



PZ

- Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Minister

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-SPORTS

Prakasam district superintendent of police AR Damodar said Varma was booked for allegedly morphing the pictures of Naidu, Kalyan and their family members and posting them on social media.

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He said that the lack of fee payments is causing severe hardships for students, as college administrations are withholding certificates from those who have completed their courses. As a result, students are

He urged the Telangana Government to increase the scholarship amount to Rs 20,000 to provide a more supportive foundation for students' future.

‘A good riddance’

Telangana doesn’t need KCR, asserts CM Revanth

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Taking a jibe at BRS President K. Chandrasekhar Rao's comments that the people of Telangana have realised what they lost after the defeat of the BRS in the 2023 Assembly polls, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said that the people have lost nothing and do not need KCR.

“What have they (the people) lost? Four people in your (KCR's) family lost their jobs. Did the Telangana people lose anything? No one is worried about your (KCR's) absenteeism. The people of Telangana have already forgotten you (KCR). They do not need your services. I hope you will change and that you will support the Congress government as it is doing good things for the state. I request you to give suggestions if we are making mistakes. We have seen absentees in schools. Now we are witnessing a strange situation in Telangana as the opposition leader is not attending Assembly sessions,” the CM said.

Launching a veiled attack on BRS Working President KT Rama Rao over a case registered against his brother-in-

law after a “raid” at the latter's farmhouse, the CM said that they were celebrating Diwali with liquor and cocaine instead of firecrackers.

“Who should be our role models? Those who fought for Independence and for Telangana statehood, or those who consume drugs in farmhouses? The people of Telangana need to think,” he said.



Speaking at a function held here on Monday at which appointment letters were distributed to newly recruited

Assistant Motor Vehicle Inspectors, the CM without naming KCR, said that the people are not facing any problems due to the former CM's absence in the Assembly.

Highlighting the Congress government's schemes, he said that in the last 10 months, thousands had secured jobs, loans of around 22 lakh farmers

amounting to Rs 18,000 crore have been waived, over one crore women are travelling free in state buses, the poor are getting free electricity up to 200 units,



and poor women are getting LPG cylinders for Rs 500.

The Congress government had also conducted the Group-1 services exam, the first after 2011, he said and added that soon 563 officers would be appointed.

Revanth also mentioned steps to build new hospitals and initiatives in education and said that the people had received all these benefits due to the “reconstruction of Telangana.”

The CM added that the Transport Department should take tougher measures to check the smuggling of narcotics by road. He also said that 50,000 vacancies in government service have been filled after the Congress government assumed office in December 2023.

KCR constructed the secretariat and Pragati Bhavan for ‘Vaastu’ reasons. No residential school was built during KCR's rule, the CM said.



TG turned into ‘Musibat ki Dukaan’ instead of ‘Mohabaat ki Dukaan,’ says KTR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana has turned into a ‘Musibat ki Dukaan’ (shop of troubles) instead of ‘Mohabaat ki Dukaan’ (shop of love), said KTR terming Chief Minister Revanth Reddy as “Chichora” (frivolous).

Speaking on the occasion of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad's birth anniversary, KTR distributed notebooks and study material to poor Muslim students at the Telangana Bhavan, underscoring the BRS's commitment to the education of minorities.

Reflecting on Azad's legacy as India's first Education Minister, KTR emphasised the BRS's commitment to unity.

He spoke about the harmonious relations in Telangana, noting that while fears were raised in 2014 about potential religious conflicts, KCR's leadership upheld Telangana's Ganga-Jamuni Tehzeeb, fostering an environment where all communities live in harmony.

“KCR treated everyone with humanness and not merely as voters but as members of one family,” KTR said, highlighting welfare programmes like the

distribution of Batukamma sarees, Ramzan Tofa and Christmas gifts.

Focusing on education, KTR said that KCR established around 200 residential schools benefiting nearly 1.4 lakh students annually, with an allocation of Rs 1.2 lakh per student, demonstrating a strong commitment to minority education.

“Students from minority residential schools are now studying in prestigious institutions across India, making the state proud,” he added, expressing satisfaction at the state's accomplishments under KCR's leadership.

‘KTR went to Delhi to lobby as Guv is likely to clear probe into Formula E deals’

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy raised some serious questions about BRS leader KTR's trip to New Delhi.

Speaking at Chinna Venkatagiri in Khammam Rural mandal, Ponguleti's comments, which sparked a stir, centred around KTR's motives and the potential implications of the Formula E racing event's fund allocations.

Ponguleti questioned KTR's purpose behind going to New Delhi and asked whether the visit was aimed at ensuring his safety like the attempts to secure bail for his sister.

“Why did KTR divert public funds of Rs 55 crore to foreign companies without the approval of the Chief Minister or the Cabinet?” Ponguleti asked, suggesting misuse of funds intended for the Formula E race which is now being probed by the ACB.

He said that KTR transferred funds even before signing an MoU with the event's



managing company, and asked who authorised the transaction.

Ponguleti said the ACB has sought permission from the Governor to take KTR into custody for questioning, a step he said KTR anticipated.

That is why KTR shifted his base from Hyderabad to New Delhi, he said and added that the Governor is likely to give his approval shortly.

Ponguleti said that KTR is now reportedly seeking the support of prominent figures in the BJP, the RSS, and the Ambani and Adani groups to avoid problems from the

Formula E case.

He warned that the government had substantial evidence to back up these claims and hinted at a “bombshell revelation” soon. “If the corruption of the last decade comes to light, KTR might find himself going from earth to space,” he said and added that KTR is currently lobbying with the Union Minister of Urban Development to avoid cases.

Meanwhile, KTR said on X, “Just landed in Delhi, heard the tremors being felt in Hyderabad already. Why are you shivering so quickly?”

BRS Working President KTR went to New Delhi to complain to the Centre about Revanth's corruption.

He said that Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has been informed through a letter that Revanth had abused power to help his brother-in-law Srujan Reddy in Amrit scheme tenders. Now KTR has gone to New Delhi to directly meet the Union Minister and complain about this matter.

Former HC Judge to study SC sub-categorisation

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Government has appointed former High Court Justice Dr Shamim Akhtar to head a Commission of Inquiry on sub-categorisation within Scheduled Castes (SCs) as per GO MS No: 8, issued by the SC Development Department on October 11.

The Commission, established under the Commission of Inquiry Act of 1952 aims to study and give recommendations on this complex issue to ensure equitable development.

Dr Shamim Akhtar inaugurated the Commission's office on Monday at the Burgula Ramakrishna Rao Bhavan in Hyderabad, located on the first floor of B Block near the GHMC office.

The Commission will gather inputs, suggestions and representations regarding sub-categorisation from SC associations and individuals who would like to give their perspectives.

No sign of Reds at venues of farmers’ protests

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■ HYDERABAD

Once Miryalaguda and Munugode were strongholds of the CPM and the CPI respectively.

On Sunday, farmers staged a dharna on the Narketpally-Addanki highway, blocking traffic for hours and demanding that the TG government pay minimum support price for their paddy. However, there were no CPM leaders among the farmers.

On Monday, the cotton farmers of Munugode said that the government is not procuring their cotton. However, there were no CPI leaders among them.

Discussions are going on among political observers on

Arch-rival BJP fills the gap as Reds keep away

where the Communists (the CPM and the CPI) have gone these days. In general, Communist parties used to stage dharnas on behalf of

Interestingly, the BJP's leaders are visiting paddy procurement centres and filling the gap created by the

ernment should procure the paddy immediately.

BJP leaders have been visiting paddy procurement centres every day for the last couple of days. They are also visiting paddy procurement centres. However, there is no sign of the Communist parties.

One CPM activist on condition of anonymity said that their leaders are busy with preparations for their Mahasabhas being held soon. CPM leaders are busy filling up party posts across the state.

He also said that the present generation of Communists is not like past generations. Today's Communists are used to comfort, he said.

On Sunday, farmers staged a dharna on the Narketpally-Addanki highway, blocking traffic for hours and demanding that the TG government pay minimum support price for their paddy. However, there were no CPM leaders among the farmers

Mahender Reddy’s tenure to end, govt invites applications for TSPSC chief post

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has announced an open call for applications for the position of Chairman of the Telangana Public Service Commission (TSPSC). In a press release on November 12, 2024, the government invited eligible candidates to apply for this prominent role, responsible for overseeing public service recruitment in the State. Former DGP M Mahender Reddy who is current TGPSC Chairman's

tenure comes to end in December when he turns 62. As per the orders, the Chairman's tenure is for 6 years or by the time they attain age of 62.

According to the announcement, application forms and details on the required qualifications for the position are available on the official government website www.telangana.gov.in (http://www.telangana.gov.in). Interested individuals are expected to submit their applications in the prescribed format via email to

prlsecy-ser-gpm-gad@telangana.gov.in by 5 pm on or before November 20, 2024.

The selection process will be conducted by a Search-cum-Screening Committee established by the government, which will review all applications and select the most suitable candidate for the TSPSC Chairman post. This initiative reflects the government's commitment to ensuring a transparent and merit-based selection process for one of the State's key administrative positions.

AP govt presents Rs 2,94,427 cr Budget

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh government presented its budget for 2024-25 on Monday, November 11, 2024, totalling Rs 2,94,427 crore. Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav introduced the Budget in the State Legislative Assembly, highlighting key allocations to enhance education, healthcare, rural development, and social welfare.

In his speech, Minister Keshav acknowledged the financial challenges the State is grappling with and accused the previous YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) government of mismanaging finances. He criticised the former administration for violating the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) guidelines, resulting in excessive debt. According to Keshav, this has severely strained the state's fiscal health. Citing reports from the Comptroller and Auditor General, he labelled the previous government's fiscal policies

as reckless and assured that the current government is working to stabilise the state's finances.

Fiscal deficits and economic outlook:

For FY 2024-25, the State has projected a revenue deficit of Rs 34,743.38 crore and a fiscal deficit of Rs 68,742.65 crore. The fiscal deficit is expected to be around 4.19% of the State's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), while the revenue deficit stands at 2.12% of GSDP.

plunging with and accused the previous YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) government of mismanaging finances. He criticised the former administration for violating the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) guidelines, resulting in excessive debt. According to Keshav, this has severely strained the state's fiscal health. Citing reports from the Comptroller and Auditor General, he labelled the previous government's fiscal policies

Use ESMA against millers who trouble farmers, says CM

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy ordered officials to take strong action against those who create problems for farmers while procuring paddy.

The Chief Minister asked officials to use the Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA) against millers if necessary.

The CM spoke on Monday to concerned top officials soon after receiving information about the incidents of some people creating trouble for farmers across the state. Revanth asked officials to take strong action against incidents like cheating, misleading and harassing farmers during paddy procurement.

The Chief Minister said that Collectors should take appropriate measures to ensure the smooth procurement of paddy throughout the state.

Justice Khanna ...

Continued from page 1

Justice Khanna, who was born on May 14, 1960, would have a tenure of a little over six months and demit office on May 13, 2025, at the age of 65 years.

He succeeded former CJI D Y Chandrachud, who demitted office on November 10.

“Attended the oath-taking ceremony of Justice Sanjiv Khanna, who has been sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India. My best wishes for his tenure,” PM Modi posted on X. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge also extended his wishes to CJI Khanna and noted the position would entail a great burden on his shoulders owing to extensive scrutiny and expectations.

BJP faces dilemma as govt moves ahead with Gandhi statue

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■ HYDERABAD

The BJP faces a dilemma as the Telangana Government pushes forward with plans to install the tallest statue of Mahatma Gandhi in connection with the Musi River Rejuvenation Project and renovations at Babu Ghat.

The Musi rejuvenation project, aimed at transforming the polluted river and revitalising its surrounding areas, has seen BJP leaders opposing the initiative and staging protests. However, the inclusion of the Mahatma Gandhi statue could now force the party to do a delicate balancing act.

At the heart of the issue is the need for Ministry of Defence (MoD) land of about 100 acres to complete the renovation of Babu Ghat and install the tallest Gandhi statue with the government reaching out to the Centre for a potential “land-for-land” transfer.

The TG government has reportedly proposed to provide 2,460 acres of Research Centre Imarat (RCI) land in the Raviryal mandal of Rangareddy district. This land owned by the Telangana government was leased to the MoD decades ago. The state now sees it as a suitable exchange to secure Babu Ghat lands.

Chief Minister Revanth

Reddy has already said that the opposition is against installing the Gandhi statue. He said that if you can install a Sardar Patel statue, why can't we install a Gandhi statue?

Political analysts point out that sensing that their communication to the Centre on MoD lands has not gone well, the CM may have made such comments targeting the BJP putting them in a “fix.”

While recent defence land transfers approved by the Centre have given the Telangana Government hope, a public objection from the BJP could turn the situation into a full blown national controversy.

The stakes are high as

Hyderabad is gearing up for GHMC elections and is watching developments closely. If the BJP backs the project, they risk a backlash from its supporters and people opposing the Musi Project.

But if they object to the Gandhi statue, the BJP could face a wave of discontent all over the country, for what might be seen as opposition to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi himself.

As Telangana officials press forward, advocating for the tallest Gandhi statue as a symbol of unity and resilience, the BJP's response could shape not just local politics but a significant narrative nationwide.

Krishna Bhaskar to head...

Continued from page 1

of the BC Welfare Department. He will also handle the role of Commissioner, Endowments, previously managed by Zenda Hanumant Kondiba, IAS (2016).

Anita Ramachandran, IAS (2004), has been reassigned from the post of Commissioner, Panchayati Raj and Rural Development (PR & RD) as the Secretary of the Women & Child Development and Scheduled Castes (WCD & SC) Department, replacing TK Sreedevi, IAS (2004).

In other key changes, Ilambarithi K., IAS (2005), who was serving as the Commissioner of Transport, has now been appointed as the Commissioner of GHMC, while K. Surendra Mohan, IAS (2006), currently Secretary (Mines & Geology), will hold additional charge as Commissioner of Transport.

Smita Sabharwal, IAS (2001), who was serving as Member Secretary of the Telangana State Finance Commission, has been transferred and posted as

Secretary in the Youth Advancement, Tourism & Culture (YAT&C) Department. Additionally, she will retain charge as Member-Secretary of the Finance Commission and as Director of Archaeology.

Chittam Lakshmi, IAS (2013), has taken over as the Director of AYUSH from Christina Z. Chongtho, IAS (2001).

Krishna Aditya S., IAS (2014), formerly Director of Labour, has been posted as the Director of Intermediate Education and Secretary, Board of Intermediate Education, with additional charge as VC & MD of Telangana Education & Welfare Infrastructure Development Corporation (TGWEIDC).

Sanjay Kumar, IAS (1995), Principal Secretary of the LET&F Department, will take on the additional role of Commissioner of Labour.

Dr Gaurav Uppal, IAS (2005), Resident Commissioner at Telangana Bhavan in New Delhi, will hold additional responsibilities as Secretary (Coordination-GOI Projects) in the General Administration Department.

CM for Delhi ...

Continued from page 1

He would also discuss Cabinet expansion if possible. It is learnt that the list of MLAs to be inducted into the cabinet has reached the AICC. However, there could also be a discussion between the Chief Minister and AICC leaders about the elections in Maharashtra and Jharkhand.

He would also discuss the impact of Prime Minister Modi's criticism of the six guarantees during the Maharashtra election campaign. The Chief Minister would also discuss BRS Working President KT Rama Rao's New Delhi trip and the Amrut Scheme as well as the Formula E-Car race issues.

Govt teachers ...

Continued from page 1

Most of the people have no awareness and refusing to share information, while others are reportedly mistreating or obstructing the enumerators, she added.

TS UTF president K Jangaiah and general secretary Chava Ravi have sent letters to the Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, Chief Secretary of Planning Sandeep Kumar Sultania and Education Secretary Burra Venkatesham detailing key demands to ensure smooth census operations:-

Enumerators are being asked to cover 10 households daily and 20 on holidays, but each survey takes 30-40 min-

utes per household, making such targets unreasonable.

All enumerators should be given official identification cards. Each enumerator should be assigned a maximum of 100 households (currently, each is assigned between 150 and 200). Hire more enumerators, including private teachers and other employees in urban areas and involve upper primary and high school teachers if necessary. The government should transparently disclose the per-household remuneration for the census work.

Enumerators report being denied casual leave for emergencies, with show-cause notices issued if they miss even

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CITY EVENTS

Telangana Food Festival

A unique journey through the rich and diverse flavors of Telangana's culinary heritage.

Venue

Aidu
till November 14

Travernia Fest

Travernia fest will give you the thrill of exploration, the joy of discovery and the beauty of cultural exchange.

Venue

HITEX Exhibition Center, Hyderabad
November 15, 11 am

Comic Con India

This year for the first time, the Hyderabad Comic Con will extend across three action-packed days, offering an extraordinary experience for anime, gaming, and pop culture lovers.

Venue

HITEX Exhibition Centre, Hyderabad
November 15, 16 and 17

Entrepreneurs Meetup

By We Founders Collab, Hyderabad

Venue

The Headquarters, Space Orbit, Hyderabad
November 23

Standup Comedy

Vivek Muralidharan brings in his signature show "Death by Laughter", where he brings his newest material to stage.

Venue

Multiple venues, till
November 24

Arijit Singh Live in concert

HSBC presale is live for now. General sale on October 23, 1 pm. Get tickets only on insider.in and paytm.

Venue

Concert in Hyderabad on December 7.

Household Survey reaches 158,150 families

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The ongoing comprehensive household survey in the GHMC area has covered 158,150 families to date.

A total of 19,218 enumerators have been appointed for this task, with a senior officer designated as a nodal officer for every three circles to ensure smooth and timely survey operations, said GHMC.

The survey began on Saturday afternoon, reaching 12,912 families by the end of the day.

By Sunday, November 10, the tally rose to 69,624 families, and on Monday, November 11, an additional 88,516 families were surveyed.

So far, the survey has successfully completed its data collection for a total of 158,150 families, added a release by the GHMC.

City Pioneer



HYDERABAD TUESDAY | NOVEMBER 12, 2024

03

TGSRTC gives 10% discount for Metro Exp bus pass

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana State Road Transport and Corporation (TGSRTC) has announced a 10 per cent discount on tickets for passengers using AC services such as Lahari, Rajadhani, Garuda Plus, and e-Garuda with a valid Metro Express bus pass.

This discount also applies to all travelling in TGSRTC AC buses within Telangana and to other states. Metro Express, Metro Deluxe, Green Metro and Airport Pushpak pass holders can also avail of this benefit. This 10 per cent discount will be effective until January 31, 2025. "There are approximately 70,000 Metro Express bus passes in Hyderabad, with many holders travelling to their hometowns on weekends," said TGSRTC MD, VC Sajjanar.

Strategic plan for pothole-free roads across TG unveiled

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Roads, Buildings and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkata Reddy has announced a strategic initiative to make Telangana's roads pothole-free, blaming the previous administration for neglecting road infrastructure over the past decade. Speaking at Chilkur in Ranga Reddy district, the Minister highlighted that advanced machinery, including the "Air Pressure Jet Patcher" and "Pothole and Road Maintenance Machinery," would be used to repair roads swiftly and effectively.

Komatireddy personally examined the new machinery alongside Special Chief Secretary of R&B, Vikas Raj, and Special Secretary Dasari Harichandana. Demonstrating the machine's process to the media, he detailed how the Air Pressure Jet Patcher



mixes 6mm to 25mm stone material with dust to fill potholes seamlessly, ensuring smoother roads and reducing vehicle impact.

According to Komatireddy, tra-

ditional road repair methods take months, leading to recurring damage. By adopting mechanised road repair, the government aims to repair up to 20 kilometers per day, making roads smoother, safer

and less prone to frequent repairs. He also emphasised the eco-friendly aspect of these machines, which reduce carbon emissions by 90% and allow for quick repairs on busy roads, significantly lowering the risk of accidents.

"The negligence of the previous administration has left us with dilapidated roads across every town," he remarked, noting that Rs 7 lakh crore in debt accumulated under KCR's leadership without addressing these critical infrastructure issues. Komatireddy expressed frustration, vowing that his administration would not leave a single pothole unaddressed, implementing strategic plans to enhance living standards State-wide.

The event saw participation from Government Chief Whip Mahender Reddy, local MLA Kale Yadayya and several senior R&B officials and local leaders.

Govt eases OTS-2024 terms, extends deadline for payment

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In an effort to simplify the process for consumers seeking relief under the One-Time Settlement Scheme (OTS-2024), the government has announced certain relaxations, along with an extended deadline. The OTS-2024 scheme, now extended until November 30, 2024, aims to provide a financial reprieve to consumers with outstanding dues, offering them a 50% waiver on penalties and interest charges.

One key change in the revised stipulations is the replacement of the affidavit requirement with a self-attested undertaking, allowing consumers to easily apply for the scheme without the need for a formal affidavit.

This move is expected to expedite the application

process, making it more accessible to a larger segment of consumers.

Additionally, the government has broadened eligibility criteria by allowing consumers who had previously participated in any OTS scheme prior to OTS-2020 to avail benefits under the current OTS-2024. This adjustment is aimed at encouraging a wider customer base to settle unpaid dues by removing previous restrictions on eligibility.

Consumers with outstanding dues are encouraged to take advantage of the 50% waiver on interest, late-payment penalties and unmetered penalties. To benefit from the waiver, eligible consumers must clear their remaining balance before the November 30 deadline.

Fire breaks out at scrap godown in Attapur, causes traffic jam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A fire broke out at a scrap godown in the MM Pahadi area of Attapur on Monday, causing a temporary traffic jam near PVNR Junction as passersby stopped to observe it. No casualties have been reported so far.

According to fire officials, the incident was likely caused by an electrical short circuit. Two fire tenders from the Rajendranagar fire station quickly arrived at the scene to contain and extinguish the flames. The Attapur Police were also present, assisting fire personnel.

In a similar incident, an explosion rocked the Telangana Spice Kitchen on Jubilee Hills Road No 1 early on Sunday. On Monday, GHMC Commissioner for Enforcement and Vigilance AV



Ranganath conducted an inspection of the site. The blast severely damaged the hotel's rear section, sending debris of stones, iron rods

and sheets flying up to 100 meters. The Commissioner reviewed the scene to determine the possible causes of the explosion.

IFS transfers: Priyanka Varghese now CCF, Charminar Circle

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana government has issued orders for the transfer and posting of several Indian Forest Service (IFS) officers across key forestry and environmental positions in the State.

Priyanka Varghese, IFS (2003), who was serving as Chief Conservator of Forests (IT&WP) and O/o Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), has been transferred and posted as Chief Conservator of Forests, Charminar Circle.

Sivala Ram Babu, IFS (2011), previously Deputy Conservator of Forests/Conservator of Forests, STC Circle, Hyderabad, has been transferred to serve as District Forest Officer in the Jogulamba Circle, Mahabubnagar. Additionally, he will hold additional charge as Field Director, Amrabad Tiger Reserve.

Dr Sunil S Hiremath, IFS (2011), formerly Curator at Nehru Zoological Park in Hyderabad, has been appointed as Director, Zoo Parks, Hyderabad. P Sreenivasa Rao, IFS (2013), previously Joint Director/Deputy Conservator of Forests, FCRI, Mulugu, is now District Forest Officer, Siddipet, replacing K Srinivas, IFS.

SV Pradeep Kumar Setty, IFS



(2015), who was Director of Urban Forestry, HMDA, Hyderabad, has been moved to serve as Deputy Conservator of Forests, STC Circle, Hyderabad. In his place, K Srinivas, IFS (2016), has been appointed as Director of Urban Forestry, HMDA, Hyderabad, on a deputation basis.

J Vasantha, IFS (2016), previously District Forest Officer, Jayashankar Bhupalapalli district, has been appointed as Curator of the Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad, succeeding Dr Sunil S Hiremath. Mandadi Naveen Reddy, IFS (2019), formerly District Forest Officer, Jogulamba Gadwal and Wanaparthy, is now District Forest Officer for Jayashankar Bhupalapalli district, replacing J Vasantha, IFS.

TG, Selangor forge new ties in Tconsult-led meet

PNS ■ KUALA LUMPUR

In a significant step toward strengthening international relations, Telangana's IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu and Ganabathirau Veeraman, Deputy President of Malaysia's Selangor Province, met in Kuala Lumpur to explore mutual areas for collaboration. The meeting, facilitated by Tconsult and chaired by Sundeeep Makthala, aimed to deepen ties in education, technology and cultural integration, marking a new chapter in India-Malaysia partnerships.

Held at the Hilton Kuala Lumpur Hotel, this high-level dialogue brought together Sridhar Babu and Veeraman to discuss the strategic potential of cross-border cooperation. Tconsult, a Hyderabad-based consulting organisation, played a crucial role in coordinating this dialogue, underscoring the expanding influence of Telangana on the international stage. Both leaders highlighted



ed Tconsult's contribution in enabling such initiatives, with Ganabathirau expressing his gratitude for the honour of representing the Telugu diaspora in Malaysia.

Central to the discussions were innovative programmes aimed at enhancing skills and educational immersion. Plans were laid out to initiate programmes for Malaysian students, enabling them to visit Hyderabad for skill development training. "This collaboration is not just a diplomatic gesture; it's a real step towards nurturing the talent of tomorrow,"

noted Sridhar Babu, emphasising the transformative impact of upskilling initiatives.

In a gesture to further solidify the partnership, Sridhar Babu extended an invitation to Ganabathirau to visit Telangana. He outlined the State's advancements in digital infrastructure, highlighting the importance of Telangana's efforts to create an inclusive and tech-driven society. Additionally, Sridhar Babu urged Tconsult to organise further government-to-government meetings aimed at bringing tangible benefits to the citizens of both regions.

TG residents to get priority in new Film Industry Housing: Minister

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a move aimed at strengthening the local film industry, Telangana's Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy announced that Telangana residents will be given priority in the newly built flats in Chitrapuri Colony. Speaking at the swearing-in ceremony of the Telangana Film Chamber of Commerce's executive committee, the Minister emphasised the State government's commitment to the growth of the film industry within Telangana.

Addressing the gathering, Komatireddy highlighted the

importance of Telangana's contributions to Indian cinema, recalling iconic films like "Ma Bhooni" and "Balagam" as part of the region's rich film heritage. "The film industry is not about just five or six individuals," he said. "It represents the aspirations of four crore people in Telangana who are passionate about cinema."

Congratulating Rama Krishna Goud on his election as Chairman of the Telangana Film Chamber of Commerce for the sixth consecutive term, Komatireddy praised his efforts in supporting the local film industry and helping various people through the chamber's

initiatives.

The Minister also announced plans to allocate 800 square yards of space to the Telangana Film Chamber of Commerce, further aiding the film industry's development.

"Our government is committed to the growth of Telangana's film industry," Komatireddy stated. "Every small film that comes to theatres has my support. We want to see the film industry in Telangana flourish."

In addition, he reaffirmed the government's dedication to providing housing for those connected to the film industry in Chitrapuri Colony.

HM visits ailing students at NIMS; one critical

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha paid a visit to three girl students from Komaram Bheem Asifabad hostel who were admitted to the National Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) following severe illness.

The students, E Mahalakshmi (14), K Jyothi (13) and C Shailaja (16), had suffered from multiple episodes of vomiting and loose motions, leading to dehydration and kidney complications. While doctors reported that Mahalakshmi and Jyothi are recovering, Shailaja's condition remains critical.

According to the NIMS medical team, Mahalakshmi arrived at the facility with low blood pressure, dyselectrolytemia, low hemoglobin and a low platelet count. After receiving antibiotics and IV fluids, she is now deemed fit for discharge.

Jyothi, admitted on November 3, experienced severe dehydration, an elevated serum creatinine level and required four dialysis sessions between November 4 and 7. Now stable, she is under observation in a private room and has made a complete recovery.

Shailaja, however, is in a critical state. Brought to



NIMS on November 5, she had significant kidney issues and a lung infection, necessitating ventilator support and continuous dialysis until November 9. Though initially improving she suffered respiratory arrest early on November 11, doctors have resumed ventilator and dialysis support. Minister Rajanarasimha, after consulting with the medical team, ordered that corporate-quality care be provided to the students free of charge. The Minister also mandated free food for the patients and their caregivers, along with free accommodation for attendants in private wards.



Mayor Vijaylakshmi receives applications at Prajavani

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi emphasised that the purpose of the Prajavani programme is to address citizens' issues. She instructed officials to review complaints submitted through Prajavani and work promptly towards solutions.

On Monday, Mayor Vijayalakshmi, along with Deputy Mayor Mothe Srilatha Shoban Reddy received petitions from citizens across the city. The complaints were directed to relevant authorities for resolution.

Mayor Vijayalakshmi urged officials to address these petitions promptly and assured complainants that their concerns would receive immediate attention. She encouraged citizens to bring any issue to her notice and emphasised that complainants should not be made to wait unnecessarily. Steps will be taken to ensure a swift response and citizens were advised to remain patient as their issues are processed.

Through the phone-in programme, four additional petitions were received and forwarded to the authorities concerned for action.

Deputy Mayor Srilatha stressed that officials must work diligently to resolve issues and directed that all requests be addressed quickly and fairly.

In this session, a total of 43 petitions were received, including 26 complaints for the Town Planning department, four for Health, three for ENC, two each for Tax section, UBD and FA, and one each for Legal, Lakes, HMWSSB and LW&S departments.

In total, 103 petitions were received from the six zones under the GHMC, including 62 from Kukatpally, 19 from Serilingampally, 11 from LB Nagar, four from Secunderabad, Khairatabad, and three from Charminar.

Immediate action needed to combat environmental changes

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Council for Higher Education Chairman V Balakista Reddy emphasised the urgency of combating environmental changes, at the conference of Arise held at the ASCI campus in Hyderabad on Monday.

During the programme, Balakista Reddy highlighted the advancements in legal science and stressed the importance of integrating these developments into environmental protection efforts. He advised students and educational institutions to utilise all available legal pathways to safeguard the environment actively.

Professor K Purushottam Reddy urged students to strive toward sustainable development goals, stressing that today's students must serve as guides for future generations.

Guest speaker Mohan Guruswamy gave detailed insights into the environmental damage caused by emissions from vehicles ranging from airplanes to motorcycles.

ASCI Chairman Padmanabhayya encouraged citizens to reduce personal vehicle usage, make the most of public transportation and adopt carpooling methods.

'Rashtriya Ekta Parv marks India's unity in diversity'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Union Minister of Coal and Mines G Kishan Reddy highlighted the significance of India's cultural and linguistic diversity at the National-Level Rashtriya Ekta Parv celebrations inaugurated at PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya in Tirumalagiri. Addressing students and educators, he emphasised the theme "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat," underscoring the role of Kendriya Vidyalayas in fostering unity among diverse backgrounds.

Kishan Reddy praised Kendriya Vidyalayas as "mini-Indias" that reflect the country's rich diversity. "These schools aren't just educational institutions; they are communities that bind us, nurturing a spirit of national integration. Here, students from varied linguistic and cultural backgrounds come together, building lifelong bonds," he said. According to the Minister, Kendriya Vidyalayas play a crucial role in promoting unity by instilling shared values and providing growth opportunities. The celebration at Kendriya Vidyalaya Tirumalagiri marks a collective effort to honour India's unity in diversity and the shared purpose of building a stronger, united nation under the Prime Minister's vision.

Probe ordered against 12 cops for nexus with sand mafia

PNS ■ NIZAMABAD

Reports of the Director General of Police (DGP) ordering action against two Circle Inspectors and 10 Sub-Inspectors for allegedly aiding sand smuggling have caused quite a stir in the district.

A section of police are accused of having links with sand traffickers and accepting bribes from them. After complaints were made against the section of the police officers, the DGP has reportedly ordered a detailed probe into the entire episode. With the DGP's orders have gone viral on social media platforms, it has sparked a debate.

It may be recalled that the DGP issued orders suspending Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) cadre officers recently on graft charges.

In a related development, the allegations which surfaced against 12 police personnel have rocked the Nizamabad Police Commissionerate. The probe has reportedly been entrusted to a police officer. The probe is likely to begin in a day or two.

Allegations of a group of police personnel working hand in glove with sand smugglers had been made in the past also.

Vemulawada Market Yard remains non-functional

PNS ■ VEMULAWADA

The Vemulawada market yard, once a bustling hub for farmers bringing their produce for procurement, has been rendered inactive for the past four years. This decline is largely attributed to the negligence of the governing body of the market committee, resulting in the cessation of procurement activities, particularly for paddy.

The last time the market procured paddy was two years ago. In previous agricultural seasons, the market was a hive of activity, with authorities procuring various produce including paddy, cotton, red gram, and maize. Farmers from nearby mandals, such as Boyinapalli, Konaraopeta, and Rudrangi, used to bring their produce to the yard for sale. However, there are no signs of recovery or resumption of such activities in the market.

Despite this, the market committee invested Rs 10 crore in infrastructure development, constructing warehouses for grain storage, restrooms for farmers, and a farmer information relay centre. Toilets and drinking water facilities were also provided. Unfortunately, this infrastructure has remained unused, as there is no active market operation taking place.

The situation worsened when, four years ago, the market governing body allocated two acres of the market's 4.5-acre site to the Vemulawada municipality. The municipality intended to build an integrated vegetable and non-vegetable market there. At the same time, the market committee decided to relocate the market yard to a larger 13-acre site near Marripalli in Vemulawada rural mandal. While proposals were submitted, no progress has been made on the relocation.

Officials have blamed farmers for not



Market yard

bringing their produce to the market yard. However, 20 licenced traders within the market's jurisdiction have been privately procuring produce, bypassing the market yard. Allegations abound that these middlemen and traders are exploiting farmers by offering lower prices than the minimum support price (MSP)

and cheating them out of 5-10 kg per quintal.

The Market Committee stated that the market yard would resume procurement of paddy if farmers choose to bring their produce to the yard. He also confirmed that the two acres allocated for the municipal market remain unavailable for agricultural purposes.

Caste census shows govt's commitment to social justice

PNS ■ RAJANNA SIRCILLA

Minister for Road Transport and Backward Classes Welfare Ponnam Prabhakar on Monday visited the Vemulawada Rajarajeswara Swamy temple and offered prayers.

Speaking to the media, he clarified the purpose of the ongoing survey and highlighted the state's commitment to social justice.

He emphasised that the survey is not for any personal gain but is being conducted in line with the Supreme Court's guidelines to collect comprehensive family economic and social data across the state.

The Minister stated that the survey aimed to eliminate inequalities in society and ensure equal justice for all. He mentioned that it is a transparent process and not driven by political or electoral motives. The survey, he said, is a part of the government's larger effort to bring about social reforms and address economic disparities.

Prabhakar also responded



Minister for Transport Ponnam Prabhakar speaking to the media in Vemulawada on Monday

to questions regarding the Backward Classes (BC) reservations issue, criticising the Bharat Rashttra Samithi (BRS) for allegedly undermining the BC reservations.

He took a dig at BRS working president KT Rama Rao (KTR) for allegedly lacking an understanding of the law, especially in relation to the Supreme Court's verdict.

Finally, he warned that the

law would take its own course if anyone tried to disrupt the survey.

He also noted that if there are any complaints, the authorities would act.

The Minister was accompanied by District Collector Sandeep Kumar Jha, Superintendent of Police Akhil Mahajan, Temple Executive Officer Vinod Reddy and other officials.

Sarpanches protest over pending bills

PNS ■ RAJANNA SIRCILLA

Tension prevailed here as former sarpanches tried to force their way into the Collectorate during a protest here on Monday. The former sarpanches staged a protest in front of the Collectorate demanding that the State government clear their long-pending bills.

A protest organised by the Former Sarpanches' Joint Action Committee (JAC) of Rajanna Sircilla district. The protest turned chaotic as they attempted to storm the Collectorate. The former Sarpanches sat in front of

the main gate of the District Collectorate, demanding immediate release of their pending bills. They tried to force their way into the Collectorate.

In response, additional police forces, specially deployed around the Collectorate, prevented them from entering. Subsequently, the police took the former sarpanches into custody and ferried them to the police station in vans.

Later, the District Collector, Sandeep Kumar Jha, met JAC president Karunakar who submitted a memorandum.



Former sarpanches being taken away after they staged a protest at the Collectorate in Sircilla on Monday

Education is the key to breaking cycle of poverty, says Tummala

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageshwar Rao, emphasised that education is the only way to escape poverty. He made these remarks during the Minorities Welfare Day celebrations organised by the Telangana Gurukul Educational Institutions (Schools and Junior Colleges) in Khammam on Monday. The Minister participated in the event along with District Collector Muzammil Khan.

Speaking at the event, Minister Tummala Nageshwar Rao highlighted the importance of educating girls from minority communities, noting that there was a time when it was difficult to send girls to school. However, today, all communities and religions are coming together to pursue education, he added.

He further mentioned that after India gained independence, the first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru appointed



On Monday, Minister Tummala Nageshwar Rao and District Collector Muzammil Khan participated in the Minorities Welfare Day celebrations in Khammam.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad as the Minister of Education. To honor his legacy, the nation celebrates his birth anniversary as National Education Day.

He also praised the Telangana government for its commitment to education. He noted that although India made progress in various fields, it has not yet achieved the desired level of advancement in education to compete globally. He emphasised that without strong implementation of edu-

cation in fields like human resources and healthcare, future generations could face challenges. Recognising this, the government under the leadership of Minister Revanth Reddy is taking significant steps to improve the education system, he said.

On the occasion, the Minister spoke about the efforts to build Young India Integrated Schools with the District Collector providing suitable land for the project. He direct-

ed the officials to complete the construction work for the schools swiftly.

District Collector Muzammil Khan spoke on the occasion, stating that Minorities Welfare Day is observed in honour of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. He emphasised that despite attempts to divide the country along religious and caste lines during the early years of independence, leaders advocated for unity and the importance of education in overcoming poverty.

The event was attended by several dignitaries, including the Chairman of the State Warehousing Corporation, R Nageshwar Rao, Khammam Mayor P Neeraja, District Minority Welfare Officer K Sathyanarayana, Principal of Khammam Minority Educational Institutions Sita Mahalaxmi, Khammam Revenue Divisional Officer Narsimha Rao, corporators, public representatives, teachers, students, and others.

Mulugu administration commended for implementation of 'Sampoornatha Abhiyan'

PNS ■ MULUGU

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar commended the implementation of 'Sampoornatha Abhiyan' programmes in Mulugu district. He noted that if the field-level results reflect the progress shown in presentations, Mulugu could secure a spot in the NITI Aayog rankings. He urged officials to strive for holistic development across Mulugu district, not just in the Aspirational Blocks, ensuring that all areas experience comprehensive growth. He added that in the future, even with close monitoring by NITI Aayog, there should be no underdeveloped blocks in Mulugu district. He expressed that he would return in three months to review the same matter and encouraged officials to work even harder.

Sanjay Kumar arrived in Bhupalpally district as part of the Sampoornatha Abhiyan. He was welcomed with honor

by District Collector Rahul Sharma and other officials, along with a guard of honor by the district police. Later, a review was conducted at the District Collectorate, presided over by District Collector Rahul Sharma and attended by senior officials from various departments. During the review, Bandi Sanjay Kumar discussed the objectives of the Sampoornatha Abhiyan and assessed the progress of development programs in the Aspirational Blocks of Mahamutharam and Palimela.

For the health department, he inquired about the nutritional supplements and medicines provided to pregnant women and the vaccinations for children. He sought details on soil testing records, the number of farmers who received soil cards, and questioned whether textbooks were provided to school children on time in Mahamutharam and Palimela blocks.



A woman being rescued from under a lorry after her hair got entangled in a rod on the outskirts of Huuzabad

Bandi assists in rescue of woman trapped under moving lorry

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

In a shocking accident on Monday, a woman narrowly escaped from the jaws of death after her hair got tangled in a rod under a moving lorry near Singapur on the outskirts of Huzurabad. Union Minister of State for Home Bandi Sanjay Kumar helped rescued the woman and sent her to hospital.

Divyasree, a resident of Kelleda under Manakondur mandal was travelling with her husband and two children on a two-wheeler when she accidentally fell onto the road.

Before she could get up, a lorry driving alongside them passed over her hair, which got entangled in a rod near the rear wheel.

Her children were crying in distress as they saw their mother in pain.

Unaware of the situation, the driver continued driving, dragging Divyasree along. Residents and the woman herself began shouting for

help. Upon hearing her screams, the driver stopped the truck after it had moved a short distance towards Singapore village near Huzurabad.

Bandi Sanjay Kumar, who was passing by, saw the commotion and halted his convoy to assist. He helped coordinate the rescue operation by stopping another passing lorry to acquire a screw jack and scissors.

With the help of locals, they managed to free Divyasree from the lorry. Despite being dragged for a few meters, she suffered only minor injuries and was promptly taken to a private hospital in Karimnagar for treatment.

The Union Minister told her, "Don't be afraid. Stay brave."

The injured woman was sent to Life Line Private Hospital in Karimnagar for treatment with Sanjay Kuma personally arranging for her medical care.

He told the hospital doctors that he would bear all the expenses for Divyashree's treatment.



Ramagundam Police Commissioner M Srinivas, along with other police officers, unveiling awareness posters in Ramagundam on Monday

Women assured of all protection against harassment

PNS ■ RAMAGUNDAM

Ramagundam Police Commissioner M Srinivas on Monday emphasised that the police would act as a shield for the protection of women. On Monday, during an event at the Ramagundam Police Commissionerate office, he unveiled awareness posters related to ragging, workplace harassment, social media harassment, and the importance of parents' awareness about children.

Speaking on the occasion, the Police Commissioner made it clear that any individual who harassed women or female students through social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, Snapchat, Telegram, or engaged in blackmail, would not be spared. He assured strict action against the offenders, regardless of who they were.

He also stated that it is every

woman's right to work freely and safely, and that the safety of children, students, and women is their primary goal.

He urged anyone facing trouble not to be afraid, to stay courageous, and to immediately contact Dial 100 or inform the local police.

He also shared contact details for the She Teams, stating that people can reach the police via WhatsApp at 6303923700, Facebook, She Team Ramagundam, Twitter, and Instagram.

The event was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police Admin C Raju, Special Branch ACP Raghavendra Rao, Mancherla Zone City In-Charge SI Hima, and She Team staff from the Peddapalli-Mancherla Zone. The article was about the release of awareness wall posters by the Ramagundam Police Commissioner.

RGUKT girl student commits suicide

PNS ■ NIRMAL

A 17-year-old girl student of Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies (RGUKT) in Nirmal district allegedly died by suicide on Monday, police said.

The girl, a student of Pre-University Course-II, was found hanging in her hostel room at the institute's campus in Basar town by her room-mates, a police official said.

The girl is suspected to have taken her own life due to "family issues," according to a preliminary investigation.

A suicide note, purportedly

written by the student and addressed to her parents and brother, was found.

She was a native of Nizamabad district. Further investigation is ongoing, police said.

The latest incident sparked tension. The students reiterated their demand for reforms in the administration. The students' union have demanded that a dedicated counseling centre be set up on the university campus to counsel the students.

The Basar police have registered a case and the investigation is underway.


GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
ROADS & BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT
'E'-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

NIT No.04/TS/TS/1530/2024-25 **Dated: 08.11.2024**
Name of the work: Construction of Court Hall Sheds for accommodating VIII Additional Judicial Magistrate of First Class, Medchal Malkajgiri District and X Additional Judicial Magistrate of First Class, Medchal Malkajgiri District (presently functioning in Adhwally on Rental basis in the Premises of Medchal Main court Complex at Medchal in Medchal Malkajgiri District. **Approx. ECV: Rs. 73.80 Lakhs.** The last date of receipt of tender is on **20.11.2024 up to 04.00 P.M.** Further details can be seen at "e"-Procurement market place i.e., <https://tender.telangana.gov.in/>
E Mail ID: seruralcircle@gmail.com
Sd/- Superintending Engineer (R&B)
Circle :: Ranga Reddy.
R.O.No: 648-PP/CLADVT/110304-25, Date: 11-11-2024

ACROSS THE STATES



Delhi sees record high chikungunya, malaria cases

Delhi registered a record high number of Chikungunya and Malaria cases in the past five years, while dengue cases declined, according to official data. As of November 9 this year, 728 malaria cases and 172 chikungunya cases were reported in the city. In 2020, there were 228 malaria cases, in 2021, 167 cases, in 2022, 263 cases, and in 2023, 426 cases. The tally includes 19 cases reported in the week leading up to November 9, according to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi's weekly report on mosquito-borne diseases. The number of chikungunya cases in 2020 stood at 111, in 2021, there were 89 cases, in 2022, 48 cases, and in 2023, 65 cases. This year, as of November 9, the number of chikungunya cases was 172. Meanwhile, 4,533 dengue cases were reported in Delhi in 2024, including 472 cases in November. In comparison, there were 9,266 dengue cases reported in 2023. The number of dengue cases has sharply declined since last month, when it doubled to 2,431 cases from 1,052 cases in September.



SC rejects bail plea of ex-MP Prajwal Revanna

The Supreme Court on Monday denied bail to former JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna, accused of rape and sexual assault. Rejecting the plea, a bench of Justices Bela M Trivedi and Satish Chandra Sharma observed Revanna was a "very influential person". Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, representing the politician, argued that the chargesheet had been filed in the case without the charge of Section 376 (rape) of the IPC. The bench, however, observed it could not interfere with the Karnataka High Court's October 21 decision denying him bail. Subsequently, Rohatgi sought the liberty to approach the court after six months. The bench said it could not say anything about it and dismissed the plea. In August, a special investigation team (SIT) in Karnataka which is probing four cases of sexual assault and harassment against Revanna submitted a 2,144-page chargesheet.



Blast triggers fire at IOCL refinery in Vadodara

A fire broke out at the Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL) refinery in Vadodara on Monday following a blast in its storage tank, a police officer said. No casualties are reported and the final head count is being conducted, said Vadodara Police Commissioner Narasimha Komar, adding that things are under control. The blast at the IOCL refinery in the Koyali area on the outskirts of Vadodara occurred at 4 PM, triggering the blaze. Visuals showed thick plumes emerging from the refinery which can be seen from kilometres away. Several workers were evacuated and can be seen exiting the IOCL campus. "A benzene storage tank caught fire after a blast at the refinery. They (IOCL) have isolated the affected storage unit. Fire tenders are deployed to control the situation," Komar said. The police officer said no casualty has been reported even as the final head count is being done to find if anybody is missing, which prima facie seems unlikely. Komar said fluid circulation in the IOCL complex was stopped as per the standard operating procedure.

Modi calls for unity among SC, ST, OBC communities

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress is trying to break the collective strength of SC, ST and OBC by creating divisions among them to weaken their voice and eventually end the reservation for them, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday as he called for unity among these communities.

"That's why I keep saying 'ek rahenge, toh safe rahenge (if you remain united, you would be safe),' he said while interacting with BJP workers in Jharkhand under the 'mera booth sabse mazboot' programme through the NaMo app.

Modi also highlighted the "failures" of the JMM-Congress-RJD combine's five-year rule and said the state has to be freed from "corruption, mafiaism and misrule" to put it on the path of progress.

The kind of blessings that the BJP is receiving at booth levels, it's clear that the "corrupt" JMM-led government is set to be ousted, Modi asserted. "The countdown has begun," he said.

Modi said "everyone from the royal family" of the Congress -- from Jawaharlal Nehru to Rajiv Gandhi -- were "staunch opponents" of the provision of reservation and the party crushed all the voices rising in its favour till it was at the helm from "panchayat to Parliament" as the Dalit, OBC and Adivasi societies were scattered then.

Says Cong trying to create divisions



Modi said that the Congress wants Dalits, tribals and other backward classes to break into "hundreds of smaller castes", instead of collectively being the SC, ST and OBC, so that they get scattered, lose their identity and fight with each other

But, gradually they started understanding what BR Ambedkar had said and came together posing a challenge to the Congress in many of the states, he said

"The OBC society could not come together till 1990. But when they came together, the Congress suffered severe losses. "Since then, the Congress has not been able to form its government with a full majority. It has its government in just three states in the country today," he added.

Modi said that the Congress has decided to break "the collective strength" of the Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST) and the Other backward Classes (OBC) as its "royal family is angry".

Govt will cover medical expenses of needy: UP CM

PNS ■ GORAKHPUR (UP)

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday said all expenses of individuals seeking financial aid for treatment for serious illnesses will be covered so they can get care at top hospitals.

He attended a 'Janata Darshan' programme in Gorakhpur today.

Before departing for the Jharkhand Assembly election campaign in Mirzapur, he met around 150 people at the programme organised at the Gorakhpur Temple, an official statement said.

Adityanath instructed officials to expedite the process of issuing Ayushman cards to those who don't have it and require financial assistance, it said.

"Adequate funds will be provided from the Chief Minister's Discretionary Fund to assist every eligible individual," he said.



Adityanath emphasised that no one should feel anxious, as all problems would be addressed with the utmost seriousness and sensitivity, the statement added.

He further directed officials to take swift action to resolve public grievances and warned against any negligence on their part.

During the programme, a woman shared her financial difficulties in securing treatment for a family member at a private hospital.

In response, CM Adityanath advised her to obtain an estimate from the hospital after admission and assured her that the government would cover the treatment costs.

AMID ACCUSATIONS AND CONTROVERSIES

Campaign ends for Bengal bypolls

PNS ■ KOLKATA

The intense campaign for the bypolls across six assembly constituencies in West Bengal concluded on Monday, marked by allegations, show-cause notices, and controversies.

The by-elections, scheduled for November 13, will be held in Sitai, Madarihat, Naihati, Haroa, Medinipur, and Taldanga constituencies.

The bypolls will be a test for the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) amid ongoing protests over the alleged rape and murder of a doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital.

The ruling party repeatedly targeted the Election Commission (EC) over alleged delays in addressing their complaints.

The TMC claimed that despite approaching the EC on Saturday, their concerns

11 militants killed in gunfight with security forces in Manipur



PNS ■ IMPHAL

Eleven suspected militants were killed in a gunfight with security forces in Manipur's Jiribam district on Monday, officials said.

Two CRPF personnel also sustained injuries during the heavy exchange of fire that happened at Jakurador Karong in the Borobekra sub-division. The condition of one of them was stated to be critical.

Militants in camouflage uniforms, armed with sophisticated weapons, fired indiscriminately at the Borobekra police station, and the CRPF camp located alongside it around 2.30 pm, officials said.

A few of the militants broke out and went to the Jakurador Karong market, around 100 metres away, and torched several shops, besides attacking some houses, they said.

As the security forces retaliated, a heavy exchange of fire began and 11 suspected militants were killed, they added.

The gunfight lasted a little over an hour, officials said.

A relief camp was also located within the premises of the police station, and five people living there went missing, they said.

It was not clear whether these civilians were kidnapped by the retreating militants or went into hiding after the attack began, they said, adding that a search was underway for them.

The bodies of those killed were brought to the Borobekra police station, officials said.

Following the incident, prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the BNSS were imposed in the area, according to a notification.

"There is apprehension of widespread disturbance to peace and public tranquility or a riot or any affray in the area and grave danger to human lives and properties because of unlawful activities of some anti social elements," said the notification, prohibiting assembly of five or more persons.

Congress can't save Hemant Soren: Shah

PNS ■ RANCHI

Calling the Congress a "sinking ship", Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Monday that it could not "save" Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren in the elections.

Addressing an election rally in Tamar in Ranchi district, Shah alleged the INDIA bloc destroyed Jharkhand, and promised that the BJP would make it the most prosperous state in the next five years if it is voted to power.

He alleged that the JMM and Congress consider tribals as a mere "vote bank" and do not respect them.

"Tribals facing extinction due to infiltrators who are vote bank of JMM-led coalition," he claimed.

Attacking the Congress, Shah said that even "four generations of Rahul Gandhi" cannot restore Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir.

TERROR CONSPIRACY BY AL-QAIDA NETWORK

NIA conducts pan-India searches

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday conducted extensive searches at multiple locations across the country in connection with the activities promoted by some Bangladeshi nationals as part of terror group Al-Qaida's conspiracy to destabilise India, according to an official statement.

The crackdown at nine locations, linked with individuals suspected of supporting and funding the activities of the proscribed terrorist organisation Al-Qaida,



started early in the morning in Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, West Bengal, Bihar, Tripura and Assam, it said.

The searches led to the recovery of incriminating documents

showing detailed banking transactions, digital devices including mobile phones, and other evidence related to terror funding activities, the statement issued by the NIA said.

As per NIA investigations, the suspects whose premises were raided are sympathisers of a Bangladesh-based Al-Qaida network.

The searches were part of NIA's ongoing investigations into a 2023 case pertaining to a conspiracy orchestrated by Bangladesh-based Al-Qaida operatives in collaboration with

the arrested individuals, it said.

The conspiracy was aimed at propagating Al-Qaida's terrorist activities and radicalising gullible youths in India, the probe agency said.

In November last year, NIA had filed a charge sheet against five accused, including four Bangladeshi nationals -- Mohd Sojbimiyani, Munna Khalid Ansari alias Munna Khan, Azarul Islam alias Jahangir or Akash Khan, Abdul Latif alias Mominul Ansari, it added.

The fifth accused, Farid, is an Indian national.

FEAR OF NAXAL INFLUX

MP govt seeks CRPF battalions from Centre

PNS ■ BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh government has requested the Centre to sanction two additional battalions of CRPF for deployment in the Naxalite-affected Balaghat area given a looming possibility of the influx of armed cadres from two border states, a senior police officer said.

Currently, three battalions of CRPF are deployed in Madhya Pradesh, he said.

The police assessed the potential crossover of Naxals, facing heat in bordering Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh, to Madhya Pradesh, the officer said, adding that the state is keen to ramp up security and intensify vigil along the borders.

Inspector General of Police (Balaghat zone) Sanjay Kumar has confirmed to PTI the request made for sanctioning two more CRPF (Central reserve Police Force) battalions, each comprising 1,000 personnel.

Kumar said out of four security camps, one with around 50 personnel and a building has been set up near the border for domination. "Such camps have come up in the Bastar area of Chhattisgarh," said Kumar.

The Balaghat zone includes Naxal-hit Balaghat, Mandla



The police assessed the potential crossover of Naxals, facing heat in bordering Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh, to Madhya Pradesh, the officer said, adding that the state is keen to ramp up security and intensify vigil along the borders

and Dindori districts in MP.

"We are alert. They (Naxalites) can flee (from Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra) and enter MP. They created the Maharashtra, MP and Chhattisgarh (MMC) zone in 2015-16 to expand their footprint. We are keeping a hawk's eye along the borders," Kumar added.

The police officer disclosed that MP Police held interstate meetings with Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra and conducted joint operations, reflecting "very fast interstate coordination".

Disruption in liver-brain link behind overeating: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Working odd hours or night shifts was found to disrupt signals the liver sends to the brain telling it if eating is happening in sync with the body's clock, a result that researchers said could help treat the negative effects of eating at unusual times, such as overeating.

Eating at irregular times is said to be related to weight gain and diabetes, largely because it is not in sync with one's body clock, or circadian rhythm -- a 24-hour cycle of physical, mental, and behavioural changes, including sleeping and eating.

Researchers from the University of Pennsylvania,

US, found that working unusual hours disturbs the liver's internal clock and its signals, because of which the brain overcompensates, thereby leading to overeating at the wrong times.

The results, published in the journal Science, suggested that targeting specific parts of the vagus nerve -- via which the liver communicates with the brain -- could help address overeating in people working night shifts or experiencing jet lag, the team said.

"Both mice and humans normally eat at times when they are awake and alert, and this circuit provides feedback from the liver to the central



clock in the brain that keeps the system running smoothly," senior author Mitchell Lazar, a professor of diabetes and meta-

bolic diseases, University of Pennsylvania, said.

"This feedback is through a nerve connection from the

liver to the brain," Lazar said.

For the study, researchers looked at the REV-ERB genes in mice, which are known to have genetic material and biological processes similar to those in humans, and help them both control the body clock.

Turning off these genes made the mice's liver develop a faulty clock, because of which eating habits were found to change dramatically, with more food being consumed during less active hours, the team said.

However, the negative effects could be reversible, as cutting the nerve connection in obese mice was found to restore nor-

mal eating habits and reduce food intake.

"This suggests that targeting this liver-brain communication (route) could be a promising approach for weight management in individuals with disrupted circadian rhythms," author Lauren N Woodie, a post-doctoral researcher in Lazar's lab, said.

"Our findings reveal a homeostatic feedback signal that relies on communication between the liver and the brain to control circadian food intake patterns. This identifies the hepatic vagus nerve as a potential therapeutic target for obesity in the setting of chronodisruption," they wrote.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

India bears the brunt

This year's high death toll and losses due to climate change underscore the urgent need for policy action

With over 3,200 fatalities, extensive crop damage across 3.2 million hectares, and 2.3 lakh buildings destroyed in the first nine months of 2024 alone, the country's vulnerability to extreme weather events is undeniable. These findings of the 'India Climate Report 2024' from the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) give a shocking picture of the impact of climate change on the country. The report underscores that 93 per cent of the days between January and September were marked by extreme weather, a clear indication that climate-related disasters are becoming not only more frequent but also more severe. The report's findings reveal a staggering increase in extreme weather events. In 2024, India faced climate extremes on 255 out of 274 days, a record when compared to previous years. Notably, over 35 of the 36 states and union territories experienced such events, with states like Karnataka, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh witnessing over 40 additional days of climate extremes compared to 2023.



The grim statistics point to a significant toll on human life and livelihoods. Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Assam were the hardest-hit states in terms of fatalities, while Andhra Pradesh saw the greatest destruction of homes, and Maharashtra experienced the largest crop damage. Among the notable phenomena in 2024 were prolonged heatwaves and an unprecedented number of warm nights. Besides, the monsoon season was particularly disastrous, with heavy rains, floods and landslides occurring every single day from June through September. Assam, for example, faced extreme weather on 111 days out of 122, highlighting the relentless impact of intense rainfall and flooding. The 2024

India Climate Report also points to a significant data gap. While the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has made strides in tracking events like warm nights, it lacks absolute temperature benchmarks, which many other countries use to enhance climate data accuracy. The lack of comprehensive, real-time data on climate-related damages impedes effective planning and resource allocation, especially in vulnerable regions. Several factors have contributed to India's vulnerability which must be addressed. The lopsided development, scant regard to the climate impact and allowing reckless construction in hills must stop. This pattern of 'bad development' worsens the impact of natural disasters, transforming regions with poor infrastructure or unplanned urban sprawl into high-risk areas. As the world approaches the dangerous threshold of 1.5°C of warming above pre-industrial levels, India's situation signals the urgent need for effective climate policies, mitigation strategies and public awareness. The 'India Climate Report 2024' serves as a somber reminder of the escalating costs of climate inaction. A collective and urgent response is needed, one that includes better data collection, sustainable urban planning and policies aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Only then can India hope to protect its people and environment.

PICTALK



A baby monkey eats a slice of bread by the side of a road, in New Delhi

PTI

A Journey of imagination, resilience and self-discovery

Dreams can teach us resilience, guide us through adversities and keep us striving for something more

All of us dream with our eyes open. It matters not whether we succeed in all of these. The beauty of the journey also enriches our lives in ways that we may not immediately fathom. My innumerable dreams keep me moving. My father got me a comic adaptation of David Copperfield by Charles Dickens when I was 6. I was impressed by the way David tackled the adversities in his life. He was sent to the boarding school by his stepfather and was saved from being bullied by James Steerforth. The two formed an unlikely friendship that ended with the death of James. Steerforth was a rakish scoundrel, but David looked at all that was good in him. My dream at that tender age depended on my frame of mind. Sometimes I would want to be like David, overcoming all adversities, other times I would want to be a loveable scoundrel like James, ready to help friends. I guess I imbibed a bit of both. I had studied mostly



in Hindi medium all boys' schools in my formative years. I was shy of speaking to girls the first time that I went to a co-ed school when I was only 12. I would look enviously at boys who could speak with girls in fluent English. I would want to be like them. In later years, I understood that it was important to communicate, language was secondary. Two heroes entered my life around this time. Sunil Gavaskar from the cricket world and Bjorn Borg of the lawn tennis fame. I looked enviously at their ability to display no emotions whether winning or losing. I was and continue

to be sentimental. My face is transparent and displays all my emotions. However, I have come to realise that being sentimental is also akin to being passionate about your goals and is not a weakness. My dreams were not so spectacular in my intervening professional years. They were the routine dreams about going up the career ladder to reach the top, whether in the government sector, where you are bound to move up at a steady pace to a point predetermined by your age and seniority; or to earn better money in the private sector. Then I quit the system. Free of the invisible shackles, I went berserk with my dreams. I spent a lot of time in the kitchen during the COVID-19 days, baking bread and making wine. Surprisingly, even my wife stopped objecting to my presence in a space that she had always considered as her private domain. I started harbouring dreams of recognition as a renowned chef. I also started writing at

this late stage in life and another dream was born. I started thinking of winning a Booker prize or a Sahitya Akademi award. Once you have crossed 60, you want to be immortal. What could be better than to be remembered centuries after you are gone? My dream is for my books to occupy pride of place on someone's bookshelf in the 23rd century; like the books of my favourite author, Charles Dickens, on my bookshelf, 200 years later. I now understand that no dream is irrational, outlandish, bizarre, or not worth pursuing. What is this life if we do not dream and strive for them? We may fail to attain many, but we will succeed in a few. That is what makes life extraordinary. Lee Kuan Yew's words are apt, "If you are just realistic, you become pedestrian, you will fail. You must be able to soar above the reality and say, 'this is also possible'." (The author is an electrical engineer with the Indian Railways and conducts classes in creative writing; views are personal)



SANJAY CHANDRA

Trump's win sets stage for 'America First' revival



V K BAHUGUNA

Trump's second term promises to reshape alliances and influence critical issues, including US-India relations, climate policy and the global energy market

Donald Trump has made history by winning the 2024 US Presidential election, securing 292 Electoral College votes and defeating Kamala Harris, the media's favoured candidate. His resounding victory marks a significant comeback and has reignited debates globally about what his second term might bring. This election wasn't without its drama, as Trump survived an assassination attempt on September 15, 2024, amid allegations of interference from powerful interest groups attempting to prevent his reelection. The victory was further shaped by the support of influential figures, including Indian American Vivek Ramaswamy, a former Republican hopeful who backed Trump. "Trump's comeback is America's comeback," Ramaswamy remarked, applauding Trump's strong persona as a "badass Commander-in-Chief" that many believe the US needs. A substantial part of Trump's campaign success was due to substantial financial support from allies like Elon Musk, who reportedly contributed \$119 million to the campaign. Musk's active presence on X (formerly Twitter) and outspoken defence of Trump against media criticism played a key role, particularly in swing states like Texas, Pennsylvania, Georgia, North Carolina and Florida. This unconventional alliance between Trump and Musk has sparked speculation and surprise, even influencing figures abroad, such as Bangladesh's Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus. Previously critical of Trump, Yunus has become a reluctant admirer following Trump's success. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is also likely pleased with Trump's return. The two leaders share a warm rapport, marked by a mutual understanding rooted in their strong nationalist stances. Though Modi was unable to meet Trump during his September 2024 visit to the US due to protocol issues, Trump's victory strengthens India-US ties and suggests a renewed focus on strategic cooperation between the two nations.



Trump's "America First" policy will likely shape his approach to foreign relations in this term. Expect him to push allies, including NATO and the European Union, to shoulder more of their defence costs. He may scale back US involvement in international conflicts, aiming instead to negotiate peace agreements that align with American interests. A notable example is his stance on Ukraine: Trump's re-election could mean a reduction in US military and financial support for Ukraine, possibly pressuring the country toward a peace settlement with Russia—a development that could lead to a significant de-escalation of the conflict. In the Indo-Pacific region, Trump's focus will likely remain on curbing China's influence and India could play a pivotal role in these efforts. India's strategic importance as a counterbalance to China in the region aligns well with Trump's vision. The US-India partnership could expand in sectors like defence, technology and energy security. Trump's push for "reshoring" American manufacturing from China may create new investment opportunities for India, especially in high-growth industries like pharmaceuticals, electronics, and renewable energy. Energy collaboration will also likely be a highlight of US-



PRIME MINISTER
NARENDRA MODI IS
ALSO LIKELY
PLEASED WITH
TRUMP'S RETURN.
THE TWO LEADERS
SHARE
A WARM RAPPORT,
MARKED
BY A MUTUAL
UNDERSTANDING
ROOTED IN
THEIR STRONG
NATIONALIST
STANCES

India relations. With India's growing energy needs, Trump's focus on US energy independence could lead to mutually beneficial trade in oil, natural gas, and renewable technologies, while US firms may look to invest in India's energy infrastructure. However, Trump's immigration policies, particularly concerning H-1B visas for skilled workers, may remain a point of contention. While Trump generally supports highly skilled professionals, further restrictions on visas could push India to enhance its own tech ecosystem, promoting more in-country growth and innovation. Trump's stance on climate change negotiations may remain divisive. Given his scepticism toward multilateral climate agreements, he could once again withdraw the US from global climate accords. This could impact the efficacy of initiatives like the Paris Agreement, where developed countries have pledged \$100 billion to support developing nations. So far, only a fraction of this amount has materialised, raising concerns about the long-term viability of global climate targets. Trump's reluctance to support these accords without substantial changes could weaken international resolve on climate issues. India will closely watch Trump's policies on counterterrorism, particularly regard-

ing Pakistan, a country that has historically been linked to terrorism in the region. Trump's past rhetoric and strong stance against terrorism suggest he may align with India's concerns. A tougher US stance on Pakistan could address India's longstanding issues with cross-border terrorism, potentially strengthening US-India ties in this area. Trump's complex relationship with the US media, especially during the 2024 campaign, added another layer to the narrative. Musk was one of the few who openly supported Trump on X, condemning what they saw as a biased media landscape that often criticised Trump. This approach may have contributed to his strong showing in swing states, bolstered by Musk's strategic influence on social media. As Trump prepares to re-enter the White House in January 2025, the world anticipates how his policies will unfold. His administration's priorities are expected to bring significant shifts in US domestic and foreign policy, from trade and immigration to international alliances and climate action. Global leaders and citizens alike are waiting to see how Trump's assertive approach to governance will redefine America's role on the world stage. (The writer is former member of Indian Forest Service; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AMERICA CHOOSES TRUMP

Madam — With 295 electoral votes, the American people have chosen Donald Trump as the 47th President of the United States. Many entrepreneurs from the business sector have welcomed Trump's reelection, indicating that development is a key issue for the US. According to Google CEO Sundar Pichai, of Indian descent, "We are in the golden age of transformation in America and are committed to working with the administration. This will benefit everyone. Similarly, Jindal also responded positively to Trump's win. Trump's strong opponent, Kamala Harris, who received 226 votes, mentioned that the process of transitioning power would be completed as quickly and peacefully as possible. In her concession speech, Harris emphasised moving forward but mentioned that she would resist when given the opportunity. Speaking at her alma mater, Harvard University, Harris stated, "Never give up. Our allegiance remains with the American Constitution, and the fight to protect the country's fundamental principles will continue. Overall, the US presidential election was thrilling and closely contested. In the coming period, a key point of interest will be how the new administration under Trump addresses issues faced by immigrants and tackles unemployment in the country. But the business world is happy. Dattaprasad Shirodkar | Mumbai

CANADA VISA BARRIER

Madam — Apropos of the headlines (Nov 10), the impasse over Student Direct Stream for Indian students chasing for studies in Canadian universities in furtherance of diplomatic tussle is going beyond proportions. This should be seen as an opportunity, as the compulsively foreign-bound students should explore alternatives and preferably shed their obsession for foreign universities, as the standards of our premier engineering, medical and management institutions are superb and provide better

Manipur needs peace



It is unfortunate that ethnic conflict between the valley-based Meitei and the hills-based Kuki-Zo tribal communities began on May 3, 2023, still unabated. The latest incident

happened in the Bishanpur district of Manipur on Saturday, when militants fired a group of farmers, killing a 34-year-old woman. Since the ethnic violence erupted in Manipur, it has so far claimed the lives of more than 250 people and about 60,000 others were displaced, besides a devastating economic loss to the state. Despite a great loss of men and material, the government (Centre and state) has done very little to initiate a meaningful dialogue between the warring communities. To obviate further clashes, there is a greater need to maintain peace in the entire state but deploying force alone cannot quell a situation that requires sensitivity and compassion in equal measure.

S K Khosla | Chandigarh

AMU MINORITY STATUS

Madam — The simple logic that guided the 5-judge SC judgement depriving the minority status of AMU, "that the university was neither established by Muslims nor administered by Muslims," has been declared null and void by a majority judgement of the 7-judge bench of the Supreme Court of India. Surprisingly, the majority of SC judges led by the CJI overlooked the fact that it is a Central University run by the Union of India constituted under a Constitution that is essentially SECULAR. It took 7 long years for the bench to arrive at the judgement declaring Status Quo about the question, and according to Dipankar Dutta, one of the dissenting judges, this judgement was hastily delivered without the ideal procedure of consultations and discussions before the final draft. Still, the Supreme Judges expect the highest regard for their deeds from the people of this country.

Jai Prakash Gupta | Ambala Cantt

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Vinod Johri | Delhi

IN BRIEF



Amul to enter Europe soon

Amul will enter the European market by the end of this month after launching its products in the US, GCMMF Managing Director Jayen S Mehta said on Monday. The Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) sells its dairy products under the popular Amul brand. "We will be launching milk...fresh products in Europe by the end of this month," he said at the annual convocation of Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) here. The company will launch the products in Spain first and then look at expanding to other countries in Europe. He also said that non-tariff barriers are being faced by the Indian dairy industry in other countries and removal of those will help in increasing exports. "Try to create a market opportunity for us," Mehta said adding that milk is a source of livelihood for more than 10 crore families in the country and most of the producers are small and marginal farmers. India allows the import of dairy goods at a 30 per cent duty.



Gold declines Rs 450 to Rs 79,550 per 10 grams

Gold prices declined by Rs 450 to Rs 79,550 per 10 grams in the national capital on Monday amid weak trends in the international markets, according to the All India Sarafa Association. On Friday, the yellow metal had settled at Rs 80,000 per 10 grams. Silver also plunged Rs 600 to Rs 94,000 per kg on Monday against the previous close of Rs 94,600 per kg. Price of gold of 99.5 per cent purity fell Rs 450 to Rs 79,150 per 10 grams. The precious metal had closed at Rs 79,600 per 10 grams on Friday. Meanwhile, in futures trade on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold contracts for December delivery slumped Rs 460 or 0.6 per cent to trade at Rs 76,812 per 10 grams. "Gold prices are trading lower, with Comex down, slipping from Friday's close of USD 2,685 as the strengthening dollar index exerts pressure on the yellow metal. "The rise in US bond prices following Trump's election victory is contributing to the corrective trend in bullion," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency at LKP Securities, said.



Niva Bupa IPO gets 1.80 times subscription

The initial public offer of Niva Bupa Health Insurance Company Ltd, formerly Max Bupa Health Insurance Company, got subscribed 1.80 times on the closing day of share sale on Monday. The Initial Public Offering (IPO) received bids for 31,13,62,800 shares against 17,28,57,143 shares on offer, as per NSE data. The portion for Retail Individual Investors (RIIs) attracted 2.73 times subscription while the category for Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) got subscribed 2.06 times. Non-Institutional Investors part fetched 68 per cent subscription. Niva Bupa Health Insurance Company Ltd on Wednesday said it has mobilised Rs 990 crore from anchor investors. The issue has a price band of Rs 70-74 per share. The Rs 2,200-crore IPO is a combination of fresh issuance of equity shares worth Rs 800 crore and an offer for sale of up to Rs 1,400 crore by promoters. The company reduced the issue size as it was earlier looking to raise Rs 3,000 crore.

India needs to expand local vaccine research: GTRI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India needs to expand its local vaccine manufacturing and research to give better control over safety of these pharma products, think tank GTRI said on Monday. The Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) also suggested the government to launch an investigation to track all adverse health events post-vaccination as this could help make future vaccine rollouts more transparent, safe and effective. "Expanding local vaccine manufacturing and research can give India better control over vaccine safety, ensuring vaccines meet local needs and are tailored to the population's health characteristics," it said in a report. It added that these suggestions assume importance in the backdrop of the October 2024 release of "The Pfizer Papers: Crimes Against Humanity" which has ignited global debate over vaccine safety, ethics and transparency. "As the world prepares for future pandemics, there is need for more effective vaccination strategies," GTRI Founder Ajay Srivastava said.

Collective effort required to achieve export target: Goyal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

On Monday, New Delhi, Nov 11 (PTI) Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said collective effort is required to achieve the "big" exports target of \$2 trillion by 2030. Addressing the annual convocation of IIFT (Indian Institute of Foreign Trade) through video conference, he expressed confidence in achieving the target. "Let us partner to achieve the export target of \$2 trillion by 2030, given that we will cross \$800 billion this (fiscal) year. We will have to really put in a lot of effort collectively to achieve \$2 trillion. It will not happen by chance, it will happen by choice and I am confident that we can achieve this big target," Goyal said. In 2023-24, India's exports of goods and services stood at \$778 billion. He urged the students and faculty of the institute to contribute to studying the non-tariff barriers being faced by Indian products in other countries so that the officers can flag those. The ministry also announced that soon the IIFT will have its new campus in



We will have to really put in a lot of effort collectively to achieve USD 2 trillion. It will not happen by chance, it will happen by choice and I am confident that we can achieve this big target," Goyal said

Dubai.

Speaking at the event, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said that IIFT will also set up a centre for negotiations, as this is an important skill set required in areas like free trade agreements. It will help students learn about the expertise required in the FTA negotiations. Barthwal said that the insti-

tute is also working on preparing India-oriented case studies for students. Rakesh Mohan Joshi, IIFT Vice Chancellor, said that the ranking of the institute has moved up twelve places to 15th rank under the management category in the NIRF (National Institutional Ranking Framework) ranking 2024.

Urgent measures needed to reduce trade imbalances with Russia

PNS ■ MUMBAI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday called for "urgent" measures to address the issue of widening trade deficit between India and Russia. While India's exports to Russia stood at only USD 2.24 billion in April-August this fiscal, imports soared to USD 27.35 billion during the period. The trade deficit is aggregated at USD 25.11 billion. The high trade deficit is mainly due to crude imports.



Russia emerged as India's biggest supplier of crude oil, which is converted into fuels like petrol and diesel in refineries. Russian oil was available at a discount after some European nations shunned purchases from Moscow over its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Addressing the India-Russia Business Forum here, Jaishankar also pitched for the removal of non-tariff barriers and regulatory impediments to help improve the trade bal-

ance with Russia. "The balance of trade needs urgent redressal since it is so one-sided. It is imperative that non-tariff barriers and regulatory impediments are speedily addressed for this to happen," he said. The bilateral trade currently stands at USD 66 billion, and the goal of reaching USD 100 billion is "more than realistic", he added. Further, he advocated for mutual settlement of trade in the national currencies, especially in the "current circumstances". "Special Rupee Vostro Accounts are right now an effective mechanism. However, even in the short run, a better trade balance with national currency settlements is the answer," he added. Jaishankar said the meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Vladimir Putin at the Annual Summit in Moscow and last month in Kazan provided a "strategic direction".

BID TO ACQUIRE MAJORITY STAKE IN ORIENT CEMENT

Ambuja Cements seeks CCI nod

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Billionaire Gautam Adani-led Ambuja Cements has sought approval from the Competition Commission of India (CCI) to acquire a majority stake in CK Birla group firm Orient Cement Ltd in a Rs 8,100-crore deal. According to a CCI notice, the proposed transaction is a two-stage acquisition process, initiated through two share purchase agreements (SPAs) on October 22, 2024, will see Ambuja Cements initially acquiring a 46.80 per cent stake in Orient Cement. This includes a 37.90 per cent stake from the current promoter group and an additional 8.90 per cent from certain public shareholders. Pursuant to the acquisition of shares, it "triggers an obligation on the acquirer to make an open offer under Sebi's

SAST (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) rules for acquisition of up to 26 per cent of the expanded share capital of the target (open offer)", according to the notice. Assuming full acceptance of open offer, the stake of Ambuja Cements will stand at 72.8 per cent, said a notice filed with the CCI on Friday. In October, billionaire Gautam Adani-led Adani Group said it has signed a binding agreement for the acquisition of Orient Cement Ltd (OCL) at an equity value of Rs 8,100 crore. The acquisition will add 16.6 MTPA (million tonne per annum) capacity to Adani Cement, which operates through Ambuja Cements in the sector. Ambuja Cements, the cement and building material company of Adani Cement and is a part of the diversified Adani Group.

India giving excessive market support to wheat, rice

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Five WTO members - Argentina, Australia, Canada, Ukraine, and the US - have alleged that India provides excessive market support to wheat and rice which distorts global trade. In a communication of the World Trade Organization (WTO), these countries claimed that India's apparent MPS (market price support) for rice appears to have been over 87 per cent of the value of production (VoP) in each of the two covered years (2021-23) for which India has notified data to the multi-lateral body.



Equity MFs hit record Rs 41,887 cr inflow SIP at fresh high of Rs 25,323 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Equity mutual funds witnessed a record inflow of Rs 41,887 crore in October, marking a surge of 21.7 per cent on a month-on-month basis, fuelled by robust investments in thematic funds, despite the heightened volatility in the stock market. This also marks the 44th consecutive month of net inflow in the equity-oriented funds, highlighting the ever-increasing appeal of mutual funds among investors, data with the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) showed on Monday. Moreover, monthly contributions from the Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) rose to an all-time high of Rs 25,323 crore last month against Rs 24,509 crore in September. The industry's robust growth is reflected in achieving the historic milestone of



retail folios crossing 17.23 crore. The continued surge in SIP accounts, now exceeding 10.12 crore, along with a record monthly SIP contribution demonstrates the growing preference for disciplined investing among Indian investors, Venkat Chalasani, Chief Executive of AMFI, said. The inflow came despite heightened volatility in stock markets with Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) sucking out a massive Rs 94,000 crore in the month

under review due to major global events, including the US elections. The correction in the markets during October provided a good investment opportunity for investors, which they did not fail to capitalise on. "The 5-6 per cent drop in both the Sensex and Nifty was one of the sharpest in recent years, similar to what we last saw in March 2020. Despite this, retail investors have shown remarkable resilience, with inflows exceeding Rs 40,000 crore," Santosh Joseph, Co-founder and CEO of Germinate Investor Services, said. Overall, the mutual fund industry witnessed an inflow of Rs 2.4 lakh crore in the month under review, after an outflow of Rs 71,114 crore in September. The huge inflow was due to investments to the tune of Rs 1.57 lakh crore into debt schemes.

Flipkart deploys over 10,000 electric vehicles in delivery fleet

PNS ■ MUMBAI

E-commerce major Flipkart on Monday said it has deployed over 10,000 electric vehicles (EVs) in its delivery fleet as part of a phased integration of EVs in the last mile delivery over the past few years. The strategic adoption of EVs has resulted in substantial operational efficiencies, lowering the cost per order at the hub level and improving the last-mile delivery speed by 20 per cent, compared to conventional delivery vehicles, Flipkart said.

'UK' CODE TO FLY INTO HISTORY Air India-Vistara merger to be reality from today

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The nearly 10-year-old Vistara is set to bid adieu to the skies as the well-regarded full service carrier will operate its last domestic and international flights as an independent airline late on Monday night. Vistara flight UK 986 will fly from Mumbai to Delhi and UK 115 will fly from Delhi to Singapore. It will be the last time that the flight code 'UK' will be dotting the firmament and from Tuesday onwards, Vistara flights will have the new code 'AI2XXX'. Interestingly, when the airline

commenced operations on January 9, 2015, it was the other way around as the maiden flight operated from Delhi to Mumbai. An official on Monday said Vistara's last flights on domestic and international routes are scheduled to be UK 986 and UK 115, respectively. UK 986 is to depart at around 2250 hours from Mumbai to Delhi and UK 115 is to leave Delhi for Singapore at about 2345 hours. "Thank you for being part of this unforgettable journey and showering us with your #VistaraLove. We will forever cherish these memories.

RPL STOCK CASE

SC dismisses Sebi's appeal against SAT order

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a plea filed by Sebi against a Securities Appellate Tribunal order which set aside the penalty imposed by the market regulator on RIL chairman Mukesh Ambani and two other entities in a case related to alleged manipulative trading in shares of the erstwhile Reliance Petroleum Ltd

(RPL) in November 2007. A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan said it was not inclined to interfere with the order passed by SAT. "Impugned order was passed in 2023 which was challenged in 2023 and after one year, now the matter is being circulated. "No question of law involved in this appeal warranting our interference.

Dismissed. You can't chase a person like this for years," the bench said. Sebi had moved the top court against the December 4, 2023, order of the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT). The SAT ruling came after all the entities appealed before the tribunal against the order passed by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) in January 2021. In January 2021, Sebi

imposed a Rs 25 crore fine on Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), Rs 15 crore on Ambani, who is the company's Chairman and Managing Director, Rs 20 crore on Navi Mumbai SEZ Pvt Ltd and Rs 10 crore on Mumbai SEZ Ltd in the RPL case. Navi Mumbai SEZ and Mumbai SEZ are promoted by Anand Jain, who once served in the Reliance Group. The tribunal had quashed

Sebi's order passed in 2021 against Ambani, Navi Mumbai SEZ and Mumbai SEZ. It had also directed the Sebi to return the fine amount in case it has been deposited by them with the regulator. The case pertains to the sale and purchase of RPL shares in the cash and futures segments in November 2007. This followed RIL's decision in March 2007 to sell

around 5 per cent stake in RPL, a listed subsidiary that was later merged with RIL in 2009. The tribunal had said that RIL's board had specifically authorised two persons to decide the disinvestment. Further, the tribunal noted that it cannot be suggested that the Managing Director is ipso facto responsible for every alleged contravention of law by the corporate entities.

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
'E' PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
No. 10/EE-III/HIGH/MC/2024-25. Date: 09-11-2024
Name of the Work: Repair works, Estimated amount: Rs. 54.25 Lakhs, Start Date & Time for Receipts of Bids: 11-11-2024 @ 04:00 PM, Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids: 20-11-2024 @ 03:30 PM. Name & Address Officer Cell No.: Executive Engineer-II (Housing), GHMC, 9983551524. Further details can be seen at e-procurement @ www.tender.telangana.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer-II (Housing) GHMC
R.O.No: 648/PC/PL/MD/IT/2024-25, Dt. 11-11-2024

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED
Tender Notice No.02/2024-25 (Paper Notification).
TSPDCL intends to float tender is invited from various contractors having experiences for (Spec.No.02) Extension of additional load of 35KW to existing 3Ph LT Cat-II of SC No. 1414 27 17614 existing load of 20KW making total load of 55KW to THE SENIOR DIVISIONAL MANAGER at South Central Railways, Malkajgiri in Vasanthapur Section of Malkajgiri Sub-Division in Sanikpur Division of Habsguda Circle under Capital Works. (General Category). For further details, please visit www.tssouthernpower.com.
Sd/- (MD,Anwar Pasha) Divisional Engineer, Operation, Sanikpur.
R.O. No: 648/PC/PL/MD/IT/2024-25, Dt. 11-11-2024



With her historic win, **Nikita Porwal** shines bright in an exclusive conversation with **The Pioneer**. As she prepares to represent India at the Miss World pageant, we present an intimate chat with the beauty queen, exploring the highs and lows of her remarkable journey

FROM GOOSEBUMPS TO GLORY: NIKITA PORWAL MAKES HISTORY!

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A ray of sunshine from Ujjain's sacred soil, Nikita Porwal illuminates the world with her radiant smile, razor-sharp intellect and artistic brilliance. This 24-year-old trailblazer has electrified the entertainment industry with her triple-threat talent—capturing audiences as a theatre sensation, TV anchor and soon a rising film star. She embodies the essence of Indian beauty, talent and resilience. Born to shine, Porwal has already scripted a remarkable journey, culminating in her coronation as Femina Miss India World 2024. With a degree in Performing Arts from the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, she has mesmerised audiences with powerhouse performances in over 60 plays and authored the critically acclaimed play *Krishna Leela*. Her transition to the silver screen has been equally impressive, landing the lead role in the internationally acclaimed film *Chambal Paar*. Now, as she prepares to take the global stage by storm at Miss World 2026, her mesmerising blend of beauty, brains and passion is poised to make India proud.

In an exclusive conversation with **The Pioneer**, our newly crowned Femina Miss India World 2024 delves into her incredible journey, from her humble beginnings to her triumphant win on the national stage.

As Nikita reflects on her historic win, her eyes sparkle with a mix of emotions—gratitude, humility and a sense of responsibility. Having emerged as the first representative from Madhya Pradesh to win the title in Femina Miss India's 60-year history, she shares her thoughts, with her voice filled with gratitude, on this milestone moment: "It's a dream come true, not just mine but for many young girls out there. I feel privileged and responsible to represent India on the international stage." Her journey to this milestone was marked by numerous challenges and self-discoveries. From navigating the complexities of the pageant world to overcoming personal doubts and fears, she had to dig deep to find the strength and resilience to persevere. She recounts to us, "The journey was transformative, dreamy and worth every minute. I experienced ups and downs, times of privilege and sacrifice, but I ensured my heart remained clean and my efforts were 100%. I trusted God's plan and gave my best to the process, as we can't control everything. The experience was divine and surreal and it still is."

Growing up in a traditional family, Nikita could have faced resistance in pursuing her dreams. However, her family's unwavering support proved to be a game-changer. "Honestly, I never had to convince my family, especially the men, as they always knew I was meant for creative spaces and bigger things in life. They believed in me even when I doubted myself. They are my biggest strength, and I feel blessed to have a supportive family," reveals our star of the day.

Nikita's roots in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, have played a significant role in shaping her identity and worldview. "Ujjain has shaped me into who I am today," she emphasises adding, "No matter how much I migrate, my roots remain in that city's soil. I believe holding onto one's roots is crucial to rising above; it makes you unique, authentic and the best version of yourself." "Authenticity and



staying rooted in my culture have made me stand apart," she explains. "I'm open to change and new learnings but remain true to my core. I'm a blend of rootedness and progressiveness, which makes me my best self." Just imagine the moment the crown was about to be placed on her head—goosebumps, butterflies in her stomach and a lot of emotions. "It was an overwhelming moment when Madhya Pradesh won the crown for the first time in Femina Miss India's 60-year history," she recalls. She had always wanted to give back to her people and country. "Seeing tears of happiness and pride in my mother's eyes, I now want to make Mother India proud too."

As Nikita Porwal prepares to wave the Indian flag at the Miss World pageant, she acknowledges the weight of responsibility that accompanies this great honour, pledging to uphold the country's values, showcase its diversity and bring pride to the nation.

"India isn't an easy country to represent, but it's beautiful, with diverse cultures and colors," she says. "Its unity in diversity makes it special. Hailing from the heart of India, Madhya Pradesh, I have India in my heart and soul, and I'll make this opportunity to represent our country on the world stage memorable."

Empowering women is Nikita Porwal's guiding principle, driven by her conviction that when women rise, entire communities thrive, and societal transformation begins, leading to a more equitable, just and prosperous world for all. "We have one life; why think twice before following our heart?" she emphasises. "Women have been suppressed for too long, unable to express their views. By following our hearts and giving 100% to our goals, we respect our lives and pay tribute to our mother ancestors who couldn't live their dreams."

Nikita Porwal prioritises her mental well-being through a multifaceted approach, combining a supportive network of loved ones, mentors and peers with self-care practices, mindfulness and physical exercise, to cultivate resilience, emotional balance, and overall wellness. "I stay connected to my mother and close ones; they shield me from outside noise and negativity," she shares.

Beyond her beauty queen title, Nikita Porwal nurtures a burning passion for acting, eager to explore diverse genres, from drama and comedy to action and social impact films, demonstrating her versatility and talent to a broader audience. "I've been acting in theatre all my life," she reveals. "It keeps me moving and I'm eager to explore opportunities in films."

As our conversation comes to a close, it's evident that Nikita Porwal is more than just a beauty queen—she's a shining star, armed with talent, resilience, and a heart full of gratitude. As she embarks on her journey to Miss World 2026, India's hopes rest on her shoulders, and we can't help but feel proud to call her our own. Nikita Porwal's historic win as Femina Miss India World 2024 has etched her name in the annals of Indian pageant history, paving the way for future generations of aspiring beauty queens from Madhya Pradesh. As she represents India at Miss World 2026, her legacy extends beyond the crown, empowering women, promoting cultural diversity, and cementing her status as a shining star in the entertainment industry. With her remarkable talent, captivating beauty, and unwavering dedication to social causes, she embodies the very spirit of Indian pride, ensuring that India's voice is heard, celebrated and revered on the global stage.

Unplugged with a rockstar with botanist's soul

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The music of the *Indian Ocean* is a sonic journey where traditional customs and modern perceptions meet. With its captivating fusion of rock, folk and Indian classical tunes, this legendary rock band has enthralled audiences all over the world. We present our upcoming exclusive interview with the *Indian Ocean*, a band that inspires a new generation of music lovers with their genre-defying sound! Because they also share a unique bond with the thriving music scene in Hyderabad. With several performances last night, the band captivated the city's audiences. Their intriguing fusion of Indian classical, rock and folk music has struck a deep chord with Hyderabad's music enthusiasts, who have embraced them.

"Every band member has different musical tastes that have been influenced by the different genres we were exposed to as children. We were not constrained by the conventional divisions of various musical schools because we were self-taught musicians. We were able to create the distinctive sound that characterises the *Indian Ocean* thanks to this flexibility," an excited Rahul Ram shared.

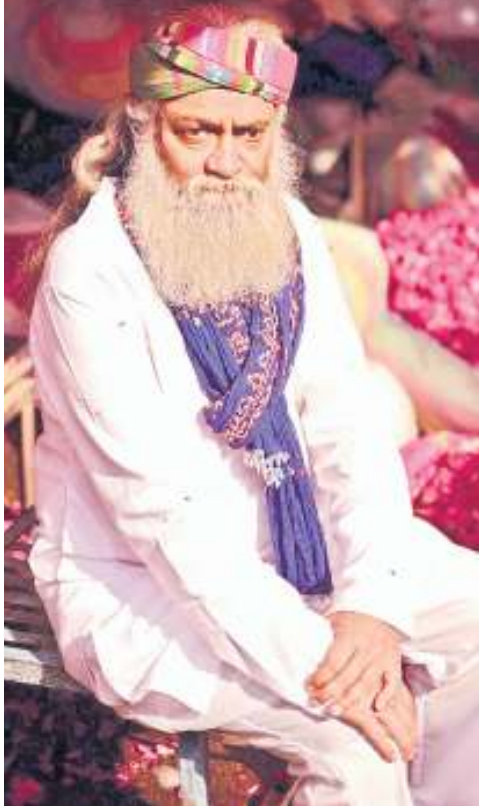
Many people consider the *Indian Ocean* to be the forerunner of the Fusion Rock movement in India. The band's first album, *Indian Ocean*, featured Rahul Ram as the sole founder member when Sumit Sen left in 2013! On numerous albums, Sanjeev Sharma has worked with them as a lyricist. "Younger fans are encouraged to listen to our music live. They occasionally think we're 'old guys' doing music from a previous period. But after listening to our music, people frequently have a strong connection to it and explore both our earlier and more recent pieces, such as those in *Masaan*. The fact that the music we make appeals to listeners of all ages is immensely satisfying! We just pursue our distinct artistic trajectories without intentionally attempting to appeal to any specific demographic," reveals the famous bass guitarist, social activist and music composer.

He joined the musical group *Indian Ocean* in 1991 and plays bass guitar for them. Along with Varun Grover and Sanjay Rajoura, he is also one of the three members of 'Aisi Taisi Democracy'! He explains, "*Tu Hai* took a long time to develop. It was ready by late 2019 but wasn't released until 2023. Despite the delay caused by the pandemic, the album's production got underway soon after *Tandanu* in 2014. We recorded in studios in Bombay and Delhi, working with musicians like Vikuiji and George Brooks. The final song to be finalised was *Tu Hai*, the title track. Songs like *Jadoo Maya* and *Iss Tan Dhan Ki*, where we adapted Kabir's lyrics to condemn thoughtless consumerism, are two examples of how the album reflects the effects of global climate change. *Rebirth*, which was coined before the epidemic, acquired new significance when it happened and now represents optimism for environmental restoration."

With Rahul and Himanshu Joshi contributing to the title track, *Tu Hai* represents the first time *Indian Ocean* wrote its own lyrics. Even if their music has changed, they are still rooted in their heritage. Because of their consistent musical identity, listeners identify with the same band in both *Tu Hai* and *Kandisa*.

"The band flourishes when they perform live. Our

Fresh from their mesmerising performances in Hyderabad, The Pioneer sits down with Rahul Ram, the iconic bass guitarist and social activist, to delve into the band's remarkable journey, creative process and the enduring power of music



passion is fuelled by the thrilling atmosphere created by the energy exchange with the audience. We think that live music can engage audiences more deeply," he quickly adds. The musical style of the band can be best classified as jazz fusion. It is an experimental genre, fusing raga (traditional Indian tunes) with rock music, guitars and drums, sometimes using Indian folk songs. It has also been described by some music critics as "Indo-rock fusion with jazz-spiced rhythms that integrates shlokas, sufism, environmentalism, mythology and revolution."

Our lyrics are written by several great people. A renowned philosopher, Sanjeev Sharma composed songs such as *Bhor*, *Kaun* and *Kya Maloom*. Sant Kabir Das' poetry has been included; Varun Grover contributed to *Masaan* and Piyush Mishra contributed to the *Black Friday* soundtrack. Ballads that delve into spiritual issues and go beyond typical love ballads appeal to us!" he adds. Rahul, the son of renowned

botanist Professor H.Y. Mohan Ram, was born into a Kannadiga household. He is the nephew of the late H. Y. Sharada Prasad, who was most famous for serving as Indira Gandhi's media adviser. "*Tandanu* was our first deliberate attempt at working together. It seemed like a logical step, particularly after Sushmit left. Fortunately, all of the musicians we approached agreed to work together. There are many amazing musicians in India, and we have a long list of potential future partnerships," Rahul's unexpected educational credentials, obtained at some of the best universities in India and the USA, are noteworthy given that he eventually joined a rock band as a guitarist. It was his doctoral studies in environmental toxicology that inspired him to join the *Narmada Bachao Andolan* (1990–95) as an activist. Immediately after receiving his degree from Cornell, he spent five years of his life working for that activist group!

"With an increase in new venues, musicians and platforms, India's indie music scene is flourishing. Even if anybody can share music in the digital era, creating a huge amount of content, genuine talent and a little bit of luck will always win out. We expect that India's first international independent star will emerge within the next ten years." Oh, that is a bold assertion and we hope it comes true. The band has been defying record labels' expectations since 2010. They gave out their most recent album, *16/330 Khajoor Road*, online. Frustration over contract negotiations with record corporations and copyright disputes was the primary driver behind this move! To make money instead of playing for record labels, they have resorted to concerts and sponsorships. They were sponsored for a short time by Johnnie Walker! "We are here because of our fans. Any musician who says they make music just for themselves isn't telling the whole truth. Having seen the transition from email lists in the 1990s to the current social media environment, we cherish the relationships we have with our followers. We prioritise quality over quantity, even though social media demands regular engagement. Instead of posting just to be current, we would rather provide stuff that has a purpose. Our 'Artist Verse' foray into the metaverse is an intriguing investigation into fresh approaches to fan interaction. We see it as reciprocal, providing a more in-depth look at our lives and music," he discusses the same context.

He asserts that social issues like caste discrimination, gender inequality and climate change are urgent issues that require attention. This band is an example of how music can provide comfort and a sense of community, assisting people in overcoming these difficulties and depressive and alienating feelings. "As musicians, we've developed our technique and grown up. Even though we value all of our work, some songs—like *Tandanu's* *Longing*—are harder to perform live. Songs like *Kandisa* and *Bandeh* have become quite popular, but others like *Bhor* and *Kya Maloom* are more popular with a certain demographic. Every record has a special meaning that adds to our development and awareness. The road to success in music is not predetermined. Authenticity, commitment and hard work are essential. Don't compromise your artistic vision or follow trends. Never lose faith in yourself, but be ready for obstacles and disappointments. Remain loyal to your principles, have faith in your gut and keep in mind that success takes time." And that's a wrap!

Golden years with healthy gums

Ageing is like a blooming tree; it grows stronger and more beautiful each passing season. This saying highlights the positive aspects of growing older, but it's important to remember that our bodies, including our oral health, change as we age. Just as nature needs care and nourishment, our gums too require special attention in our later years. Gum disease affects about 45–50% of adults, rising to over 60% in older adults aged 65 or above. People with certain health conditions may be more likely to develop gum disease. Gum disease is not a mere consequence of aging but induced by dental biofilm and therefore proper oral health care can prevent its occurrence to keep our smiles healthy and bright. Older individuals often face various health issues, including gum problems that become more prevalent with age due to reduced saliva production, medication side effects and cumulative wear on teeth. The elderly who are on certain medications experience oral health discomforts such as dry mouth which make them susceptible to gum disease. Additionally, those suffering from systemic disorders (diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, rheumatoid arthritis) interrupt the inflammatory responses of the body, making them prone to oral health abnormalities. Certain changes occur slowly over time in our bodies as we age and the immune system can become weaker, so infection can occur more quickly, and healing takes longer. These changes affect tissue and bone in the mouth, which increases the risk for oral health problems in later years. Regular dental check-ups and diligent oral hygiene practices are crucial for preventing and managing gum problems in the elderly.

Are you identifying a gum disease?
Gum disease can be a silent threat to oral health, especially in older individuals and can become serious and lead to tooth decay and even tooth loss. Staying vigilant about certain warning signs is crucial for early detection and treatment. Here are some symptoms to look out for:

1. Persistent bad breath that lingers even after brushing
2. Swollen or puffy gums
3. Gums that bleed easily
4. Gums that feel tender when touched
5. Gums that pull away from your teeth
6. Loose teeth

Prevention

To prevent gum disease and tooth decay, older adults should focus on maintaining excellent oral hygiene. This includes brushing with a specialist gum care toothpaste twice daily, ideally containing Ayurvedic herbs, flossing daily and using an antiseptic mouthwash. Regular dental visits are crucial for early detection and treatment. A healthy diet rich in nutrients and low in sugar is key to maintaining good oral health. Avoiding tobacco products also helps prevent gum problems. If you suffer from dry mouth, there are several options to consider. You can try over-the-counter saliva substitutes or chew sugar-free gum to stimulate saliva production. For more severe cases, consult your healthcare provider about prescription options that may provide relief. Consistent care, a balanced lifestyle and professional dental attention are key to managing oral health effectively.



Choosing right tools

Our oral care requires tools that are both effective and gentle. Here's a line-up of essential products tailored for maintaining healthy gums and teeth in your golden years:

1. Soft-Bristled Toothbrush
2. Gum Care Toothpaste
3. Electric Toothbrush
4. Water Flosser
5. Interdental Brushes
6. Fluoride Toothpaste
7. Alcohol-Free Mouthwash
8. Denture Cleanser
9. Tongue Scraper

Ayurvedic Approach

In recent years, Ayurveda has emerged as a powerful ally in gum care, offering natural solutions for oral health. This ancient wisdom emphasises the use of herbal ingredients that not only clean but also nourish and heal. Consider incorporating a gum care toothpaste designed using Ayurvedic principles containing time-tested herbs like Triphala, Miswak, Neem and Pomegranate, known for their astringency and antimicrobial properties. Practice mindful brushing with gentle, circular motions, focusing on the gum line and adhering to the two-minute rule, twice daily for thorough cleaning. Finally, don't forget the importance of tongue scraping.

Comprehensive gum care: Nutrition and professional

The saying 'you are what you eat' holds profound truth for gum health. Antioxidant-rich foods like berries and leafy greens, along with vitamin C from citrus fruits, contribute to gum resilience. Omega-3 fatty acids, found in nuts, are beneficial for overall oral health. Strive for a colourful and varied diet to provide the essential nutrients for gum well-being. Regular dental check-ups remain a cornerstone of oral health, but the dentist's role extends beyond examinations. By combining a nutritious diet with regular professional care, you can ensure your gums stay healthy and strong.

Embracing holistic well-being

Understanding the link between oral health and overall well-being is crucial. Managing stress, staying active, and leading a balanced lifestyle not only enhance our smiles but also improve our quality of life as we age. By continually refining our oral care routines and adapting to age-related changes, we ensure our smiles reflect the joy, laughter and wisdom of our experiences.

(The author, Dipak Shah, is a research scientist, at Himalaya Wellness Company.)

what's brewing?



● Anika Khara



● Sushila Bokadia



● Padmini Nagulapalli



● Maheen Khan



● Shireen





● Janavi Bajaj



● Mittal



● Naushaba farooqui



● Zaara



● Namita

The grand launch of Cloud9 Luxury Salon took place at Banjara Hills, Hyderabad, with an exclusive ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by owner Maheen Khan and chief guest Mir Zulfegar Ali. The event drew attention from Hyderabad's elite, including prominent entrepreneurs, business leaders and socialites. Guests enjoyed luxurious salon tours, service demonstrations and a preview of the premium offerings.

PARTY

Photos by- SV Chary



THE HYDERABAD WELCOMES YOU TO
Nourish to Flourish
on making good inside-out





The FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO) on Monday, hosted the Nourish to Flourish session in Banjara Hills, featuring celebrity nutritionist Pooja Makhija and wellness entrepreneur Suparna Trikha. Makhija, known for transforming over 25,000 lives, emphasized the importance of loving food and not fearing it. Trikha, inspired by her family's rich legacy, shared insights on natural beauty and wellness. Both experts revealed their secrets to holistic health in this insightful one-and-a-half-hour session.



Fing Payments' Zonal Head for Telangana and AP, Mohammad Maxathullah, along with other company officials, announced the launch of the Gullak savings account at an event in Hyderabad. This new offering aims to provide accessible and secure savings options, designed to cater to the needs of individuals looking for convenient and easy banking solutions.






Axis Bank partnered with Adda247 to develop a skilled talent pipeline for roles in sales, relationship management and customer service. The collaboration will offer tailored learning experiences through its digital platforms, focusing on practical skills and job readiness for young aspirants, particularly in Tier 3 and Tier 4 cities.

The globally celebrated Candlelight Concerts by Live Your City announced its premiere in Hyderabad on November 15th, 2024 at the Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel, Banjara Hills. As the newest addition to its presence in over 150 global cities, the series launches with a stunning "Tribute to Coldplay." Watch as local musicians transform the band's iconic anthems into mesmerising symphonic arrangements, creating an unforgettable evening under the warm glow of candlelight in the City of Pearls




FUN


ARCHIE




GARFIELD




NANCY




GINGER MEGGS




CALVIN AND HOBBS



REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD

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19					

SUDOKU

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Yesterday's solution

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

Rules

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

DIFFICULTY RATINGS: ★★☆☆☆

ACROSS

- The first teenage year
- A neck warmer
- This makes bread rise
- Having a meal
- Expensive
- An heat injury
- An artist's workshop
- Precise
- Shave with this
- A sheep minder
- A ship's right-hand side
- Be ill or die from lack of food
- Get to
- Stunned and not able to think properly
- Halt

DOWN

- Easily burnt breakfast food
- Young child
- Things to play with
- Rub out
- Puts together from separate parts

SOLUTION

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‘WRITING A BIG STORY IS EASY, BUT MAKING IT IS CHALLENGING’

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Suriya is playing the lead in a high-budget period action movie *Kanguva*, which is directed by Siva. The film also stars Disha Patani and Bobby Deol in playing pivotal roles. The movie is hitting the screens on November 14 in all languages.

Interestingly, director Siva started his journey as director in Telugu first. “My journey in the Telugu film industry began as an assistant cameraman for the movie *Premante Idera*. Since childhood, I’ve been passionate about reading literature, which eventually led me to a love for writing. I’ve directed nine films so far and *Kanguva* is my tenth,” said Siva about his journey.

Siva earlier worked with Gnanavel in the production for the film *Siruthai*. Now, after a long break, he reunited with producer Gnanavel for *Kanguva*, now as director. “When I shared some of my scripts with him, he was highly impressed and asked me to narrate the story to Suriya. I told Suriya the script and he embraced me, saying it was excellent. He immediately agreed to be a part of the film and that’s how the journey of *Kanguva* began,” he said about *Kanguva*.

Suriya’s upcoming film *Kanguva* has been creating significant buzz. As the film is nearing its release, the film’s director Siva shares some interesting tidbits about the film, working with Suriya and more

For this, he revealed that he was working on this project for two and half years. They worked more on the pre-production, because they shot the film in 3D.

The director praises Suriya for his support, because there were times when they used to start shoot at 4 and 7 in the morning. “We shot in the hills and there was a lot of hill climbing involved. Suriya would join us on those climbs. On some days, 140 trucks would be used for shooting logistics,” said the director. Suriya is playing two different roles Kangu and Francis. Kangu, a period look, is a character from a thousand years ago, Francis, on the other hand, is a modern character, who can be controlled by certain elements.

“He is skilled in martial arts and also runs very well. His fitness played a significant role. At 50 years old, it’s not unusual for him to have a six-pack. He follows a strict diet and rigorous workout routine to maintain his physique,” said about

Suriya. Bobby Deol is playing the character of Udhiran, who is a ruthless character. Disha Patani is playing Angelina. “We aimed to present a new world to the audience,” he said. “Writing a big story is easy, but making it is challenging,” said the director.

“This film unfolds across two time periods. *Kanguva* is a hero from a thousand years ago. On the other hand, we also show the character of Francis in the present day. *Kanguva*, however, won’t have a partner in this movie, but he will be featured in a sequel, where Disha will play Francis’ partner,” said the director.

“*Kanguva* will feature a surprising guest role that will lead into the sequel. You’ll have to wait and see who plays that character on screen. I also have plans to work with every star actor in the Telugu film industry,” said the director.



‘In South, if someone vouches for you, it’s like getting endorsed’

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Rohit Pathak is renowned for his outstanding performances as Banne Singh in *Theeran*, *Bheeshma Parvam*, *Gyaarah Gyaarah* and now *Martin*, where his versatile and passionate acting shines through. His journey in the entertainment industry has been marked by creativity, dedication and a relentless pursuit of excellence. Known for his work across various regional cinemas, particularly in South Indian films, Rohit has carved a unique niche for himself with his nuanced performances and his ability to immerse himself into diverse roles. From his humble beginnings in theater to becoming a sought-after name in both regional and Hindi cinema, his evolution as an actor reflects his hard work and adaptability.

What truly sets Rohit apart is his natural ability to transform into the characters he portrays, bringing a distinct energy and depth to every role. His approach to acting goes beyond merely delivering lines; he dives into the core of his characters, understanding their emotions, motivations and complexities. Whether playing a challenging role in a gritty thriller or embodying a lighter, more playful character, Rohit’s performances are always captivating and unforgettable.

When asked about his journey into the industry and what exactly drew him towards acting, he shared, “Sometimes, it just happens without clarity. Not everyone is like that, but for me, I didn’t have a clear sense of which field I wanted to pursue. You just feel an interest toward something, but you don’t always know if it’s right or wrong. That interest grew so much that it eventually led me to this field. That’s when I decided to make a career out of it. I started with theater, and that’s where my acting career began.”

Regarding the most challenging and fulfilling roles he’s played, he said, “I actually want to play a variety of roles. When you have a strong passion for something, there’s nothing really challenging about it. I don’t think about acting as a job. The characters are on paper and all you need is the costume and make-up. If you understand the character and follow what the director has envisioned, the material will naturally come out. As for the most fulfilling role, I can’t choose one because each experience is unique. But I will say, the role of Banne Singh in the 2017 Tamil film *Theeran* was a turning point for me. It was a different character and I had a lot of fun playing it. That role really got me noticed in South cinema and the love from the audience helped me gain more work and opened up opportunities. That was a significant turning point in my life.”

When asked about his experiences working across different regional cinemas and Bollywood, he emphasised, “I don’t think we should call it ‘regional cinema.’ It’s all Indian cinema. Hindi is just a bigger medium, the ‘big brother,’ while the other languages are like younger brothers. I feel a lot of job satisfaction working in the South because the industry is very organised and there’s a sense of community. People from the same language and culture work together, and there’s a natural understanding among us. That’s one of the reasons South cinema is loved globally. In Hindi cinema, which is a larger platform, there are more complexities because you’re dealing with a huge audience. In the South, if someone recommends you, there’s trust, and you’re more likely to get a role.”

He went on to reflect on his experiences: “Hindi is definitely a bigger platform and recognition from Bollywood is essential for global visibility. But I’ve noticed that in the South, there’s more direct support. People are more likely to trust a recommendation. In Bollywood, it’s more about proving yourself first. I want to get into Bollywood eventually, but I also recognise the unique challenges that come

with such a large-scale industry. It’s like managing a country, you have to manage 140 crore people. It’s not as simple as managing a smaller household.”

Speaking about his preparation for his role in *Martin*, he recalled, “When I was working on *Martin*, I was juggling three films at once. One in Malayalam, one in Telugu and *Martin* in Bengaluru. I was traveling to different cities every day, which was exhausting. It got to a point where I felt mentally drained. But I realised that in such times, I needed to keep my mind calm. I was able to play three very different characters and the challenge was keeping them distinct from one another. Despite the exhaustion, I was proud to have pulled it off. The directors were happy with my performance, and I was grateful for the support.”

Asked about his dream roles, he humbly replied, “My career is just starting, so there’s no particular dream role yet. But I believe in working hard and performing with the same energy in every film, treating each one as if it’s my first. The roles will come naturally, and the audience will decide what I’m good at. I don’t focus on dream roles. I just do my best in whatever I’m given, and that’s what keeps me going.”

He also spoke about his influences: “I come from a non-film background. My family didn’t have any connection to the film industry. People saw my confidence and suggested I try modeling. I didn’t know anything about acting or theater at the time. When I first heard about theater, I thought it was about watching movies in theaters, not performing. But when I joined a professional theater group, I realised it was about performing on stage. My journey started with that, and I was inspired by the films and actors I admired in my youth. There was a group of us who would watch every movie, even if it was a flop. The actors who stood out to me were the ones who made an impact, and I wanted to do the same.”

In an intimate and exclusive chat, Rohit Pathak, takes *The Pioneer* through behind the scenes of his most iconic roles, revealing the dedication and craft that have made him a beloved figure in Indian cinema



Telugu actors prefer North India for film promotions



The other day Telugu superstar Ram Charan was promoting his upcoming film *Game Changer* in Lucknow, capital of Uttar Pradesh. He released the teaser of his film in Lucknow to great fanfare! Now, his cousin and another superstar Allu Arjun has also decided to promote his upcoming film *Pushpa 2* in Patna, capital city of Bihar. It seems, Telugu actors wanted to go to North for their film promotions as most of the films are released in Hindi.

Directed by Sukumar, *Pushpa 2* is one of the most-awaited films. The first part *Pushpa: The Rise* was actually extraordinary in Hindi belt, so the makers now wanted to promote the sequel *Pushpa 2: The Rule* in Hindi belt more. The film is releasing on December 5 and the makers are starting the promotions on November 17, with a grand event in Patna, the capital city of Bihar.

Major promotional events are scheduled in cities such as Patna, Kolkata, Chennai, Kochi, Bengaluru, Mumbai and Hyderabad. As part of this, the massive trailer launch for *Pushpa-2: The Rule* will be held in Patna on November 17 in a grand event, marking it as a major milestone in Indian cinema’s promotional history.

Currently, the film is in its final stages of production, with post-production efforts happening simultaneously. Rashmika Mandanna is playing the female lead and she became a National Crush with the *Pushpa* part one and now she is there in the sequel too. Malayalam star Fahadh Fasil is playing the villain in this film.



Ananya Nagalla onboards *SDT18*

On Monday, the makers of Sai Dharam Tej’s next film had announced that actress Ananya Nagalla has joined the cast. Primeshow Entertainment took to their social media and wrote, “A multi-talented actress who effortlessly transitions between diverse roles.”

Meanwhile, the lead actor Sai Dharam Tej, had also welcomed Ananya as ‘Bundle of Talent’. Ajaneesh Loknath is the film’s music director and also stars Aishwarya Lekshmi. Touted to be a high-octane, period-action drama, the film will be released in Telugu, Tamil, Hindi, Kannada and Malayalam.

Ananya’s latest release was *Pottel*, where she was seen playing the lead actress.

Sai Pallavi recalls her ‘sleepless nights, endless tears’ on *Shyam Singha Roy*

Actress Sai Pallavi is currently enjoying the massive success of her latest project *Amaran*, an action war film. Currently, she is also working on two projects simultaneously: Chandoo Mondeti’s *Thandel*, featuring Naga Chaitanya Akkineni as well and Nitesh Tiwari’s two-part epic mythological film *Ramayana*, wherein she will make her Bollywood debut as Sita opposite Ranbir Kapoor’s Ram.

Amongst several critically and commercially acclaimed films, director Rahul Sankrityan’s period romantic drama, *Shyam Singha Roy*, got her widespread recognition. Though the film did not receive the level of success the makers had expected, Pallavi’s portrayal of the devadasi Maithreyi alias Rosie was widely praised. Well, not to forget, her chemistry with Nani too.

Pallavi revealed how she often functioned on minimal sleep and how the producer responded when she brought up the issue. Sai Pallavi explained that since most of the scenes were filmed at night for almost 30 straight days, she frequently found herself working with minimal sleep.

“While shooting for *Shyam Singha Roy*, I would have been happy just to finish the shoot for the day. Most of our scenes were shot at night and I’m not fond of night shoots. I’m someone who can’t sleep during the day. So, imagine being awake all night, only to be awake again the next day. This wasn’t just for a day or two, but it went on for almost 30 days. I remember crying at one point and thinking to myself, ‘I want to act in films, but I just wish I



could get one day off.’ I never told anyone about it, but my younger sister saw me crying and went straight to the producer, saying, ‘She is crying and she just wants one day off.’

Creative Director Krish Jagarlamudi weds Dr Priti Challa

In an intimate and heartfelt registered marriage, creative director Krish Jagarlamudi and Dr. Priti Challa celebrated their union surrounded by close family members. Priti looked stunning in a traditional Paithani saree, its vibrant colors and intricate motifs accentuating her elegance and timeless beauty. The understated ceremony beautifully reflected their shared values, with simplicity and love at the heart of every moment. Priti’s graceful presence and the couple’s radiant smiles made the occasion truly special, marking the beginning of their journey together in the most meaningful way.

Director Krish Jagarlamudi, celebrated for his storytelling genius and his ability to bring powerful narratives to life, exuded warmth and joy on his special day. Known for his critically acclaimed films, Krish has long been admired for his thoughtful approach to cinema, blending history and emotion with cinematic finesse. On this day, however, it was his personal story with Dr. Priti Challa that took center stage—an inspiring union symbolising love, respect, and shared dreams.

Their marriage marks a new chapter for the filmmaker, one filled with as much promise and beauty as the stories he masterfully crafts on screen.



Bumrah to lead, Rahul likely to open in Perth: Gambhir

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Head coach Gautam Gambhir on Monday said Jasprit Bumrah, as designated vice-captain, will lead India in the opening Test against Australia in Perth if regular skipper Rohit Sharma is unavailable for the game due to personal reasons. The straight-talking former opener also indicated that KL Rahul could be asked to open the innings in place of Rohit. The second batch of the Indian players is leaving for Perth, but Rohit has stayed back. Uncertainty remains if Rohit will compete in the series-opener. "At the moment, there is no confirmation. We will let you know exactly what the situation will be. Hopefully, he is going to be available, but everything you want to know, you will get to know before the start of the series," Gambhir said. "Bumrah is the vice-captain, so obviously If Rohit is not available, he is going to lead in Perth," the coach added. Rahul likely to open Rohit's possible absence also leaves a spot vacant at the top of the batting order and Gambhir said one among the uncapped

Abhimanyu Easwaran and KL Rahul, who both played in the unofficial Tests against Australia A for India A, will be picked. "Obviously, there is Easwaran, there is KL there. We will take a call closer to the first Test match if Rohit is not available. "There are options. There are quite a lot of options in this spot. Once it gets closer to the first Test match, we will try and play the best playing XI who is going to do the job for us," he added. However he gave enough indications that Rahul's experience might prevail over rookie Easwaran's current form. "There are times when you go with the experienced players as well and that is the quality of the man. He (Rahul) can actually bat at the top of the order, he can bat at number 3 and at number 6 as well," said the former southpaw. "So you need quite a lot of talent to be doing these kind of jobs as well and he has kept wickets in One-day format as well. So imagine how many countries have players like KL who can actually open the batting and can bat at number 6 as well?"



"So I feel that if needed be, I think he (Rahul) can do the job for us, especially if Rohit is not available for the first Test

match," Gambhir said. Team moving forward, coach hints on Shardul non-selection The coach backed uncapped

all-rounder Nitish Reddy, who has a batting average of 21 in first-class cricket, and was picked ahead of veteran pace

bowling all-rounder Shardul Thakur. "It is also about moving forward and I feel that this is the best set of players that

we have selected to do the job for the country," Gambhir said. Indicating that doors are closed on Shardul for the time being, Shardul was one of India's heroes at the Gabba with handful of wickets and a half-century. He has been seamer all-rounder in SENA countries. "We have picked the best squad who can do the job for us. Nitish Reddy, we all know that how incredibly talented he is and if given an option, he will deliver for us," Gambhir said. Why Harshit Rana wasn't sent for A tour? Rana was not sent with the India A squad for the unofficial 'Tests' in Australia to be ready for the BGT series but Gambhir said the management did not want to add to his workload by getting him to play First-Class games. "He had played a first-class game against Assam and he did reasonably well (took five-for and scored half-century). We all thought that he has had enough bowling under his belt rather than just sending and playing him another first-class game," Gambhir said. "For us, it is important for a fast bowler to be fresh as well. It is going to be a long tour, it is going to be a five-Test match

series. The bowling coach, the physios and the trainers thought that he has had enough under his belt and that was one of the reasons," he added. While there is no Mohammed Shami and tremendous pressure on Jasprit Bumrah to carry the pace bowling load, Gambhir feels that the attack is potent even with three inexperienced speedsters in Rana, Prasidh Krishna and Akash Deep. "We have got quality. We have got tall guys who can hit the deck like Prasidh and Harshit. All five guys have different skill sets. That makes our fast bowling attack very potent." 10 days of training good enough Gambhir, who will be travelling with the second batch of Indian squad on Monday, said adjusting to conditions in Australia over the next 10 days will be vital for the team. "We have got a lot of experienced players who have been to Australia a lot of times. Their experience will come in handy for the young players as well. These 10 days are going to be very crucial but come 22nd morning, we should be absolutely ready to fire from ball one," he said.



Ponting should be concerned about Australian cricket, not India's: Gambhir

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Head coach Gautam Gambhir on Monday fired a shot back at Ricky Ponting for questioning Virat Kohli's form and place in Indian team, saying the Australian legend should only be concerned about cricket in his country. Ponting had recently said Kohli's form is a concern, given the Indian batter has scored only two Test centuries in last five years but also felt that the Indian legend has it in him to roar back to form and there is no better place than Australia to do so. "What does Ponting have to do with Indian cricket? I think he should think about Australian cricket. More importantly, I have got no concerns whatsoever for Virat and Rohit," Gambhir said during an interaction with media before leaving for Australia. Kohli has just one fifty this year - 70 against Bangladesh in Kanpur Test - while his last Test century came in July 2023 against the West Indies. Someone, who averaged above 50 in Test cricket from 2016 to 2019, Kohli has managed only 1838 runs from 34 Tests at an

average of 31.68, with two centuries since then. In 2024, the 36-year-old averaged only 22.72 in six matches, the lowest in his career. Speaking in a recent episode of the ICC Review, Ponting said if it was not for Kohli, surviving in Test cricket was tough with such a dismal record. "I saw a stat the other day about Virat, it said he's only scored two (three) Test hundreds in the last five years. That didn't seem right to me, but if that is right, then that is, I mean, that's a concern," Ponting said. "There wouldn't be anyone else probably even playing international cricket as a top-order batsman that's only scored two Test match hundreds in five years." "I've said it before about Virat, you don't ever question the greats of the game. There's no doubt, he's a great of the game. He loves playing against Australia. In fact, I know he loves playing against Australia. And as I said, his record (in Australia) is very good. If there's a time for him to turn it around, it'd be this series. "So I wouldn't be surprised to see Virat make runs in the first

game." When asked if the form of the two Indian senior batters Kohli and captain Rohit Sharma, who scored 93 and 91 runs respectively in the team's 0-3 loss to New Zealand, is a concern, Gambhir said, "Not at all." "They are incredibly tough men, they have achieved a lot for Indian cricket and they will continue to achieve a lot in future as well. "For me, the most important thing is that they still work really hard and they are still passionate, they still want to achieve a lot more and that is something which is very important," he added. Gambhir said the hunger to do well is "incredibly important" for the Indian team especially after the loss to the Kiwis. "The hunger in that dressing room is incredibly important for me and for the entire group of people as well and especially after what has happened in the last series," he said. Indian batters were collectively exposed by New Zealand on a seaming track in Bengaluru in the first Test and spin-friendly pitches for the last two Tests at Pune and Mumbai.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former England captain Michael Vaughan says he 'won't be surprised' if retired pacer Jimmy Anderson ends up at Chennai Super Kings as the former champions prefer a fast bowler who can swing the ball. The 42-year-old Anderson, who retired from Test cricket earlier this year, surprised everyone by registering himself for the IPL for the first time. "You mention James Anderson, I would not be surprised if Jimmy Anderson ends up at Chennai Super Kings," Vaughan said on the 'Club Prairie Fire Podcast' which also featured former Australian great Adam Gilchrist. "They are a team that like someone who can swing it inside the first few overs. They have always had a swinger, whether it is Shardul Thakur or



someone else. It would not surprise me if Jimmy Anderson ends up at Chennai," Vaughan added. The veteran pacer, who last played a T20 10 years ago in 2014, has never competed in a global franchise T20

league, prioritising red-ball cricket. He has a base price of Rs 1.25 crore for the mega auction. Asked about the decision, the veteran pacer said he has listed himself for the auction to enhance his knowledge

about the game. "There is still definitely something in me that thinks like I can still play. I have never done the IPL; I have never experienced it and I think for a number of reasons I feel like I have more to give as a player," Anderson had said on a BBC Radio podcast last week. "I have done a little bit of coaching since I have finished in the summer. I have been around the England team doing a bit of mentoring or whatever you like to call it," he said. "I just think opening my eyes to something like that and experiencing it, sort of might help me grow my knowledge of the game and help further down the line," Anderson had said. Over 1500 players have registered for the IPL mega auction, slated to take place on November 24 and 25 in Jeddah.

Shooters Aishwary, Samra disappoint as little-known Rameshbhai clinches silver

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Leading Indian rifle shooters Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar and Sift Kaur Samra failed to make an impact even as little-known Smit Rameshbhai Moradiya clinched the men's 10m air rifle silver after an extremely close fight for gold in the World University Shooting Championship here on Monday. On a day when Rameshbhai was the only Indian to win a medal, his more illustrious counterpart, Olympian Tomar finished fifth in the event, while Samra, a member of the Paris Games contingent, ended at fourth in the women's 50m rifle three-positions event. Rameshbhai, who hails from Gujarat, missed the gold medal to Czech Republic's Jiri Privratsky by just 0.1 point, scoring 252.1 in the final. It was a grand double for Privratsky, who shot 252.2 to claim the top-podium finish and add to the men's 50m rifle three-positions gold he won on Sunday. The 23-year-old Privratsky had recently clinched a silver (50m rifle 3-positions) and bronze (10m air



rifle) in the year-ending ISSF World Cup Final held at the Karni Singh Range here last month. Tomar shot 187.7 for a fifth-place finish, while

another Indian, Umamahesh Maddineni (208.8), finished fourth. Earlier, in the qualification round, Rameshbhai shot 630.0 to enter the eight-shooter final in second place. Umamahesh and Tomar shot 629.8 and 628.3 to enter the final in third and fifth place respectively. Samra, one of the best 50m rifle exponents in the country, was a big disappointment, finishing fourth with 439.6. France's Agathe Girard (462.3) won the gold medal, while Poland's Julia Piotrowska (462.0) and Anna Janssen (450.2) clinched the silver and bronze respectively. Samra had earlier secured a place in the eight-shooter final at seventh in the qualification round with a score of 587. India have so far won nine medals, including a gold struck by the 10m air pistol mixed team of Palak Gulia and Amit Sharma on Sunday. As many as 220 shooters from across 23 countries are competing in the championship. The event is being hosted by Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies.

Last three years were tough, changed everything about my bowling: Chakaravarthy

PTI ■ GOEBERHA

Mystery spinner Varun Chakaravarthy has described the three-year gap from international cricket as "tough," saying he had to completely overhaul his bowling after finding that his orthodox side-spin wasn't working at higher levels. The 33-year-old recorded his career-best figures of 5 for 17 in Sunday's second T20I against South Africa, though his efforts could not prevent India from losing by three wickets. "I had to go to the drawing board and check out all my videos. I figured out that I was bowling side spin and it was not working out in the higher levels," he told Jio Cinema. "I had to change everything about my bowling. It took me two years and I started bowling in the local leagues and IPL also. It worked there and I have started bowling it in the international stage and it's working out for me." While side spin creates enough revolutions to make the ball drift sideways, over-spin generates a

sharp bounce and turn. Talking about what worked for him as he added a fifer on Sunday to the three wickets he scalped in the first T20I in Durban, Chakaravarthy said: "It is a combination of both my consistency and overspin. "The overspin I bowl has more bite from the pitch and hopefully I can keep doing that and hopefully I can keep contributing for the country." Chakaravarthy was axed from the Indian team after going wicketless during the 2021 World Cup but he earned his place back after his exploits in the last two editions of the IPL. He snapped 20 wickets in IPL 2023 before finishing as the second highest wicket-taker this year. "Definitely, the last three years were a little tough," Chakaravarthy told media after the match. "The only thing I could do was play lots of cricket. And I started playing a lot of the domestic league (TNPL) in India. And that definitely helped me understand my game better. And that's what helped me."



Chakaravarthy was part of the Kolkata Knight Riders' IPL-winning team this year under Gambhir, who recently took over as the coach of the Indian team and he credited the role clarity provided by the coach for helping him to regain his lost form. "Yes, we played the Bangladesh tour and he was coaching the team. And definitely we spoke a lot and he gave me a lot of role clarity. "He told me, even if you go for 30-40 runs, it doesn't matter. All you have to look is to pick wickets. So that's your role in the team. The clarity which they gave definitely helped me." Chakaravarthy's match-changing spell reduced South Africa to 66 for 6 while chasing a modest target of 125, but a gritty partnership between Tristan Stubbs (47) and Gerald Coetzee (19) saw the hosts home in 19 overs, ending India's 11-match winning streak. "During the innings break, Surya (skipper Suryakumar Yadav) came and told us that let's not think about the result and let's just go all out. And that's what we tried to do.

We did our best and we could have pulled it off. "Obviously, the mindset has to be aggressive when the score is low. You have to pick wickets and that's when we can win the match. That has to be my approach in the next two games also because it's going to be a do-or-die match for us," he said. The spinner added that performing against a formidable team like South Africa would serve as a confidence booster heading into the remaining matches. "Definitely, when we came to South Africa, we knew that it's going to be a challenging tour because the Proteas, they are one of the best teams right now and they have a powerful batting lineup. "Doing well against them definitely gives me motivation to do more better and definitely I can. Hopefully I can do well in the upcoming games." India will face South Africa in the third and final T20Is on Wednesday and Friday at Centurion and Johannesburg, respectively.

