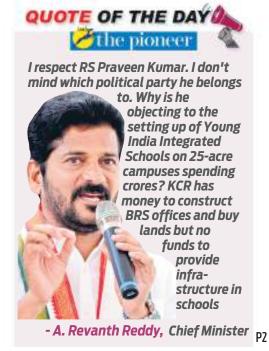
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REGULATION, CARBON TAX UNFAIR: GOYAL

Sreenu Vaitla's Viswam: A comedy routine that ITS SPO



GHMC to instal smart poles ...

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) will be installing smart poles in the city for giving more services to the citizens. A source from the GHMC said that for installing each pole, it would cost around Rs 10 lakh. This project would be taken up in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. As a pilot project, around 100 poles would be installed at the Secretariat, Ameerpet ...

Indiramma govt working for ...

Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy on Friday asserted that the government is working diligently for the benefit of the poor. He emphasised that the Indiramma government has prioritised education and healthcare. On Friday, he laid the foundation stone for a new Young Integrated school at Ponnekal under Khammam rural mandal Speaking on the occasion, the Minister highlighted ...

Sebi orders probe into Trafiksol IPO...

Markets regulator Sebi on Friday decided to conduct a detailed investigation into the disclosures made by SME firm Trafiksol ITS Technologies Ltd in its draft IPO documents and instructed BSE company's share listing. In its interim order, Sebi has asked BSE to ensure that the IPO proceeds are kept in an interest-bearing escrow account, with no access allowed to Trafiksol or its affiliates until further notice. The Sebi's investigation will be ...

India eye series sweep, with runs...

Despite its inconsequential nature, India will be eagerly pursuing the twin goals of a series sweep and monitoring the progress of impressive second-line players during the third and final T20 against Bangladesh here on Saturday India have already bagged the series 2-0 after wins at Gwalior and New Delhi. This Indian bunch under Gautam Gambhir has shown an insatiable hunger for victory, and doubters can glance back at its resultoriented approach during the rainmarred Kanpur Test..

Happy Dasara and vendors a happy Dasara. May this Dasara be a harbinger of peace, health, prosperity of the pioneer will remain (12-10-2024) on account of the festival and there will be no issue of the paper on Sunday

GO issued for comprehensive caste census

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has issued directions to conduct a comprehensive caste census. The GO MS: 18 order states that a detailed house-to-house survey will be conducted across the state to assess the social, economic, educational, employment, political and caste-related

īssues. The responsibility to conduct this survey has been given to the Planning Department. Secretary Shanti Kumari said in the order that the information to provide a within 60 days.

holistic view of the state's socio-economic condi-

(13-10-2024)

- Resident Editor

The government has mandated that the survey should be completed within 60 days

In addition to this, a single-member commission has been appointed to study SC categorisation. Retired High Court Judge Shamim Akhtar has been named the head of the commission.

This commission will focus on assessing the backwardness of SCs on a sub-caste basis. The state has instructed the commissurvey aims to gather sion to submit its findings

KCR shut down 5,000 govt schools, divided students: CM

'Cong govt wants to provide quality education to everyone'

- KCR constructed offices for BRS but not school
- There was unrest among teachers due to the sence of transfers and promotions
- All young India Integrated Residential will have a campus of 25 acres, grounds for sports

PNS HYDERABAD

Pointing out that former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao 'divided' students based on their castes by setting up separate SC, ST, BC and Minority residential schools, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said the BRS government closed down 5,000 government schools resulting in rural students finding it difficult to get educated.

The CM said the KCR government did not construct proper buildings for 1,023 residential schools and that KCR did not care for poor students, government schools, hostels and residential schools. However, KCR constructed office buildings for the BRS in 33 districts, the CM said.

The CM asked KCR to reveal whether he had ever thought about providing jobs to educated students. KCR thought that the poor should live rearing buffaloes, sheep and fish, the CM said.

Laying the foundation stone for the Young India Integrated Residential School in Kondurg in Shadnagar in Rangareddy district on Friday,



The CM asked KCR to reveal whether he had ever thought about providing jobs to educated students. KCR thought that the poor should live rearing buffaloes, sheep and fish, the CM said

got no seats in the Lok Sabha elections the leaders of the BRS did not change their attitude.

The CM said that there was unrest among teachers due to the absence of transfers and promotions.

Half-brother Noel to succeed Ratan Tata as Chairman of Tata Trusts

Noel Tata, half-brother of legendary industrialist late Ratan Tata, will be the new head of Tata Trusts -- a collective of charities that indirectly controls the US\$ 165-billion salt-to-soft-

Noel Tata has been appointed as Chairman of all the trusts that constitute the Tata Trusts and also designated Chairman, Tata Trusts, Tata Trusts said in a a statement.

The trustees of various trusts that comprise the Tata Trusts met at a joint meeting in Mumbai on Friday and condoled the demise of Ratan Tata, Chairman, Tata Trusts, and "recalled his yeoman services not only to the Tata Group but also to nation building", it said.

"In separate meetings held immediately, thereafter, it was unanimously decided to appoint Mr. Noel Naval Tata as the Chairman the various Trusts that constitute the Tata Trusts and also designate him as Chairman,

Tata Trusts," the statement said

His appointment is effective immediately, it added. On his appointment, Noel Tata said, "I look forward to carrying on the legacy of Mr Ratan N Tata and the Founders of the Tata Group Founded more than a century ago, the Tata Trusts are a unique vehicle for undertaking social good."

He further said, "On this solemn occasion, we rededicate ourselves to carrying on our developmental and philanthropic initiatives and continuing to play our part in nation The 67-year-old Noel was

chosen by the board to lead the string of philanthropic trusts that control the Tata empire.

Continued on Page 5



Panels to implement Indiramma housing scheme in 16

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Government has initiated the formation of committees at both the Gram Panchayat and Municipal Ward levels for effectively implementing the Indiramma Indlu housing scheme.

This comes after the government announced the commencement of the programme which provides an assistance of Rs 5 lakh to house-

Nobel Peace Prize given to Japanese organisation Nihon Hidankyo for its work against n-weapons

he Nobel Peace Prize was awarded Friday to Nihon Hidankyo, a Japanese organisation of survivors of the US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, for its activism against nuclear weapons.

gen Watne Frydnes, chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee,

said the award was made as the "taboo against the use of nuclear weapons is under pressure."
Last month, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a shift in his country's nuclear doctrine, in a move aimed at discouraging the West from allowing Ukraine to strike Russia with longerrange weapons. It appeared to significantly lower the threshold for the possible use of Russia's nuclear arsenal.

Watne Frydnes said the Nobel committee

"wishes to honour all survivors who, despite physical suffering and painful memories, have chosen to use their costly experience to cultivate hope and engagement for peace."

ED to probe GST scam involving TG officials, fake invoices

PNS HYDERABAD

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has reportedly launched an investigation into an alleged GST scam that took place during the BRS government's tenure in Telangana. The ED filed an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR).

The scam, which involves fraudulent GST payments amounting to investigated.

Rs 46 crore, caught the attention of the ED authorities. The ED looked into the case and claims to have uncovered irregularities regarding Input Tax Credit (ITC), IGST and cess payments.

It may be mentioned here that officials of the Commercial Taxes Department have been reportedly named in this case which is being investigated. **Continued on Page 5** Some more BRS leaders will join Cong soon: Mahesh PNS HYDERABAD

the Congress soon, TPCC President B. Mahesh Kumar Goud said. He said that already some

BRS leaders have joined the Congress and that they are joining the Congress drawn by the party's ideology and policies.

Addressing journalists on Friday at the Gandhi Bhavan here, Some more BRS leaders will join Mahesh said that BRS MLC proof enough to conclude that the BRS and

the BJP are one. "Why didn't AAP leader Manish Sisodia get bail in the same case?" he said.

BJP has been 'looting the poor' for the last 10 years and that the BJP has no moral right to speak about Kavitha getting bail is the poor as the BJP has been troubling the poor by increasing the prices of essentials.

Mahesh said the Congress government aims to clean up the waste in the Musi so that the poor do not face difficulties. The BRS and the BJP 'have a secret understanding' and they intend to fight He said the the Congress together, he said.

'No question of removing Surekha from Cabinet'

Amidst rumours that the party will remove Konda Surekha from the Forests, Environment and Endowment Ministry due to the court verdict in film actor Nagarjuna's criminal defamation case against the Minister, TPCC President B. Mahesh Kumar Goud said,

Liquor sales up on eve of Dasara



Rs 713.25 cr worth spirits sold in just 9 days

PNS HYDERABAD

With Dussehra approaching, Telangana has seen a significant rise in liquor sales, with liquor worth Rs 713.25 crore sold in the last nine days

With the festival celebrations set for Saturday, officials anticipate this figure to increase further in the next three days, potentially surpassing last year's sales by Rs 350 crore during the same period.

In a bid to meet the high demand for liquor during Dussehra, distributors have become proactive by transporting stocks to retail shops, bars and restaurants well in advance. Stores have stocked up huge quantities of liquor as consumers

have started purchasing alcohol three to four days before the festival.

Across the state, there are 2,260 liquor stores and 1,171 bars and restaurants. From January to September 2023, liquor sales in Telangana amounted to Rs 2,826 crore, while by September 30, 2024, sales had already reached Rs 2,838.92 crore

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Ranga Reddy district led in sales, followed by Karimnagar, Nalgonda and Warangal districts. In October 2023, the state saw liquor sales surge to Rs 2,900 crore, a significant increase compared to the usual daily sales of Rs 80 crore.

This jump reflects the spirit of Dussehra and the growing acceptance of alcohol consumption during celebra-

One crore people suffering due to Musi pollution: Venkat

PNS HYDERABAD

Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy expressed displeasure over the state of the Musi River and accused the BRS government of mismanagement.

Addressing the media, he said that nearly one crore people are suffering due to the mega pollution in the Musi River and are criticising the government's inaction in addressing the issue.

He said that attempts to clean the river have been blocked by key figures in the BRS government. KTR is blocking attempts to clean the Musi River, forcing millions of people

to suffer," he said. Continued on Page 5

The Tata legacy in a land of lost opportunities

Bharat, is no more. The Rentire nation mourned his loss in unison. From leaders to ordinary citizens, Indians from across social, economic and political spectrums eulogised him as a nationalist who lived his life by that famous dictum captured by American President John F Kennedy's immortal words, "Ask not what your country can do for you ask what you can do for your country". This occasion is not only a time to pay tribute to Ratan Tata but, as a nation, to consider what the country could have done differently to help Ratan Tata and, even more broadly, the Tatas to serve the country better.

Ratan Tata's life was a testament to the enduring ideals of Jamsetji Tata, the visionary founder of the Tata Group. In Ratan Tata's own words, 'Marx's vision was to take

from the rich to feed the poor, and Jamsetji's vision was to make the poor rich.' This philosophy, along with Jamsetji's belief that 'the community is not just another stakeholder in business but is, in fact, the very purpose of its existence', forms the unique 'Tata Way' of doing While a book would be

insufficient to chronicle the Tatas' contributions, two facts underscore the Tata Way. Firstly, Jamsetji believed that only industrialisation could make India and Indians, then under British colonial rule, wealthier. Thus, when he founded the Tata Group in 1868, he focused on producing the essentials to build Indiasteel, power, and textiles-and built the world-class Taj Mahal Hotel in Mumbai -- the first hotel in India with electricity, to make it convenient for international business people

Another example is Tata Nano. Mamata Banerjee pushed the project out of West Bengal solely for political reasons, never mind that Nano was a heroic effort by Ratan Tata to make cars affordable to lower-middle-class Indians or that it created a vast number of blue-collar jobs in a state where industrialists feared to tread, given its extreme left-wing politics

to visit India. No wonder Jawaharlal Nehru called him a Planning 'One-Man Commission'. Secondly, 66% of 'Tata Sons,' the holding company for all Tata group companies, is held by philanthropic trusts created by Jamsetji's sons. Following the same path, Ratan Tata is equally known for growing Tata businesses, expanding their footprint globally, and undertaking philanthropic endeavours. The Tata Group's contributions have not only shaped the Indian economy but also played a significant role in nation-building, a legacy that continues to inspire us all and fill us with national pride.

Today, the Tata Group has grown into an Indian international conglomerate that spans airlines, aerospace, defence, chemicals, steel, automobiles,



software, telecom, power, and more. Operating in more than 100 countries, the Tata group's revenues top 165 billion US dollars, employing over a million individuals. From the day Ratan Tata joined the group, he helped grow the group's revenues over 40 times and profits over 50 times.

The Tata Group's achieve-

Air India is a case in point. what truly sets them apart is their philosophy of business. The very name TATA has become synonymous with trust among Indians, a testament to the group's ethical business practices. The Tatas, notably Jamsetji, JRD, and Ratan, have built a solid industrial base for India, created massive employment opportu-nities, earned valuable foreign exchange, contributed significant taxes, and put India on the global industrial map. It seems impossible to imagine that the Tatas could

have done even more for the country's industry and economy. One could only imagine what the Tatas could have contributed to India's growth in Airlines, Defence, Space, and many more strategic sectors, but for some politicians and, to put it mildly, their misguided actions.

JRD Tata started India's first commercial airline in 1932before independence-and personally flew the first flight from Karachi to Bombay. Jawaharlal Nehru had no reason to distrust either Tatas' nationalist credentials or capabilities. Yet, he nationalised a profitable Air India in 1953. If Nehru wanted, he could have created a public sector airline of its own, but no, he had to banish private entrepreneurs from the "commanding heights" of our economy. One cannot stress enough the significance of this one step. While smaller nations like Singapore, UAE, Qatar, Korea, and many more became international aviation hubs with

behind by decades. Another example is the case of Tata Nano. Mamata Banerjee pushed the Tata Nano project out of West Bengal

global airline brands, India fell

solely for political reasons, never mind that Nano was a heroic effort by Ratan Tata to make cars affordable to lowermiddle-class Indians or that it created a vast number of bluecollar jobs in a state where industrialists feared to tread, given its extreme left-wing

Imagine what the Tatas, and many more like them, could have achieved for India if only Nehru and Indira hadn't banished them from critical sectors like defence, space, aviation, etc., and limited them with the 'License-Permit Raj' in areas they were allowed to operate! Could the genius of Ratan Tata and so many other entrepreneurs have made India a significant player today in many more sectors and accelerated India's race to Viksit

> (The author is BJP TS spokesperson.)

Don't sell racecourse land to beautify Musi River: Kishan

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana BJP President Union Minister of Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy said that it is not right to sell the



Friday, Kishan said the Centre is cleaning the Ganga at a very low cost. There is no need to spend Rs 1,50,000 crore for cleaning the Musi River. It is not right to sell the Race Course land and beautify the Musi River with that. It is not right to demolish a house without a plan. It is not right to act like a thug. The BRS government also made similar threats, he said.

Kishan said the BJP is thinking of differentiating between the houses of the poor and the farmhouses of the rich as the poor constructed their houses in the Musi's catchment area through extreme hard work. Moreover, the government itself gave permission to them ish the same houses, Kishan pointed out.

He said that demolitions are not so easy. The CM must visit the Musi area to convince people. The CM is preparing a plan on the Musi issue. Kishan said the beautification of Musi will be taken up after constructing retaining walls. Sewage is being dumped in Musi without treating it, he

He said that providing legality to HYDRAA is a routine process of the Governor and that the BJP will fight for Musi

Kishan said that HYDRAA is not a devil and past governments also used to demolish illegal buildings. He said that a bus depot and metro pillars are also in the Musi River's catchment area. He asked the CM to demolish them first and that it is not right to demolish the houses of the poor before demolishing the bus depot

and Metro pillars.

He said that he is not aware of BJP MLA Katipally Venkataramana Reddy's media conference held at the Press Club on demolitions of illegal buildings built in lakes and tanks and that he would collect information on encroachments on Hyderabad's lakes and ponds from Katipally.

He said that there is no chance of reviving Article 370 in J&K and that the BJP got considerable votes in Kashmir too. The BJP is going to win in

Group III exam to be conducted on Nov 17 & 18

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Public Service Commission (TGPSC) is going to conduct group III exams on November 17 and 18 for a total of three papers with 150 marks each.

For the reference to the candidates, the TGPSC released pre-printed OMR sheets. "Candidates will be provided with the personalized OMR answer sheet with preprinted details of the candidate. The candidates have to go through the instructions printed on the question paper booklet carefully before starting the examination," the TGPSC said in a press note. Instructions printed on OMR answer sheet are also made available to the candidates and they are advised to go through

'RS Praveen joined *doras* who denied education to the poor' Integrated Schools on 25-acre

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said that BRS leader RS Praveen Kumar has joined hands with the 'doras,' who deprived the poor of education and medical care, and is criticising the Congress government.

The CM was speaking while laying the foundation stone for the Young India Integrated Residential School in Kondurg in Shadnagar of Rangareddy district on Friday.

He said that former Prime Minister, the late PV Narasimha Rao, introduced residential schools in United AP in 1972 when he was the

"People like Burra Venkatesham could join the IAS due to PVN's visionary ideas. However, the BRS gov-

ernment did not do anything to provide education to the poor or develop the infrastructure in schools. The opposition is criticising the government due to the Congress

admin's commitment to pro-

vide education to the poor," the CM said. "I respect RS Praveen Kumar. I don't mind which

political party he belongs to.

Why is he objecting to the set-

Govt will implement crop

RS Praveen Kumar joined hands with the 'doras' and have been criticising the government's attempts to ensure the well-being of weaker sections. As KČR said should SCs, STs and BCs live by raising sheep and goats, the CM The CM said that BRS lead-

campuses spending crores?

KCR has money to construct

BRS offices and buy lands but

no funds to provide infra-

structure in schools," the CM

The CM said that 'doras'

deprived the poor of education

and medical care. Leaders like

ers have not yet understood the reason for their poor performance in the Lok Sabha elections and wondered saying that Praveen Kumar is toeing

Monsoon ups vector-borne diseases in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Declaring that monsoon led to a rise in vector-borne diseases in consultant paediatrician at the Ankura Hospital for Women and Children, said that these diseases pose a serious threat to public health in India. Mosquitoes, ticks and sandflies spread diseases like malaria, dengue, chikungunya and leishmaniasis, he said.

Dr Hari said that in 2024, India saw 1.2 million malaria cases, a 15% increase from the previous year. Hyderabad reported 30,000 dengue cases, a 20% rise, and chikungunya affected 15,000 people. Rural areas had 5,000 leishmaniasis cases.

He said that urbanization, climate change and poor sanitation have worsened the problem, especially during monsoon. Preventive measures like removing stagnant water, using insect repellents, wearing protective clothing and community clean-up drives are crucial, he said.

to Oct 13 09:09 AM

Oct 12 05:25 AM

to Oct 13 04:27 AM Oct 13 04:27 AM

to Oct 14 02:51 AM

9:07 AM to 10:34 AM

1:30 PM to 2:57 PM

08:11 AM to 09:41 AM

06:28 PM to 08:00 PM

Abhiiit Muhurtham: 11:39 AM to 12:25 PM

Updated: October 11, 2024 5:00 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Showers

Humidity: 77% Sunrise: 6:09 AM

Sunset: 5:56 PM

6:12 AM to 7:39 AM

TODAY

ALMANAC

Tithi: Navami:

Nakshatram:

Shravana:

Rahukalam:

Varjyam:

Yamagandam:

Amritakalam:

Temp: 30°°

Dashami

Month & Paksham

Jagadish criticises govt for 'failure' to organise Bathukamma fest properly

Suryapet MLA Jagadish Reddy launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and accused the TG government of failing to organise the Bathukamma celebrations." Bathukamma festiv

Speaking at a press conference held at his camp office in Suryapet, Jagadish strongly condemned the government's handling of festival preparations. Jagadish said the Congress government was ignoring Telangana's culture and traditions. The government has completely failed

in making arrangements for Saddula Bathukamma. Revanth seems to tremble at the thought of Bathukamma songs that women enjoy so much. As a result, in many parts of the state, there was no sound system, making women unable to celebrate the festival," he said.

He questioned the governance under Revanth Reddy and accused him of creating problems for the people.

'Even during monarchic rule, rulers tried to gain the goodwill of the people. But Revanth is creating problems. The people will not trust a leader who disrupts their festivals," Jagadish said.

Praising KCR's leadership, Jagadish

said, "KCR knows how and when to connect with people. When floods hit, the entire BRS team stood by the victims. But Revanth has hurt the sentiments of women by not providing sound systems for

ment that any attempt to suppress Telangana's cultural events or movements would not be tolerated. "You may be able to silence the social media and YouTube channels with raids and cases, but you can't stop people's movements," he added. Jagadish called on Revanth to change his attitude and governance style if he wants

to win over the people. "If you continue to misuse power, the people will not remain silent. Women across the state are coming forward and demanding the return of KCR," he said.

Jagadish said that under KCR's leadership, the Bathukamma festival was given top priority and recognized as the state's official festival, and special funds were allocated every year to celebrate it

He urged Revanth to apologise to the women of Telangana for the government's failure in organising the festival

Young India Skills University opens admissions for new courses

PNS HYDERABAD

The Young India Skills University (YISU) has officially opened admissions for four new courses, set to begin this Dasara. The university, established under the Young India (Public-Private Partnership) Act 2024, will offer programmes across three specialised schools: the School of Logistics and E-Commerce, the School of Healthcare, and the School of Pharmaceuticals and Life Sciences.

The courses include "Warehouse Executive" and

"Key Consignor Executive" under Logistics and E-Commerce, "Finishing Skills in Nursing Excellence" under Healthcare, and the "Pharma Associate Programme" under Pharmaceuticals and Life Sciences. Interested students can apply on YISU's official website www.yisu.in before October 29, 2024, with classes starting from November 4, 2024. The initial batches will be conducted at temporary campuses in Hyderabad, including the Engineering Staff College of India and the National Academy of

insurance scheme soon: Tummala PNS HYDERABAD Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageshwara Rao

said the government will implement crop insurance waivers. farm loan waiver scheme is over. He also assured that the government will implement Rythu Bima as well as provide subsidies for

agricultural equipment. Addressing the meeting after laying the foundation stone for Young India Integrated Residential Schools on Friday, Tummala said the

government is spending Rs 13,000 crore more for waiving farm loans. He said the amount would be spent to help farmers eligible for loan

He said ment looted the state indiscriminately and even sold soil and hills as they liked. The KCR government did not care even if students got addicted to narcotics, he said and added that the Congress government suppressed the narcotic trade with an iron

Durga idol partially damaged in city; Madhavi Latha powerful warns miscreants

PNS HYDERABAD

The idol of Goddess Durga put up in a pandal in Nampally here was partially damaged by miscreants on Friday and police have registered a case.

According to Assistant Commissioner of Police (Abids) A Chandrasekhar, unknown persons damaged one of the hands of the idol during the early hours. The idol was restored and pujas to the goddess are on.

"We launched the investigation and CCTV footage is being verified," the official

Meanwhile, BJP leader Madhavi Latha who visited the pandal said all these kinds of activities have been repeated for the past several years and if this continues she will not keep quiet.

"It is time for all Hindus to retaliate for whatever vandalisations are happening. Probably they are thinking that they are going to break us up. But they are uniting us by doing such things again and again. I warn them," she said.

UP CM: Society that worships women is

Construction.

PNS ■ GORAKHPUR

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday said a society that worships and respects its women is inherently capable and powerful. Extending heartfelt greetings to the people of Uttar Pradesh on the

auspicious occasions of Maĥanavami and Vijayadashami celebrated as part of the grand festival of Sharadiya Navratri, the chief minister emphasised the strength and capability of a society are reflected in how it treats its

Do everything necessary to win MLC elections: CM Sukla Paksha Oct 11 12:07 PM to Oct 12 10:58 AM Oct 12 10:58 AM

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said that everything should be done to win the graduate MLC election.

TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud held a Zoom meeting on Friday night in connection with the graduate MLC elections in Nizamabad, Medak, Adilabad and Karimnagar districts. AICC General Secretary Deepadas Munshi, Secretaries Vishwanath, Vishnuanathan along with Ministers, MPs, MLAs, MLCs and the DCC presidents of the four districts

attended the meeting. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said the government is

programmes on a war footing. He said the government

has filled 11,000 posts in government service, issued job notifications, given promotions and transfers to teachers, improved the education system, waived farm loans and implemented promises given during elections like establishing Skill University, Sports University and Handloom Technology University etc.

Declaring that many pathbreaking programmes will be launched, the CM said that as this is the first election after TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud took charge the party should go ahead with a well-planned strategy. He said that many people

and will be there to vote. So we should register them as voters and ensure that they are on our side in the MLC elections. The Youth Congress and the NSUI should strategize in such a way that they can function during the elections, he said. By October 15, a coordi-

nation committee should be set up to collect the opinion of senior leaders for selecting candidates, and a war room should be opened, the CM said.

AICC General Secretary Deepadas Munshi said that voter registration should be done extensively and steps should be taken for the registration of new voters, he

Cricketer Siraj takes charge as DSP in Telangana



PNS HYDERABAD

Cricketer Mohammed Siraj has officially assumed the role of Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) in Telangana, reporting to the Director General of Police on Friday.

Siraj, who was accompanied by M Anil Kumar Yadav, MP, and Mohammed Faheemuddin Oureshi, vice-chairman and president of TGMREIS, was fulfilling a promise made by Chief

Minister A Revanth Reddy, who had announced that Siraj would be appointed to a prestigious Group-I government post. The Chief Minister emphasised that this appointment highlights his government's dedication to supporting athletes and promoting sports across the State.

Speaking on the occasion, Siraj expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Chief Minister for the honour and reiterated

his commitment to serving the State in this new role. Anil Kumar Yadav and Mohammed Faheemuddin thanked the Chief Minister for his continued efforts to advance sports initiatives in Telangana. They also highlighted the CM's vision of establishing a Sports University and integrating sports facilities across the State, a project progressing rapidly under the government's guidance.

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CITY EVENTS

Gallery Dotwalk

The exhibition is curated by ace curator Premish Achari. The preview and walkthrough will display the works that are a mix of old and new thoughts by prominent artists.

Chitramayee State Art Gallery, Kavuri Hills, Jubilee Hills, Near Madhapur, Hyderabad October 11, 2024, 5.30 pm onwards. Show on view till October 16, 11 am to 6 pm.

The blacklist

Faria Abdullah live Brodha V live in concert

Rama Naidu Studios, Hvderabad October 13, Tickets available on BookMyShow

Rivaayat

A beautiful at home evening curated specially with our designer partners Shivan & Narresh.

Bobby Khandaris residence, 443, Jubilee Hills Rd. No 86, Filmnagar Phase 3 October 16. 6:30 pm onwards.

Bottle Art workshop

Join us for a lively and creative event where we turn ordinary bottles into extraordinary works of art! Participants are encouraged to bring their old bottles-whether they're from beer, water, or any other source-and engage in a hands-on

bottle paint workshop **Trailing Ivy Cafe**

till November 17

Prateek Kuhad

Slhouettes tour.

Venue Hyderabad international convention centre November 8

City Pioneer



HYDERABAD SATURDAY | OCTOBER 12, 2024

GHMC to instal smart poles in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) will be installing smart poles in the city for giving more services to the citi-

A source from the GHMC said that for installing each pole, it would cost around Rs 10 lakh.

This project would be taken up in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. As a pilot project, around 100 poles would be installed at the Secretariat, Ameerpet and some other places in the city.

A GHMC official said that as a pilot project in the city these poles would be installed at four places in the city with around 100 poles.

Professionals

Poultry Expo

PNS HYDERABAD

to be invited for

Poultry professionals are

invited to the upcoming

Poultry India Expo 2024 hap-

pening from November 27 to

29 at Hitex Exhibition Centre.

Celebrating World Egg Day on Friday, members of

Coordination Committee

(NECC) and the Indian

Manufacturers Association

(IPEMA) discussed the expo

National Egg

Equipment

These smart polls will have CCTV cameras with 360 degree coverage, public address system, Wifi spots, LED lighting, weather forecast and other facilities. This realtime surveillance will enhance the emergency response in the

city.

The live footage will be monitored by the GHMC command control and inspect the respected area.
A source said, "For exam-

ple, if a garbage vehicle would have not gone to a specific area, officers from the command control room will call that specific vehicle owner and ask the reason for their inaction.

These CCTV cameras also work to identify potholes in

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

October 26.

Hyderabad Commissioner

of Police CV Anand said that

those who want to sell fire-

crackers on a temporary

basis in the city limits should

apply for permission before

Applicants desirous of

possessing and selling explo-

sives (firecrackers on the

eve of Deepavali Festival) on

temporary basis within the

jurisdiction of the

Commissionerate have to

apply for permission with

Police

Firecracker sellers should

seek permission before Oct 26

Hyd seen as a city with better infrastructure: IT dept chief

samuelmjoshuamjmc@gmail.com HYDERABAD

Emphasising that Bengaluru has fallen behind due to poor investment in transport and infrastructure, the advantage has now shifted to Hyderabad, said Special Chief Secretary of the IT Department Jayesh Ranjan. While launching the book Beyond Biryani: The Making of a Globalised Hyderabad by Dinesh C Sharma at the Guruswamy Centre on Friday evening, Jayesh said many now see Hyderabad as a city with better infrastructure.

He emphasised that this is the right time to write about Hyderabad's transformation. He mentioned that while cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai and Calcutta were once seen as India's modern hubs, Hyderabad now

Police of all zones in the city.

The applicants are required to apply manually for temporary licence in Form AE-5 of the Explosives Rules for necessary action

from October 11 to 26.

Applications submitted

thereafter will not be accept-

While applying for the permission, the applicants should enclose NOC from

the Divisional Fire Officer,

land permission, site plan of

the shop (blueprint) copy

and other documents and get

original licence fee receipt



Jayesh Ranjan releasing the book Beyond Biryani: The Making of a Globalised Hyderabad by Dinesh C Sharma at the Guruswamy Centre on Friday

stands as a thriving city. He highlighted Cyberabad's development and the relocation of the airport as key changes. He also noted that Hyderabad hosted the first Global event of ADP's Annual Conference. Jayesh announced big ticket pro-

Online police permission

system launched

The Cyberabad Police, in part-

nership with the National

Informatics Centre (NIC), launched Cyberabad Police

Permission Management System (CPPMS), a web por-

tal aimed at digitizing police

services and improving the

efficiency of permission

The police said that all event-

related permissions can be

applied through a single online

portal, eliminating the need to

approach multiple offices.

Event organizers are required

to apply at least 10 days or 7

working days in advance to

ensure smooth processing.

approvals.

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

jects which Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy is planning, such as developing a satellite township near the airport and creating nine zones, including a medical tourism hub, life sciences clusters and a Net Zero Zone with dense forests.

Railways' special drive for improving digitisation

PNS HYDERABAD

The Ministry of Railways has launched a Special Campaign 4.0, focusing on digitisation, cleanliness, inclusivity and grievance redressal. Satish Kumar, Chairman and CEO of the Railway Board, held a review meeting via video conference on Friday with senior railway officials, including General Managers of Zonal Railways and heads of public sector

undertakings.
The CEO shared key goals of the campaign, such as enhancing digitisation, improving cleanliness at campaign sites, freeing up space, generating revenue by disposing of scrap and addressing public grievances through platforms like RailMadad and CPGRAMS. Satish also highlighted inclusivity, with a focus on involving women and individuals with disabilThe Rachakonda Police would deploy a total of 2,600 police personnel for security at Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in Uppal on October 12 for the 3rd International T-20 Cricket Match to be held between India

295 grievance

applications received

at Prajavani

In all, 295 grievance applications were received in Prajavani on Friday at the

According to the officials, 90 applications

were received for housing, 32 for minority welfare, 10 for home, 18 for electricity and

Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Praja Bhavan.

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

wing, 400 from the traffic, 1,662 from law and order, 14 platoons of the TSSP, six platoons of Armed Forces, 2 Octopus teams, 10 Mounted Police, 10 Vajra and 2 fire tenders

the Deputy Commissioner of for Rs 600 from a bank. This Dussehra, triumph over every challenge CELEBRATIONS LOAN AGAINST CAR LOAN MUTUAL **FUNDS** PERSONAL **GOLD LOAN** LOAN WAIVEROF CONCESSIONAL INTEREST %) PROCESSING FEE RATES **(** For Details

For assistance, call 1800 1234 2100









HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | OCTOBER 12, 2024

Safety kits distributed to toddy tappers

PNS KUMURAM BHEEM ASIFABAD

MLA Harish Babu and MLC Dande Vital participated in an event organised by the Backward Classes Corporation on Friday at the Goud community grounds in Kaghaznagar town, Komaram Bheem district, where they distributed safety kits to toddy tappers.

During the event, they stated that the Telangana government has designed these kits with the aim of ensuring the safety of the toddy tappers. They advised the workers to wear these kits before climbing the palm trees. Harish Babu assured that he would raise the issues faced by the Goud community in agency areas in the Assembly and work towards finding solutions.

The event was also attended by BC Corporation ED Sajeevan, Excise CI Ravi, district Moka Debba president Kondra Manohar Goud, and Toddy Tapers Union Rama Goud were present.

Indiramma govt working for benefit of poor: Ponguleti

The Revenue Minister accused the previous BRS government of failing to contributed to the growth of the States

PNS KHAMMAM

Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy on Friday asserted that the government is working diligently for the benefit of the poor. He emphasised that the Îndiramma government has prioritised education and healthcare. On Friday, he laid the foundation stone for a new Young Integrated school at Ponnekal under Khammam rural mandal.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister highlighted the fact that the government has allocated Rs 657 crore for providing basic facilities in government schools through the Amma Adarsha scheme within just three months. He criticised the previous government for not contributing anything significant to the people of the state over the past decade. He stated that 10,606 teaching posi-



Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy laying the foundation for Young India Residential School at Ponnekal in Khammam on Friday

tions had been filled through the District Selection Committee (DSC) to provide quality education for underprivileged students. He also mentioned that the Indiramma government is focus-

ing on improving the status of teachers and providing better job opportunities, whereas the previous administration failed to provide necessary facilities despite establishing numerous schools.

The Minister pointed out that the Indiramma government is committed to integrated schooling, aiming to provide quality education irrespective of caste or religion. He announced that the government planned to build schools in every constituency with a budget ranging between Rs 125 crore to Rs 150 crore. He accused the previous government of burdening the people with debt. He added that since the Congress government took over, opportunities for skill development with investments of Rs 300 crore have been

The government has initiated the construction of integrated Gurukuls to provide international quality education for underprivileged students. In the first phase, 28 integrated residential schools are to be established across the

to enrol their children in these schools as educating the poor would

help enrich and improve the quality of individual and family life. It

would also contribute to the devel-

opment of the State and the coun-

The minister further revealed

that these schools are being built on

a vast 25-acre plot of land, and sim-

ilar schools would be established in

every constituency across the state. He mentioned that within ten

months of coming to power, the government had provided employ-

ment to 70,000 people, and more job notifications would be issued soon.

As part of the farmer welfare pro-

gramme, he announced that the

government had waived loans up to

Rs 2 lakh rupees for farmers, and

loans exceeding Rs 2 lakh rupees

future. He reiterated that the govern-

ment's mission is to implement

welfare and development programs

for the poor, farmers, and people of

He added that although the water

was released from the left canal of

all communities in Telangana.

would also be waived in the

Residential school will produce world-class students: Min

Villages shocked as

monkey carcass found in water tank

village under Kubhher mandal in the district caused quite a stir among the villagers.

Though the carcass was found in the tank on Friday, it was not known when the monkey fell into the tank and died. The villagers said that they had been drinking the water being supplied from the tank for a long.

carass from the tank and cleaned it. Villagers are afraid of the health risks since they drank contaminated water. They are criticising gram panchayat officials and workers for their laxity in clearing the tank daily.

They suspect that the monkey could have fallen into the tank while trying to drink water, or it

PNS PEDDAPALLI

for a long.

Integrated Residential School buildings would be completed by next Dasara.

While laying foundation stone for Young India Integrated Residential School building on Friday at Adavi Somanapalli village in Manthani constituency, Sridhar Babu said that Congress government is setting up Congress government is setting up these educational institutions to prepare

In an effort to strengthen the education system and provide quality education to underprivileged children, Sridhar Babu stated that significant

Sridhar Babu emphasised that the establishment of Young India Educational Institutions aims to produce world-class students.

He mentioned that the government is gradually implementing the promises made to the people, including free travel for women in RTC buses, free electricity up to 200 units, a subsidised cylinder at Rs 500, and the Indiramma Housing Scheme for the homeless which will begin next month.

He highlighted the fact that the

Congress government has swiftly addressed the District Selection Committee (DSC) recruitment issue, completing the process in record time, resulting in the appointment of over

He also mentioned that a young local resident, Shravan Kumar, has secured a job as an SGT. The government has transparently completed the longpending teacher promotions and transfers over the past ten years and has set up a commission to improve the education sector.

To provide education without caste

They were shocked to find the car-

carass from the tank and cleaned it.

while trying to drink water, or it

might have fallen in during a scuf-fle with other monkeys. The vil-

lagers are upset that the tank's lid

was not properly secured.

The workers from the gram panchayat arrived and removed the

cass in the tank.

Information Technology Minister D Sridhar Babu on Saturday said that the construction of the Young India

A monkey carcass found in a Mission Bhagirath Scheme at Nigwa village under Kubhher mandal in the district caused quite a stir

The incident caused an alarm in

the village. The villagers said that

they checked the tank after a foul

smell emanated from it on Friday.

world-class students.

importance is being given to education. Speaking on the occasion, Minister

or religious discrimination, the government will establish one Young India



Information Technology Minister D Sridhar Babu speaking at a meeting at Adavi Somanapalli in Peddapalli district

Integrated Educational Institution in each assembly constituency, accommodating students from SC, ST, BC, and minority backgrounds on a single

The integrated educational institution will offer international standard education from 4th to 12th grade, featuring modern amenities such as digital smart boards in classroomsd, comouter labs, and a library with over 5,000 books on the 25-acre campus.

To promote sports, facilities for cricket, football, basketball, and tennis will be provided in the Young India Integrated Educational Institutions. The construction of these institutions providing students with an opportunity to receive international-level education in one place.

The event was attended by Peddapalli MP Gadam Vamsikrishna, District Collector Koya Sree Harsha, Manthani Municipal Chairperson Rama, Roads and Buildings Executive Engineer Bhav Singh, BC Welfare Officer Anil, Excise Superintendent Mahipal Reddy, public representatives, officials, and others.

మా పలిశ్రమ అభివృద్ధి సహకరం లంబిస్తున్న మా శ్రేయోఖలాఘలులకు పలిశ్రమ సిబ్జంబికీ,కాల్మికులకు, ప్రజా

తనిదులకు, అభికారులకు పాలిశామిక

Bathukamma festival celebrated with grandeur in Peddapalli

PNS ■ PEDDAPALLI

Bathukamma festival, which has a history spanning centuries, symbolises Telangana's culture and was celebrated with grandeur on Friday. The festival was celebrated in every

At the venues for the Saddula Bathukamma festival, women's games and songs drew great attention. Women beautifully adorned Bathukammas with various flowers. In some areas, creatively designed Bathukammas received awards from the local residents. This annual festival saw enthusiastic participation of girls.
The Saddula Bathukamma

festival was grandly celebrated in various locations within the Peddapalli district, including Peddapalli, Manthani, Sultanabad, Dharmaram, Kalva Shrirampur, NTPC, FCI, Basant Nagar, Julapalli, Eligaidu, Ramagiri, Kammanpur, Muttaram, Antargam, and Palakurthy.

Starting from 6 pm on Thursday, the celebrations continued with enthusiasm until midnight. District Collector



Koya Sree Harsha monitored the festivities, and special arrangements were made by Ramagundam Commissioner M Srinivas to ensure women faced no diffi-The police conducted continuous patrolling in specialised vehicles.

Public representatives and officials participated in the celebrations at various Bathukamma venues across the district, extending their best wishes to the Telangana girls for the Saddula Bathukamma festival.

'Put kids in young India Integrated Residential schools'

PNS NALGONDA

The Congress government is constructing Young India Integrated Residential Schools to provide quality education to children from poor and underprivileged families. The education standards will be on a par with those provided in corporate schools so that the marginalised sections will benefit, Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy asserted on Friday...

On Friday, he laid the foundation stone for the Young India Integrated Residential School at Gandham Vari Gudem near Nalgonda. The school will be built at a cost of Rs 300 crore and performed the Bhoomi Pooja for the construction of the

At a meeting held on this occagovernment has decided to establish Young India Integrated Residential Schools to provide quality education to students from underprivileged families in both English and Telugu media. He emphasised that these schools would be open to students from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes, and minority communities irrespective of caste or religion. He also men-

PNS RANGAREDDY

At the foundation stone-laying ceremony for the Young

India Integrated Residential

School Complex in Kondurg, Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli

Shankar brought to the attention of the Chief Minister several pressing issues relat-

ed to his constituency, partic-

ularly the lack of basic infra-

structure and development.

pointed out that the previous

government had failed to pri-

oritise education in the

region, leaving behind no

tangible developments in

Jilleduchaudaryguda mandal.

was sanctioned," he

remarked, underscoring the

need for significant improvements. He expressed opti-

"Not even a table or chair

In his speech, Shankar

education hub



Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkăt Reddy speaking at a meeting at Gandham Vari Gudem in

tioned that the schools would offer all necessary facilities, including playgrounds, as sports would help

of these integrated residential schools, the Dasara festival has come a day earlier for Telangana. He revealed that under the first phase, integrated residential schools would be set up in 28 constituencies across the state with an investment of Rs 5,000 crore. The construction of the integrated residential school in Nalgonda would be completed with-



Valgondă district on Friday

students grow mentally.

in eight months. He urged parents



MLA urges Revanth to help make Shadnagar Congress government, led by

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, institutions like ITI or Polytechnic colleges would soon be sanctioned, provid-

youth. The MLA further request-ed the Chief Minister to sanction essential facilities such as a primary health centre, police Station, or an integrated mandal complex for Jilleduchaudaryguda. He also drew attention to the underdeveloped Thandas in the constituency, noting that around 57-60 Thandas have been neglected, with SC/ST funds diverted by previous administrations. Shankar urged the Chief Minister to prioritize the development of these areas under the SC/ST sub-plan, as discussed in the Assembly.

ing new opportunities for the



Shadnagar MLA V Shankar speaking at a meeting at Kondurg in Ranga Reddy district on Friday



Munugode MLA Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy speaking at a meeting at Kalwakuntla village in Nalgonda district on Saturday

Rajgopal vows to develop educational institutions

PNS ■ MUNUGODE

The foundation stone for the Young India Integrated Residential School was laid at Kalwakuntla village Munugode mandal with the aim of providing quality edu-cation to students from poorer sections. The event was attended by Munugode MLA Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy.

In his speech, Rajgopal Reddy referred to the school as a temple of learning, underlining that the initiative is more than just a school it is a step toward building a better society. He said that he took the responsibility of

establishing 50 schools in the region and stressed the need for development of Munugode, especially in education and healthcare.

He highlighted the inclusive nature of the project. He also condemned the presence of belt shops in the constituency, urging people to take a strict stance against such establishments to foster the development of education and healthcare in the region.

He thanked Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for sanctioning the school. He also reflected on his own political journey, expressing gratitude to the people of Munugode for their continued support.



BJP OBC Morcha national president K Laxman speaking to reporters at Wagla in Siddipet district on Saturday

Criticising Sanatana Dharma has become a trend: Laxman

PNS SIDDIPET

Criticising Sanatana Dharma in the name of secularism has become a trend for the sake of votes, said BJP OBC Morcha national president and Rajya Sabha Member K Laxman.

On Friday, he performed special prayers, along with his family at Sri Vidyadhari Temple at Wargal in the district. Speaking on the occasion, he mentioned that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has elevated the country to great heights during challenging times.

Unlike in the past, India is is emerging to become a global leader.

He emphasised that if the Hindu society becomes more aware, it will need to act with greater vigilance to counter the actions of secularists. He also remarked that it is encouraging to see the youth, despite their mechanical lifestyle, being drawn toward Dharma.

He stated that protecting Dharma would, in turn, protect everyone.

On the occasion of i Navaratri, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi is observing fast, Laxman encouraged everyone to participate in these sacred activities with devotion. He further praised the Wargal Sri Vidyadhari



ACROSS THE STATES



Jeweller held in Palghar for cheating customers

A jeweller on the run for more than a year after allegedly duping several customers in Maharashtra's Palghar district was held from Madhya Pradesh, a police official said on Friday. Two jewellers, identified as Kanaram Dalaram Chowdhari and Hotesh Shantilal Dholakia from Rajasthan and Gujarat, respectively, had fled after cheating customers of Rs 1.38 crore between January 2022 and May 2023 Palghar Superintendent of Police Balasaheb Patil said. "Dholakia was arrested in 2023 but Chowdhari was absconding. On a tip off. Chowdhari was held from Indore in Madhya Pradesh. We have recovered Rs 17.71 lakh from him. Further probe is underway," he said.



Animals sacrificed at 'Chhatar Jatra'

espite repeated appeals by the administration to desist from animal sacrifice, hundreds of goats and hens were slaughtered to "appease" Maa Manikeswar during the annual 'Chhatar Jatra' in Odisha's Bhawanipatna on Friday Every Mahastami, the eighth day of Durga Puja, the streets of Bhawanipatna, the district headquarters of tribaldominated Kalahandi in Odisha, become bloodstained as both tribal and non-tribal people publicly sacrifice animals in the presence of senior police and administrative officers, all of whom expressed their helplessness to stop the practice due to its deep ties to the religious sentiments of the local population, including the Kandha tribes. Requesting anonymity, a senior magistrate said, "Though the administration held several awareness campaigns against animal sacrifice, people hardly consider it an act of cruelty."

Half-brother Noel to succeed..

Continued from page 1

He is already a trustee on the boards of Sir Ratan Tata Trust

and Sir Dorabji Tata Trust. Having functioned mostly under the shadows of his illustrious half-brother, Noel will now have the responsibility of leading the Tata Trusts -broadly comprising Sir Ratan Tata Trust & Allied Trusts, and Sir Dorabji Tata Trust & Allied Trusts -- that hold a controlling 66 per cent stake in Tata Sons, the holding and promoter firm of Tata Group companies. Known to keep a low profile, Noel was also seen at the cremation of his half brother on Thursday. The meeting of the Tata Trusts board was held to choose the successor to Ratan Tata after his demise on Wednesday.

Noel has been involved with the Tata Group since 1999, and chairs the successful retail arm Trent, which looks after chains like Westside and Zudio, and commands a market capitalisation of over Rs 2 lakh crore. He is also the chairman of Voltas and Tata International.

Noel is married to Aloo Mistry, the sister of the late Cyrus Mistry and a part of the Shapoorji Pallonji family, which is the single largest private shareholder of Tata Sons with more than 18.4 per cent holding. Relations between the Shapoorji Pallonji group and the Tatas have not been warm since the sacking of Cyrus Mistry from the chairmanship of Tata Sons. Tata Sons operates all commercial enterprises in the group and collectively reported revenues of USD 165 billion last year. Noel was seen as a front-runner to succeed Ratan Tata at Tata Trusts, and there was also speculation about Ratan Tata's long-time confidante Mehli Mistry taking charge.

Son of Naval H Tata and Simone N Tata, Noel Tata currently serves on the board of various Tata Group companies, including as the Chairman of Trent, Tata International Ltd, Voltas & Tata Investment Corporation, and as the Vice Chairman of Tata Steel and Titan Company Ltd. He has been associated with the Tata Group for over 40 years

Cong avers MP deputy CM has links with drug racket kingpin

Days after a massive drug haul from a factory on the outskirts of Bhopal, the Congress on Friday alleged that a close associate of Madhya Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Jagdish Devda is involved in drug trade in the state and questioned Prime

state and questioned Prime
Minister Narendra Modi's
"silence" on the issue.

The opposition party
demanded Devda's resignation
alleging that he has links with
the kingpin of the drug racket
busted recently by the Gujarat
Police and Narcotics Control Police and Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in Madhya Pradesh.

Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Jitendra Patwari alleged that Prime Minister Modi did not provide two crore jobs every year but "created two crore drug addicts every year".

There was no immediate reaction from the BJP or Devda on the allegations.

Drugs in many states are linked to the racket busted in Bhopal and the Modi government is completely responsible for this, Patwari said at a press conference at the AICC headquarters here.

The Modi government had presented a report in Parliament, stating that around 40 crore people in the country consume drugs, he said.

This number of drug addicts

Questions PM's 'silence'



in the country is increasing by about 2.10 crore every year, Patwari claimed. The situation is such that even

BJP leaders and workers are worried because their children are addicted to drugs, he said.
"Today, the drug business is

spreading throughout the country. In such a situation, what steps is the Modi government taking? A favourite of the deputy chief minister of Madhya Pradesh is running a drug racket in the state, so why is Chief Minister Mohan Yadav silent?" Patwari said.

He said the BJP had come out with a lame defence that just because Devda had been photographed with the kingpin does not mean they were close.

It was not about just one or these or three pictures at least

two or three pictures, at least 500 photographs and videos of the kingpin with the deputy chief minister were available on social media and that cannot be a mere coincidence, Patwari

Delhi's Rs 7,000-cr drugs haul: LOCs issued against six including UK national

New Delhi, Oct 11 (PTI) The Delhi Police, which is probing the city's biggest-ever seizure of cocaine worth over Rs 7,000 crore, has issued look-out circulars (LOCs) against six people, including an Indian-origin UK national who fled the country before the latest recovery of 208 kg of the drug from west

According to police sources, the UK

national, Savinder Singh, came to India last moth to supervise the transportation and delivery of the 208-kg consignment suspected to have been brought from South American countries. The sources said Singh spent

around 25 days in three separate locations in Delhi before fleeing to the United Kingdom soon after the arrest of the first four members of the syndicate.



Indian Army trusted, inspiring organisations in country: Rajnath

PNS ■ GANGTOK

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday praised the Indian Army as one of the most trusted and inspiring organisations in the country, highlighting its significant role in safeguarding borders, combating terrorism and assisting civil administration in times of

Addressing the Army Commanders Conference, held virtually from an army location in Sukma (West Bengal) due to inclement weather that prevented his helicopter from reaching Sikkim, Singh expressed admiration for every soldier's contributions and honoured those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the nation.

"The Indian Army plays a significant role in guarding our borders and fighting terrorism apart from providing assistance to the civil administration in every need of hour," he said while addressing the Commanders Conférence.

He commended the Army leadership for advancing the nation's 'Defence and Security' vision, as outlined by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Singh noted that he has attended the Army Commanders' Conference for over five years, emphasising that these high-level discussions benefit both the armed forces and the nation as a whole. He also praised the Army's efforts in integrating cutting-edge technology.

2022 ATTACK ON COPS IN HUBBALLI

Congress govt in Karnataka withdraws case against mob



PNS BENGALURU

The Congress government in Karnataka has decided to istered against a mob which had attacked policemen with stones on April 16, 2022 in Hubballi town.

This was one of the 43 cases the state Cabinet decided to withdraw at its meeting on Thursday following a petition by the Anjuman-e-Islam to the Home Minister G Parameshwara, official sources

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi on Friday described the

"height of appeasement."
"Unfortunately, Congress party here in height of appeasement. They have withdrawn the case under the UAPA case, when the matter is before the NIA court. In normal course as far as I know, the state cannot withdraw it but still they have withdrawn it. This is the height of appeasement," Joshi

Government's decision as

Chief MinisterSiddaramaiah said: "The government has the powers to withdraw some cases. There is

Politics of appeasement:

PNS NEW DELHI

The BJP on Friday accused the Congress government in Karnataka of indulging in "politics of appeasement" and asked how will the party protect the country's democracy if it cannot even protect the police personnel of the state under its rule.

This came after the arnataka government decided to withdraw a criminal case registered against a group of people, who had attacked the policemen with stones in Hubballi town on April 16, 2022.

a Cabinet subcommittee under Home Minister's leadership, as per their discretion they have taken the decision and the Cabinet has approved it. I will see what it is

TRUMP'S PROMISE ON POWER TARIFF

Free ki revri reaches US: Kejriwal takes dig at critics

PNS NEW DELHI

Citing Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump's promise to halve electricity costs, AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal took a dig at his political rivals on Friday, saying "free ki revri" has now reached the United States.

Addressing the Detroit Economic Club on Thursday, Trump vowed to slash energy prices and expedite environ-mental approvals to boost electricity capacity if elected. "I will cut the price of ener-gy and electricity in HALF

within 12 months. We will seriously expedite our environmental approvals and capacity. This will drive down inflation and make America and Michigan the best places on earth to build a factory," the former US president said in a post on X.

Reposting the message on the microblogging platform on Friday, Kejriwal said, "Trump has announced that he will reduce electricity rates by half. Free ki revri reach US."

Kejriwal is often attacked over subsidised electricity and



water supply in Delhi by his political opponents, who accuse him of using "freebies" to win votes and creating an unsustainable burden on the government's finances.

However, the AAP chief and his party maintain that their policies, such as free electricity and water, are vital for uplifting the poor ensuring equitable access to basic services.

Addressing a public meeting last week, Kejriwal said, "I am giving six free revri -power, water, bus rides for women, pilgrimage for the elderly, health and education to my two crore people of Delhi so that I can make their lives happier." The revri belongs to the

public. I am distributing it among them," he added.



'Himachal's Bismillah Khan' Surajmani dead

PNS ■ BILASPUR (HP)

Noted shehnai player from Himachal Pradesh Surajmani passed away at the AIIMS-Bilaspur, officials said on Friday. He was 63.

Suffering from chronic pancreatitis, Surajmani breathed his last on Thursday. He is survived Hailing from Chachiot vil-

lage in the Nachan area of Mandi district, Surajmani was often referred to as the "Bismillah Khan of Himachal" after the late shehnai maestro.

He was known for his contributions in preserving the folk-music traditions of the hill state. Sources said Surajmani suffered a pancreatic attack soon after returning home from Chandigarh, where he had gone for a recording.

KCR shut down 5,000 govt..

Continued from page 1

The Congress government raised the morale of teachers by giving promotions to 21,000 teachers, the CM said. He said the Congress government's aim is to provide quality education to all students in Telangana and that the Congress government will create a healthy Telangana. The CM said the government is constructing Young India Integrated Residential schools with an outlay of Rs 5,000 crore and that all schools will have a campus of 25 acres and a sports ground. He said the govern-

ment is reforming the entire education system. KCR presented a Rs 22 lakh crore budget and borrowed Rs 7 lakh crore. The BRS government did not spend even Rs 10,000 crore to improve the infrastructure in government schools, the CM said

"Our policy is to remove differences based on caste and religion. KCR's policy was that his family should rule the state like kings. Why should only the poor work as sheep herders and the KCR family rule the state? The Congress is the only party which provides opportunities to weaker sections

Panels to implement Indiramma...

Continued from page 1

families for building 4.5 lakh new houses in the scheme's first phase. The committees, comprising local representatives and special officers, will oversee implementation at the grassroots level. The Gram Panchayat-level committees will be chaired by the Sarpanch or a Gram Panchayat Special Officer, along with members from SHG groups and other local representatives, ensuring inclusivity. Similarly, at the Municipal Ward level, the committees will be led by Ward

Councillors with support from SHG members and development-oriented locals.

These committees are tasked with raising awareness about the scheme, assisting beneficiaries with construction processes, and conducting social audits. They will also report any wrongful inclusion or exclusion of families from the scheme. All Collectors have been told to ensure the constitution of these committees before October 12 and to organise orientation programmes for members at mandal and municipal levels to ensure the smooth execution of the

'No question of removing..

Continued from page 1

"It is just the propaganda of our opponents that Surekha will be removed from the Ministry. There is no truth in that." He reiterated that Konda Surekha had withdrawn her comments after the Nagarjuna family demanded that and the matter was closed. He said there is no truth in the campaign that Surekha would be removed from the cabinet. During a chit-chat with journalists at the Gandhi Bhavan on Friday, the TPCC President reiterated that the Congress high command did not seek any explanation in the Konda Surekha issue.

He said that Konda Surekha did not make those comments wilfully against the Nagarjuna family. She made those com-

ments due to BRS Working President KT Rama Rao's attitude, he said. "We used social media in a

good way when we were in the opposition. However, the BRS is unethically spending money and spreading lies on social media. The BRS is using social media badly now. Women Ministers Surekha and Seethakka are being targeted on social media as they are strong leaders," Mahesh said. Reacting on the senior Congress leader Feroz Khan issue, Mahesh said that friendship with AIMIM is different from law and order matters. He said that he brought the matter to the attention of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and that the government would take strong action in

Nobel Peace Prize given to Japanese...

Continued from page 1

Hidankyo's Hiroshima branch chairperson, Tomoyuki Mimaki, who was standing by at the city hall for the announcement, cheered and teared up when he received the news."Is it really true? Unbelievable!" Mimaki screamed. Efforts to eradicate nuclear weapons have been honoured before by the Nobel committee. The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons won the peace prize in 2017, and in enced this year's decision. 1995 Joseph Rotblat and the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs won for "their efforts to diminish the part played by nuclear arms in international

eliminate such arms." This year's prize was awarded against a backdrop of devastating con-flicts raging in the Middle East, Ukraine and Sudan. "It is very clear that threats of using nuclear weapons are putting pressure on the important international norm, the taboo of using nuclear weapons," Watne Frydnes said in response to a question on whether the rhetoric from Russia surrounding nuclear weapons in its invasion of Ukraine had influ-

"And therefore it is alarming to see how threats of use is also damaging this norm. To uphold an international strong taboo against the use is crucial for all of human-

EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said on X that "the spectre of Hiroshima and Nagasaki still looms over humanity. This makes the advocacy of Nihon Hidankyo invaluable. This Nobel Peace Prize sends a powerful message. We have the duty to remember. And an even greater duty to protect the next generations from the horrors of nuclear

Alfred Nobel stated in his will that the peace prize should be awarded for "the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses."

ED to probe GST scam involving..

Continued from page 1

Going by initial findings, the scam was carried out during the time of an ex-CS and officials who have now been implicated in the investigation.

The scam is said to involve fake invoices created to claim massive input tax credits. It was revealed during an audit by the Commercial Taxes Department that several fraudulent invoices were submitted, even though no goods were

supplied. The scam extends to

70 companies, and the illegal

transfer of the input tax cred-

it is estimated to be over Rs

1,000 crore. It may be men-

tioned here that a couple of days after the Ahmedabad Police arrested six individuals, including a journalist, in connection with a Goods and Services Tax (GST) fraud case, the ED decided to launch a money laundering probe. The ED suspects a larger conspiracy behind the case, according to sources familiar with the development. The ED has reportedly gathered crucial details about the irregularities and is expected to file an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR), which is the ED's equivalent of a First Information Report (FIR), within a week.

The ED reportedly had information that the Ahmedabad

Crime Branch's case involves largescale irregularities in availing and passing on bogus ITC (input tax credit) using fake bills by more than 220 companies across the country. These fraudulent entities used forged identities and documents to create these firms, resulting in financial losses amounting to crores for the exchequer. The case pertains to the misuse of fake invoices to

fraudulently claim input tax credits, which allegedly contributed to massive revenue losses. The ED is now working on tracing the money trail and identifying whether the scam was part of a broader financial fraud network.

One crore people suffering... sions which was grossly inad-

Continued from page 1

He said BRS leaders are unable to bear the Congress govern-ment taking giant strides in ensuring public welfare.

He also criticised BRS MLA Harish Rao for his handling of the loan waiver scheme. "Harish is silent about farm loan waivers as during the BRS government's tenure, only loans up to Rs 1 lakh were waived on four separate occa-

equate," he said, expressing anger that the BRS admin's loan waiver did not even cover the interest payable by farmers. Venkat's sharp comments sparked a debate regarding the Congress government's attempts to address key issues like pollution and economic relief for the poor. He urged the government to take swift action to save the public from problems.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

India acts East

PM Modi visits Laos for the 21st India-ASEAN Summit; says the 21st century belongs to India and ASEAN

rime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Laos for the 21st India-ASEAN Summit reestablishes India's diplomatic engagement with Southeast Asian nations. With a focus on enhancing connectivity and resilience, Modi announced a comprehensive 10point action plan aimed at fortifying the India-ASEAN partnership. This initiative not only underscores the importance of regional collaboration in a time of global uncertainty but also highlights the potential for growth within the 21st-century landscape, which PM Modi asserts 'belongs to India and ASEAN.' PM Modi emphasised the critical need for friendship and cooperation among India and ASEAN countries, especially as tensions rise globally, with conflicts affecting various regions. He reiterated that India-ASEAN friendship, coordination dialogue and cooperation are essential at a time when several parts of the world are facing conflicts and tensions. The summit also coincides with the review of a decade of India's Act East Policy, which has significantly contributed to the dou-

bling of India-ASEAN trade to over USD 130 billion in the past ten years.

The Prime Minister's vision for deeper ties with ASEAN encompasses several key areas. One of the important initiatives is the enhancement of connectivity, marked by the establishment of direct flight connections with seven ASEAN nations. This move aims to facilitate easier travel and trade, further integrating the economies of the region. In the realm of technology, PM Modi announced the launch of fintech connectivity with Singapore, setting a precedent for future collaborations across the ASEAN region. This initiative promotes technological advancement and financial inclusion, essen-

tial for emerging economies. Cultural ties are also a focal point, with efforts to restore shared heritage in Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Myanmar and Indonesia reflecting India's commitment to preserving regional history and identity. Moreover, Modi stressed the urgency of completing the ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement (AITIGA) review to unlock greater economic potential for both parties. He highlighted the significance of educational exchanges. Over 300 students from ASEAN countries have benefitted from scholarships at Nalanda University, fostering deeper educational ties. As regional tensions persist, especially concerning maritime disputes in the South China Sea and the ongoing crisis in Myanmar, PM Modi's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative underscores the need for collaborative efforts in ensuring regional stability and security. This approach, along with a commitment to humanitarian cooperation, highlights India's readiness to support ASEAN nations in times of natural disasters. India's vision is firmly anchored in a people-centric approach, indicating a commitment to sustainable development that addresses the needs and aspirations of citizens across both regions. Indeed India and ASEAN nations have much in common; they share heritage and values which date backs to centuries. It is time to revive them.



An artist paints effigies of the demon king Ravana on the Dussehra, in Prayagraj

Strengthening RTI Act with practical reforms



As the Right to Information (RTI) Act completes 19 years, it is time to amend the rules and expand its scope to ensure it continues to serve its purpose effectively

he Right to Information (RTI) Act, implemented on October 12, 2005, marked a monumental step toward government transparency and accountability in India. Óver the years, the Act has been instrumental in exposing corruption and various scams, empowering citizens to demand information from public authorities. However, while the Act has undeniably brought about significant reform, certain amendments to the RTI rules—not the Act itself-are necessary to prevent misuse, streamline the process, and reduce the burden on the courts.

Addressing Misuse and **Unnecessary Litigation**

One of the key challenges facing the RTI framework today is the misuse of the system by individals and groups, often leading to unnecessary appeals and challenges in courts. The Central Information Commission (CIC), tasked with handling RTI appeals, is often burdened by frivolous cases that clog the system and delay the resolution of genuine complaints. Amendments to the RTI rules, particularly in the area of public-private partner-ships (PPPs), sports bodies, and cooperatives, could alleviate some of this pressure.

By declaring PPPs, sports bodies, and cooperatives as public authorities under the RTI Act, a significant amount of time and resources could be saved. These entities often handle substantial public funds, and their exclusion from RTI coverage has raised questions about transparency. Including them under the Act would not only enhance accountability but also reduce the number of cases that reach Information Commissions and courts, streamlining the entire RTI process.

Government Allotments Under RTI

A critical area that requires attention is the issue of government land and accommodation allotments. Many government-owned properties are allotted at subsidised rates, often raising concerns about favouritism or corruption. To address this, all such allotments should be brought

under the purview of the RTI Act. Moreover, future allotments should be made conditional upon compliance with the Act, ensuring that beneficiaries are transparent about the process and accountable to the public. This move would further reduce the burden on Information Commissions, as it would discourage non-compliant beneficiaries from evading public scrutiny. It would also provide citizens with a tool to question and monitor how public resources are being allocated, contributing to more transparent governance.

Streamlining High Offices' **RTI Applications**

High offices such as those of the President, Prime Minister, and Chief Ministers often receive RTI applications that may not be directly related to their functions. To improve efficiency, these offices should only address RTI applications that pertain specifically to their roles. Any other applications should be returned to the applicant, along with advice on which department or authority they should approach instead. This measure would reduce the workload on these high offices while ensuring that citizens receive the information they seek from the correct sources.

Bringing Private Sector Banks Under RTI

The financial sector has long been an area where greater transparency is needed, particularly in light of recent scan-

ONE OF THE KEY CHALLENGES FACING THE RTI

FRAMEWORK TODAY IS THE MISUSE OF THE SYSTEM BY INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS, OFTEN LEADING TO UNNECESSARY APPEALS AND CHALLENGES IN

dals and issues of financial mismanagement. While public sector banks are already subject to RTI, the private sector remains outside the Act's purview. This is a matter of concern, given the extensive use of public funds by private banks and the critical role they play in the economy. To address this gap, private sector banks should be brought under the RTI Act. This would allow citizens to seek information about their financial practices, thereby increasing accountability in the sector. Standardising RTI Fees and

Preventing Misuse Another issue that plagues the current RTI framework is the inconsistency in application fees across states. RTI fees should be standardised nationwide at Rs 50, which would cover the cost of 20 photocopied pages. Furthermore, no fees should be charged for appeals. These changes would simplify the process for citizens and eliminate confusion regarding varying charges in different states. However, there is also a need to address the misuse of free RTI applications by certain vested interests. For Poverty Line (BPL) workers by having them file RTI requests on their behalf, thus avoiding fees. To prevent this, the free provision for BPL applicants should be limited to 20 pages.
Any additional pages should

ty across the country.

(The writer is a RTI incur a nominal charge, ensur-

ing that the system is not abused while still providing free access to information for genuinely disadvantaged individuals.

Enhancing Accessibility and Digital Integration

To further streamline the RTI process, post offices across the country should accept post-free RTI applications. This would make it easier for citizens, particularly those in rural areas, to file applications without worrying about postage costs. In addition, a mandatory requirement for ID proof, as seen in states like Punjab and Haryana, should be implemented nationwide. This would prevent misuse of the RTI system and ensure that applications are being filed by genuine individuals seeking information. The introduction of online RTI portals has been a positive step in recent years, but there is still room for improvement. All states should adopt the National Informatics Centre (NIC)-designed RTI websites, which allow for greater standardisation and ease of use. These portals should feature auto-emailed responses and alerts, keeping instance, contractors have been applicants informed of the known to exploit Below status of their requests. Moreover, outdated state-spe cific RTI laws, such as the Delhi RTI Act, should be repealed in favor of the national RTI Act to ensure uniformi-

> (The writer is a RTI activist: views are personal)

games to international tournaments, sports

have a unique way of bringing people togeth-

er, fostering a sense of community, and pro-

moting health and well-being. One of the most

compelling aspects of sport is its ability to

bridge cultural gaps. Whether it's a small-town

soccer match or the grandeur of the Olympic Games, sports create a common ground

where individuals can connect and share expe-

This shared passion fosters mutual respect and

understanding, promoting peace and cama-

raderie among different cultures. The impact

of sports on society is profound, touching on

aspects of culture, economy, and personal

development. As we move forward, embrac-

ing the positive aspects of sport while address-

ing its challenges will ensure that it continues

to be a powerful force for good in the world.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

A new era of global opportunities awaits India in higher education



With initiatives like 'Study in India' and the recognition of qualifications of other countries, India is positioning itself as a growing hub for international education

ndia offers tremendous opportunities in various sectors, the education is different. Internationalisation of this sector was envisaged in the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP), and the Government of India has taken effective steps over the last 4 years towards achieving this goal. Initiatives such as Study in India, Foreign Higher Educational Institutions (FHEIs) setting up campuses in India, collaborations between Indian institutions and FHEIs, and mutual recognition of qualifications between governments are already seeing positive results. Enabling FHEIs to set up their campuses in India was allowed through Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) regulations as well as by the University Grants Commission (UGC). These regulations aim to attract top-ranked global universities and institutions to India and offer Indian students a chance to avail global certifications at comparatively affordable costs in their home country.

We have already seen Deakin University operationalise its campus in July this year and the University of Wollongong

preparing for their launch, both at GIFT City. The University of Southampton (UK), ranked 80th in the 2025 QS World Rankings, became the first university to receive a Letter of Intent (LoI) from the Indian Government to establish its

campus in India. We are also seeing Indian institutions set up campuses overseas as part of the internationalisation initiative. IIT Delhi has set up its first international campus in Abu Dhabi and IIT Madras has located its first overseas campus in Zanzibar. The UGC Institutions of Eminence (IoE) guidelines enable IoEs to set up their campuses overseas and BITS Pilani and Manipal Academy took advantage of the window to do their forays outside India.

While there is a lot of inter-

est from other private univerbaton of internationalisation sities to set up campuses overseas, promulgating an enabling framework through regulations by the governinterest further. In May 2022, the government revamped the collaboration guidelines to allow for joint degree, dual degree and twinning programmes between Indian institutions and FHEIs. We have already seen a lot of traction in this space, with Manipal Institute of Technology tying up with Deakin, the University of Australia, and Shoolini University offering dual degrees with the University of Melbourne being some recent

Studying in India is another initiative towards the internationalisation of the Indian education system. It is a flagship programme of the Government of India in line with PM Modi's vision. The website portal acts as a single window system for admission and visa applications for foreign students wanting to pursue higher education in India, with more than 60,000 students already registering through this portal. The

of education is also being taken forward through the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) ment would catalyze this and the Mutual Recognition of Qualification (MRQ) Agreement between India and other countries, which aims to facilitate student and faculty exchanges.

There are around 50 plus active MoUs (including France, and Germany) with a few under negotiation. MRQs have been signed with a few countries as well and some are under negotiation. A fabulous start to an era of transformation of the Indian education landscape! Is there a need to do more? A more targeted approach, probably through a campaign run with Indian consulates in overseas countries, could further the cause of internationalisation. FHEIs are now rethinking their strategy. Possibly an opportunity for India to tap – open an FHEI campus in India and offer itself as an alternate education hub in the region. (The writer is Partner,

Deloitte India, inputs by Guncha Prakash, Assistant Manager, Deloitte India; views are personal)

INDIAN WORKERS ARE OVERBURDENED

Madam — "Work more, take less" is the mantra of the Indian employers of all sectors who are hell-bent on extracting more and more work from their employees while the emolument is not parallel to the labour at all. Consequently, stress tends to percolate through the workplace as shown by two work-related deaths of young employees in private companies. An International Labour Organisation (ILO) report that Indians work 46.7 hours per week, much higher than their American, Japanese, South African and Chinese counterparts, speaks volumes about the workload taken by an average

Indian worker. It is documented in other papers, too, that more than sixty percent of the Indian workers are stressed at work, while in general the Asian countries' workforce is more burdened by work. The primary cause for all this can be traced to the burgeoning unemployment in the country and the dearth of the right job for the right person. Employers' proclivity to recruit less to save their coffers has compounded the problem. Egoistic and haughty employers, fretting and fuming over no real reason, have pushed an already overstressed Indian worker to the edge. There is no time to waste: balancing work with rest should engage every-one's attention including that of the government.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

INDIA-MALDIVES RELATIONS IMPROVE Madam-India and its neighbour Maldives recently concluded a bilateral summit and agreed upon numerous deals. This came after a strain of ties between the two nations for almost one year after Mohamed Muizzu became president of the Island nation. India came forward to help the Maldives recover from its economic distress by signing a currency swap deal of around 385 million dollars. The two nations also agreed to enhance strategic and defence cooperation in the future. This visit has

Sports promote social unity



rom time immemorial, sports have always been more than just games; they are powerful agents of social change, capable of uniting people, breaking down religion and caste barriers, and driving positive transformations in society. From local community

brought positivity amidst reports of the Maldives being closer to China. New Delhi also extended its Rupay card system to the Maldives, which can also improve people-to-people ties among the two nations.

Good relations between the two countries will lead to peaceful South Asia. The partnership between New Delhi and Male will also counter China's aggressive expansion motives in the region. Traditionally, the Maldives has always been a good friend to India, but in the last one year, administrative and peopleto-people ties have become strained between the two nations. Recently, both countries took the initiative to make it better. These steps resulted in this bilateral talk. The deals signed between the two nations will help both countries boost their economies. This will also benefit the region as well. India should also try to change the anti-Indian sentiments in the island nation and push for Indian businesses to expand and invest in a country with a rich tourism industry. **Deba Prasad Nayak** | New Delhi

THE BJP WINS HARYANA

Madam — Contrary to all expectations and predictions, the BJP was able to retain Haryana for the third time. All pollsters, analysts and exit polls have

been proved wrong. Politics is an unforgiving game and the defeat of the Congress has created ripples in opposition unity as the Congress will have lost its bargaining power.

The victory for BJP will undoubtedly give them a lot of confidence to face assembly elections in Jharkhand and the all important Maharashtra. It is not in the best interests of Indian democracy to use caste equations to try and win elections. All parties are guilty of the practice of pandering to particular castes for gaining their votes. Time and again, it has been seen that in a one-toone fight, the Congress is no match for the well-oiled BJP election fighting

Anthony Henriques | Mumbai

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FIRST COLUMN

OVERCOMING ANXIETY: THE RIGHT WAY

Mindfulness, mental resilience and stressrelieving activities are essential to combat anxiety



RAVI VALLURI

ameer was armed with a degree in management from an estimable institute. Having specialised in the field of marketing management, he was well versed in the 4Ps of marketing. At this juncture of his life, the young trainee fantasised about joining an FMCG company, earning an exorbitant salary and over a period acquiring an opulent property in an up-market area of the town. But there was an element of hesitation in his mind about successfully crossing the final hurdle - the interview. As the mind was not in the present moment and instead fixated on the future it remained anxious and continuously agitated. Thus, it was not in a state of equilibrium, equipoise, or equanimity. Meanwhile, Siddhartha, his school mate majored in architecture and apprenticed at a celebrated architectural firm in the city. Siddhartha however, was not content in designing buildings.

He possessed a febrile mind that ached to pursue a greenfield area called entertainment design. The stripling self-taught himself and acquired ultramodern and newfangled skill sets. Fortified with the newly acquired knowledge he prepared a portfolio consisting of visionary and ingenious graphics, sketches and paintings. Yet, mentally he was anxious, tense and strained as to what lay in future. It is a normal human tendency to be apprehensive before anxious situations as it is not in the present moment. Several individuals become splenetic and waspish. Invariably there is a churning in the abdomen region and the mind is subsumed with anxiety. Arjuna, in possession of a lethal arsenal, was benumbed seeing the mammoth army of the Kauravas. This, even though Lord Krishna was his charioteer! At zero hour, before the showdown at Kurukshetra, he lay down his weaponry. The consummate warrior could not distinguish between righteousness and malevolence. The demons in his mind were



eventually dispelled through the Vishwarupa Darshan of Lord Krishna and the song celestial – The Bhagayad Gita, Psychologists have advanced a two-pronged strategy to combat such inhospitable states, firstly by closely monitoring the piquant state and taking prompt and effective action and second, by avoiding and blunting the situation. Monitoring involves taking several proactive steps which help in the preparation of the mind. Advanced and well-rehearsed preparation before a significant event; this is tapasya and no one can relax on this ground.

The mind should be resolute and robust, to practice incessantly like the celebrated archer Arjuna. In the process, the individual de-clutters the mind and gets rid of the baggage of anxiety and fear. The Inoculation Technique is another effective strategy. An individual insulates the self against the perils of stress through constant exposure to rehearsals and

This mentally toughens up the candidate to be prepared for the scrutiny and appraisal with utmost confidence and credence. Further, adopting a positive dispensation is invaluable. In addition, there are blunting tactics and strategies which help to augment the above. It is perspicacious and canny to drown in physical activity. It could be going for long walks, swimming, hitting the gym, taking up a sport or learning yogic techniques to de-stress the mind. These activities release endorphins which assuage the mind. Simultaneously, an individual will appear chiselled and smart. There are other ways to remain happy. For instance, join the Happiness Programme of the Art of Living to learn the unique rhythmic breathing technique of Sudarshan Kriya which calms the body and mind. Learn pranavama and various techniques of meditation to remain in the present moment. Only when a human being is in the present moment is he insulated from anxiety and manages inexpedient and onerous sit-

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)

'Fourth transformation' of Maxico embraces inclusivity



Claudia Sheinbaum's leadership promises to reshape the nation's trajectory away from its violent past, embracing inclusive and human-centred policies

laudia Sheinbaum's swearing-in on October 1 as Mexico's first female President marks a transformative moment not only for gender equality but also within the broader historical trajectory shaped by violence, revolution and the ongoing pursuit of justice. In a nation long burdened by colonial legacies and systemic inequality, her presidency signals a paradigm shift towards more inclusive and human-centred governance. Declaring a "fourth transformation," Sheinbaum's leadership reflects the weight of Mexico's tumultuous history and the lives lost in its struggles. Her rise to power disrupts the deeply entrenched male-dominated political sphere, accentuating the resilience of women fighting for representation in a country plagued by gender-based violence and femicide.

Historically, Mexico has undergone significant transformations marked by bloodshed and resistance. The country's struggle for independence from Spanish colonial rule in the early 19th century was fuelled by revolutionary fervour and the desire for self-determination. Statesmen like Miguel Hidalgo and José María Morelos emerged as symbols of resistance, galvanising the population against colonial oppression. The violent conflicts that followed laid the groundwork for a nation striving for autonomy, albeit at a considerable human cost. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the divide between church and state catalysed further revolutions and conflicts. The Liberal Reform, led by figures such as Benito Juárez, sought to dismantle the power of the Catholic Church and establish a secular state.

This period was marked by violence and civil strife, as conservative factions resisted these changes. The Mexican Revolution of 1910 further exemplified the nation's tumultuous journey, with leaders like Emiliano Zapata and Pancho Villa rallying for agrarian reform and social justice. The revolution, while transformative, came at a heavy price, resulting in the loss of countless lives and widespread suffering. The bloodshed that characterised these early transformations stands in stark contrast to Sheinbaum's vision for the fourth transformation, which she advocates as a path of non-violence and reconciliation. She seeks to distance her administration from the militarised approach that has defined previous efforts to combat crime and violence. In her inaugural speech, she emphasised that "we must turn the page on the cycles of violence that have plagued our country." By framing her presidency as a continuation of a peaceful and humanistic governance model, she aims to redefine Mexico's political structure.

The economic model embraced by Sheinbaum's administration marks a significant departure from the neoliberal policies that have dominated Mexico for decades. The neoliberal framework, characterised by deregulation, resource exploitation, privatisation, and an emphasis on unethical free-market principles, has often exacerbated social inequalities and marginalised vulnerable populations. In contrast, Sheinbaum's "Mexican Humanist" approach seeks to prioritise social welfare, equity, and sustainable development.

This shift is not merely a matter of policy but represents a broader socio-political transformation in the way governance is conceived. Sheinbaum advocates for a model that empowers communities and fosters inclusivity, stating, "We must build



IN THE CONTEXT OF CLAUDIA SHEINBAUM'S PRESIDENCY, THE **ENDURING** LEGACY OF CIA COVERT OPERATIONS AND **FOREIGN INTERVENTIONS** LOOMS LARGE

a Mexico where no one is left lence and social justice aligns behind." This vision reflects a recognition that systemic issues require collective solutions and that the voices of marginalised communities must be heard in the decision-making processes that affect their lives.

Yet, while Sheinbaum's approach has garnered support from many, it also faces criticism and scepticism from those who question the feasibility of her proposed reforms. Critics argue that the structural challenges posed by organised crime and entrenched political corruption may undermine her efforts to implement meaningful change. The harsh realities of violence and inequality persist, and many Mexicans remain wary of promises that may be difficult to fulfil in the face of overwhelming opposition. The historical backdrop of Mexico's political volatility illuminates the formidable challenges in achieving authentic progress, as the legacies of colonialism, imperialism, and systemic oppression remain deeply ingrained.
The ongoing struggles for justice and equality have come at a pro-

found cost, with the violence woven into Mexico's history continuing to influence the present and complicate future paths.

The Zapatista movement, which arose in the 1990s in response to neoliberal policies and the marginalisation of Indigenous communities, stands as a powerful testament to the fight for social justice. Led by Subcomandante Marcos, the Zapatistas championed self-determination, autonomy, and the acknowledgement of Indigenous rights, challenging dominant political narratives and inspiring a new generation of activists, including Sheinbaum. Yet, their movement also reveals the challenges inherent in revolutionary politics; while their promise of non-vio-

with Sheinbaum's vision, navigating the realities of power and governance often demands difficult compromises. The pressing challenge remains: how to dismantle deeply rooted systems of inequality and violence without mirroring the oppressive methods of the past. Sheinbaum's fourth transformation for Mexico calls for a reevaluation of economic policies and a fundamental shift in political culture, emphasising transparency, accountability, and democratic principles that prioritise the needs

of the many. She stresses the importance of restoring faith in institutions and rebuilding the nation's social fabric. However, the ongoing issues of alleged corruption and political machinations, exacerbated by her predecessor López Obrador's concentration of power and undermining of democratic institutions. raise concerns about the sustainability of her reforms. In the context of Claudia Sheinbaum's presidency, the enduring legacy of CIA covert operations and foreign interventions looms large. Historically, the United States has intervened in Latin America to safeguard its interests, often undermining democratic governance and social justice.

The repercussions of these interventions have fostered a deep-seated distrust and scepticism toward foreign influence in Mexico's internal affairs. As Sheinbaum endeavours to establish a nation committed to human rights and social justice, she must grapple with the pervasive effects of these historical injustices and the Western media narratives that distort the actual picture of Mexican society. In terms of international relations, Sheinbaum vehemently opposes foreign intervention, particularly regarding the US blockade against Cuba, which harms ordinary citizens rather than the government. She advocates for cooperation rather than militarisation in addressing drug-related violence, emphasising that the drug market is intricately linked to US consumer demand. As she aptly stated, "We must honour our past, learn from our struggles, and build a future that reflects the aspirations of all Mexicans." Yet, the pursuit of a more just and equitable Mexico demands collective action, engagement from diverse communities, and a steadfast commitment to dismantling systemic barriers, as Sheinbaum seeks to embody the hopes of a nation shaped by resilience and struggle. However, the structural challenges, as Enrique Dussel, an Argentine-Mexican philosopher, explained in his writings, continue to haunt Mexico, posing real threats to the stability of political leadership. He emphasises the need for integrating diverse cultural perspectives and fostering dialogue from the Global South, as seen in his concept of transmodernity.

Dussel also highlights the coloniality of power, illustrating how historical injustices persist in contemporary governance, perpetuating inequality. Furthermore, his ethics of the Other calls for recognising the experiences of marginalised individuals as central to any discourse on justice. Additionally, the aporia of borders illustrates the contradictions communities face at national edges, such as the Mexico-US border, where ideals of freedom and security often clash. Addressing these issues demands a nuanced approach that acknowledges the voices of those usually left unheard, which presents a significant challenge for the historic administration of Dr Sheinbaum.

(The writer is a journalist and author; Views expressed are personal)

Half of the world's GDP at risk due to environmental degradation

The conservation and restoration of depleted forests are essential steps to combat climate change

limate change has become an important Jchallenge for the whole world. Conservation and restoration of depleted forests can become a necessary step to deal with this challenge.

Regarding this, many companies around the world have pledged to plant over 12 billion trees in the next seven years. The report published by the World trees in more than 100 coun-Economic Forum on Nature and Biodiversity on January \$44 trillion, is in danger. Which is due to the loss of

conserve, restore and plant January 2024, 1t.org wel-



tries. This report states that companies around the world 18, 2024, clarifies that half of are working together the world's GDP, i.e. about through the World Economic Forum's 1t.org initiative.

It aims to support the glob-To save it, more than 100 al movement to protect over

Heavy Electricals (BHEL), Burberry China, Go To Group, RPG Enterprises and Vale. Member companies of 1t.org are committed to implementing the goal in line with the Paris Agreement to save trees and reduce carbon emissions. Tree conservation is not only important for environmental sustainability, but it is also a part of our cultural and religious heritage. Trees learn from each other. That research was published on May 28, 2024 in the Current Forestry Reports magazine of Springer Nature, America.

This research is based on the companies have pledged to 12 billion trees by 2030. In topic that how trees planted in agro-forestry and urban new trees of over 12 billion comed this resolution by forestry can learn from each

According to the research, both systems can be seen as natural solutions. Both systems also have similarities in ownership and management responsibilities. For example, most of the agricultural land in the Global North is privately owned, just as a large part of the green cover is seen in cities. Increasing the density of

trees improves air quality. The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore conducted a study in 2023 on the role of trees in the urban environment. This study was mainly done in urban areas of Bangalore. It was found that trees in urban areas play an important role in improving air



temperature. In this research, it was told

trees, the greater the increase in air quality and the effect quality as well as controlling that the higher the density of of heat can also be reduced.

the mental and physical density of trees prevents soil

A study conducted by the University of Sydney, Australia, says that dense cover of trees can control the flow of water and help prevent soil erosion. This study also stated that the conservation of trees helps in reducing the effects of climate change. All these studies confirm how important the conservation of trees is for our future. In Indian culture, importance has been given to the conservation of trees since the beginning. According to Matasya Purana, "Dashakoopasama Vaapi, Dashavaapisamo

This study also found that Hradah. Dashahradasamo Putro, Dashputrasamo health of people living in green areas improves. The equal to ten sons. Similarly, it is said in Vishnu Purana that the person who plants a tree earns virtue not only in his life but also for the com-

ing generations. Planting and caring for trees has been described as an important religious and social work in Indian scriptures. At present, planting trees is not only to save lives but also to save the earth. Let us take resolve to conserve nature. Each one of us must take a pledge to plant at least 5 trees, only then this disaster of global warming can be dealt with.

(The writer is an environmentalist; views are personal)

HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | OCTOBER 12, 2024

IN BRIEF



Industrial output contracts 0.1 pc in August: Govt data

ndia's industrial production contracted 0.1 per cent in August, mainly due to poor showing by the mining and power generation sectors, according to official data released on Friday. The factory output, measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) witnessed a growth of 10.9 per cent in August 2023. "The IIP growth rate for the month of August 2024 is (-) 0.1 per cent, which was 4.7 per cent in the month of July 2024," an official statement said. The data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) showed that the growth in mining, manufacturing and electricity for August 2024 stood at (-) 4.3 per cent, 01 per cent and (-) 3.7 per cent, respectively. The decline in growth of the mining sector is likely due to heavy rainfall in August 2024, NSO said.



India's forex kitty drops by \$3.71 bln to \$701.176 bln

ndia's forex reserves dropped by \$3.709 billion to \$701.176 billion for the week ended October 4, the RBI said on Friday. In the previous reporting week, the reserves had jumped by \$12.588 billion to an all-time high of \$704.885 billion. For the week ended October 4, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased by \$3.511 billion to \$612.643 billion, the data released on Friday showed. Expressed in terms of dollar, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves. Gold reserves decreased by \$40 million to \$65.756 billion during the week, the RBI said. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were down by USD 123 million to USD 18.425 billion, the apex bank said



Amazon corporate gifting store sees 134 pc growth

mazon's B2B marketplace Amazon Business on Friday said it has recorded a 134 per cent growth year-on-year Asid it has recorded a 10 per same grant first ten days of Amazon Great Indian Festival 2024. A 95 per cent increase in total orders and a 107 per cent rise in customers making a purchase was witnessed during the period, a company statement said. The Amazon Great Indian Festival sale commenced on September 27, 2024, with Prime members getting a 24-hour early access window. Kitchenware emerged as the most gifted category with mixer grinders and juicers emerging as the most gifted items showing 5.5x year-on-year growth, Amazon said. Headphones and speakers were the most popular tech gifting items whereas chocolates, dry fruit, and tea-coffee hampers were in the snacks and sweets category. "The remarkable growth of our corporate gifting store this festive season highlights the rapid adoption of eprocurement across India.

EU's deforestation regulation, carbon tax unfair: Goyal

The European Union's (EU) deforestation regulation and carbon tax are unfair and would impact Indian industries, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on

He also said the EU's safeguard measures on some steel products are irrational too.

Addressing industry and representatives of EU here on the launch of Federation of European Business in India (FEBI), he said Indian industries are "confronted with unfair rules of deforestation, rules around CBAM (Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism) and various other measures".

Major agriculture-exporting countries, including Brazil, India, Indonesia and the US, have raised objections to the EU Deforestation Regulation

The EUDR was adopted on May 16, 2023, and seeks to prevent the import of specified goods contributing to deforestation and forest degradation in the EU market.

The covered products include coffee, leather, oil cake, wood furniture, paper,

and paperboard, with plans to expand the product list fur-

However, the regulation has faced significant backlash from several major trading partners.

The Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said India's exports of products like coffee, leather hides, and paperboard worth USD 1.3 billion annually to the European Union could be impacted due to the

Similarly, India has raised strong objections against the CBAM, under which EU has proposed to impose additional duty on seven carbon-intensive sectors, including steel, cement, fertiliser, aluminium and hydrocarbon products.

The CBAM or carbon tax (a kind of import duty) will come into effect from January , 2026. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman too has recently said the CBAM is unilateral and arbitrary and will hurt India's exports after its implementation by EU.

Last month, India proposed the imposition of retaliatory customs duties, under WTO norms, on certain value of goods imported from EU, as the two sides have failed to reach a consensus on the EU's safeguard measures on some steel products.

Goyal said the developed world is taking such measures by "disrespecting" the multilateral agreements on climate change.

Agreement it was decided that the developed world -- which in the first place is responsible for the environmental problems of the world -- will contribute to the low-cost, longterm financing and will also provide grants and technolo-

But, COP 21 (Paris Climate Conference) premise is sought to be demolished by the EU, he said. He added that on the issue of imposing safeguard duty measures, which are "irrational duties and totally against the MFN (most favoured nation) laws of WTO (World Trade Organization) on certain steel products" India is discussing the matter for the last 5-6 years now.

"I have been holding back, I have been negotiating and requesting ...India does not have unfair trade practices, now should we be subject to that additional duty? Now after six years, we have to take other measures," Goyal said.

He added that those measures are "not going to be conducive for the kind of good relations that we believe Europe and India share and should continue to share at the business level".

traditionally was started in

Europe, and that's where it

has grown very

over the years, he said

significantly

Over 40 pc women-owned micro businesses lack emergency savings: report

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A significant number of women-owned micro businesses in India lack savings for financial emergencies, making them highly vulnerable to economic shocks, said a report.

The report titled 'Decoding the Financial Health of Women-Owned Micro-Businesses (wMB) in India' was prepared by MicroSave Consulting (MSC) in collaboration with Sa-Dhan and supported by JPMorgan Chase.

The research covers six regions - Delhi-NCR, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu providing data-driven insights and calls for targeted interventions. Data was collected through 1,460 computer-assist- accurate financial records.

informant interviews with financial institutions and enterprise support organisations, and comprehensive desk research.

Interviews with 150 womenowned micro businesses across the six regions revealed insights into their financial decisionmaking processes, challenges and motivations.

The report indicated that 45 per cent of women entrepreneurs lack savings for financial emergencies, making them highly susceptible to economic shocks. Additionally, many face challenges in distinguishing between personal and business finances, which complicates cash flow management and hinders the maintenance of

CDSCO favours

Wockhardt's

antibiotic

Drug firm Wockhardt on Friday said the national drug

regulator has accorded a

favourable recommendation

for its novel antibiotic devel-

oped for the treatment of

community-acquired bacteri-

al pneumonia (CABP) in

adults. The Subject Expert

Committee (SÉC) of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation

(CDSCO) has provided a

favourable recommendation

for Miqnaf (nafithromycin),

the drug firm said in a state-

ment. The SEC recommenda-

tion is based on CDSCO's

comprehensive review of the

product dossier consisting of

non-clinical, US/EU Phase 1,

Global Phase 2 and India

Phase 3 clinical studies con-

ducted over the last 15 years. it added. A positive opinion

PNS NEW DELHI



Arkade Developers Q1 profit jumps over 4 times

PNS MUMBAI

Realty firm Arkade Developers Ltd, which got listed on the stock exchanges recently, has reported a more than four-fold jump in its consolidated net profit to Rs 30.21 crore for the first quarter of this fiscal year.

Its profit stood at Rs 6.57 crore in the year-ago period. Total income doubled to Rs 125.51 crore during the April-June period of this fiscal from Rs 62.01 crore in the corre-

sponding period of the preced-

ing fiscal. The Indian real estate market, particularly the luxury housing segment, has witnessed strong demand driven by urbanisation and rising incomes," Amit Jain, Chairman and Managing Director of Arkade Developers, said.

'India a priority for us in global expansion plans'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Online reservation platform Booking.com sees India as a "big priority" in terms of its global expansion plans and a long-term strategic player in the travel and tourism space, Santosh Kumar, the firm's Country Manager for India, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia, said.

Kumar said the company is betting big on India and it continues to invest "very heavily" in the country's market. Brazil and Japan, too, are

priority markets for Booking.com as it looks at further expansion in markets apart from the US, he said. 'When you look at

Booking.com and also Booking Holdings, the parent company... post-pandemic, our domestic business has also grown very significantly... It (India) is a very big priority.



omy's bright prospects, Kumar said, "Our GDP continues to We continue to invest very heavily in this market and we are really looking at India as a grow. We are continuing to get long-term strategic player," foreign direct investment into

Booking.com traditionally Our infrastructure is continwas started in Europe, and uously improving with all the policies and the investments that's where it has grown very significantly over the years, he that the current government said. "US is a very big priorihas been making. So all of those indicators are very posty... after that we have markets like India, Brazil, Japan, etc. which are very big priorities

He asserted that the contribution of the tourism industry to India's GDP is set to dou-

ble in the next few years, creating millions of job opportu-

According to estimates, tourism in India contributes 6.5 per cent to the country's GDP and supports 4.3 crore

"Travel and tourism as a contributor to GDP is expected to double in the next few years. It is already a very significant part of our GDP. It will double in the years to come and will create multiple new obs. It will create 58 million obs in the next nine years or so," the Booking.com country manager said.

According to Kumar, increasing connectivity, easing visa processes and promoting India more in overseas markets as a tourism destination are the top-three focus areas to realise the country's full potential in the sector, going for-

from the SEC of CDSCO would pave the way for gaingrowth of 46 per cent. Miqnaf, the company stated. On a gross basis, direct tax collection grew 22.3 per cent to Rs 13.57 lakh crore. The col-

al income tax) of Rs 7.13 lakh crore and corporate tax of Rs

patients, including those caused by multi-drug resistant (MDR) bugs. CABP is the most common

tract infections.

Profitability of small banks likely to decline in FY25: Crisil

PNS NEW DELHI

The profitability of small finance banks, measured in terms of return of assets (RoA), will moderate around 40 basis points to about 1.7 per cent this fiscal from 2.1 per cent in last financial year due to lower net interest margins (NIM) and higher credit

costs, said a report. That said, RoA for small finance banks

(SFBs) will still be higher than that for the overall banking system by 50-60 bps on account of the relatively higher yielding nature of their loan book, Crisil said in the

report. Last month, Reserve Bank Deputy Governor Swaminathan I had asked SFBs to be vigilant and ensure that risks are mitigat-

ed in time. He also highlighted the importance of sustainable business models. He underscored the need to strengthen cybersecurity to safeguard against digital threats.

The report said NIM for SFBs is expected to contract 15 bps as they continue diversifying to secured asset classes, which have relatively lower Credit cost, meanwhile, may

rise to about 40 bps because of rising delinquencies, primarily in the

microfinance and other unsecured segments, it said. An uptick in delinquencies, albeit more controlled, is

also likely in subsegments of secured assets classes catering to a similar customer

segment. 'SFBs have been focusing on segmental diversification as a core growth strategy. With many having started out as microfinance lenders, the diversification has largely been towards secured asset classes (primarily loans against property, housing loans and vehicle loans), to curtail potential volatility in asset quality and earnings," it said.

NDT collection grows 18% to Rs 11.25 lakh cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

for us," he said.

Net direct tax (NDT) collection grew 18.3 per cent to about Rs 11.25 lakh crore as of October 10 this fiscal, government data showed on Friday. The mop-up includes per-

Talking about India's econ-

sonal income tax collection of Rs 5.98 lakh crore and corporate tax collection of Rs 4.94 lakh crore. Securities

Transaction Tax (STT) stood at Rs 30,630 crore, while other taxes (including equalisation levy and gift tax) earned Rs 2,150 crore.

The income tax department had collected Rs 9.51 lakh crore during the same period

Refunds worth Rs 2.31 lakh crore were issued between April 1 and October 10, a

6.11 lakh crore. The government has budgeted to collect Rs 22.07 lakh

lection includes PIT (person-

crore in the current fiscal from

Mignaf is the once-a-day 3days-only treatment for CABP

infection, leading to hospitalisation and death. Globally, 2.4 million annual deaths are caused by lower respiratory

CCPA SLAPS NOTICE

10K complaints against Ola Electric

PNS NEW DELHI

Consumer rights regulator CCPA has slapped a notice on electric two-wheeler manufacturer Ola, as it initiates a class action after over 10,000 complaints related to quality and after-sales service remained unaddressed, according to sources.

The National Consumer

getting complaints against Ola Electric for the last one vear, which were escalated to higher levels at the company for redressal "but there was little interest shown in redressing these complaints", said a source.

Subsequently, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) "started examining these complaints

that over the last one year, NCH received over 10,000 complaints", the source added. According to the source, the major categories of consumer complaints include charging during the free service period/warranty, delayed and unsatisfactory services, refusal or delay in warranty services, inadequate services, recurrent

Helpline (NCH) has been for class action and found defects despite services, inconsistent performance with advertised claims, overcharging and inaccurate invoices.

Also, failure to provide refunds and documentation, unprofessional conduct and complaint closure and multiple issues with battery and vehicle components were highlighted by the aggrieved consumers, a source said.

Sebi orders probe into Trafiksol IPO disclosures

Markets regulator Sebi on Friday decided to conduct a detailed investigation into the disclosures made by SME firm Trafiksol ITS Technologies Ltd in its draft IPO documents and instructed BSE not to proceed with the company's share list-

In its interim order, Sebi has asked BSE to ensure that the IPO proceeds are kept in an interest-bearing escrow account, with no access allowed to Trafiksol or its affiliates until further notice.

The Sebi's investigation will be completed within 30 days. The order came nearly a month after BSE postponed the

listing of Trafiksol ITS Technologies on its SME plat-

form after investor concerns. The decision was taken after the Securities and Exchange Board of India (BSE) asked the exchange to investigate the complaints.

Trafiksol ITS Technologies' Rs 45-crore IPO was oversubscribed by over 345 times, attracting bids worth more than Rs 10,000 crore. The issue, priced between Rs 66 and Rs 70 per share, was open for subscription from September 10 to

The company raised the funds, with plans to use the funds for software purchases, repayment of borrowings, working capital and general corporate purposes.

Post the closure of the issue and allotment of shares, certain complaints were received by

Halts listing on BSE SME platform



Sebi and BSE regarding discrepancies in Trafiksol's IPO, particularly about the use of funds for software procurement. It was alleged that the third-party vendor chosen by Trafiksol was incapable of fulfilling the

In response, Sebi and BSE took steps to investigate, including deferring the listing of the

The investigation found that the vendor had not filed financial statements in three years and had reported NIL revenue

in the last year for which financials were filed. It was prima facie that the vendor was a retail trader, not a software developer, according to the order.

Further investigations revealed irregularities, such as missing financial document identification numbers and a non-operational office of the vendor, it noted.

"Given the above facts, it cannot be ruled out at this stage that the attempt to award the software contract to a vendor, who prima facie appears to be a shell entity without any prior experience in developing a software platform of the nature disclosed by the company in its DRHP, was an attempt to deliberately mislead investors and divert the IPO proceeds," Sebi

said in its order.

guard investor interest, Sebi is of the view that issues raised in this order require a detailed investigation.

Accordingly, "a detailed examination shall be made by Sebi into the disclosures made by Trafiksol ITS Technologies Ltd, in its DRHP (draft red herring prospectus) filed with BSE on May 30, 2024, including the issues identified in this order".

BSE has been "directed not to proceed with the listing of shares of the company".

However, the company proposed to get new quotes from at least three suppliers, seek shareholder approval before making any payments and allow BSE to appoint a monitoring agency to oversee the procurement process.

Bandhan Bank shares jump over 12 pc

Shares of Bandhan Bank on Friday jumped more than 12 per cent after the Reserve Bank of India approved the appointment of Partha Pratim Sengupta as its MD and CEO for three

The stock of the company soared 12.38 per cent to close at Rs 211 apiece on the BSE.

On the NSE, it climbed 11.58 per cent to settle at Rs 209.44 per piece. In terms of volume, 80.83 lakh equity shares were traded on the BSE, while 12.98 crore shares exchanged hands

on the NSE during the day. The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 230.05 points or 0.28 per cent

NSE Nifty slipped 34.20 points or 0.14 per cent to 24,964.25.

Bandhan Bank on Thursday said that the RBI approved the appointment of Partha Pratim Sengupta as its Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer for a period of three years. His three-year tenure counts from the date of taking charge, which shall not be later than November 10, 2024, the bank said.

Sengupta replaces founder MD and CEO Chandra Sekhar Ghosh who stepped down on July 9. Currently, Ratan Kesh, one of the executive directors, is serving as the interim MD and CEO.

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Saturday October 12, 2024

Hyderabadi Queen who's all about empowering modern Maharanis in Hyd



AARTI SREENATH aarti.sreenath9@gmail.com

eet Dr Sudha Jain, a powerhouse of passion and purpose from Hyderabad. This dynamic woman isn't just a Ph.D. holder; she's also the former Miss India Asia Pacific (2017-18), using her title to advocate for women's empowerment.
Her journey to Hyderabad unfolds like a

heartwarming narrative, rich with anecdotes and serendipitous connections. After nearly two decades in the city, she reflects on her early days with a blend of nostalgia and humor. "Chennai was my first experience in the South," she chuckles. "It's a beautiful city, but I often felt like an outsider. It was always, 'Oh, you're from the North?' But Hyderabad was different. People would smile and say, 'Your Hindi sounds nice,' even if it hinted at

a northern twang."
When she first arrived in Hyderabad, she carried the usual apprehensions about moving to a new place, particularly after her time in Chennai. However, she was pleasantly surprised. "Hyderabad didn't just accept me; it embraced me with open arms," she recalls. The locals were not only welcoming but genuinely curious about her north-

ern roots. "They would ask me about the weather in Assam and show real interest in my background. It was refreshing."
For her, Assam remains a cher-

ished backdrop from her childhood, where the air was crisp, winters required woolen clothes and life flowed in harmony with the Brahmaputra River. "Assam was all about bungalows. In contrast, Hyderabad's high-rises and fast-paced life were new to me. But the warmth of its people more than made up for the lack of a winter season," she reminisces.

Her connection to Hyderabad soon deepened, transforming it into a sense of home. "Before I knew it, I was buying a bungalow here and settling in. It wasn't just a city I moved to; it became mine," she smiles.

Sudha's journey from a newcomer to a proud Hyderabadi is filled with moments that have shaped her love for the city.

She fondly recalls an early experience at an exhibition that took her by surprise. "Back then, exhibitions were rare. At one event, someone complimented my jawline, saying it was 'hexagonal,' which is apparently quite unusual," she laughs. "It's one of those quirky interactions that make Hyderabad so interesting."

She contrasts Hyderabad's bustling lifestyle with Assam's simplicity, where traditional meals and a sense of community prevail over fast food. Yet, she appreciates Hyderabad's dynamic nature, where every lane has its own charm and people are always ready to welcome guests. "Hyderabad is two cities in one," she describes. "It's alive and buzzing at night,

that makes you feel like you belong."

Reflecting on how the city has shaped her career, she notes, "Hyderabad has been exceptionally supportive. It's a place where you can pursue your passions, and the community truly rallies behind you. Since I started in the industry, the relationships I've built here have been invaluable. The people I've met, especially in the fashion and beauty sectors, have helped me grow immensely."

As she discusses her experiences, she touches on the challenges she has faced, particularly regarding the changing dynamics of her clientele. But rather than dwelling on the negative, she remains optimistic. Her resilience and positive outlook have further enabled her to navigate industry challenges while cherishing the unforgettable moments and connections she has made in Hyderabad.

Each experience, whether glamorous or challenging, has contributed to her growth, making her journey uniquely fulfilling.

Her journey in Hyderabad is more than just a chapter in her life; it's a vibrant assortment woven with art, culture and deep-rooted connections. She passionately discusses the nuances of judging in the fashion industry, emphasising that the role is far from super-

Her reflections on Hyderabad showcase both her admiration and critical insights.

While she respects a few local judges, she notes, "There are only two or three judges here who I believe can fit anywhere in India. Their presence motivated me to create new hashtags for my work, breaking free from the traditional celebrity-based judgments." Her desire to shift towards more genuine assessments reveals her vision for growth in the fashion world, one that values substance over superficiality.

Her commitment to promoting Hyderabad's handloom industry is particularly notable. She beams with pride when talking about her efforts to support local artisans, especially weavers from Pochampally and Bhuvangiri. "The handloom sector is thriving in Hyderabad," she shares. Not long ago, she organised a press meet for weavers, attracting coverage from 17 leading newspapers. "I've registered copyrights for their unique motifs, ensuring recognition and protection for each weaver's work," she adds. Her efforts aim not only to uplift individual artisans but also to ensure that their cultural heritage is preserved and celebrated.

Yet, her love for Hyderabad extends beyond fashion and art. It's the spirit of the people that endears the city to her. 'Hyderabad has vibes of royalty, yet it's incredibly open to adopting new things," she reflects on the city's unique blend of tradition and modernity. From the rich heritage of Charminar to the casual warmth of a roadside chai stall, she finds joy in the city's simplicity and hospitality. "In Lucknow, food is royal and the presentation is classic. But here, it's casual and effortless. You'll walk into a place and they'll serve you a bun with chai, and you just sit and enjoy," she remarks with a smile.

Her story embodies the essence of a city that welcomes newcomers with open arms, blending tradition and modernity in a unique tapestry of culture. As she continues to thrive in the fashion industry, advocating for local artisans and embracing her roots, she inspires others to navigate their paths with resilience and authenticity. With a heart full of gratitude for the serendipitous moments that have shaped her life, she reminds us that true belonging often arises from the simplest acts of kindness, making Hyderabad not just a city she lives in, but a home she cherishes

Embryo freezing for

INK, an acronym for Double Income, No Kids, refers to couples who both have incomes from jobs or investments and do not have children. In India, the number of DINK couples is growing rapidly, with an estimated annual increase of 30%. These couples typically have higher disposable incomes and lead flexible lifestyles. The term gained popularity in the late 20th century as more women pursued higher education and careers, resulting in dual-income households. This shift has influenced changing perspectives on parenthood.

Why is DINK on rise?

Some of the common reasons for the rise in DINKS approach follows:

Financial pressure: Raising children comes with significant financial responsibility. Contrary to the common perception, not all DINK (Double Income, No Kids) couples have excess funds. Many urban and rural couples, particularly those with lower incomes, face financial challenges. The expenses of raising and educating children pose a major concern on their shoulders.

Career-focused: In today's world, both men and women are highly driven by their career ambitions to become proficient in their professional lives in order to achieve financial stability and compete with rising inflation. They are focused on dedicating their time, energy and resources to build robust finances that support themselves and their lifestyle. As a result, many individuals choose to prioritise their careers over starting a family in their early years, leading to declined fertility and lower chances of conception later on.

Personal requisites: Some couples face medical conditions that make pregnancy high-risk, leading them to prioritise their health. For some couples, mental health is a priority, and they choose to minimise stress in their lives by avoiding the demands of parenthood.

Environmental concerns: Many DINK couples have concerns about the ongoing looping environmental dangers. Acknowledging the serious risks like climate change and global warming pose to humanity, many are apprehensive about the potential negative impact on their children's future and consider not going ahead on the path

Embryo freezing - An intervention for the better?

Embryo freezing, or embryo cryopreservation, is a method of freezing and storing embryos for future use, allowing individuals to preserve their fertility. This technique can be beneficial for DINKS individuals looking to explore parenthood at a later stage or anyone wishing to postpone parenthood, offering them the option to delay rather than forgo the possibility of starting a family later.

For the creation of an embryo, an embryolo-

gist retrieves the egg and then fertilises one or more of the harvested eggs with the sperm of a partner or donor. The embryo is monitored as it grows in a petri dish over five to seven days. During this period, genetic testing is conducted, especially if the egg or sperm donor is known to

carry certain genetic conditions.

At this stage, the highest-graded embryos are frozen through a process called vitrification.

The embryos are quickly frozen by immersion in liquid nitrogen, turning them into a glass-like state. This rapid freezing method prevents the formation of ice crystals, which increases the embryos' survival rate and viability after

Success rates of embryo freezing

The possibility of pregnancy from an embryo transfer is primarily influenced by the woman's age at the time the embryos are created. These procedures are most beneficial for individuals aged 35 or younger leading to the highest success rates for pregnancy. Furthermore, over 95% of frozen embryos successfully survive the thaw-

(The author, Dr Parul Gupta, is a fertility specialist at Nova IVF Fertility, Vasant Vihar.)

Gutar Gu 2: Predictable romance as plot falls flat

TEJAL SINHA

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Vishesh Bansal and Ashlesha Thakur's show Gutar Gu is back again and delves deeper into their love story. Now, they are in a long-distance relationship since she moved to Ahmedabad. The show will investigate if their love can withstand time, along with other unknowns. Will they choose to break up or will they decide to give their relationship a chance?

HIGHLIGHTS

The heart of this season lies in the shift from young love in season one to a more mature but still adolescent relationship. Ritu, a visual arts student in Ahmedabad, and Anuj, an engineering student in Bhopal, attempt to navigate the obstacles of their distant relationship. The show depicts the struggles of young love spread over long distances with a sense of pre-dictability that is both familiar and constraining.

DRAWBACKS

You can predict the plot developments: envy-fueled arguments, unwanted input from friends, a new person entering the picture, and a 'break-up party' that seems more like a ritual than a heartbreaking event. Although the series is known for its relatable content, there is a chance it may fall into clichés from time to time. The story follows typical patterns and does not aim to shock; rather, it relies on common themes in long-distance relationships. The consistent belief that physical separation will result in cheating, envy in everyday scenarios and a friend interfering in a relationship, appear to be cliches in romantic stories that viewers have witnessed numerous times.

PERFORMANCES

The lead actors give strong enough performances to carry the show, even when the script lacks depth for them to work with. The chemistry between Ashlesha and Vishesh feels authentic; their interactions capture the mix of first love's innocence and youthful frustration. Anuj's choice to join a college play in order to go to Ahmedabad shows a charming side of young love, highlighting the extravagant actions that are common in such relationships, even when they seem ridiculous.

TECHNICAL ASPECTS

Gaurav Chatterji's music is undeniably impressive. The mellow, gentle music that plays consistently in the episodes is worth keeping and can effortlessly be added to the collections of modern romantics. Unlike season 1, Sriram Ganapathy's cinematography. However, there are times when pacing suffers in a few parts, here and there.

With that being said, at times this season doesn't have enough at stake to capture interest. Despite the refreshing lighthearted tone, the series may feel like it is just coasting along due to the lack of real tension and emotional depth, failing to truly capture the complexities of a developing relationship. This might not meet the expectations of those looking for a thorough exploration of love and relationships. For those seeking a delightful, simple-to-understand series that doesn't require much effort from viewers, this show is a perfect match.



Directed by: Sagib Pandor **Produced by:** Guneet Monga Kapoor's Sikhya Entertainment Cast: Ashlesha Thakur, Vishesh Bansal Written by: Garima Kunzru and Gunjan Saxena

Cinematography by: Sriram Ganapathy **Streaming on:** Amazon MX Player

Rating: 2.5/5

what's brewing?

















Anchor and actress Sreemukhi inaughrated the 3-day Rang Ratri Dandiya celebrations at Om Convention, Narsingi, Hyderabad. The event featured a dazzling array of Dandiya and Garba nights, along with an exclusive Bathukamma celebration

Miss World Manushi Chhillar attended an event in Jaipur, which was organised by the Indian Revenue Service (IRS) Women's Wing IRSLA. During the event, the actress addressed the female IRS officers and spoke about women empowerment and the importance of setting life goals. The event witnessed the presence of several renowned personalities including Meenakshi Ranga, Renu Amitabh, Mahendra Ranga, Rajesh Dhingra and CK Jain.





On the occasion of the World Arthritis Day, The Indian Rheumatology Association-Hyderabad Chapter organised a meet focusing on raising awareness around arthritis. The event was attended by Dr Beerappa, Director, NIMS, along with Dr Narsimulu, President elect -API, Dr Liza Rajasekhar, Dean, NIMS and Dr Vara Prasad-President, Rheumatology association Hyderabad chapter, among the other dignitaries.

The National Egg Coordination Committee (NECC), in collaboration with the Indian Poultry Equipment Manufacturers Association (IPEMA) celebrated the World Egg Day at Bhagat Singh Nagar, Phase II, Hydernagar. Uday Singh Bayas, President IPEMA/Poultry India, K. Rama Krishna, CPI State Secretary, Andhra Pradesh and Lakshman Pudi, Founder, Arogya Diet, were among the other attendees of the event.



ARCHIE









CALVIN AND HOBBES









GARFIELD

NANCY



I'M SICK OF ALL THESE REBOOTS AND RESTARTS







REALITY CHECK





SUDOKU

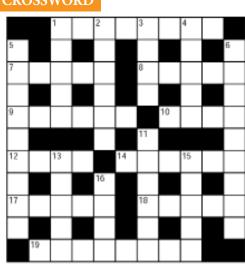


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9	5	7	8	4	6	3	2	1
3	4	1	5	2	7	6	9	8
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5	7	3	2	6	4	1	8	9
1	3	2	6	8	5	9	7	4
7	8	4	1	9	2	5	6	3

695473812 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.

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

18 Lift up

DOWN

19 Tree limbs

1 Sit on this

2 The writer of a book

3 Birthday present

- 1 Altering 7 To cook something in an oven
- 8 Last
- 9 Failed to remember 10 Injured by a bullet
- 12 Stink
- 14 An award for a successful
- university student 17 One of the planets

- - SOLUTION

4 Follows eighth

6 Squashed

13 Mistake

horse

something

16 Part of the face

5 Favoured, liked better

11 Look very carefully for

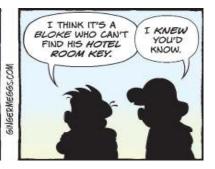
15 Straps controlling a



GINGER MEGGS







SREENU VAITLA'S VISWAM: A COMEDY **ROUTINE THAT MISSED ITS SPOT!**

SURESH KAVIRAYANI sureshkavirayani@gmail.com

Director Sreenu Vaitla made his mark in Telugu cinema with his type of comedy and delivered many successful films like Anandam, Venky, Dubai Seenu, Dhee, Ready and Dookudu. But he lost his touch over the last few years and now, after a six-year gap, his latest film Viswam has hit the theatres. On the other hand, actor Conichand is also looking for a break after actor Gopichand is also looking for a break after the last few years and now both of them have joined hands for this film. Kavya Thapar is the female lead and her earlier films have not done well, so she is also looking for a hit with this one. The production house People Media Factory is going through a rough patch as their films are commercially unsuccessful, so they too are banking on this film's success. Many people are looking forward to *Viswam* and how it fares at the box office and whether it brings success to them.

A Central Minister (played by Suman) is killed in Hyderabad by his brother Bachiraju (played by Sunil) and Sanjay Sharma alias Khureshi (played by Jisshu Sengupta), who is working for a terrorist organization. A small girl witnesses the murder and these two people send goons to kill her. Gopi Reddy (played by Gopichand), who is close to the girl's family, saves her whenever these goons try to kill her. On the other hand, Samaira (played by Kavya Thapar) is a fashion designer who met Gopi in Milan and fell in love with him. Actually, Gopi also entered their house to meet Samaira only. Why did Viswam change his name and enter as Gopi Reddy Viswam change his name and enter as Gopi Reddy and what is the reason behind saving the small girl? What is the background of *Viswam* and who is he? What is the link between the small girl and

Director: Sreenu Vaitla

Producers: TG Vishwa prasad, Venu Donepudi

Writers: Gopi Mohan, Bhanu-Nandu, Praveen Varma

Cast: Gopichand, Kavya Thapar, Jisshu Sengupta, VK Naresh, Sunil Pragathi, VT Ganesh, Prudhvi, Shaam, Vennela Kishore, Mukesh Rishi, Ajay Ghosh and others

Cinematography by: KV Guhan

Music: Chaitan Bharadwaj

Rating: 2/5



the terrorist organization that is operating in India? If you want answers to these questions, you have to watch Viswam.

As a director, Sreenu Vaitla created his style of As a director, Sreenu Vaitla created his style of comedy films in Telugu cinema. However, his last few films didn't do well at the box office, so he completely took a long break and came back with this *Viswam*. Everyone thought that the director had now come up with some kind of new idea. But he has disappointed all with his routine comedy once again. If you look at most of his films, the protagonist changes his name and enters the lead actress's house. From there, he creates comedy by

introducing many characters. In Viswam too, he has narrated it in the same style; there is nothing new in the storytelling or the comic scenes. Without a strong story, putting a few comedy scenes together won't resonate much with the audience. Sreenu Vaitla did the same thing in this *Viswam*. In the first half, he used the character of Prudhvi to elicit a few laughs and in the second half, he used the character of Vennela Kishore for the same. The film has no strong characterisation or story. If you look at Sreenu Vaitla's earlier film, Mahesh Babu's starrer Dookudu, Viswam also falls into the same kind of story and track.

A small girl witnesses a murder and it is connected to a terrorist backdrop. The protagonist also has

some link to the girl and the terrorists, so on paper, it is interesting, but when it comes to the big screen, it is like a routine. The director completely set aside the story and concentrated more on the Jabardasth kind of comic scenes. People show interest in watching *Jabardasth* comedy on YouTube as bits, but you can't watch it on the big screen continuously for two and a half hours. The same is the case with *Viswam*. Some of the comedy scenes are like Jabardasth skits, which you can enjoy for a few minutes, but as a film, it is a complete bore.

As a director, Sreenu Vaitla didn't upgrade his style and completely sticks to his old and routine formula. Even after a six-year break, he didn't realise that he hasn't done anything new. Before the release, people talked about the train comedy, which is in the film just for the sake of comedy. Instead of these long train sequences, the director should concentrate more on the story. There is not a single emotional scene in the film and the climax is a big bore. Sreenu Vaitla should needs to now come out of his routine formula filmmaking and try out something new.

PERFORMANCE

When it comes to the artists' performances, Gopichand played a routine lead character with nothing new to his role. The action scenes are chore-ographed well for him and has executed them well in those scenes. Kavya Thapar's scene appearance is only for a few songs and scenes, adding some is only for a few songs and scenes, adding some glamour quotient. While in the first half, comedian Prudhvi does good in providing the chuckles, in the second half, Vennela Kishore does it. Jisshu Sengupta, as the villain, is again a routine with no emotions on his face. Sunil, Rahul Ramakrishna, VK Naresh and Pragathi provide a few laughs. Kick Shaam, Banerjee, Praveen and many other actors as supporting actors are good. The cinemators as supporting actors are good. The cinematogra-phy is good, showcasing some beautiful foreign loca-tions. The music by Chaitan Bharadwaj is okayish. There are a few punch dialogues that one can enjoy here and there.

Finally, Viswam does not offer anything new as director Sreenu Vaitla comes up with the same routine formula. When you watch this *Viswam*, one can conclude that the director made a few changes to his earlier film *Dookudu* for this one. You can enjoy a few comedy scenes, but that's not enough for a successful film. A big production house like People Media Factory has been delivering bad films continuously in recent times and *Viswam* adds to that list.



Director: Abhilash Reddy Kankara ■ **Producers:** Sunil Balusu

Writers: MVS Bharadwaj, Shravan Madala, Abhilash Reddy Kankra

Cast: Sudheer Babu, Sayaji Shinde, Sai Chand, Shashank, Arna, Amani, Devi Prasad and others Music director: Jai Krish

Cinematographer: Sameer Kalyani ■ **Rating:** 2.5/5

Maa Nanna Super Hero fails to tug at the heartstrings

PNS | HYDERABAD

ctor Sudheer Babu, known for his Action-oriented movies, is now venturing into emotional territory with the film *Maa Nanna Super Hero*. This film marks Abhilash Reddy Kankara's directorial debut, which has Śayaji Shinde and Sai Chand play significant roles in the movie, with Arna playing the main female lead. The film was released on Friday. Go ahead and read the review to understand if this film is going to bring Sudheer Babu the success he's been keen to have for a while now.

Prakash (played by Sai Chand), after the loss of his wife, puts his son into an orphanage and is later wrongly imprisoned. The head of the orphanage named the boy Jani (played by Sudheer Babu), who later gets adopted by a businessman named Srinivas (played by Sayaji Shinde). Srinivas treats Jani as his real son. However, he despises him now due to losing everything in his business, believing that all of this happened because Jani came into his life. Jani, on the other hand, showed his father the highest level of respect and viewed him as his personal hero. If anyone spoke ill of his father, he would not hesitate to defend him and was willing to go to any lengths to support him. Following Srinivas' advice, a local leader invested a significant amount of money in the stock market and ended up losing it all. Therefore, he utilised his power to have Srinivas arrested and subjected to torture while in custody. Jani aimed to rescue his father by meeting the local leader's demand of repaying his father's debt of Rs one crore in order to secure his father's release from jail. In contrast, Prakash was released from prison after two decades and began looking for his son. What did Jani do to secure Rs one crore for his father's release from jail? What was the way in which Prakash finally encountered his son? Why did Jani and Prakash journey together and what is

Sudheer Babu has been known for starring in action films, but this time he has opted for an emotional drama role. Abhilash Reddy entered the world of directing with his film *Maa Nanna Hero*. This young filmmaker has introduced a creative concept in this movie about a son and his two fathers, one who is adopted and the other who is biological. The focus of the plot is primarily on these three characters, and the director aimed to convey this with a significant amount of emotion. If you write it down, you will enjoy it, but when it's portrayed on screen, the director fails

to convey the emotion effectively. Sayaji Shinde is undeniably a talented actor, however he did not portray a convinc-ing father figure to Sudheer Babu in this movie. There is no emotional presence of an angel in the father and son relationship. The film began by introducing Prakash, portrayed by Sai Chand and showed how he abandoned his baby son at an orphanage. The son later matures under a different father and everything turns out well. Jani is constantly hiding his father's errors whenever he makes them. The director demonstrates Srinivas' decision to adopt Iani, even though his wife Amani disapproves. She requested him to at least change his name, but Srinivas refused and treated him as if he were his own son. Showing this scene at the start can help the audience better understand Sudheer Babu's later interactions with Savaii Shinde and why he sees his father as a superhero.

Once Prakash appears, the story becomes more intriguing. The interactions between Sai Chand and Sudheer Babu are well-executed, but the director still struggles to effectively portray the emotional aspect. Raju Sundaram's performance was not satisfactory and the song is also not needed. The initial part focuses on a son who is adopted by his father, while the latter part delves into the relationship between a son and his biological father.

their objective? You must view the movie at the cinema.

The peak of the story is somewhat sentimental and is presented in a pleasing manner. In some enjoyable scenes, Sudheer Babu jokes that his name is Mahesh Babu, due to his father being a Krishna fan. Krishna and Mahesh Babu fans may find these types of scenes appealing since the actor comes from their family background. If the director focuses on the emotional aspect, this movie has the potential to be a huge hit and even better than before. However, he ought to value a groundbreaking.

PERFORMANCE:

Regarding the performance, Sudheer Babu excelled in his portrayal of a son. There is evidence of his hard work and dedication on screen as he fully embodies his character and emotes effectively. His emotions were flawless when he was with the adoptive father and later with the biological father. He performed his role flawlessly, especially in the scene where he confronts the homeowner for disrespecting his father. As soon as the owner's daughter appears, he quickly displays his fondness for her. Every child perceives their father as a superhero and therefore avoids criticizing him in front of their child. In the final scene, he also portraved his emotions in the most effective manner. Savaji Shinde's performance is good, but his Telugu skills are not up to the level of a typical Telugu actor, causing the scenes with Sudheer Babu to not blend well. Sai Chand is an experienced actor and effortlessly delivers his performances. He is the standout performer in the second half. Aarna holds the main female role, but her character is insignificant as she only appears in a few scenes. The cinematography is excellent and the music is excellent.

In conclusion, Maa Nanna Super Hero tells a tale of a son caught between two fathers. Director Abhilash Reddy presents a solid storyline, but it is missing emotion which could elevate the film to a higher level. Sudheer Babu stands out in the film with his exceptional performance.

significant anticipation for this action-packed film. Titled dialogue definitely connects to all the men. Packed with Varma aims for a hat-trick blockbuster. Kannada actress

Janaka Aithe Ganaka: A fresh yet flawed take on middle-class

PNS | HYDERABAD

omedian-turned-character actor Suhas has slowly emerged as a lead actor and has become a bankable star for small films. He, offlate, has been choosing different kinds of scripts and encouring different kinds of scripts and encouraging new directors. His film Janaka Aithe Ganaka is releasing on October 12, with Sandeep Reddy Bandla making his directorial debut. Produced by the top production of the standard producer Dil Raju. tion house led by popular producer Dil Raju, the film has generated curiosity. Sangeerthana plays the female lead.

Prasad (played by Suhas) is a middle-class man living with his wife (played by Sangeerthana) and parents. Though his parents and grandmother pressure him to have children, Prasad is clear about his stance. Earning only Rs 30,000 a month, he knows it would be difficult to provide the best for his children. After two years of marriage, he and his wife have agreed not to plan for kids. His father (played by Goparaju Ramana) continuously pressures him, but Prasad eventually shows him the high costs of delivery and child education, which finally silences his father. However, when Prasad's wife unexpectedly becomes pregnant, he is shocked. He decides to sue the condom company and take the case to court. His friend (played by Vennela Kishore), a lawyer, represents him in court. This court case turns into a sensational story and what happens next forms the crux of the film.

Director Sandeep Reddy Bandla introduces a fresh, out-of-the-box concept. It's a sensitive subject, but he chooses to narrate it in an entertaining way. Stories with a middle-class backdrop often resonate well and if the emotions are captured correctly, success follows. Janaka Aithe Ganaka explores the life of a middle-class man who doesn't want kids because, in the current system, he feels he cannot afford the hospital and education expenses. Despite using a condom, his wife becomes pregnant, leading him to take the matter to court. However, the director takes his time to establish the protago-



Actors: Suhas, Sangeerthana, Rajendra Prasad, Vennela Kishore, Prabhas Sreenu, Goparaju Ramana, Murali Sharma and others

Music: Vijay Bulganin **Cinematography:** Sai Sriram

Producers: Harshith Reddy, Hanshitha Reddy

Director: Sandeep Reddy Bandla Release date: October 12, 2024 Rating: 2.5/5

nist's background, including his friends, family, parents, grandmother, and the relationship between husband and wife. As a result, the story drags a bit in the beginning, but once the director reaches the main point, the narration picks up.

The film's main drawback is the director's inability to capture the emotional depth of a middle-class family effectively. He tries to make the courtroom drama more entertaining, reminiscent of *Jathi Ratnalu*, which had similar humorous courtroom scenes. When Murali Sharma's character enters the court, the story becomes more engaging. Though some scenes are overly cinematic and dragged, the second half is better than the first, moving the film in a positive direction. While the climax isn't particularly emotional, the final twist is hilarious and engaging. Some scenes, such as Suhas explaining the terms and conditions and the sequence with Raiendra Prasad and his wife, feel unnecessary. If the director had focused more on the flaws in the education system, the film might have been more compelling.

PERFORMANCE

In terms of performance, Suhas fits perfectly into the role of a middle-class man and delivers well. Sangeerthana, in her debut film, does a neat job, performing like an experienced actress. Goparaju Ramana excels as Suhas' father. Vennéla Kishore provides plenty of laughs, especially in the courtroom, where his emotional speech is a highlight. Rajendra Prasad, as the judge, performs well but occasionally goes overboard. Murali Sharma is solid, while Prabhas Sreenu and others provide good support. The background music is effective, and the cinematography is decent. Some dialogues are both thought-provoking and entertaining.

VERDICT

Overall, with Janaka Aithe Ganaka, director Sandeep Reddy Bandla presents a fresh idea, but it only comes across as interesting in parts. He focuses on entertainment without crossing the line, but the emotional depth is lacking. Despite that, it's a decent and time-pass film.

Narudi Brathuku Natana explores twists of destiny

This year, few small films have been making big at the box-office and now another small film Narudi Brathuku Natna is all set to hit the

screens on October 25. Shiva Kumar Ramachandravarapu and Nithin Prasanna will be seen playing the lead actors in this film. The film directed by Rishikeshwar Yogi, also stars Shruthie Jayan, Aiswarya Anil Kumar and Viva Raghav. TG Vishwa Prasad, Sukumar Boreddy and Dr Sindhu Reddy are the producers. Niharika Konidela

engagingly.

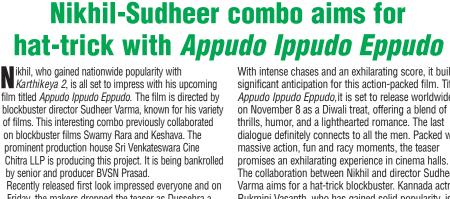
had released the trailer for the film. Going by the trailer, the film has some good content with Shiva Kumar wanting to become an actor. Despite his father's immense wealth, he insists that Shiva pursues a conventional job, but he wants to pursue acting. Acting needs a lot of passion and it is also spontaneous and real; feeling weighed down by the criticism, Shiva decides to embark on a journey. He meets a Malavalam man and travels with him to Kerala. In this journey, there are some unexpected twists and turns and the story reveals the other actor, Nithin and his future. Though Shiva Kumar and Nithin Prasanna have been regularly seen in some films, according to the makers, they have

carried their respective parts effectively. They also revealed that the

director Rishikeshwar Yogi picked a unique script which he narrated

alayalam Superstar Dulquer Salmaan is now concentrating more on directing Telugu films. On Friday, the makers announced that they will be releasing the film on October 31 and are also planning premieres for the film, a day before. Venky Atluri is the writer and director of this film. Talking about the film, director Venky Atluri said that the film's story is about the banking system in the 1980s. He added that he got inspired by the Hollywood classic Wolf of Wall Street. He further revealed that he did not take any scene from any popular movie but he wanted to explore such a new genre for Indian Cinema with this film. He confidently stated that they are making a film in a completely unexplored genre in Indian Cinema. The theatrical trailer is going to be released on October 21 and they are planning two pre-release events October 26 and 27, in both the Telugu states. On choosing Dulquer Salmaan, the director revealed that he wanted an actor who can carry a very different character while suiting the middle-class persona of his lead protagonist. He also revealed that Dulquer Salmaan has a believable charm and his performance in the film is incredible. The director said that the movie will touch on the late 80's and early 90's Banking System in India.

Talking about taking real-life incidents as inspiration to make a film in that time period, he stated that he researched the banking system and then he wanted to add those details to give an authenticity to the fictional story. He didn't insert any real incidents in this film, but he takes inspiration from several incidents to suit his story. Meenakshi Chaudhary is playing the female lead. Suryadevara Naga Vamsi and Sai Soujanya are the producers.



prominent production house Sri Venkateswara Cine Chitra LLP is producing this project. It is being bankrolled by senior and producer BVSN Prasad. Recently released first look impressed everyone and on Friday, the makers dropped the teaser as Dussehra a treat. The teaser introduces Rishi, portrayed by Nikhil, who is a racer and a thief. Rishi instantly falls in love with Rukmini Vasanth. Their delightful chemistry and the unfolding love story spark curiosity. As the plot unfolds, it reveals Divyansha Kaushik as another of Rishi's love interest, after which the teaser transitions into an action mode.

With intense chases and an exhilarating score, it builds Appudo Ippudo Eppudo, it is set to release worldwide The collaboration between Nikhil and director Sudheer Rukmini Vasanth, who has gained solid popularity, is making her Telugu debut with this film. Yogesh Sudhakara, Sunil Shah and Raja Subramaniam are coproducing the film. Bapineedu B is presenting this prestigious project. Singer Karthik is composing the songs, while Sunny MR is handling the background score. Richard Prasad is in charge of cinematography, and Navin Nooli is handling the editing.

INDIA EYE SERIES SWEEP, WITH RUNS FROM OPENERS

inconsequential nature. India will be eagerly pursuing the twin goals of a series sweep and monitoring the progress of impressive second-line players during the third and final T20 against Bangladesh here on Saturday. India have already bagged the series 2-0 after wins at Gwalior and New Delhi.

This Indian bunch under Gautam Gambhir has shown an insatiable hunger for victory, and doubters can glance back at its resultoriented approach during the rain-marred Kanpur Test against the same opposition a few days ago.
Hence, they are unlikely to

show any laxity here too as a 3-0 sweep will sit nicely along with the 2-0 margin in the preceding Test series.
Beyond the obvious, India will

also look to add new pieces to their white ball jigsaw puzzle ahead of some important assignments such as the Champions Trophy.

So, in a season teeming with showpiece events globally as well as bilaterally, it's critical for the team to have multiple backup options.

In that context, it's clear that Gambhir and his colleagues in the backroom have set in motion the process of finding

players keeping in mind the long-term goals such as the

ICC event next year. Be it pacer Mayank Yadav or spinner Varun Chakravarthy, Gambhir wants to take a closer look at them and assess their readiness for the sterner assays ahead.

Thev haven't disappointing either in this series.

Mayank, who missed a lot of action since IPL 2024 due to able support cast to frontline an injury, bowled at over 150

clicks while Chakravarthy returned with a three-wicket haul in his first outing in blue in three years at Gwalior.

The team management will also keep a close eye on the journey of Nitish Kumar Reddy, highly impressive in the Delhi T20 while smashing a 34-ball 74 and returning with a couple of wickets. Opening woes

Among these slivers of positives, the outings of Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma

stick out like a sore thumb. Samson has given a chance to open the innings in this series and it's a godsend in T20s, giving the batter a chance to

But the Kerala man has two modest outings to show so far - a 19-ball 29, a missed chance to make a fifty in a small chase of 128, and a 7-ball 10.

exploit the six power play

Samson will have to come up with something special here not to slip away from the

eyesight of management, unless they want to give a go to Iitesh Sharma, the second wicketkeeper batter in the

Similarly, the backroom staff would want a substantial outing from Abhishek who too has produced lukewarm 15 and 16 in the last two matches. The failure of openers has put a bit of strain on the middleorder, as the hosts were 41 for three inside the power play segment before the middle-

squad.

second T20I. Apart from that, the team

think-tank will decide whether to hand a match to some other worthy names on the bench like leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi and all-rounder Harshit Rana.

As for Bangladesh, the visitors will strive to taste that elusive victory on this tour.

For that, they will need a consistent effort, particularly from seniors like captain Najmul Hossain Shanto, Litton Das and Mustafizur Rahman who all have disappointing till now.

SQUADS:

India: Suryakumar Yadav (C), Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (wk), Rinku Singh, Hardik Pandya, Riyan Parag, Nitish Kumar Reddy. Washington Sundar, Ravi Varun Bishnoi, Chakaravarthy, JItesh Sharma (wk), Arshdeep Singh, Harshit Rana, Mayank Yadav, Tilak

Varma. Bangladesh: Najmul Hossain Shanto (Captain), Tanzid Hasan Tamim, Parvez Hossain Emon, Hasan,

Tawhid Hridoy, Mahmud Ullah, Litton Kumer Das, Jaker Ali Anik, Mehidy Hassan Miraz, Shak Mahedi Rishad Hossain, Mustafizur Rahman, Taskin Ahmed, Shoriful Islam, Tanzim Hasan Sakib, Rakibul



PTI CHRISTCHURCH

New Zealand's new Test captain Tom Latham feels the only way to challenge an almost invincible India in their own backyard is by playing fearless cricket.

Latham has taken over the captaincy from Tim Southee ahead of the three-match Test series in India beginning on October 16 in Bengaluru.

"It's an exciting challenging going over to India and once we can go over there, hopefully play with a bit of freedom, bit of no fear and try and take it to them. If we do that hopefully, it gives ourselves a good chance," said Latham ahead of the team's departure to India on

Friday. While India have won their last 18 series at home, New Zealand come to India on the back of four successive series defeats in the World Test Championship, most recently against Sri Lanka. New Zealand have won only two Tests in India with their last

one coming back in 1988. "In India we've seen teams that have done well out there in the past have been quite aggressive towards them, especially with the bat they've looked to play a few shots, but also put them under pressure...Rather than sitting and waiting for

something to happen.
"We'll decide on how we want to play when we get over there, but guys have got plans around how they like to approach things and hopefully we can fine-tune those."

Despite the 0-2 defeat in Sri Lanka, left-handed Latham reckons they got a few things right in the island nation.

We actually did some really good things in Sri Lanka. We fell on the wrong side of the results but there were some good things. The approach we had with the bat, apart from that one innings, I thought we played really well.

"So it's about continuing that as much as we can and trying to play a brand of cricket that we are proud of playing," he said. Latham's predecessor Southee has not been at his best with the ball over the 12 months. The emergence of pacer Will O'Rourke means Southee is not a sure starter in the playing eleven.

The skipper, however, backed the veteran.

"If you look back, think in Bangalore (Southee) took seven wickets last time we toured there," Latham said. "Someone with that amount of

experience who's done it for many years there's certainly no reason why he can't get back to where he's been in the past. He's been a fantastic bowler for us for many years, there's a reason why he's so high on the wicket list for New Zealand.

"He'll have a similar role that he has always had whether it's as captain or in the past, someone like that who has a wealth of experience, a wealth of knowledge in all conditions and he's done it for many years and has been successful. We'll certainly be tapping into his mind, his ideas, so looking forward to it," he added.

The first Test will be played in Bengaluru, second in Pune and third in Mumbai.

England completes record-filled test match with innings win over Pakistan



AP MULTAN

England notched one of its most memorable test wins as it beat Pakistan by an innings and 47 runs on the Left-arm spinner Jack Leach fifth and final day of the first picked up all the three wickets cricket test on Friday.

Pakistan was bowled out for 220 inside the first session as Gus Atkinson and debutant Salman Ali Agha (63) and Brydon Carse had mopped Aamer Jamal (55 not out) the Pakistan top-order on the delayed the inevitable with their fighting half centuries.

couldn't bat due to a fever as

suffered

embarrassment of becoming the first test-playing country

to lose a match by an innings

after scoring over 500 runs in

the first innings. on the final morning to finish Gus Atkinson and debutant

fourth evening. Resuming on 152-6, Agha and

first over when he had Agha trapped leg before wicket off a

straight delivery. Leach then finished off the tail quickly by grabbing a stunning low return catch of Shaheen Shah Afridi and Naseem Shah was stumped after hitting the left-arm spinner for a straight six.

England had broken number of test records when it amassed 823-7 declared on the back of Harry Brook's belligerent triple century and Joe Root's impeccable 262 in reply to Pakistan's first innings score of 556.

On Wednesday, Root also became England's highest test run-scorer.

Pakistan woeful run in test cricket continued with skipper Shan Masood losing his sixth successive test since being elevated as captain last year was also Pakistan's seventh loss at home in 11 test matches with the last win coming against South Africa in

February 2021. The second test begins at Ill No. 11 Abrar Ahmed Jamal resisted for an hour and Multan from next Tuesday stretched their partnership to
109 before Leach struck in his
for Rawalpindi from Oct.

Slow start for Shubhankar in French Open golf

PTI ■ PARIS

Indian golfer Shubhankar Sharma's patchy form continued as he carded a topsy-turvy one-over 72 in the opening round of the FedEx Open de France that left him tied 77th in the standings here.

Sharma struck four birdies

against five bogeys. He was one of the early starters and stumbled to a bogey on the second hole but quickly made amends with two fine birdies on the fourth and the sixth.

On the back nine, he had a good start with a birdie to go to two-under.

Then came three bogevs on the trot from 11th to the 13th and he was not able to recover from that, managing a birdiebogey finish in the last two

The cut looks likely at even par or better and Sharma will need a solid round to make the cut, after missing out last week.

Joe Dean, Thorbjorn Olesen and Jesper Svensson shared



the first-round lead after carding identical six-under

The trio made the most of soft after almost 80 millimetres of rain fell on Wednesday, causing the ground staff to work through the night to make the course playable.

Englishman Dean, making his posted the early clubhouse lead after carding four birdies

and an eagle. He was then joined at the top

of the leaderboard by Olesen, who has fond memories of the Albatross Course as a member of Thomas Bjorn's victorious 2018 Ryder Cup side.

The Dane was one-under after playing the back-nine, but then reeled off four consecutive birdies from the first appearance at this venue, first before adding a seventh gain of the day on the par-four seventh hole.



England loses to Greece as Carsley experiment backfires and France wins without Mbappé

Lee Carsley ran into the first problems of his tenure as England's interim coach after a bold team selection backfired in a 2-1 home loss to Greece in the Nations League on Thursday. Erling Haaland became Norway's record scorer at the age of 24 with a double in his country's 3-0 win over Slovakia, while France playing without Kylian Mbappé and the retired Antoine Griezmann - still had far too much for Israel in a 4-1 victory.

After leading England to back-to-back victories since becoming temporary coach after the European Championship, Carsley felt emboldened enough to field a team without a recognized striker in the absence of injured captain Harry Kane. The lineup looked interesting

and exciting on paper but resembled a mess on the field as Greece repeatedly picked off England and got in behind a stretched defense. Vangelis Pavlidis scored the wangens Taylous scored the was round cad in the state of the visitors at weep the was round cad in the state of the was round cad in the was round for Pavlidis to take advantage tribute to the right back for Pavlidis to take advantage of more sloppy defending to grab Greece's winner in the fourth minute of stoppage

Greece's players, who also

the game, celebrated one of described as a "special guy." their most famous wins by gathering together and George Panathinaikos defender who was found dead in his Athens

armbands.

ahead of the game, with players wearing black We gave everything for nim," Pavlidis said in a him,"

It was England's first loss to Greece, which is ranked No. holding up the No. 2 jersey of George Baldock, the matches between the teams 48 in the world ranking, in 10 and deals a major blow to Carsley's hopes of becoming coach of the national team on a permanent basis. It was meant to be fluid set-

up, with in-form Chelsea playmaker Cole Palmer starting a competitive international for the first time for England and deployed in central midfield, with Phil Foden and had three goals disallowed in tribute to Baldock, who he Bellingham splitting time as

the furthest player forward in attack filled with midfielders. It didn't work.

"We never really gave ourselves a chance to see whether it was the right decision or wrong," said Carsley, who insisted it was not an "experiment."

"With the players we've got, we've got to be courageous at times with our systems and be creative. I thought it was important to try something different. I never at any point thought I've got it cracked. It was a case of, let's try

something different." Haaland scored twice to

move onto 34 goals for Norway, one more than the previous record-holder Jorgen Juve from the 1930s. previous Haaland, who has already scored 11 goals for Manchester City this season in all competitions, was captaining Norway for the first time in his 36th international appearance.
Alexander Sørloth also scored for Norway.

Mbappé wasn't called up by France because of a minor injury, even though he has

since played for Real Madrid while the surprise retirement of Griezmann - a stalwart for coach Didier Deschamps for the past decade - gave it the feel of a new era for Les

Goals by Matteo Guendouzi in the 87th and Bradley Barcola in the 89th wrapped up France's win against Israel, after Eduardo Camavinga and Christopher Nkunku netted in the first

The game was played in Budapest, with Israeli teams having played home matches in neutral countries such as Hungary and Cyprus for security reasons since the Hamas attacks one year ago. Italy forward Lorenzo Pellegrini's red card proved decisive as his team squandered a two-goal lead and drew with Belgium 2-2 in Rome.

Italy went in front after barely 60 seconds, through right wing back Andrea Cambiaso, and striker Mateo Retegui made it 2-0 in the

24th. Pellegrini was sent off for a foul on Arthur Theate that initially earned him a booking but was upgraded to a red card in the 40th after a VAR review. From the resulting free kick, Maxim De Cuyper tucked away a fine finish from a wellworked move and Leandro Trossard equalized in the

Toyota returns

AP ■ TOKYO

Toyota is returning to Formula 1 after 15 years as the Japanese automaker becomes a "technical partner" of American racing team

Haas. There will be Toyota branding on the Haas cars starting from next week's United States Grand Prix in Austin, Texas, and the auto giant's racing division will provide "design, technical and manufacturing services" to the North Carolina-based team.

This doesn't mean a return of the Toyota works team which raced in F1 for eight seasons until 2009, however.

Haas will still race under its own name and Toyota isn't going to be supplying engines like it did for other teams in the 2000s.

Haas already has an agreement to use Ferrari engines through 2028 as part of an existing partnership which dates to Haas' first Fl season in 2016. Haas previously extended its Ferrari deal in July to cover the new F1 regulations coming in 2026.

The announcement of the "multi-year agreement" seemed to suggest Toyota could seek to place a driver with Haas, which doesn't have a spare seat for next year.

The head of Toyota's Gazoo racing division, Tomoya Takahashi, said in a statement Friday that Toyota would aim to "cultivate drivers, engineers, and mechanics" in its partnership with Haas. The team has already signed Ferrari reserve Oliver Bearman and the experienced Esteban Ocon, who's currently at Alpine, as its drivers for 2025.

Toyota spent lavishly when it joined F1 in 2002 as it attempted to build a titlewinning team, but never won a race despite several nearmisses.

Toyota made a sudden announcement at the end of the 2009 season that is was leaving F1 as part of a costcutting program even though it had almost finished designing its car for the

following season.
Since then, Toyota has focused on other forms of auto racing like NASCAR, the Le Mans 24-hour race - where it has a rivalry with Ferrari -

and rallying.
The Toyota-Haas announcement Friday came just over a week after the company was among three big Japanese firms which pulled sponsorship money out of the Olympics.