sri Lanka in New Delhi on October 7.





# SREERAMA CHANDRA: Papum Pasivadu is a boy-next-door story, and people would surely relate to it

After wooing the audience with his melodic voice, Host-musician-actor Sreerama Chandra is all set to win hearts with his acting stints in *Papum Pasivadu*. The adept artist, who is exuberant for the show, gets candid with *The Pioneer* about the same, and trying his luck now on the acting front too.

TEJAL SINHA

Ending the month of September with a coming-of-age tale, Aha brings its new major release *Papum Pasivadu*, which is available on the platform from today. The weekly episodic web show is headlined by actor, host, and musician Sreerama Chandra. Meanwhile, Rashi Singh, Sri Vidya Maharshi, Gayatri Chaganti, Madee, and Ashok Kumar are the other actors in the show produced by Akhilesh Vardhan for the show. In fact, recently, Amitabh Bachchan shared the teaser on his Instagram and Twitter accounts, adding to the anticipation surrounding this promising series.

The show already making the right noise even before its premiere, marks Chandra's debut as a lead. If you've watched the trailer, it already gives you a hint about how the show revolves around the highs and lows in the life of a confused youngster, probably in his 20s. He falls in love with not one but three women and lands in trouble while struggling to find his true soulmate. He faces the wrath of cops, meets a god-man, gets rejected by women, and is quite unprepared for what life throws at him. The star who has recently enraptured hearts with his recent song *O Rendu Prema Meghadila* from *Baby*, is super excited for *Papum Pasivadu*.

In an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*, the thrilled *Balma* singer shares, "I'm very happy, and for a change, I'm playing a lead in *Papum Pasivadu*. It's all

about a late 20-year-old guy and his crisis of finding a girl and confused about which girl to select and who would be right for him. It's more of a real-life story, probably. It's a boy-next-door story and every person at some point in time has this confusion in their life that Krunthi has. Krunthi is my character so everybody will be able to relate to this at some point. The entire series centres around this guy's confusion in life, how he deals with it, and the three distinct woman who are in three different situations."

Once that the audience sees the show, the *Atu Ithu Ooguthu* singer is very confident about feeling related to the character and the story. "This story is about someone like me and you; a common man where having a partner or falling in love is everybody's part of life. In the show, you'd get to see how when you like someone, they don't like you or vice versa, or having some toxic relationship or one of the partners will not let you go from the relationship. These situations are something that people will definitely relate to and being from a lower middle-class family having a family where mom is saying yes and dad is saying no. All these situations brings *Papum Pasivadu*."

A much-realistic story indeed! *Papum Pasivadu* marks his second collaboration with the streaming platform after *Indian Idol season 1* in 2022. During those days of the show, he recalls, "I used to play a different skit every episode back then and really enjoyed doing that. They surprisingly

saw the actor in me and thought I would fit really well for this character and that, I was doing a good job in acting. It was that when they approached me, I heard the story and I could really relate to it and it went well. I could feel it and I thought why not?"

And thus he ended up doing various workshops and took up learning it in some classes. He's one of those artists who justifies his work, no matter what it is; hosting, singing, and now we are sure acting as well. Initially, for the unversed, he made his Telugu debut in acting with the Nagarjuna starrer *Jagadguru Adi Shankara* and then went on to star in films like *Prema geema Jantha nai*, and *MMOF*. But now, it seems like just as he shares with us how emerging as the winner of Indian Idol Hindi was the beginning of his musical career, *Papum Pasivadu* is going to bring a twist to his acting career. Well, something he is looking forward to, and we hope the same. But has acting always been in his list? He enthuses, "I love life in a way where it's full of surprises and gives you the best that it can when you start investing. It's like an investment. When you start investing in life, it gives you an amazing return at some point in time. It could be a short-term or long-term return that I've experienced with my career in singing that I began in 2010 in Indian Idol. There was a lot of hard work put in during those years and then it started paying off in 2011. After that, I had done some amazing songs in Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, and Kannada.

Down the lane in 2022-2021 is when I was on *Bigg Boss* and those efforts started paying off in 2022 in the form of anchoring and more opportunities in Telugu, redefining me as a person and a singer. I hope now my efforts would start paying off in acting soon."

The *Anaganaganaga* singer really hopes for people to watch the show, since he shares that as an actor he has put in a lot of efforts for *Papum Pasivadu*.

Ending the chitter-chatter on a brighter note, he feels that once people watch him in the show, he is positive about getting more opportunities, be it in films or web series. "Every one at some point has a start. It's not easy to suddenly pick someone and give them a movie or something. I am glad that Aha has seen that in me, understood me, learnt and have appreciated the actor in me. I have put in my heart, soul and a lot of hard work into it. I would definitely want people to watch it and let me know how they feel about it. After this, I would definitely want to get more opportunities in acting as well."



## Kabhi Apne Kabhi Sapne poster hints on Bunny's official B'wood debut

Icon Star Allu Arjun is a massive star in Telugu films and the actor is currently gearing up for *Pushpa 2* which is touted to be the biggest film of his career.

But, here is a twist. Reports are rife that before *Pushpa 2*, the actor is set to collaborate with director Krish Jagarlamudi for *Kabhi Apne Kabhi Sapne*.

Trade analyst Ramesh Bala took to X (formerly Twitter) and shared a poster that is touted to be of the upcoming film. He captioned the post, "We were all waiting for *#Pushpa2* but what is this surprise? Is this real? Is @alluarjun & @DirKrish combo on cards? Leaked?"

There are various rumors that Allu Arjun is going to make his Bollywood debut with this film under the direction of Krish. What is the secret behind this poster has become a big suspense.

In the past, Allu Arjun made the film *Veda* under the direction of Krish. Once again the news that the combo of the two is set has become a hot topic in Tollywood. Allu Arjun Krish *Kabhi Apne Kabhi Sapne* poster mystery will soon be clarified.

Allu Arjun recently won the National Award for Best Actor for his amazing performance as Pushpa Raj in the movie *Pushpa*. Along with Allu Arjun, Devi Sri Prasad won the National Award for Pushpa for Best Music Director. With National Awards, *Pushpa*'s sequel was highly anticipated at the pan-Indian level.

*Pushpa The Rule* is currently shooting in Hyderabad. Rashmika Mandanna is playing the heroine and Malayalam super hero Fahadh Fasil is playing the villain in this movie. Jagapathi Babu, Anasuya and Sunil are playing key roles.

Mythri Movie Makers is producing this sequel.

## Sudev Nair to play Kasi in TIGER NAGESWARA RAO

Many actors who are popular in Malayalam are being introduced to the Telugu audience by our makers. Fahad Faasil, who is recognized as a talented actor in Malayalam and also received the National Film Award, made his debut in Tollywood with the movie *Pushpa*. Also, another Malayalam actor Shine Tom Chacko was introduced to the Telugu audience through the movie *Dasara*. After that he acted in the movie *Rangabali*. Now acting in *Devara*.

Along with all these, another Malayalam actor Sudev Nair is now getting introduced to the Telugu film industry. That too, Mass Maharaja is making his entry as a villain with Ravi Teja's movie.

*Tiger Nageswara Rao* is being made under the direction of Vamsi with Ravi Teja as the hero. Abhishek Agarwal is producing this film under Abhishek Agarwal Arts banner. The film will release on October 20 as a Dussehra gift. Murali Sharma and Anupam Kher have already introduced the hero character from this movie through the teaser. However, today another new character has been introduced



from this movie. The same is the role of Kashi played by Malayalam actor Sudev Nair.

Introducing the character of Kashi, the film's unit released a poster today. Director Vamsi who posted this poster on X. Sudev Nair's amazing performance as Kashi will entertain everyone. Sudev Nair does negative roles in Malayalam. Last year Sudev Nair acted in 8 Malayalam movies including

Mohanlal's *Monster* and Mammoootty's *Bhisma Parvam*. Also, acted in a Kannada movie. This year, he has already shone on the silver screen with a Malayalam movie called *Thuramukham*. Now ready to enter in Telugu. Sudev also accepted another project in Telugu. Sudev Nair is acting in the movie which is being made by the combination of Nitin and Vakkanntham Vamsi.

## Selva Raghavan to play a key role in Ravi Teja's next film

Ravi Teja is doing back-to-back films in his career and is now busy with his latest film *Tiger Nageswara Rao* which will be out on the 20th of October. Apart from this film, the star hero will also do a film with Gopichand Malineni.

The film was announced a few weeks back and will be made on a massive scale. The casting is on as of now and the gossip in the film circles is that the makers approached Tamil director and actor Selva Raghavan to play a key role.

At Present, Selva Raghavan is busy acting in movies and is doing character roles. Gopichand Malineni felt that he would be a perfect choice for a key role in the film and has roped him in for the film.

Though an official confirmation is yet to be made, this news has gone viral all over. The film will go on floors early next year as per the news.



## Non-theatrical rights of Varun Tej's Operation Valentines sold for a whopping amount

Mega Prince Varun Tej, whose recent film *Gandevadhari Arjuna* didn't perform well at the box office, is all set to thrill his fans with *Operation Valentine*, a Telugu-Tamil bilingual film directed by debutant Shakti Pratap Singh Hada.

The film has made headlines today as the non-theatrical rights, including satellite, digital, audio, and others for all languages, were sold for a staggering Rs 50 crores. This marks the highest price ever fetched for a Varun Tej's movie. Additionally, the makers are receiving substantial offers for the movie's theatrical rights in Telugu and Hindi.

In *Operation Valentine*, former Miss Universe Manushi Chhillar portrayed a radar officer, while Varun Tej essayed an IAF officer, promising an exciting storyline. Aamir Khan and Siddharth Raj Kumar co-write the movie's screenplay.

Produced with the support of Sony Pictures International Productions and Sandeep Mudda from Renaissance Pictures, *Operation Valentine* is set to dazzle audiences on a grand scale. Save the date, as the movie is set to hit theaters on December 8, 2023.



## Ranbir Kapoor-Sandeep Vanga's Animal packs a wild punch

There was a huge anticipation for the teaser of Ranbir Kapoor and Sandeep Reddy Vanga's crazy actioner *Animal*. After amazing us with the pre-teaser, the film's teaser has been dropped today, on the special occasion of Ranbir Kapoor's birthday. The two-minute, 26-second video is an action-packed one filled with intense and high-octane stunts, powerful dialogues, spectacular visuals, thumping score, and brilliant performances. The teaser gives a glimpse of the film's story which is a tale of father-son played by Anil Kapoor and Ranbir Kapoor

respectively. They seem to have always had a very difficult relationship with each other. But, despite the physical abuses from his father, the protagonist believes that his father is the "best father in the world."

The protagonist grows up to become a gangster and becomes extremely violent. Bobby Deol is introduced towards the end of the clip as the antagonist. The teaser actually begins with a discussion between Ranbir and Rashmika Mandanna about having kids. He tells her she can ask him anything and he will be truthful, but she can never talk about his father.

Bloodshed, car chases, and intense elements make the narrative gripping and intriguing. Ranbir's transformation into a rebellious one leaves fans awestruck. The raw and action scenes describe the kind of hard work he has put in for the film.

Director Sandeep Reddy Vanga shows his mark in presenting the character. *Animal* is produced by Bhushan Kumar & Krishan Kumar's T-Series, and Pranay Reddy Vanga's Bhadrakali Pictures. The film will be released in 5 languages - Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam on December 1st.

## Suriya pays respect to a fan who passed away in an road accident

Suriya commands a massive fan following across industries in the South. This adulation, is mutual as Suriya, for several times in the past has come for his fan's help through various activities. Unfortunately, not all these interactions are done in a happy setting.

The Kollywood star recently got to know of the death of one of his fans in a road accident. He visited his parents to offer his respects at the fan's home. The actor offered all kinds of support to the bereaved family.

This visit comes right after the July incident where a couple of Suriya fans in



Palanadu, Andhra Pradesh were electrocuted while setting up banners for the actor. The fans were setting up banners on the occasion of Suriya's birthday and Kanguva motion poster reveal. The actor called up and spoke to the family back then.

Even last year something similar happened. A 27-year-old fan named Jagadish met with an accident and passed away. Jagadish was the secretary of Suriya's fan club in Namakkal, Tamil Nadu. Suriya visited Jagadish's family and offered condolences.