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Published From: VIJAYAWADA HYDERABAD DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL RAIPUR CHANDIGARH BHUBANESWAR RANCHI DEHRADUN



GOVT INKS 8 MOUS WITH IBM TO PROVIDE CURATED COURSES



Sreerama Chandra: Papum Pasivadu is a boy-next-door story, and people would surely RELATE TO 1

is like giving a post-dated cheque. We have signed the cheque. I am a very small first-time MP and first-time MLC kind of junior leader. So, nobody can convince the parties to ensure adequate representation of women. Wasn't Indira Gandhi an important voice in the party? Wasn't Sonia Gandhi the only voice in the

QUOTE OF THE DAY

the pioneer

Passing the Women's Reservation Bill

party? The issue here is that you need to give policy protection to vulnerable sections of society which starts

- Kavitha Kalvakuntla, MLC

Woman kills daughter, ends...

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 Prasadampadu. Mary Jersey has been suffering from an illness for a few days and they faced financial problems for medical.

Indians now represent...

The US Mission in India on Thursday surpassed its goal of processing one million nonimmigrant visa applications this year and said that Indians now represent over 10 per cent of all visa applicants worldwide, including 20 per cent of all student visa applicants and 65 per cent of all H&L-category (employment) visa applicants. The number of visa applications processed in India are 20 per cent more than the numbers processed in pre-Covid 2019 and 2022 and Indians...

Ban on rice export is regulation...

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 rais 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...

We deserved to win gold in Asian...

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..

Capital shift imminent: Amarnath

Says Vizag is poised to take a leap onto world map

Industries Minister, Gudivada Amarnath, has underscored the rising prominence of the Bhimili region on the global map due to the impending capital shift to the port city of Visakhapatnam. Amarnath made this announcement during a foundation-laying ceremony for the AP Beverage Complex in Gorinta of Anandapuram mandal in Visakhapatnam district on Thursday.

In his address, the Minister highlighted the employment opportunities that would soon emerge with the establishment of this new facility in the region, echoing the vision set forth by Chief Minister Mohan Jagan Reddy to compre-hensively transform

and develop the area. YV Subba Reddy, the YSRCP regional coordinator, disclosed the government's plans to allocate approximately Rs 100 crore for fostering development within the Bheemili constituency. This allocation is part of a broader strategy related to the relocation of the administrative capital, scheduled to coincide with the auspicious occasion of Vijayadashami.

Subba Reddy elaborated on the forthcoming development initia-

YV Subba Reddy, the YSRCP regional disclosed the government's plans to Rs 100 crore for fostering development within the Bheemil constituency. This allocation is part of a broader strategy related to the relocation of the administrative capital, scheduled to coincide with

tives earmarked for the Bhimili constituency, emphasizing the Chief

the auspicious occasion of

Vijayadashami.

to achieving holistic progress in the region. He also mentioned that Rs 28 crore had already been disbursed as compensation to farmers who had contributed their lands to the Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (APIIC). Subba Reddy passionately appealed to the citizens to endorse Jagan Mohan Reddy for another term as Chief Minister, highlighting his dedication to both development and welfare endeavors.

Deputy Chief Minister Narayana Swamy credited the industrial growth witnessed in and around the Visakhapatnam region to Industry Minister Gudivada Amarnath.



'Non-Political JAC' bats for Vizag as capital

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

The 'Non-Political Joint Action Committee for Decentralised Administration' has made a strategic decision to intervene in the ongoing Amaravati capital case, which is scheduled for its next hearing in December before the Supreme

The JAC asserts that the previous government failed to adhere to the recommenda-tions put forth by the committee, headed by former home secretary K. Sivaramakrishnan, appointed by the Central government.

According to the JAC, the Sivaramakrishnan Committee endorsed a decentralised administrative approach, advocating for the establishment of three zones instead of consolidating all activities in Amaravati.

In an interview with 'The Pioneer', Professor H. Lajipathi Rai, Chairman of the non-political JAC, expounded on the concept of having three capitals as



YSR VAHANA MITHRA



Rs 275.93 cr to be released for 2.75L beneficiaries today

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy will deposit financial assistance of Rs 275.93 crore into the bank accounts of 2,75,931 beneficiaries of the 'Vahana Mithra' scheme at the rate of 10,000 each here on Friday.

In the last 50 months, the YSRCP government has provided Rs 50,000 financial assistance to each driver-cum-owner of auto, taxi, maxi cab, and MDU operators to handhold them to meet expenses towards insurance premiums, fitness certificates,

The officials said that the State

government was providing support to the families of auto, taxi, maxi cab drivers, and MDU operators to assist them in meeting their expenses towards paying insurance premiums and necessary repairs to keep their vehicles in condition for transporting the passengers to their destinations

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 certifi-

Iconic agricultural scientist Swaminathan passes away

M S Swaminathan, renowned agricultural scientist and a life long crusader against hunger who bet on sustainable farming passed away

He was 98 and is survived by three daughters including Dr Soumya Swaminathan, the former chief scientist of the World Health Organisation.

A staunch advocate of food and nutrition security, it was his pathbreaking work that warded off famine during the 1960s.

The celebrated agriculture icon, who was being treated for age-related illness for quite some time passed away today at 11.15 AM at his residence here. Condolences poured in with President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailing Swaminathan's yeoman service to the nation.

Murmu said Swaminathan left behind a rich legacy which would serve as a "guiding light to steer the world towards a safer and hungerfree future for humanity". Modi said his groundbreaking work transformed lives of millions, ensured India's food security. Indian Agricultural Research Institute Director A K Singh said an era of agricultural research, education and extension marked by disruptive innovations has come to an end with the death of Swaminathan.





CM. Governor condole death of Swaminathan

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Governor S Abdul Nazeer has expressed profound grief and sadness over the passing away of Padma Vibhushan MS Swaminathan, eminent agricultural scientist, popularly known as Father of Green Revolution in India, on Thursday in Chennai.

Governor Abdul Nazeer said Swaminathan was a world-renowned agronomist, agricultural scientist, plant geneticist, administrator, and humanitarian, who was widely known as a global leader of the green revolution for his role in India's Green Revolution programme, for introducing high-yielding varieties of wheat and rice.

AP govt files caveat petition in SC in skill scam

In a strategic move, the Andhra Pradesh government, led by Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, on Thursday, filed a caveat petinection with the multi-crore AP Skill Development Scam Case. The AP High Court had dismissed Naidu's quash petition in the alleged skill development

TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu who is arrested in connection with the Skill Development Scam is currently in remand at Rajahmundry Central Prison.

The AP government appealed to the Supreme Court requesting an opportunity to present their arguments in the case against Chandrababu Naidu.

The government claimed that it had adequate evidence on the Telugu Desam Party chief's role in the scam which involved misappropriation of about Rs 300 crore in the name of imparting training to students.

It also claims that funds involved were allegedly routed and encashed through shell companies and central investigation agencies are already probing the matter, with the GST department being the first to inform about the case. In a setback for Chandrababu

Naidu, his quash petition filed in the Supreme Court was postponed to October 3.



Yuva galam padayatra postponed indefinitely

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) secretary Nara Lokesh's 'Yuva Galam' padayatra was abruptly halted due to the arrest of his father and party chief Chandrababu Naidu. Nara Lokesh on Thursday announced the indefinite postponement of Yuvagalam padayatra, a mass contact programme.

Lokesh, who has been campaigning in Delhi for the last few days, was supposed to resume his padayatra on September 29. With the state CID adding him as an accused in the Amaravati Inner Ring Road case, the TDP scion may put off his return to the state

Lokesh embarked on the 4,000-km

pada yatra on January 27 to reach out to people and galvanise support for the party ahead of the 2024 Andhra Pradesh Assembly elections. However, he had to halt the yatra on September 9 after his father's arrest.

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.

TDP MP complains to President, Shah against AP CID chief

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Telugu Desam Party MP, Ram Mohan Naidu, on Thursday, wrote to the President of India, Home Minister, Amit Shah, with an appeal to initiate disciplinary action against senior IPS officer, N Sanjay, who is presently holding the post of the chief of AP

CID wing.
In the letter sent to both the President and the Union Home Minister, the TDP MP stated that the CID chief, a 1996 batch IPS officer currently serving as Additional DGP of the AP CID has violated the All-India Services Conduct Rules 1968. He submitted detailed documentation evidence along with his let-

Though he holds a respectable and Constitutional post, the ruling YSRCP is engaging him in political activities and to sling mud at the leaders of the Opposition parties, Ram Mohan Naidu said in the letter. He also highlighted the recent controversial media conferences held along with the Additional Attorney General in New Delhi, Hyderabad, and Amaravati, which the MP said are clear violations of All India Service Rules.

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

42% children spend up to 4 hours daily glued to screens

PNS NEW DELHI

At least 42 per cent of children under the age of 12 spend an average of two to four hours daily glued to their smartphones or tablets while those in the higher age bracket dedicate 47 per cent of their day to screens, a new survey has found. According to the survey conducted by Happinetz, a leading parental control filter box, with households having multiple devices, parents find themselves grappling with the challenge of managing their children's screen time and regulating their exposure to age inappropriate content.

The survey conducted among 1,500 parents found that a staggering 69 per cent of children aged 12 and above possess their own tablets or smartphones, giving them unrestricted access to the online realm. "Seventy-four



per cent of them turn to their screens to immerse themselves in the world of YouTube, while 61 per cent of those aged 12 and above gravitate towards gaming as their preferred digital pastime, the survey report said.

"This preference for screen-based entertainment inevitably leads to an increase in screen time, with 42 per cent of children under 12 spending

an average of two to four hours daily glued to their screens, and their older counterparts (those above 12) dedicating 47 per cent of their day to screens," it added. Richa Singh, Co-Founder and CEO of Happinetz, said discipline is not the answer to the problem of unsafe internet experiences for children. 'With everything going digital, right from education to entertain-

Children dedicate a substantial portion of their time to their gadgets, whether to do their homework, chat with their friends or family or use apps to study.

ment, smart devices have become an accessory for children today, dictating their daily routines.

Children dedicate a substantial portion of their time to their gadgets, whether to do their homework, chat with their friends or family or use apps to study.

"As the survey denotes, screens are a reality for children today - as a way of education and leisure.

And yet parents do not have a definite way to monitor or create a safe internet experience for their kids. Discipline is not the answer to this problem, it is a hit and trial method," she said. Happinetz offers a patented Parental Control Filter (PCF) Box that regularly monitors more than 110 million websites and apps, ensuring that more than 20 per cent or 22 million harmful adult sites and apps are permanently blocked. "Parents can choose from an

array of 13 categories, including social media, chat and forums, online learning, and more, allowing them to finely tailor their children's internet access to their preferences. The result? 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.

Women's quota Bill a post-dated cheque

PNS HYDERABAD

Ruling BRS MLC in Telangana K Kavitha on Thursday alleged that the Women's Reservation Bill passed in Parliament is like a post-dated cheque, with no clarity on when it is going to be implemented.

Insisting that women should be given 33 per cent reservation in the Lok Sabĥa and state assemblies immediately, as per the bill passed in both houses of Parliament, Kavitha accused the NDA government at the Centre of not implementing it despite

being able to do so. "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 postdated 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



service here in an interview. Yet, the passage of the bill is a good gesture which should be celebrated, she said.

On the demand for reservation for OBC women in the women's bill, she said the OBCs should get 33 per cent share in Parliament and state assemblies to begin with, and once OBC reservation is given, it will automatically reflect for OBC women as well.



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

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 ĥome. 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 peopledescribed 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 scenesare being repeated for obvious reasons.A section of the media is projecting the visit of the rich and mighty, IT professionals and others 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



the Communists, to beat YS Rajasekhara Reddy, Naidu suffered humiliation. He could rebuildhis political career only after the tragc 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 supress protesting Anganwadi women. Naidu's admirers may not hold him responsible for such events, but these painful events remain fresh in people's

Today, the police in Andhra

Pradesh are not seen as instruments of repression. He, however, has given carte blanche to the special 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 pro-ceedings against the former chief minister.

Naidu owes people an explana-tion 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

Followers of YS Rajasekhar 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

Visakhapatnam, the Indian Air Force Academy in Dundigal, and the Kendriya Sainik Board 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 offi-

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

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.

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.

Furthermore, approximate-

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 fur-

ther 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 currenty 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

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

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

Alerted by people, the personnel of the National Disaster Response Force (NDF) swung into action and rescued two persons. The third person, identified as Ganesh was missing. The youths came from Veerya Tanda 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 "Payloadyaan -

Overview and Operations of Payloads & More" at GITAM Deemed to be University here on Thursday, organized by GITAM Career Guidance Center in association with the EECE 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 specifc instruments, sensors, experiments, or payloads that a spacecraft transports and utiizes 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

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

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

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 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 employ-

ment 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

the previous government's approach. He stated, "The the creation of a super city like Amaravati and instead favoured decenintervening in the case, perspective on why 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.

Sivaramakrishnan comtralised development. By our aim is to present our Vizag might be the most

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

Visakhapatnam as part of the Executive Capital a corrective measure to plan. The distribution of administrative functions among different cities and regions would foster throughout the State.' Furthermore, he said

that designating Vizag as the Executive Capital would stimulate comprehensive development. Professor Rai highlighted Vizag's interna-

tional connectivity and its appeal to international delegates, intellectuals, and tourists as unique factors in its favour. On October 15, 2022, a rally called 'Visakaha Ġarjana' was organised under the auspices of this nonpolitical JAC. Despite heavy rainfall on that day, thousands of people and regional representatives participated in the

Iconic agricultural...

Continued from Page 1

Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi, Chief Minister M K Stalin, leaders of farmers' bodies including P R Pandian condoled Swaminathan's death. 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 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 Magsavsav 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

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



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 were also immersed here.

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,

TODAY **ALMANAC** Month & Paksham: Tithi:Purnima: Sep 28 06:49 PM to Sep 29 03:27 PM Krishna Paksha Pratipada: Sep 29 03:27 PM to Sep 30 12:21 PM Nakshatram:

Sep 29 01:48 AM

to Sep 29 11:18 PM

Sep 29 11:18 PM Revati to Sep 30 09:08 PM 10:37 AM to 12:06 PM 3:05 PM to 4:34 PM 10:13 AM to 11:40 AM Varivam: 7:38 AM to 9:08 AM 07:00 PM to 08:26 PM Amritakalam:

Abhiiit Muhurtham: 11:42 AM to 12:30 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER Forecast: Mostly Cloudy **Temp:** 33°° Humidity: 76%

Sunset: 5:59 PM

Updated: September 28, 2023 5:00 PM

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

Continued from Page 1

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 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 opposer 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

is you need to give policy protection 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

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.

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

Additionally, services of Train

(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.

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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

The Muslims in large numbers from Singh Nagar, Bhavanipuram, Chittinagar, and other areas came in large 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

The relics (hair) of Prophet Muhammad were preserved in 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

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 State Council meeting. Also, they urged the employees to make the meet a grand suc-

They said that Minister for Revenue Dharmana 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

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 soughtafter 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



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.

TD 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 Raghuveer Srinivasan, Magazines, Special Publications Head R Srinivasan, Tamil Nadu Circulation Division Senior General Manager Babu Vijay participated in the event.



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 Sarannavratri festivities that will take place from October 15 to 23.



Chairman Karnati Rambabu and Executive Officer (EO) D

come to the Home Minister. Speaking to reporters,

Farmers'

leader Yerneni

Nagendranath

the Dasara festivities begin, she wanted to visit the temple and pray for the successful conduct of the Sarannavaratri 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 Ammavari 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 Lakshminarayana (KBN Association (KDRA) has College), Y Jikri Reddyy, selected the district junior Abhishek, T Rajamouli, G 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 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 4th phase of 'Varahi Yatra' a huge success: Manohar

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

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



announced after discuscoordination committees, he said. Manohar said that the first, second, and third phases of 'Varahi Vijaya Yatras' were successful and in the same spirit, the fourth phase should be a big success, he added. He asked the

The pro- arrangements for Pawan g r a m m e Kalyan's public meetings. s c h e d u l e 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 ISP lead ers to work with the TDP leaders without misunderstandings. A host of ISP leaders including Kandula Durgesh, Kotikalapudi Govinda Rao, Dr Pasupuleti Hariprasad, and Nerella Suresh were among those who were

no more PNS VIJAYAWADA



Andhra Pradesh Drainage Board 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 Raithanga Samakhya and worked along with Andhra Pradesh State Agricultural Mission vicechairman MVS 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.

distribution 100% in NTR district

Land rights document

PNS VIJAYAWADA

NTR District Collector Dr S 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 Jaganannaku Chebudam' (1902) within the stipulated time, he explained.

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 docdistribution, ument 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 Dilli Rao has told the Chief scheme is being implemented 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 dis-

tributed, he added.

Collector reported that the third phase of the land re-survey would be started in 100 villages and the ground toothing and validation process would

Meanwhile, the

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 1 Suneetha, 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.

Pawan condoles death of Swaminathan PNS VIJAYAWADA "Many experiments in that

cadres to make elaborate

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

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.

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 SRM launched its eighth

Centre of Excellence that embraces true interdisciplinary collaboration in alignment with the mission of SRM University-AP. 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 Madhuranagar (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

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 ashuva in the Collectorate.

DD welfare 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 Jashua 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 pirit 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 munic-

ipal corporation bears Rs 5 lakh.

President of Gurram Joshua

Sahitya Saskritika 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 pre-

Woman kills daughter, ends life

PNS VIJAYAWADA

In a shocking incident, a woman killed her three-yearold 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 Árun Kumar, a real estate professional, and their daughter were living together at Prasadampadu.

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 suspi-

Ramayapatnam seaport works in fast lane: Official

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

Yuvaraj inspected the works at the Kamayapatnam 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 Industries occasion, 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





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 gas from the cylinder is suspected to be the reason for the accident. Pithapuram CI 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 badges.
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

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.

national leaders condemned the arrest of Naidu. "The YSRCP leaders are plundering hun-They described the arrest of Chandrababu Naidu as an unde-



mocratic act, stating that many

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

of Naidu and sending him to prison is part of vindictive politics. False cases were registered against Naidu, unable to digest the overwhelming response from the people to Naidu's road shows and meetings. The ruling party can not scare the TDP cadres with false cases. The TDP activists and leaders are ready to face the ruling YSRCP harassment without any fear," Anjaneyulu reiterated.

Meanwhile, CPI State vicepresident Muppalla Nageswara Thursday and extended solidarity with the TDP leaders and activists who were observing fast in the camp.

Addressing the crowd the CPI leader recalled that Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy immediately after assuming charge as Chief Minister ordered the demolition of the Praja Vedika convention centre. He called upon people to fight against the anti-people policies of the YSRCP regime. CPI leaders Maruthi Vara Prasad Rao, TDP leader Manakonda Shiva Prasad Rao, and other leaders were present.

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

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 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 allround 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 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

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 initiation highlighted the exemplary work done in beautifying the city, including the Netaji Bridge beautification.

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner also contribute to the economic development of the region.

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, the Commissioner extended his gratitude to the public for their active involvement 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 Vijayawada Municipal Corporation. He pointed to the canals as shining examples of the city's commitment to maintaining a clean environment.

Bhagyalakshmi, Deputy Mayors Bellam Durga and Avuthu Sri Sailaja and others spoke at the

Party leaders lash out Kishan Reddy

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana BJP leaders lashed out at state BJP president G. leader, criticised Kishan saying Kishan Reddy saying that they that they don't know what to

understand what the party doing and going to face Assembly elections.

They said that they are spending money in their constituencies

party leadership is just sitting in offices and holding meetings.
The BJP office bearers meet-

ing was held on Wednesday night. It is reported that this meeting was held under rough conditions and that many leaders directed flak at Kishan

But it seems that Kishan tried to avoid talking negative-

ly at the party meeting. However, Venkateswara Rao, a key

> tell him as it is 10 years since he joined the

HOW WILL BJP FACE ELECTIONS?

BJP. It is reported that leaders said that not many people came to the Narendra Modi Sabha held Warangal and the Amit Shah

Sabha held at

Khammam. trusting the party, but the Kishan was asked to bring people in large numbers to Prime Minister Modi's meetings being held on October 1 and

> 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 BJPruled states and the development projects executed in the

nine years of rule by Modi. The party has also decided to

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

"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. Vishweshawar did explain the work done by the not reveal what to do, howev-Centre in Telangana apart from er, he said that they had disattacking the BRS government. cussed what to do to make the However, one BJP leader party strong.

Jharkhand IED blast: 1 CRPF man dead, 1 injured

wo CRPF personnel were seriously injured in an IED blast in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district on Thursday and one of them died later in the course of treatment in Ranchi, police said. The two CRPF personnel belonging to its elite Cobra battalion were grievously injured in the blast near a forest between Tumbahaka and Sariomburu villages in Tonto police station area of district during a combing operation against the Maoists by security forces, the police

said CRPF constable Raiesh Kumar and Inspector Bhupendra Kumar were airlifted Ranchi for treatment, IG Police Operations Amol V Homkar told "Raiesh Kumar of 209 Cobra battalion succumbed to his injuries during treatment," he said. Bhupendra Kumar is undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Ranchi, the IG added Apart from CRPF's Cobra battalion, Jharkhand Jaguar of the state police and district armed police were involved in the combing operation against the Maoists, the police said. Several security forces were injured in the past few months in



Cricketer Kapil moves HC for stricter laws against cruelty to animals

egendary India cricketer Kapil Dev and his wife have approached the Delhi High Court challenging certain provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act ■that allow destruction of stray dogs in lethal chambers and extermination or destruction of any animal under the authority of any law. The petition came up for hearing before a bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Sanjeev

Narula which granted time to the petitioners' counsel to place certain judgments on record. The high court listed the petition for further hearing on October 13. Petitioners Kapil Dev. his wife Romi Dev and animal rights activist Anjali Gopalan, said the petition was being filed on account of repeated instances of barbaric treatment meted out to animals showing the "most brutal and cruel face of humanity" and the "utter effete" response of law and the law enforcing



SC refuses to entertain PIL alleging exorbitant air fare

destinations like Dubai to Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala. A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra asked the Kerala Pravasi Association', which filed the PIL, to move the Kerala High Court with its grievances. The PIL also challenged one of the rules of the Indian Aviation Act which permits airlines to set ticket

prices, and alleged it violated the citizens' right to travel and resulted in exploitation of Indian travellers. "Having regard to the nature of the cause of action in the present case, we are of the considered view that it would be appropriate for the petitioners to take recourse to the remedy under Article 226 of the Constitution of India. Granting liberty to the petitioners to do so, the Writ Petition is disposed of." the bench said in its order on Wednesday. The association alleged the air fare to and from Gulf destinations to Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram has been exorbitant



India's preparedness, response to war under lens of Parl panel

PNS NEW DELH

India's strategic operational preparedness in view of the current security scenario, its response to the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the cyber-security scenario in the country will come under the scanner of parliamentary panels. Parliamentary

Committee on Defence, chaired by BJP member Jual Oram, will also review the working of Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO), examine the role of the Indian Army in ensuring defence of the country and also study the

resettlement policies, healthcare facilities and pensionary avenues for ex-servicemen, and the agnipath scheme in the Armed Forces. Parliamentary

Standing Committee on External Affairs, chaired by BJP member P P Chaudhary, will examine the government's efforts in countering global terrorism at regional and international levels, India's position in ongoing climate



The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology, chaired by Shiv Sena leader Pratap Jadhav, will review the cyber security scenario in India, emergence of artificial intelligence, safeguarding rights of independent content creators on social and digital media.

change negotiations, Russia-Ukraine conflict, its global impact and India's response; concerns and issues pertaining Indian students studying abroad. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology, chaired by Shiv Sena leader Pratap Jadhav, will review the cyber security scenario in India, emergence of artificial intelligence, safeguarding rights of independent content creators on social and digital media. The committee will also examine issues related to the emergence of OTT platforms, norms and guidelines for media coverage, review of the performance of schemes under universal service obligation fund implemented by the public and private sectors and regulation of cable TV in

Three Iranians, two Indians held after boat reaches Gujarat's Okha coast

O Heroin, satellite phone seized

PNS DWARAKA

Five men, including three Iranian nationals, were arrested from Okha town of Gujarat's Devbhumi Dwarka district allegedly with a satellite phone and 10 grams of heroin, police said on Thursday.

While three fishermen from Iran and an Indian named Ashok Kumar Ayappan (37) were on a boat which arrived at Okha coast near the underconstruction 'Signature Bridge' on Wednesday night, Ashok's younger brother Anand Kumar Ayappan (35) was on the coast to receive them, an official said.

Tamil Nadu native Ashok, who used to work in Oman, took help of these three Iranian fishermen to reach Gujarat coast as his passport was seized by his sponsor firm and there was no other way to come back to India, Superintendent of Police Nitesh Pandey said.

He identified the three Iranians as Mustafa Baluchi, Jashem Baluchi and Amir Hussain Baluchi, all residents of Bandar Abbas there, and

said the five accused have been charged under provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, The Passports Act and The Foreigners Act.

Among other things, police found a satellite phone from Ashok and 10 grams of heroin from one of the Iranian sailors, said Pandey.

"Ashok used to work as a mechanical engineer while his brother Anand used to work as an electrical engineer at Muscat city of Oman. Due to a dispute, the sponsor firm at Oman had seized Ashok's passport, making it impossible for him to come back. As a solution, his Iranian friend suggested he reach Gujarat via the sea route," said Pandey.

Militants openly instigating mobs in Imphal valley

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/IMPHAL

The worst fears for security agencies seem to have come true as militants have been seen moving around openly and instigating mobs in Imphal valley which have been on a rampaging spree after pictures of two missing teenagers surfaced on social media.

According to officials, during attacks carried out on a police party Wednesday evening, armed men dressed in black uniform were seen giving directions to the agitated youths to attack the police and many vehicles were then torched. The security agencies have been warning that militants belonging to United National Liberation Front (UNLF), People's Liberation Army (PLA) and other banned groups had become part of the mobs and carrying out sneak attacks on security forces as well as giv-

ing directions to the agitators. Recently, the presence of insurgents was found within a mob that carried out an attack on security forces injuring a Lt Col of army near Pallel in Tengnoupal.



AFSPA is no solution to Manipur crisis: Irom Sharmila

Kolkata: A day after AFSPA was extended in most parts of Manipur, rights activist Irom Sharmila said the "oppressive law" was not a solution to the conflict in the state. Sharmila, hailed as the 'Iron Lady of Manipur', told PTI in a telephonic interview on Thursday that the BJP-led government at the Centre should respect diversity instead of working for uniformity through proposals like the Uniform Civil Code. The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act or AFSPA was extended by another six months in Manipur on Wednesday, barring 19 police

station areas in the Imphal valley and an area that shares its boundary with neighbouring Assam. "The extension of AFSPA is not a solution to the problems or ethnic violence in the state. The Centre and the Manipur government have to respect the diversity of the region," she said. The values, principles, and practices of different ethnic groups must be respected. India is known for its diversity. But the central government and the BJP are more interested in creating uniformity through proposals like the Uniform

Kejriwal 'welcomes' CBI probe into bungalow renovation

PNS NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday "welnary inquiry into alleged irregularities in the construction of his bungalow while asserting that nothing will come out of it as there "is nothing wrong".

He also targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi and claimed the action showed his "nervousness"

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a preliminary enquiry to look into alleged "irregularities and misconduct" by unidentified public servants of the Delhi government in connection with the construction of a new official residence for the chief minister, officials said on Wednesday.

Reacting to the CBI action, Kejriwal told reporters, "The prime minister is nervous. This shows his nervousness. The inquiry against me is nothing new. So far, inquiries have been conducted against me in more than 50 cases in

the last eight years.' "It was said that Kejriwal



committed scam in building schools, bus scam, liquor scam, road scam, water scam, electricity scam. I may have faced the maximum number of inquiries in the world. Welcome this new inquiry. Nothing was found in any case. Nothing will be found in this also. What will you get when there is nothing wrong?" he said.

Earlier in the day, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Manoj Tiwari at a press conference here said the CBI probe would disclose the facts related to the tendering process of

Kejriwal's residence. Kejriwal said, "What else

can be expected from a fourth pass king? Just keep playing the game of inquiry-inquiry for 24 hours, or keep giving speeches. Don't do any work. He wants me to bow down before him. But I am not going to bow down before them, even if they conduct as many fake inquiries as they want or file as many cases as

they want.' "Í also challenge him - just as nothing was found in all the previous inquiries, similarly if nothing is found in this inquiry too, will he resign for conducting a false inquiry?" the chief minister

Normal life to be hit during Karnataka bandh

PNS ■ BENGALURU

affected, especially in the southern part of the state, with pro-Kannada and farmers' organisations calling for Karnataka Bandh' on Friday to protest the release of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu.

Kannada Okkuta', an umbrella organisation for Kannada outfits including factions of Karnataka Rakshana Vedike, Kannada Chalavali (Vatal Paksha) and various farmers' bodies have given a call for the statewide dawn-todusk shutdown.

There will be a massive protest procession from Town Hall to Freedom Park in the city, in which people from all walks of life are likely to participate, the organisers said.

They have said that the bandh is for the entire Karnataka and that they will try to shut highways, toll gates, rail services, and also air-

The opposition BJP and JD(S) too have extended their support to the bandh, as also



hotels, autorickshaws and hail riders associations in Karnataka.

'Autorickshaw Drivers' Union and Ola Uber Drivers and Owners' Association (OUDOA) are supporting the bandh. We will take out a rally from Nayandahalli to the Freedom Park tomorrow," its president Tanveer Pasha told

An office bearer of the Karnataka State Private Schools' Association told PTI that they were extending moral support' to the bandh.

'We have told our association members to use their discretion regarding the bandh. We have communicated to our students that there are chances of schools remaining shut," the office-bearer

Swaminathan, the genius who sowed it right

"I was really fortunate to have worked with him very closely from 2007 to 2014 when we formed a coalition for food and nutrition security... Pradhan, research coordina-Research Institute (IFPRI)

South Asia region, told PTI. "He truly revolutionised Indian agriculture, worked towards self-sufficiency in food production when India was grappling with the threat of food insecurity and transformed India from a net importer of food grains to being a lead exporter to the global food basket. He was always looking for solutions for sustainable farming and improving the lives of the farmers," Pradhan added.

Swaminathan was born in Kumbakonam on August 7, 1925. His father's involvement in the freedom movement and Mahatma Gandhi's influence inspired his passion for agricultural science.

He worked closely with former prime ministers of India, playing a pivotal role in the success of the Green Revolution, catapulting India from being a net food importer to a leading exporter and ensuring a "Hunger-free

India & World", according to his foundation. Describing him "the great-

est agricultural scientist the world has ever seen", J Justin Mohan, former secretary of the National Biodiversity Authority, said Swaminathan's contribution to designing agricultural policies and schemes helped not only India but other countries as well. "I had the opportunity to work with him during my tenure in Sri Lanka after the end of the armed conflict to assist the farmers of Sri Lanka and also had an opportunity to implement the Kuttanad Package, a wetland development project, in Kerala which was conceived by him," Mohan, chief conservator of forests, Kerala said.

"His ideas were far ahead of his times, very practical, result oriented have helped to improve the production and productivity of cereals, pulses, millets, fruits, and vegetables. For example, the idea of issuing Soil Health Cards to farmers was first recommended by him in 2008 as part of the Kuttanad Project, which was later implemented across the country as the Central Soil Health Card Scheme during

2014 -15," he said. A Soil Health Card is used

to assess the current status of soil health and, when used over time, to determine changes in soil health that are affected by land management. The tributes poured in.

Environmentalist Sunita Narain took to X' (formerly Twitter) Swaminathan for his vast contribution to the world.

#Professor MSSwaminathan. We will greatly miss your leadership, your insights, and your support. As chairperson of #CSE you gave us strength and you taught us the value of humility and humanism. Thank you for all you did for us and for the world," Narain, director of the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) New Delhi, said in a post.

T Jayaraman, senior fellow climate change, M S Swaminathan Research Foundation, remembered the many contributions of its founder and mentor.

"Prof. M. S. Swaminathan's many awards included the most prized one of all, the respect and affection of millions of Indian farmers, in his lifetime, for bringing his science to their service and welfare and that of farmers all over the world," Jayaraman tweeted on Thursday.

Exposure to air pollution linked to stroke risk

PNS NEW DELHI

Short-term exposure to air pollution may be linked to an increased risk of stroke, according to a study.

The meta analysis, published recently in the the journal Neurology, defined short-term exposure as occurring within five days of the stroke.

A stroke can cause lasting brain damage, long-term disability, or even death. Signs of a stroke can range from mild weakness to paralysis or numb-ness on one side of the face or

body.
"Previous research has established a connection between long-term exposure to air pollution and an increased risk of stroke," said study author Ahmad Toubasi, from the University of Jordan in

"However, the correlation



'Previous research has established a connection between long-term exposure to air pollution and an increased risk of stroke," said study author Ahmad Toubasi, from the University of Jordan in

between short-term exposure to air pollution and stroke had been less clear. For our study, instead of looking at weeks or months of exposure, we looked at just five days and found a link between short-term exposure to air pollution and an increased risk of stroke, Toubasi said.

The analysis involved a review of 110 studies that included more than 18 million cases of stroke. Researchers

looked at pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide, ozone, carbon monoxide and sulfur dioxide.

They also looked at different sizes of particulate matter, including PM1, which is air pollution that is less than 1 micron (m) in diameter, as well as PM2.5 and PM10.

PM2.5 or smaller includes inhalable particles from motor vehicle exhaust, the burning of fuels by power plants and other industries as well as forest and grass fires.

PM10 includes dust from roads and construction sites. People who had exposure to a higher concentration of various types of air pollution had an increased risk of stroke.

Higher concentrations of nitrogen dioxide were linked to a 28 per cent increased risk of stroke and higher ozone levels were linked to a 5 per cent increase, the researchers said.

Indians now represent over 10 % of US visa applicants

☐ One million non-immigrant visas processed in 2023

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The US Mission in India on Thursday surpassed its goal of processing one million nonimmigrant visa applications this year and said that Indians now represent over 10 per cent of all visa applicants worldwide, including 20 per cent of all student visa applicants and 65 per cent of all H&L-category (employment) visa applicants. The number of visa applications processed in India are 20 per cent more than the numbers processed in pre-Covid 2019 and 2022 and Indians made over one in 10 applications worldwide,

US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti personally handed over

the embassy said.

the one millionth visa to a couple who will be heading to the United States to attend their son's graduation at MIT. Dr Ranju Singh, senior consultant, Lady Hardinge College was elated at receiving an email from the US Embassy about hers being the one millionth visa this year. Her husband Puneet Dargan, was granted the next visa. The couple will be travelling to the

Greeting the couple as "Mr and Mrs One million", Ambassador Garcetti enquired about their travel plans to the US and made suggestions about what not to miss in the country as a tourist.

US in May 2024.

"I couldn't be happier today, happy for India, Indians and the United States. Prime Minister



(Narendra) Modi and President (Joe) Biden had said let's do a better job in moving faster on the visas and so the Ministry of External Affairs here approved more bodies in places like Hyderabad...more people who can work on these visas, we changed our systems, we worked harder and smarter and we hit a million visa applications processed this year," the ambassador said.

'Dummy schools' adversely affecting students: HC

PNS NEW DELHI

Unchecked growth of 'dummy schools' is adversely affecting students who genuinely fulfil the 'local education' criterion and allows ineligible candidates to secure seats under the Delhi state quota, the Delhi High Court has said. The high court issued notice and sought the response of the Delhi government, Central Board of Secondary Education, Directorate General of Health Services, Delhi University (DU) and Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIPU) on a petition against proliferation of dummy schools.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Big guns roll out

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

ith elections to five Assemblies scheduled by this year end, political tempera-ture is already on the rise. However, as the situation persists today, the battle-ground 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 con-

tender 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 by elections 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. Antiincumbency 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.



SRO chief S Somanath with others at Aadi Jyotirling Shree Somnath Mahadev Temple in Saurashtra on Thursday

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

here was a sense of palpable urgency to 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 lead-ers 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

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 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 milon 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)

Impact of menopause on sleep can be debilitating

asleep through the night. Hot

flashes and night sweats,

affecting up to 75% of

menopausal women, further

exacerbate sleep. These sud-

den surges in body tempera-

ture can awaken women from

deep sleep, leaving them

fatigued and irritable during

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.

Sleep efficiency: Studies



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

enopause is a phase that marks the cessa-**⊥**tion 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. Estrogen, known to regulate the sleep cycle, decreases during menopause, disrupting the body's internal clock. This can lead to difficulties

falling asleep and staying

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

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

sleeping.

Insomnia: Insomnia Establish a regular sleep becomes a prevalent issue menopause. According to the National Sleep Foundation, the risk of insomnia doubles during this body's internal clock. phase, and about 40% of menopausal women experi-

Strategies for improved sleep

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

schedule by going to bed and waking up at the same time every day, even on weekends. This helps regulate the

Practices like medita-

ence insomnia symptoms. tion, deep breathing, and sleep duration: 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 disturances 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)

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

who, at the age of 85, has earned the prestigious Dada Saheb Phalke (lifetime achieve-

ment) 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

party aims not only to secure the weaker seats but also to influence neighboring constituencies through the continued presence of these seasoned politicians. It's worth noting that the BJP has employed a similar strategy in past assembly elections. In the 2021 West Bengal Assembly elections, the BJP fielded five of its sitting Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs. Only two of them managed to secure victory in their respective constituencies, while the remaining three faced defeat. Nevertheless, it appears that the BJP faces an uphill battle in MP following the perceived misrule under Shivraj Singh Chouhan's leadership. Furthermore, Jyotiraditya Scindia has proven to be a liability, with most of his associates returning to the Congress fold. These factors could spell deep trouble for the BJP.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

film in Hindi and English, leaving us eagerly antic ipating 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 ("Pyaasa," "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

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FIRST COLUMN

RESPECT INDIA'S SOVEREIGNTY

Canada must not allow its soil to be used for anti-India activities



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

story of agents executing transnational operations, intelligence agencies sharing crucial information, backchannel diplomatic conver-Asations, political instability and every chapter from a racy spy thriller is playing out for the world audience, with Canada and India in the lead for the past few weeks. In a hurried and perhaps half-baked allegation Canadian PM Justine Trudeau blamed Indian agencies for carrying out extra-territorial executions of Canadian citizens.

India was quick to retort with a terse statement, which instead pointed out the long-standing issue of concern between the two countries in the form of Canada allowing Indian separatist groups to operate out of their country. The Indian statement said unequivocally "We have seen and reject the statement of the Canadian Prime Minister in their Parliament, as also the statement by their Foreign Minister. Allegations of the Government of India's involvement in any act of violence in Canada are absurd and motivated. Similar allegations were made by the Canadian Prime Minister to our Prime Minister and were completely rejected. Such unsubstantiated allegations seek to shift the focus from Khalistan terrorists and extremists, who have been provided shelter in Canada and continue to threaten India's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We reject any attempts to connect the Government of India to such developments. We urge the Government of Canada to take prompt and effective legal action against all anti-India elements operating from their soil."

What is happening in the bilateral relationship is not a recent development but has been brewing for decades. Nearly forty years back India had demanded the extradition of a terrorist from Canada, responsible for one of the worst plane bombings in history, killing everyone on board an Air India flight. The several convicts responsible for the act of terror were never convicted by Canada, despite repeated inputs from India abandoning victims' families chasing long winding court cases for decades.

The reason Canada allows or even nurtures these anti-India forces



on its soil leads through the corridors of domestic politics. Millions of Indians particularly from Punjab make a substantial chunk of the Canadian demography. While most of them earn an honest living and are peaceloving, some notorious elements have managed to sneak into Canada, working through well-oiled semi-government machinery. Over some time, these criminals and terrorists wanted by India, have managed to control important real estate through the Gurudwaras committees. These mafiacontrolled gurudwaras also serve as a conduit for fulfilling the immigration dream of thousands of Punjab youth, working with their India handlers across Punjab and several other states of north India. The modus operandi for getting ground force for staging anti-India acts from Canadian soil starts with a letter issued by Indian handlers, about the youth facing discrimination, and persecution due to his religion, in India. This sets the ball rolling for the youth to get an easy Canadian citizenship, on mercy grounds and feeds into domestic political narratives. In the present case too, the trigger was PM Trudeau's falling political popularity. A few months back he accused China of meddling with domestic politics even as he was trying to warm up the India bilateral, through a trade deal.

Canada understands the rising importance of India in the new global order, especially with China and Russia facing flak. It understands that a powerful, resilient, democratic India is important for a prosperous Indo-Pacific region, which indirectly translates to bringing more prosperity to its citizens. However, the domestic political concerns rise above geopolitics, and retaining the chair as PM seems more important for Trudeau at the moment. It may be argued that several news reports have pointed to US intelligence aid in Canadian allegations against India, however, the US knows which way the wind is blowing.

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

Regulatory boost to self-sufficiency in energy



Modi Government is giving considerable policy support for the exploration of hydrocarbons so that investors can earn assured return on their investments

elivering the 75th Independence Day address, Prime Minister Narendra Modi set the country a target to achieve self-reliance in energy production by boosting the gasbased economy (besides giving a push to electric mobility and hydrogen production). Modi wants the share of natural gas (NG) in the total energy mix to go up from the current around 6 per cent to 15 per

Currently, India imports 50 per cent of its NG requirement. This is because domestic production is hovering around a low of 28.6 - 34 billion cubic metres (bcm) in 2020-21 to 2021-22 (down from a peak of 52 bcm in 2010-11). There is a dire need to give a massive push to domestic output to meet the target. India has 26 sedimentary basins (SBs) covering an area of 3.4 million sq km that could be searched for hydrocarbon resources. Only six of the SBs are under commercial exploitation; these too are sub-optimally utilized.

Hydrocarbon exploration is a highly capital-intensive and technology-intensive business involving a long-gestation period. It is risk-prone especially when it comes to drilling in deep/ultra-deep and high-pressure/high-temperature (D/UD/HP/HT) fields in offshore areas such as the Krishna-Godavari (KG) basin. However, these areas offer maximum promise in terms of reserves.

Multinational companies (MNCs) such as ExxonMobil, Chevron Total etc. which have the technology and resources can be enthused to take longterm bets in the Indian hydrocarbon sector provided the government offers them an opportunity to earn an attractive return on their investment in a 'sustained' basis. This in turn, requires that their efforts in the discovery and devel-opment of NG fields don't face regulatory hurdles leading to the commencement of production within a reasonable time frame and that they can sell the gas 'freely' at a 'remunerative' price. In all three areas, the MNCs faced impediments in the past. In recent years, the Modi – government has made significant progress in removing these though, a lot more ground remains to be covered. Let us look at the regulatory landscape.

Nearly 50 percent of SB area or 1.73 million sq km lies offshore. Out of this, until recently 0.69 million sq km lay in the prohibited zone (fondly referred to as 'No go' area) due to security reasons. Now, the incumbent government has released a 0.67 million sq km sedimentary basin lying offshore. This should give a big boost to exploration and production (E&P) activity.

Until hitherto, E&P firms were getting lease rights for short tenure though extendable by 10 years for gas/oil & gas fields and by five years for oil fields. They had to go to the bureaucrats to seek approval for an extension of the lease which came in the way of undertaking long-term investment commitment.

Now, the government has granted E&P rights over the entire economic life of the allotted fields (this could extend up to 30 years, even beyond depending on the available reserves and the pace of their exploitation) instead of the extant system of allowing extensions. This will enthuse global firms to undertake long-term investment bets as they know for sure in



TEAM MODI HAS IDENTIFIED 22 PROCESSES FOR WHICH SELF-CERTIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS

CONTRACTORS IS ACCEPTED

(The writer is a Policy

Analyst, views are

personal)

advance that they will get to operate the field for their entire eco-The government has passed the Forest (Conservation)

Amendment Bill, which says that seismic surveys (it is done in the initial stage to determine evidence of economically viable hydrocarbon resources below the ground) won't be treated as a non-forest activity. This implies that explorers would be granted prompt access to forest areas, thereby saving time spent on seeking permits.

Under the Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP), also known as the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) launched in 2017, E&P firms are allowed to pick up a block of their choice unlike the earlier New Exploration and Licensing Policy (NELP) (launched in 1999) wherein they had to accept what the government offered. Besides, under OALP, an operator gets a composite license to search for hydrocarbon in whatever form; for instance, if it is 'shale gas', she won't need a separate license for extracting it. For long, E&P efforts were

hamstrung by cumbersome procedures, multiple approvals and bureaucratic red tape. Approvals were needed at every stage viz. preparation of field development plans (FDP) including its revision, and extension of the contract, drilling wells, conducting tests to determine the commercial viability of the field, annual work program (AWP), laying the pipeline, reviewing production and so on. As many as 37 processes and procedures were required to be followed by a firm-awarded block

Team Modi has substantially liberalised and de-bureaucratised the approvals. It has identified 22 processes for which self-certification of documents by contractors is accepted. Besides, it has provided for pre-approved clearance of blocks which will substantially cut the time lost in taking approvals. The government is also keen to opt for globally recognised and accepted dispute resolution mechanisms and play-based explo-

Moreover, the 'revenue sharing' model under the OALP (currently in vogue) allows the operator to share an agreed percentage of the revenue with the month and notified every month. unlike the production sharing contracts (PSC) under erstwhile NELP wherein she could fully recover the cost incurred in exploration and development of the field before sharing profits with the GOI. The former does away with an additional layer of approval which was intrinsic to the latter wherein the costs incurred at every stage were subject to official scrutiny.

Coming to the selling of NG and realisation therefrom, in respect of gas from fields given under HELP/OALP, the operators are allowed freedom of pricing and marketing. This is a big positive for E&P firms that are being allotted fields under this policy. Furthermore, supplies from the so-called marginal fields (there are a total of 149) previously with the central PSUs viz. ONGC and OIL auctioned to private entities during 2020/21 are also eligible for freedom of pricing.

However, supplies from the socalled Legacy fields which account

for the bulk of the current gas supply are subject to government control over price as well as the marketing of the produce. The Legacy staff includes fields given to ONGC/OIL on a 'nomination' basis, those given under NELP and pre-NELP blocks. There are two

price ceilings.
One, call it 'normal' price. Based on the recommendations of the Kirit Parikh committee and in force from April 1, 2023, this price expressed on a per million British thermal units (Btu) basis is arrived at by taking 10 per cent of the monthly average of the Indian crude basket in the preceding Government of India (GOI) The price thus calculated is subject to a price band of US\$4-6.50 per

Second, there is a 'premium' price applicable to the difficult fields. These are deep/ultra-deep and high-pressure/high-temperature fields (the high-profile KG-D6 operated by Reliance Industries and neighbouring KG-DWN-98/2 operated by ONGC fall in this category). Technically though the price of NG flowing from these fields is market-determined, this is subject to a ceiling linked to the prices of alternate fuels, viz., fuel oil, naphtha and imported LNG.

Even as the committee has recommended de-regulation of difficult gas fields' price by January 1, 2026, and that of normal price by January 1, 2027, the government is silent on this. Having substantially liberalized the regulatory space, besides removing the remaining hurdles, Modi needs to take the next logical step of unshackling marketing and pricing for supplies from the Legacy

Save that beating heart with positive vibes

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is one of the major causes of mortality. On this World Heart Day let us resolve to correct our lifestyle, and adopt positivity to be from heart ailments

P oughly more than 17 Million people die each Million people are tall year from cardiovascular diseases, an estimated 32% of all deaths worldwide. Heart Attack is rising rather steeply in our country especially among young people in their 20s & 30s. To a very large extent, heart attack is selfinflicted by our faulty lifestyle, which we adopt right from childhood. Genetics definitely play a role but it can be mod-

ified by lifestyle optimisation. The prevalence of Coronary Artery Disease in adults in India in the urban population is 14 per cent, while in the rural population, it is 8 per cent. One should not have a heart attack, especially when he or she is in their prime years. In fact, we are the cause and we are the cure of



(The writer is chief cardiolo-

views are personal)

heart attack at a young age. A thoughts, interpretations and awareness about prevention and timely prediction and only solution to reducing the rising menace of heart attack in our country. Women are fortunate to have a lower disease before the age of 45 i.e. menopause. After menopause, the prevalence of CAD is the same as in men. Over 25 million people die of Heart Attacks in our country every Attack before even medical aid is available.

gist, Medanta Moolchand heart Institute, New Delhi;

healthy heart is an expression of our own perceptions, choice-making. Enhancing treatment of heart attack is the prevalence of coronary artery year. Out of these, 16 lakh die within an hour of a Heart

this malady of a premature from cardiovascular disease (CVD) has decreased by 60% in Japan and Finland, 50% in the USA, Canada and Australia and 25% in Europe, according to WHO projections, there will be a significant rise in mortality from CVD in India. The female population is at greater risk because metabolic syndrome The risk is significantly high in India.

Prevention of coronary artery disease must begin earlier especially at a young age before being victimised by a faulty lifestyle including erratic eating habits, drinking, smoking, high levels of stressful life with lack of sleep and burning both ends of the candle at the same time, coupled with a sedentary lifestyle, uncontrolled hypertension, While the mortality rate dyslipidemia and diabetes

which harden the arteries of the heart with increase tendency for clotting all of which establish the bedrock of heart

The theme of World Heart Day this year is:

Use your Heart to Beat CVD (Cardiovascular Disease)

Work with your Heart, Know your risk factors Have Coordinated Efforts

to improve your own Lifestyle and Diet Motivate yourself and others to reduce CVD Risks One Heart, One Home,

One World Use your Heart to "Make Perfect Choices for a Healthy Heart for ourselves, our family, our com-

The four sutras for an optimal Healthy Heart are love, compassion, peace and harmony" to make perfect choices for a healthy heart and beat CVD. These sutras (Suture or stitch) are possible through the regular practice of oga, meditation and perfect lifestyle optimization, they connect the heart with the consciousness through a network of nerve fibres of the autonomic nervous system (Heart Plexuses) which are chemically mediated, nurtured with human values release natural opiates: endorphins, serotonin, dopamine acetylcholine, oxytocin and nitric oxide which preserve the endothelial functions, thereby munity, our corporate, our maintaining the patency of society, our nation and the coronary arteries and the har-

monious friendly biochemical environment within the blood vessel the heart thus remains healthy

If kindness, compassion, love, peace and harmony are missing with cynical behaviour and hostility, then the heart is undernourished and stressed and the physiology changes to pathology. Fear, jealousy, hatred, anger, greed, lurking grief, vengeance, vindictiveness, bigotry, arrogance, greed, lust, ego and other negative emotions release jittery molecules (Chemicals) which comprise epinephrine, norepinephrine and cortisol which produce coronary artery diseases, alter the endothelial functions, agitate the platelets, oxidise Low-Density Lipoproteins tendency of a vulnerable a matter of chance.

plaque in the coronary artery to rupture, erode and ulcerate, thereby enhancing aggregation of platelets and enhancing thrombus (clot) formation thus leading to angina, acute Coronary Syndrome, Heart Attack, and even sudden Cardiac Death and Brain Attack. Just one fit of anger or negative stress can produce a massive heart attack

Emotions of love, compassion, peace and harmony are the most powerful sutras to have a healthy heart and may help in the prevention, regression and reversal of coronary artery diseases. This is possible by practicing perfect choices, and regular practice of meditation and yoga. Thus, the "Health of the Heart" is a mat-(LDL). They may enhance the ter of your own choice, and not

Eveready relaunches Ultima brand to push premiumisation

veready 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

omegrown 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

et 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

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 stated.

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 Śamiti (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-

India retains 40[™] 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 Genevabased 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 GII -- from 81st position in 2015 to 40 this year.

The consistent improvement in the GII 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 GII 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 GII 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



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 sea-

"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 offi-

India has also argued that, in order to prevent private playconditions, advance notifications were not provided in the

Furthermore, these measures are temporary and are regularly reviewed to allow necessary adjustments based on domestic demand and sup ply 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

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

PNS NEW DELHI

Leading stock exchange NSE on 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 estabdevelopment 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 Únder this strategic partner-

ship, 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 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 decadal 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

and micro, small and medium enterprises) last fiscal was driven by higher working capital environment.

tion with some softening in

commodity prices. A significant part of the growth in wholesale

credit (comprising corporates

overall credit growth. Secondly, the easing of infla-

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

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," cautioned



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

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

labour or children assist their

parents in their family busi-

ness in some countries but the

ICO "would need to check

the children will have access to

...we need to be sure that

how to do it.

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.

the management of farms and

the profitability of the busi-

"If you talk about productiv-

ity, then we will talk about

Brazil and Vietnam; the pro-

ductivity per hectare. These are



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

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 intergovernmental 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

"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

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 flex-

"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 fambusiness, then this could

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

Nogueira, however, pointed

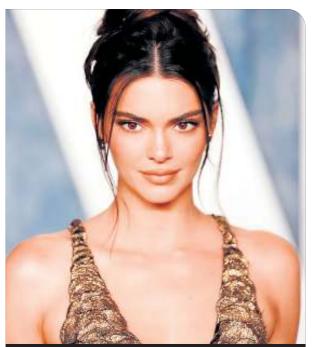
country. They need to have access to the house," she said. In her country Brazil, child labour is prohibited completely even for family-run busi-To a question on rating cof-

fee producing countries in terms of best practices in farming, sustainability and other benchmarks, she said

school, they have to be inside the benchmarks for Robusta the education system in the and Arabica," she said. Bengaluru hosted the fourday 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

what's brewing?



'Anyone who says I can't cut a cucumber... it was sliced, it was cut,' says **Kendall Jenner**

n 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.

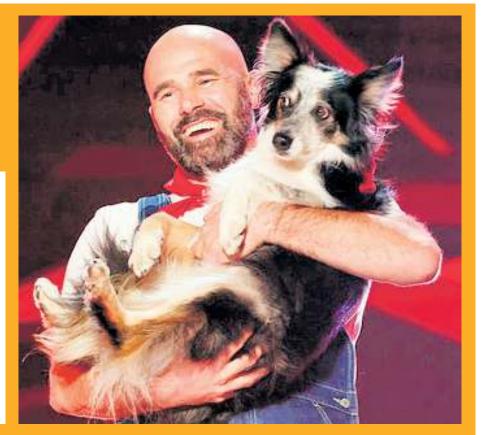
Adrian Stoica & Hurricane take home the title of America's Got Talent 18

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. ipation 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 surpise 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.



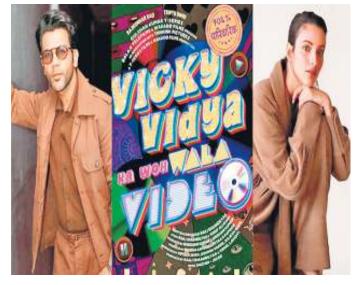
Rajkummar Rao and Triptii Dimri starrer Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video to soon go on floors

Produced by T-Series, Balaji Telefilms and Wakaoo Films in associati 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 Wakaoo Films in association with Thinkink picturez proudly announce their upcoming production, Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video (VVKWWV). 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

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, VVKWWV teasing the audience and leaving them guessing the

Furthermore, revealing the quirky title of the film. The film also marks the first ever onscreen 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 & Wakaoo 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

lobal 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

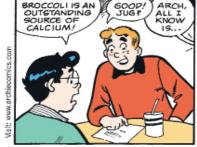


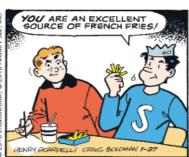
beautiful love song that takes us back to the old school romance and we have all had someone special in our lives at some point in time. I'm hopeful that my fans will resonate with the song and enjoy it. For me, Sarkaare is about that beautiful innocence of love."

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

















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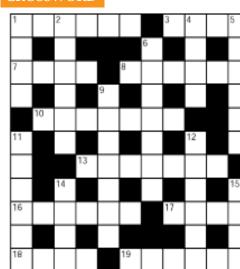
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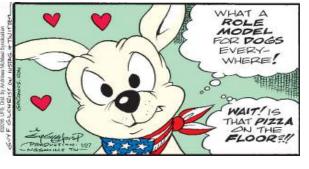


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ACROSS

- A season 3 Strike with an open hand
- 11 Concealed from view 12 Shouted
- 8 Having a sharp sour taste 14 Gown
- 10 Applauded
- 13 Bumped
- 16 Sleepy 17 A biting, jumping insect
- 18 Require 19 Something built over a river

6 A permit to drive

15 A strong box for

storing valuables

9 The language of Spain

GINGER MEGGS







• The sum of all numbers in

5 A talking pet bird

DOWN Not sick

2 Just about

4 Overdue

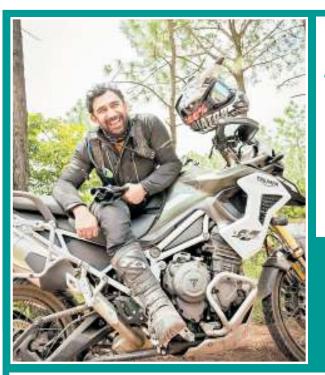
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Friday September 29, 2023



Amit Sadh embarks on a soul-stirring motorcycle travel

Actor Amit Sadh, who was on a month-long motorcycle trip, speaks of his experience of the trip, and also doing the best for the places he had visited.

PNS| HYDERABAD

Actor Amit Sadh recent-ly completed his month-long motorcycle trip around the country, and it's not just about adventure for him. He's also very committed to protecting our natural beau-

During his journey, he's been to many places like Balasinor, Ahmedabad, Jodhpur, Jaipur, Delhi, Chandigarh, Theog, Sangla, Kaza, Jispa, Purne, Padum, Kargil, and Leh. What's special about his trip is that he's doing his best to keep these places clean and beautiful. He's setting a good example for all travellers.

He stated, "I truly love my country and I'm deeply concerned about the environment. I don't want to see it being harmed. One remarkable stop on my journey hap-pened in Rakchham, where I took a break but went beyond that. I voluntarily took the initiative to clean up the area, gathering the discarded garbage left behind by tourists. My actions reflect a profound belief that every traveller has a responsibility to preserve the cleanliness of our surroundings and minimize our impact on the environment."

When he geared up for a soul-stirring journey that promises to redefine the meaning of adventure, culture, ind personal transformation Armed with a motto that resonates with the hearts of bikers worldwide, that's when he embarked on a month-long motorcycle journey covering its entire length and breadth.

From Mumbai's Khar to the rugged terrain of Leh

Ladakh, he started his exhilarating journey from the bustling neighbourhood: his route took him through a captivating tapestry of diverse landscapes and cultures. Each destination had been carefully chosen to unravel unique aspects of India's cultural rich-

"The motorcycle journey is about more than just traveling a certain distance. It's a celebration of India's vibrant culwith ture, three compelling reasons driving my wander-

lust. As I travelled through the heartlands, I immersed myself in local traditions, taste regional flavours, and connect deeply with the diverse people I meet. From enjoying a warm cup of chai at a roadside tapri to relishing hearty meals at rustic dhabas, he was determined to experience the authentic essence. At the core of this expedition is my unwavering passion for adventure, love for exploration, and camaraderie shared among fellow riders, embodying the true spirit of a biker."

Motorcycles are more than machines for Amit; they are agents of transformation and personal growth. This extraortunity for Amit to share his inspiring story of how biking has influenced his life, offering a testament to its profound positive impact.

Talking about the trip Amit added, "This journey was not just about riding; it was about

discovering the soul of India, one mile at a time. I wanted to meet the people of India, connect with them, and embrace the rich culture that defines our nation. From the smallest of interactions to the grandest of landscapes, this ride is

about experiencing the

essence. And motorcy-

cles, they have been an integral part of my life. They have transformed me as a person, and I cherish every moment I spent on two w h e e l s . Whenever I get time from shooting, you'll find me riding. This journey was a celebration of

that connection." After a captivating encounter with Nawab Sultan Salauddinkhan Babi, the prince of Balasinor, Sadh's led him to

moments of camaraderie.

Talking about his experience Amit said, "Embarking on this journey has been driven by my deep love for peo-ple and my desire to connect with their stories and cultures.

Ahmedabad, in particular, holds a special place in my heart. It's vibrant atmosphere and, of course, its delectable food, especially the Gujarati thali, has a unique charm. Sharing a meal with members with those who have sup-ported my journey means the world to me. This experience, where we came together over the flavours of Gujarat and conversations about life, will undoubtedly be etched in my memory forever. It's moments like these that make this journev a transformative and soul-

enriching adventure."
Amit Sadh's journey of self-discovery and cultural immersion is nothing short of extraordinarv. Each



been meticulously chosen to unravel the intricate tapestry of India's cultural heritage.
On his journey, Amit made

sure to interact with his fans on highways, farmers, villagers, truck drivers, and the royal family of Balasinor where he took a halt and dinner with them.

Also participating in another significant event, Amit graced the Outback festival which is India's annual adventure pilgrimage to the highest motorable adventure and music festival for bike enthusiasts. What made the trip more special was that he also cleaned several areas with villagers setting a good example for tourists and locals alike.

Talking about this one, Amit Sadh said, "I believe that life is an incredible journey, much like my monthlong bike adventure

> not just about the destinations reach, but the experiences we gather along the way, the people we meet, and the cultures

across India. It's

embrace. Every twist and turn in the road is an opportunity for personal transformation." Amit Sadh has two exciting

projects lined up — the muchawaited second season of ance in Sukhee alongside Shilpa Shetty.

In his upcoming movie, *Main*, he portrays the role of an encounter specialist, demonstrating his versatility and unwavering commitment to his craft!



ardiovascular disease, a non-communicable disease is also known as a silent ly among men than women ✓killer. According to the World Health

Organization, India reports for one-fifth of the deaths worldwide. This World Heart Day, let us bust some of the common myths associated with this disease.

Myth #1: Chest pain is the only sign of a heart

Not always. although chest pain or discomfort in the chest is a common symptom, one can experience other subtle signs such as nausea, shortness of breath, or discomfort in one or both arms, the jaw, neck, or back. Do not ignore these early symptoms and consult your

Myth #2: Patients with cardiovascular disease should not exercise

Many people are advised to slow down and take it easy once they are diagnosed with a heart-related disease. Whereas, a sedentary lifestyle is perilous. Physical activity strengthens the heart, improves blood circulation keeps it healthy. However, exercise is not advisable for acute heart stroke patients till the healing process for a stipulated time which may range between 4 to 6 weeks. Otherwise, it is advisable to stay active and practice at least 30-45 minutes of light exercise regularly. Engage in strength training and light weights and bands. Initially start with 10 – 15 minutes of exercise and gradually increase by 5 -10 minutes a day. Exercise at least 3 times a week.

Myth #3: Heart Diseases run in the family, thus it's unavoidable

Almost 90% of the heart diseases are preventable. Distant from each other, one can reduce the occurrence of heart-related ailments. Apart from hereditary factors, lifestyle plays a larger role in heart disease than inheritance. Lifestyle modifications lower the risk factors such as high blood pressure, diet, diabetes, smoking, and work-life imbalance, which should be recognized and controlled to prevent or delay the onset of heart disease. Changing one's lifestyle, by engaging in exercise, healthy eating habits, and avoiding smoking or excessive alcohol reduces the risk of heart attack by

Myth #4: Cardiovascular diseases are more like-Women under the age of 50 are more likely than

men of the same age to succumb to a heart attack. The cardiovascular diseases are not gender biased, women are equally susceptible to this disease, the risk of heart-related ailments increase post menopause and if you are undergoing menopause, treatment for breast cancer, depression, endometriosis, and hypertension disorders during pregnancy.

Heart Healthy Diet to Prevent Cardiovascular

A healthy heart and a balanced diet are the same sides of the coin. Following a heart-healthy diet can lower your bad cholesterol (LDL) and increase good cholesterol (HDL). Some of the easy-to-follow tips for a heart-healthy diet are:

• Limit sodium intake: Watch sodium intake

- in your daily diet. Do not exceed 2.3 mg/day Control portion size: Portion size plays a cru-
- cial role in a heart-healthy diet. One should watch the quantity and quality of food that goes on the plate. It also helps in avoiding overeating, maintaining a healthy weight, and being mindful of what you are eating. A balanced meal will have all the nutrient values in the required portion
- Eat an array of fresh vegetables and fruits: Fresh fruits and vegetables are loaded with a variety of antioxidants, minerals, and multivitamins that are good for heart and overall health. Binge on fresh fruits and vegetables. Ensure you include a bowl of assorted vegetable salad and fruit in your daily meal
- Select whole grains and high protein-based **foods:** Whole grains are high in fiber. It help in digestion and also play a vital role in cholesterol reduction. It also helps in controlling sugar levels and helps in weight loss. Limit unhealthy fats and trans fat
- need fat in our daily meals, however, all fats are not good for our health. Avoid trans fats and saturated fats that are not good for one's heart. Avoid consuming deep-fried food on a regular basis. Consume good fats/monosaturated fats like dry fruits, nuts, seeds, and clarified butter.

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

Vipin Sharma reveals 'not charging a penny' for few films says, 'My whole idea is to help & create cinema that makes a difference'

TEJAL SINHA

n actor who for not one or two, but had taken a break from acting for 15 long years, A taken a break from acting for 15 1011g years, today, one might remember actor Vipin Sharma playing the character of the strict Indian dad Nandkishore Awasthi in Taare Zameen Par. And since then there's been no looking back!

So many years down the lane, he has become one of the actors bringing to us back-to-back releases and acclaimed projects Sirf Ek Bandaa Kaafi Hai, Tiku weds Sheru, Guns and Gulaabs, and Haddi, to name a few on the recent note. An excited Vipin Sharma, who feels great working on these films and some amazing filmmakers, calls it as a 'win-win' situation in all of the ways. May or may not, one of the fears an actor would have on the professional front could be being typecasted. And according to the Simmba actor, it would be the biggest fear. He recalls, "Post-Taare Zameen Par, I had to put in a lot of effort to say a NO to a lot of work and make some people unhappy. I didn't want to do the same kind of roles again and again. I'm glad that I was able to take that step and create a space for myself Now I've been doing all kinds of roles. My desire is to always work with the right kind of people, people who are like-minded, and it's fun to work with them."

One of his recent works Guns and Gulaabs has been in the news for quite some time now. The reason— it was late actor Satish Kaushik's last project he had worked on! Any actor who had worked with him remember him for his jolly, down-to-earth, and happy-go-lucky nature that he'd always had with him, be it on sets, screen or in real-life. The last time that the Kick actor had met him was just a day before at the Holi party organised by Shabana Azmi and Javed Akhtar. "I had met him in a part long long ago and I felt really great about

Actor Vipin Sharma, known for bringing out his versatility every time on-screen, gets candid with *The Pioneer* about bringing back-to-back releases, recalling moments with late actor Satish Kaushik, mastering the art, and more.

him. When I got to know that I'll be working with him, I got very happy I finally got to work with him. During the shoot, since all my scenes are pretty much with him, up until his part, he always focused on his own dialogues, was very receptive to ideas, and had always shared anecdotes from his journey. It was great fun working with him. I was very much in shock about his death because I had met him the very before day before he passed away. He was very excited about Guns and Gulaabs. We chatted briefly and next day that news came out. It was a shock because I had just seen him and during the shoot also he was very cautious of his health, he used to tell me maine aaj 8000 steps kar liye. He was very religious about reading scripts in the morning. It was great to meet a person like him and learn from him and it was a fantastic expe-

There was also a phase in his life when he was having a 'fight it out situation' and hunting for challenging roles. He goes on to recall how in order for him to experiment with himself, get an idea about him, and do different kinds of roles, he did have to say a 'No' to a lot of people and projects. "What happens often is that when the film industry has a certain idea of you, they want to see you in a certain light, they think this is the best for you but you have to turn around and say No because you need to be like let me choose. Once you are cast in a film, you are cast for a certain role and you cant say I want to do that role. It does become a bit of a struggle. I had to let down on projects where I wanted to do certain roles, but I was given something else. Everybody goes through that. It takes almost 10-15 years for an actor to set-tle down and people also understand what this actor needs and what kind of a role will attract this actor. So they end up coming to you with those roles which is happening to me now. They are now coming up with roles they think I can get excited about," shares the Guns and Gulaabs actor, who first tries to understand the style of the film that in the end would dictate your style of acting. He adds, "I think it's the style of the film that dictates your behaviour and I always follow that. I don't forget the style and do my own acting. That would actually harm the film. The world of the film is more important than



you as an actor fitting in it. I keep an eye on that and that helps me to be different. I always focus on my part and I'm also very respectful of the other actors that I'm working with. I've always made sure to not be in competition with anyone other than myself. Every role is a competition for me in itself. I don't overprepare myself."

While every actor has certain criteria they look for in a project, Vipin as an actor first tries to know about the film and the people associated with it. No matter if he just has a minute of screen space in the film, if the project according to him is good and important it's a 'yes-yes'. An alumnus of the National School of Drama, he often looks to work with new people, without looking into the projects they've done in the past. "I have done about 7-8 films without charging a single penny," he reveals in this exclusive chat and the reason he says, "They were really important films and quite a lot of them won national awards and great reviews. My whole idea is to help and create a cinema that makes a difference which is important to be made. I have compromised on certain things but whatever I do, I do it with utmost honesty. If something is not my kind of film, I'll never be dishonest with the film."

Now as we come to an end of the amazing chitter-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'

ndia 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 expen-

sive 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,"

"(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 con-

firmation 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

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

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 chas-es 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



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

Legendary pacer Waqar Younis rated India a better side over Pakistan going into the World Cup while basing his observation on the better preparation. ration 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 archrivals 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 Ahmeda-bad, 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

pared 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 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 disadvan-

"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. 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

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

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. aged to return with the gold.
Before leaving we mentally knew that our team is very strong and

As a sportsperson when you get so much support from all sides, it feels really motivating. This

vear 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

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 corposes to his ankle and birth ll-rounder Glenn Maxwell

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

"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.

what he can do with the ball,

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

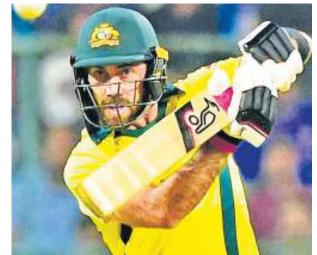
and the options that he will give us with our all-rounders is vital for us going into the World

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-

his batting is absolutely class but 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 out-standing (cricket)," he said. "I wanted to (bowl), basical-

ly bowled a couple of balls (during warm up) but basically had

cramps all the way up in 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

Shakib hints at retirement after 2025 Champions Trophy

Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib 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 T20Is 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 T20Is. 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 captain-

cy 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, per-form for Bangladesh," he added. Bangladesh take on Afgha-

nistan in its opening fixture of the World Cup on October 7 in

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 have 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 tourna-ment 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 vet to taste a series defeat in ODIs this year.

The four-time semifinalists 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 On 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.

T20I captain Aiden Mark-

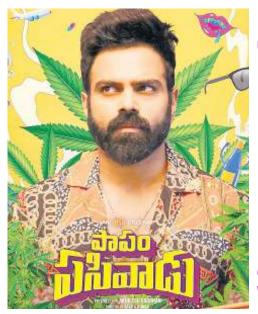
As per an update on South Africa cricket's social media ram will be leading the side in handles, Bavuma has returned to South Africa due to person-

of their opening game. South Africa opens their World Cup the two warm-up clashes in absence of Bavuma, who is likely to rejoin the team ahead New Delhi on October 7. absence of Bavuma, who is



Vijayawada | Friday September 29, 2023

tollywood



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.

TEIAL SINHA

Inding 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 Meghaalila 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 Kranthi has. Kranthi 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 Itu 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 vise 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 chitterchatter 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

con Star Allu Arjun is a massive star in Telugu films Land 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 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 Áward 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 Fazil 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 NAGEŚWARA RAO

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 Mammootty'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 Vakkantham 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

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

ega Prince Varun Tej, atrical rights in Telugu and Whose recent film Hindi.

Gandeevadhari Arjuna In Operation Valentine, former 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 the-

Miss Universe Manushi Chhillar portraved a radar officer, while Varun Tej essayed an IAF officer, promising an exciting storyline. Aamir Khan and Siddharth Rai 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

here 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' 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

Curiya 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-yearold 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.